

United Nations Country Team in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Bruno Lemarquis

RCO

Coordonnateur Résident

bruno.lemarquis@un.org

[twitter-x](#)

Mr. Bruno Lemarquis is the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), as well as the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in the DRC (DSRSG/RC/HC). Prior to his appointment, he held the same functions in Haiti.

He brings to this role extensive leadership experience in complex, multidimensional settings, covering development, humanitarian affairs, and peacebuilding. From 2014 to 2019, he served as Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director of UNDP's Crisis Response Unit and subsequently of the Crisis Bureau/Global Policy Network. Between 2009 and 2014, he held various positions within UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, with significant field experience in Somalia, Haiti, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and Cambodia.

A French national, Mr. Lemarquis worked with a non-governmental organization in Haiti and Ethiopia before joining the United Nations in 1992. He holds a degree in tropical agricultural engineering from the National Center for Studies on Tropical Regions in Montpellier, France, and is fluent in English and French.

He succeeds Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, who has taken on new responsibilities.



Albert G. Zeufack
World Bank – Country Director

Albert G. Zeufack is the World Bank Country Director for Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and São Tomé and Príncipe. Prior to this appointment, he served as the World Bank's Chief Economist for the Africa Region from 2016 to 2022.

Dr. Zeufack joined the World Bank in 1997 through the Young Professionals Program and began his career as a researcher in the Macroeconomics and Growth Division of the Development Research Department. He subsequently held various positions across the Africa, East Asia and Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia Regions. From 2008 to 2012, he took leave from the Bank to serve as Chief Economist and Director of Research and Strategy at Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Malaysia's sovereign wealth fund.

Between 2012 and 2016, he was Sector Leader for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREM) for the African Great Lakes, Director in the Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management Global Practice, and lead of the World Bank's Community of Practice on Natural Resource Rent Management.

A Cameroonian national, Dr. Zeufack holds a Ph.D. in Economics from CERDI–Université de Clermont-Ferrand (France), where he also taught before joining the World Bank. He also holds a DEA in Economic Analysis and Policy from the University of Yaoundé (Cameroon) and has undertaken executive programs at Harvard and Stanford.

Dr. Zeufack is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Natural Resource Charter.



Alexandra Simpson

IOM Chief of mission.

asimpson@iom.int

[twitter-x](#)

Ms. Alexandra Simpson has served as Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since October 2024.

She brings more than 20 years of experience within the United Nations and related organizations, working across humanitarian, development, and peace contexts. She has extensive expertise on UN integration, peacekeeping transitions, and sustainable development, including migration. Before joining the DRC, she led the Joint Mission Analysis Centre of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), overseeing comprehensive analysis of factors affecting the UN presence, in close coordination with UN agencies, funds, and programmes.

Alexandra has also served as RCO Team Leader in Afghanistan, Sudan, and the Philippines. She previously worked in UN missions in Haiti, the Central African Republic, and Somalia, where she held roles including Civil Affairs Officer, Mission Analyst, Mission Planning Officer, and Special Assistant. She began her international career with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Croatia and Kosovo.

A British national, Ms. Simpson holds a Master's in Public Administration and Development from the University of Birmingham (UK) and a Bachelor's degree in Management and French from the University of Bradford (UK). She is fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Norwegian, and is learning Swahili.



Arlette Mvondo

ONU Femmes

Représentante a.i.

arlette.mvondo@unwomen.org

[twitter-x](#)

[linkedin](#)

Ms. Arlette Mvondo, a Cameroonian national, is the Acting Representative of UN Women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She brings more than 20 years of experience with several international organizations and UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women), working in development, human rights, and the rights of women and girls.

A graduate of the Catholic University of Central Africa in Yaoundé, Ms. Mvondo currently serves as UN Women Representative in Senegal. From 2020 to 2024, she was Regional Advisor on Ending Violence against Women and Girls at the UN Women Regional Office for West and Central Africa, where she contributed to strengthening normative frameworks at national, regional, and continental levels.



