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Background

Independent consultant specializing in humanitarian and development issues. A strong background and extensive experience in mediation and dialogue with groups in areas of armed conflict. Extensive management and strategic planning experience at the senior leadership level in the United Nations. Expertise in the management of large scale relief operations. UN, UK government and NGO background.

Experience

United Nations

Assistant Secretary General, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan from 07/11/12 to 28/02/17

- Responsible for coordination and leadership of international humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.
- Reestablished dialogue between United Nations and Taliban on humanitarian access, including agreement on unilateral ceasefire post major earthquake.
- Provided coordination to all international donors to Afghanistan
- Led quadripartite review of UN role in Afghanistan with government and donors
- Led and managed UN Development Assistance Framework and completed a portfolio review of all UN assistance to Afghanistan

UNDP Resident Representative, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia from 05/05/08 to 06/11/12

- Effective coordination and leadership of major international humanitarian response to the famine in Somalia.
- Led and maintained sustained access negotiations with rebel groups and tribal and clan leadership
- Developed new aid and development framework for Somalia with the World Bank
- Responsible for the development agenda at major international Donor pledging conferences

Director of Civil Affairs – United Nations Mission in Sudan from 01/01/06 to 05/05/08



- Reorganization of civil affairs function with focus on conflict resolution and reconciliation, peace building and establishment of local political structures in South Sudan.
- Analytical support to the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Darfur
- UN representative on the Darfur/Darfur dialogue
- UN representative on the Sudan border Commission

Chief, Policy Development and Studies Branch, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) from 01/07/01 to 31/12/05

- Organisation and development of a policy agenda for OCHA in the areas of: the protection of civilians, promotion of humanitarian law, civil-military relations, recovery and transitional assistance, natural disasters and coordination structures.
- Formulation of the humanitarian reform agenda including the initial design of the Central Emergency Response Fund
- Co-chair of the Secretary General's working group on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- responsible for regular reporting to the Security Council on Protection of Civilians

UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Conflict management adviser for Africa from 01/06/99 to 01/06/01

- The first conflict management adviser to be appointed in UK government with responsibility to advise the Minister for Africa, the Foreign Secretary as well as the Secretary of State for International development
- Responsible for UK policy document on conflict in Africa and worked on establishment of both Africa conflict prevention pooled fund and the Global pooled conflict prevention fund.

Save the Children Fund UK

Various positions as Country Director, Regional Head of Office and Africa Director from (1979 to 1999).

- Extensive experience in management of African relief operations including Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe.
- Vice president of two major European NGO consortia providing the main forum for dialogue between NGOs and the European commission on food aid and emergency assistance

Other Positions



- Currently Senior Adviser to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue on establishing an informal humanitarian dialogue between armed opposition and government groups.
- Board member of Afghan Aid

Education

B.Sc (Hons) - Brunel University, London 1973,
Doctoral studies, Queen Elizabeth College, University of London (1976-1979)

Awards and Acknowledgements

- CMG - appointed Companion in the Order of St. Michael and St. George in the 2017 Birthday Honours for services to Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan
- FRSA – Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts