



Donal Brown

Associate Vice-President of the Programme Management Department, IFAD

Donal Brown is Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, at IFAD. He is responsible for developing and managing the operations that IFAD supports through its loans and grants. He oversees the programme of work of the department, which is undertaken by five Regional Divisions and the Operational Policy and Results Division.

Brown previously worked at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) in a number of senior positions, lastly as the Africa Director, managing 550 staff across the continent. In 2014-2015, he led the UK's task force to Sierra Leone in support of the government's efforts to fight Ebola. Brown worked at DFID headquarters and in field offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America, covering all of DFID's areas of interest.

Brown holds a Master's degree in Tropical Animal Health and Production from the University of Edinburgh, a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Leadership and Management from the University of Warwick and a Bachelor's in Veterinary Science from the University of Bristol, as well as an Honorary Doctorate in Social Justice from the University of Winchester.



Sara Mbago-Bhunu

Director of the East and Southern Africa Division, IFAD

Ms. Sara Mbago-Bhunu is the Director for IFAD's East and Southern Africa Division based in IFAD HQ, Rome. Sara joined IFAD in late 2018, with over 21 years of professional experience in the agricultural and rural development sector across Central, East and Southern Africa. Sara joined IFAD from the World Bank where she worked as a Senior Agricultural Economist for the Central African Republic, DR Congo and Congo.

Sara also worked with SNV-Netherlands Development Organization as a Country Director from 2013-2016 in DR Congo, as well as served as Agricultural Sector leader in Zambia and Zimbabwe. She also worked with UNDP in Tanzania, in private sector development. Sara holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and BSc in Agricultural Economics.



Fabrizio Felloni

Interim Officer-in-Charge, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD

Fabrizio Felloni is the Deputy Director of the Independent Office of Evaluation within the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). He develops operational policies and methodologies to enhance the independence and effectiveness of the independent evaluation function. He conducts corporate level evaluations. He ensures high-quality professional work by creating an enabling environment for and coaching of IOE staff, and setting quality standards for IOE outputs.

He was Lead Evaluation Officer at IFAD from 2010 to 2016. He was an Evaluation Specialist at the United Nations Development Programme from 2008 to 2010 where he prepared their first methodology for country-level evaluations. He has worked on international development evaluations since 2000, leading and participating in corporate-level evaluations, country programme as well as project-level evaluations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

He holds a master's degree in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University (USA) and a master-equivalent degree in Social and Economic Sciences from Bocconi University (Italy). He has been the author and co-author of ten articles published in peer-reviewed journals.



Lakshmi Moola

Country Director, Uganda

Lakshmi Moola is a development expert with over twenty years of experience in the private sector, public sector and across three International Financial Institutions. A national of the India, Ms Moola has held her current position as Country Director for Uganda in IFAD's East and Southern Africa Division since 2018.

During her 10-year tenure at IFAD, she has served as the Regional Finance Specialist in the Asia and Pacific Division (APR); Regional Finance Officer and Team Leader for both APR and the Near East and North Africa Divisions (NEN). Prior to assuming the role as CD for Uganda, Ms Moola served as the Country Programme Officer for Nepal and Bhutan.

Ms Moola has an MBA from The American University in Washington DC and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA, USA).



Chitra Deshpande

Senior Evaluation Officer, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD

Dr Chitra Deshpande is an expert in strategic planning, evaluation and gender in agriculture with over twenty years of experience in the private and public sectors. A national of the USA, Dr Deshpande has held her current position as Senior Evaluation Officer in IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation since 2017.

During her 12-year tenure at IFAD, she has served as the Special Adviser to the Vice-President of IFAD, Portfolio Adviser and Operational Policy Economist in the Asia and Pacific Division (APR) and as Programme Officer of Quality Assurance in the Office of the President and Vice-President (OPV). Dr Deshpande has also worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization as Strategy and Planning Officer in the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resource Management and as a gender and development expert, most notably on the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook. She also has worked closely with large multinational companies in developing growth and efficiency strategies as a management consultant at Booz-Allen & Hamilton in New York.

Dr Deshpande received her DPhil in Geography and MPhil in Development Studies from Oxford University. She also received an M.A. in Food Research (International Development Policy) and B.A. in History from Stanford University.