Arsène Assande Brou

FIDA

Directeur Pays et Représentant a.i.

b.assande@ifad.org
[twitter-x](#)

Mr. Arsène Assandé was appointed Acting Country Director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A national of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Assandé brings more than 22 years of experience in international development and peacebuilding in Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, and Mali. He previously served as IFAD Country Director for Burkina Faso and, before that, as Deputy Country Representative of UN Women in Mali. He also worked with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in the DRC as Coordinator of the UN Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat, and with UNDP Côte d'Ivoire as Manager of peacebuilding projects and programmes.

He holds a degree in Agricultural Economics and Engineering from the Institut National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB) in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Assandé is based in IFAD's Country Office in Kinshasa, DRC.



Boureima Hama Sambo
WHO – Resident Representative
sambob@who.int
[twitter-x](#)
[linkedin](#)

Dr. Boureima Hama Sambo, a physician specialized in diabetology and certified by the U.S. Medical Board, holds a Master's in Epidemiology and Public Health and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (USA).

He has held several academic positions, including Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Professor of Diabetology and Epidemiology at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville.

Before his current appointment as WHO Representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dr. Sambo served as WHO Representative in Ethiopia for three and a half years. He was previously Director of the Department of Climate and Health Determinants at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, as well as WHO Representative in Gabon (five years) and in Rwanda.

At WHO's Regional Office for Africa, he served as Regional Adviser and Head of the Noncommunicable Diseases Programme. Prior to joining WHO in Brazzaville, he was National Director of Health and Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry of Public Health in Niger, and earlier District Medical Officer (Téra District) and Provincial Director of Health in Dosso, Niger.



Carla Martinez
OCHA - Head of Office
martinez14@un.org

Carla Martinez has served as Head of the OCHA Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since November 2022.

She brings over 20 years of experience in leading and coordinating humanitarian and conflict-prevention programmes in more than 20 countries. Prior to her current role, she was OCHA Head of Office in Cameroon and Deputy Head of Office in the Central African Republic. She also served as Senior Political Affairs Officer in the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York and as UNICEF's global focal point for emergency preparedness and response.

Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Martinez led Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)'s Emergency Department, headed MSF's Regional Office for the Middle East in Amman, and served as Head of Mission in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sudan. She also directed MSF emergency interventions across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

In addition, she managed IOM's operations in Darfur and worked as Humanitarian Programme Manager for Oxfam in Yemen.

Ms. Martinez holds a Master's in Public Policy from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in Physics from the Complutense University of Madrid.



Claude Albert Meutchehe Ngomsi

ONU-HABITAT

Chef de Bureau

claude.ngomsi@un.org

Mr. Claude A. Meutchehe Ngomsi has served as Head of Office for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since June 2022 and is also Portfolio Manager for Central Africa, Guinea, Mauritania, and Madagascar. He previously served as Regional Adviser for Central Africa (January 2020–May 2022) and as Programme and Operations Officer and UN-Habitat Representative to Francophone African countries (November 2015–December 2019).

With more than 20 years of experience in planning, governance, and urban and territorial development within the United Nations and academia, he specializes in crime geography and crisis prevention. He has actively contributed to the development of public policies and strategies on urban growth and coordinated urbanization across sub-Saharan Africa. He led the design and implementation of Ouagadougou's municipal crime prevention strategy (2009–2013), coordinated the development of national urbanization policies for Rwanda and Cameroon while supporting Liberia (2013–2021), and contributed to innovative initiatives on land reform and community-based land-use planning for conflict reduction in the DRC.

Earlier in his career, he co-led crime prevention projects in Francophone Africa and coordinated the International Platform for Urban Development Policing (PPDU) in partnership with the Swedish National Police Authority, Montreal Police Service, Barcelona Institute for Public Safety, UNODC, and African national police forces (2003–2012). Between 2001 and 2006, he taught at the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon, where he earned both his Ph.D. and Master's in Geography.

A Cameroonian national, Mr. Meutchehe Ngomsi is married.



Damien Mama

UNDP Resident Representative

damien.maman@undp.org

[twitter-x](#)

Mr. Damien Mama is an international development specialist with 25 years of experience supporting public policy, managing development programmes, and advancing peacebuilding efforts in Africa and globally.

He assumed office as UNDP Resident Representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 1 March 2023. Prior to this, he served as UN Resident Coordinator in Burundi, and as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Togo.

Mr. Mama has also held several senior positions, including Head of the Oversight Team for 45 country programmes at UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa in New York; Director of Stabilization and Recovery with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA); UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Togo; Manager of the Community Recovery Programme with UNDP DRC; and Strategic Planning Adviser in the Resident Coordinator's Office in South Sudan.

Before joining the United Nations, he worked with international NGOs on participatory governance and food security in West Africa.

A Beninese national, Mr. Mama holds a Master's in Development Management from Ruhr University Bochum (Germany) and a Master's in Land Use Planning from the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin). He is fluent in French and English.



Elvira Pruscini

PAM

WFP – Acting Country Director and Representative

elvira.pruscini@wfp.org

With nearly 30 years of service in the United Nations, Elvira Pruscini has held various positions with UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) worldwide, working across emergency response, post-conflict settings, refugee assistance, early recovery, and development.

Her humanitarian career has taken her to Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Mozambique, Haiti, and Cameroon. She has served as Deputy Regional Director in Dakar and, more recently, as WFP Country Director and Representative in Burkina Faso.

Ms. Pruscini has led field offices and managed complex national operations, with expertise in programme design and implementation, emergency operations, field monitoring, risk management, and reporting. Since August 2024, she has headed monitoring and reporting for WFP at Headquarters in Rome. She is currently serving as Acting Country Director and Representative in the DRC, where she oversees a complex emergency and development operation with a team of more than 650 staff.

Born in Eritrea and raised in Italy, Ms. Pruscini holds a Master's in Rural Development and Planning from the University of East Anglia (UK) and a Master's in International Relations from the University of Perugia (Italy). She speaks several languages, including English, French, Portuguese, Italian, Tigrinya, Amharic, and Arabic.

.



George Neba Akwah

PNUE

Programme Team Leader

george.akwah@un.org

George Neba Akwah is the Programme Team Leader for UNEP's Congo Basin Programme. He has extensive experience in research, policy, and practice on nature conservation, forestry, natural resource management, and sustainable development. He brings to this role—and to the UN system more broadly—the expertise needed to promote cross-cutting integration and to address the complex interlinkages between environment, nature, and society in programming.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Akwah worked with several leading international organizations. His professional experience covers Central, West, and East Africa, as well as Latin America, Southeast Asia, and global policy processes. He has strong expertise and direct experience in the Congo Basin, with a deep understanding of the DRC context and dynamics.



Isaias Barreto Da Rosa

UNESCO

Head of Office and Representative

ib.rosa@unesco.org

[twitter-x](#)

[linkedin](#)

Dr. Isaias Barreto da Rosa has served as UNESCO Representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the Kinshasa Office since 1 May 2022. He previously worked as Chief Executive Officer of the Multisectoral Regulatory Agency for the Economy (ARME) in Cabo Verde (2018–2022), and as the first ECOWAS Commissioner for Telecommunications and Information Technology (2014–2018).

He completed his postdoctoral studies at Tallinn University in Estonia. He holds a Ph.D. and a postgraduate degree in Education and Human Development (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain), a Master's in Management Development (Euro-Arab Management School, Granada, Spain), and a Bachelor's in Computer Science (Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal). Dr. Barreto da Rosa has also served as a Cisco Academy Instructor at the University of Central England (UK) and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (South Africa).

Before joining ECOWAS, he worked as a programmer and systems analyst at the Center for Information Problems of the Catholic University of Portugal; as a researcher at Tallinn University, Estonia; and as a professor for 13 years at Jean Piaget University of Cabo Verde, where he also held several leadership roles including Head of the Department of Science and Technology, Director of the Technology Division, Director of the Digital Education Laboratory, and Manager of both Cisco and Microsoft Academies.

Dr. Barreto da Rosa has also served as a consultant to the Government and institutions of Cabo Verde and to several international organizations. He has lectured in numerous countries and published dozens of scientific articles in international journals and conference proceedings.

Jean-Denis Nsoki Larsen

UNMAS – Head of programme

jean-denis.larsen@un.org



John Agbor

UNICEF representative

Jagbor@unicef.org

[twitter-x](#)

[linkedin](#)

A Cameroonian national, Dr. John Agbor is a public health professional with more than 20 years of experience in humanitarian assistance and international development.

Before assuming his current role in the DRC, Dr. Agbor served as UNICEF Representative in Burkina Faso (2023–2025) and Burundi (2020–2023). His UNICEF career also includes key roles in child survival and polio eradication programmes in the DRC, Liberia, Somalia, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Prior to joining UNICEF, he worked with WHO in Somalia and held several senior positions with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), including Medical Coordinator and Head of Mission in multiple African countries.

A physician by training, Dr. Agbor earned his medical degree from the University of Yaoundé I and specialized in public health at the Universities of Brussels and Nancy. He brings to his role proven leadership and deep expertise in advancing children's rights in the DRC.



Mady Biaye
FNUAP
Représentant Pays
biaye@unfpa.org
[twitter-x](#)

Dr. Mady Biaye, a Senegalese and Cape Verdean national, is the UNFPA Country Representative in the DRC. He is an international development expert with over 30 years of experience in population and development.

He previously served as UNFPA Representative in Angola (2020–2024) and Equatorial Guinea (2016–2020), and as Regional Technical Adviser on demographic data policy and research in Southern Africa. He has also held senior roles with UN agencies in Cabo Verde, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Washington D.C., and served as UN Resident Coordinator a.i. in Equatorial Guinea.

Dr. Biaye holds advanced degrees in statistics and demography from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium) and the École Nationale d'Économie Appliquée (Senegal). A polyglot with extensive leadership and technical expertise, he is recognized for his commitment to social justice, gender equality, and youth empowerment.



Mouna El Jaouhari

UNOPS- UNOPS Country Director

mounae@unops.org

[twitter-x](#)

[linkedin](#)

Ms. Mouna El Jaouhari has served as UNOPS Country Director for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 15 August 2025. Based in Kinshasa, she also oversees the organization's activities in the Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda.

With 17 years of experience in development, she has extensive expertise in leading complex projects and programmes. She previously served as Senior Adviser on development coordination and crisis management in the Office of the UN Deputy Secretary-General at the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), and as Head of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, supporting Resident Coordinator systems across Africa and the Arab States.

Mouna has an in-depth knowledge of UNOPS operations, having held various positions at headquarters and in the field, including in the DRC, Niger, and Mali. She has managed multimillion-dollar portfolios in infrastructure, climate resilience, and poverty reduction, with strong expertise in conflict prevention and gender mainstreaming.

She holds a degree in civil engineering, a Master's in project and programme management, and a Master's in public policy from SOAS University of London. She is certified in project and risk management methodologies, including PMP, PRINCE2, MSP, and Change Management. Ms. El Jaouhari is fluent in English, French, and Arabic.



Mravili Athman

FAO- Acting Representative

Athman.Mravili@fao.org

[twitter-x](#)

Mr. Mravili Athman, a Comorian national, is the Acting Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also serves as FAO Subregional Coordinator for Central Africa and Representative in Gabon.

A veterinary medicine specialist, Mr. Athman holds a Doctorate from the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet (Tunisia) and a Master's in Animal Epidemiology from CIRAD-EMVT (France).

He has built a distinguished career, primarily within international organizations and FAO. He previously served as FAO Representative in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Mauritania, after joining FAO in 2009 as Livestock Officer at the Subregional Office for Central Africa in Libreville, Gabon.

Mr. Athman began his career in 1985 as a teacher of biology and mathematics with the Ministry of Education of the Comoros. Between 1994 and 1998, he worked as Project Manager with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières in Cambodia and Guinea. From 1999 to 2009, he held progressively senior positions with Handicap International, including Livestock Consultant in Somalia, Animal Production Officer in the Lao PDR, Technical Adviser in Rwanda, Country Director in Kenya and Senegal, and Head of the East Africa Office in Lyon, France.



Nteba Soumano

OIT- Acting Director

soumano@ilo.org

[twitter-x](#)

Ms. Nteba Soumano has served since August 2021 as Acting Director of the ILO Office in Kinshasa, covering the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Chad, Angola, and Gabon. She has strong expertise in strategic planning, resource mobilization, project formulation, management and evaluation, as well as in inter-agency cooperation within the UN system and with development partners. Since October 2016, she has also worked as Skills Development and Employability Specialist for Central Africa, alongside her role as Acting Representative.

A graduate of the Technical University of Berlin (Germany, DEA), Ms. Soumano has more than 20 years of professional experience in development. She joined the ILO Office in Senegal in January 2001, where she served as Chief Technical Adviser for several major subregional employment projects and provided advisory support to ILO Decent Work Teams, governments, and employers' and workers' organizations. Her work has focused on advancing the Decent Work Agenda, particularly in rural employment promotion, enterprise development, and vocational training, including policy formulation, skills development, and improving workforce quality.



Patrice Vahard

OHCHR – Representative and Director

vahard@un.org

[twitter-x](#)

Dr. Patrice Vahard is the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Director of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Prior to this appointment, he served as OHCHR Representative and Head of Office in Guinea, where he regularly assumed the functions of Acting Resident Coordinator and Acting Designated Official.

He has held senior positions with the United Nations, including with the UN Mission in Sierra Leone; as Regional Adviser on relations with the African Union Commission at OHCHR's Regional Office in Addis Ababa; with the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (Dakar); and as Head of OHCHR's Country Office in Burundi.

Dr. Vahard holds two doctorates, one in International Human Rights Law (Right to Development) and another in the Sociology of Governance. Before joining the United Nations, he held leadership positions with Amnesty International, where he became the organization's first Regional Director for Africa.

An Ivorian national, Dr. Vahard is fluent in English, French, and several African languages.



René Tapsoba

IMF – Resident Representative

RTapsoba@imf.org

A national of Burkina Faso, Mr. René Tapsoba assumed his duties as IMF Resident Representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in October 2024.

He holds a Ph.D. in Development Economics from CERDI–Université d’Auvergne (France), for which he received the Best Doctoral Thesis Award from the CEDIMES Institute at the Sorbonne in 2012. His research, published in various academic journals and economic reviews, covers fiscal policy, monetary and exchange rate policy, development economics, and macroeconomic modelling. His work has also earned recognition in both France and Burkina Faso.

Before joining the IMF in 2012, Dr. Tapsoba taught at the University of Auvergne. At the IMF, he has served in the African Department and the Fiscal Affairs Department, most recently as Senior Economist responsible for regional institutions of CEMAC. He was previously IMF Resident Representative in Mali (2018–2021) and has worked on fiscal issues for Jordan and Tanzania, as well as on capacity-building missions in countries including India, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Guinea, and Azerbaijan.



Savita Hande

UNDSS- Principal Security Adviser

hande@un.org

Ms. Savita Hande, an Indian national, is the Principal Security Adviser with UNDSS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a position she assumed in August 2025. She has over 32 years of public service, including more than two decades with UNDSS in complex field environments.

Before her current post, she served as Principal Security Adviser in Iraq (2022–2025) and Afghanistan (2018–2022), and held senior UNDSS roles in South Sudan, Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, and Southern Africa. She was also appointed UNDSS Anti-Racism Advocate in 2022.

One of the first women to join UNDSS in 2002, Ms. Hande has played a key role in advancing the Department, managing crises, and implementing the UN’s “Stay and Deliver” approach in high-risk settings. Prior to joining the UN, she served as a police officer in India (1990–2002) in several leadership positions.



Susan Kasedde

UNAIDS – Country Director

kaseddes@unaids.org

Dr. Susan Kasedde, a Ugandan national, is the UNAIDS Country Director in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has over 20 years of experience in public health, HIV/AIDS, and child protection across Africa, the Caribbean, and at UN headquarters.

Before joining UNAIDS in the DRC, she served as Acting Country Director for UNAIDS in Guyana and Suriname, and earlier as UNICEF Representative in Belize, where she also served as UN Resident Coordinator a.i. She has held senior roles with UNICEF and UNAIDS at global, regional, and country levels, including in Namibia, Uganda, and Eastern and Southern Africa.

An epidemiologist by training, Dr. Kasedde previously worked in molecular biology research at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She holds a doctorate in Public Health and a diploma in Tropical Medicine from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a Master's in Public Health from Boston University, and undergraduate degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. She is fluent in English, French, Luganda, and Lusoga.