

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE:

- ✓ I have over 32 years of international development and humanitarian assistance management experience, including the last nine years in Canada with the not-for-profit protection & education sector and over 22 years with UNICEF of progressively responsible professional experience in international development & humanitarian assistance/protection, including in the field of emergency preparedness, emergency relief management in conflict zones, natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and droughts, risk management and accountability in high-risk settings. My work with the UN has provided me with the opportunity to have a robust and proven experience in the coordination, management, implementation, monitoring & evaluation activities in humanitarian and development programs/projects while considering the needs of the community, solving problems and providing solutions-oriented approaches with an exceptional approach to children, youth, and women's rights. I had opportunities to constructively engage with donors, media, and high-profile individuals while initiating and showcasing the project/program's success through my cross-cultural and communication skills. During my work with the UN, educational institutions, and various boards, I honed my ability to be flexible, adaptable, able to deal with a fast-paced, deadline-driven, ever-changing environment, and to use diplomacy and maintain confidentiality in dealing with sensitive information and data, with a strong and demonstrated attention to detail. My work in unstable situations and conflict zones provided me with the opportunity to analyze and assess the humanitarian situation, lead assessment and response missions, lead roll-out of the area-based coordination in Darfur, Karamoja in Uganda, facilitate humanitarian access and response coordination in Darfur and Karamoja, liaise and advocate with local administrations and community leaders in Somalia, Iran, Sudan and Uganda.
- ✓ I have experience in an advisory role, contributing to Canadian NGOs and educational institutions, and serving on the Board of Directors of community-driven initiatives. I am a guest lecturer at the University of Guelph, Centennial College and Dalhousie University on topics related to Humanitarian Assistance and International Development.
- ✓ Diverse experience in providing leadership, humanitarian affairs, emergency preparedness, emergency relief management, and developmental assistance management and program/project management within various countries, including Uganda(6 years), Sudan(4 years), Syria(6 years), Iran(6 months), Somalia(6 years), Angola(1year), Yemen(3years), Kenya(7years), and India(1year). Managing the UNICEF Program and offices trained me in advanced leadership and strategic management skills, including the management of multi-sector, diverse teams, especially in emergency settings. I have formal and informal training in humanitarian emergency response in insecure and unstable country/community environments. I had opportunities to constructively engage with high-level donors, media and high-profile individuals while initiating and showcasing the project/program's success.
- ✓ Extensive administration, financial (programs/projects of over US\$20 million/year budget), human resources management/ including local and international recruitment (teams ranging from 20 -180 staff and volunteers with different religious and ethnic backgrounds), supply and logistics supervision and administration experience. Knowledge of various humanitarian assistance and emergency relief issues, including approaches and techniques to address risk management and accountability-related problems.
- ✓ Planned, managed, and coordinated emergency humanitarian responses and development programs/projects (including Sphere Project and Cluster approach and results-based/rights-based programming approach), with development and implementation experience in coordinating/providing services. Diverse humanitarian/aid advocacy and program management, including monitoring and evaluation experience concerning women's rights, Gender-based Violence, child rights, child development and survival, education, early childhood development & education, protection, health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, water and environmental sanitation, community-based development, and youth development/ engagement. Provide leadership to the Water and Sanitation Cluster Coordination in Syria, Sudan, and Uganda. I managed and implemented water and sanitation programs/projects (especially rural water supply management, water well drilling and equipping, and water resource management) in Kenya, Yemen, Angola, Somalia, Syria, Iran, Sudan and Uganda. I have more than 25 years of progressively responsible experience in humanitarian affairs, emergency preparedness, crisis/emergency relief management, and related areas, while working with UNICEF in Angola, Somalia, Syria, Iran, Sudan, and Uganda. Experience in data analytics, in developing and drafting humanitarian policy documents, and Humanitarian experience in the field in emergencies, including complex emergencies and natural disasters. During these assignments, I honed my Experience in managing information during disaster responses and complex emergencies. Experience in a humanitarian context within the UN Common System.
- ✓ I have varied experience in managing field offices, starting new offices, recruiting staff/vendors/service providers/ implementing partners, as well as managing finance, logistics, and operations administration at regional and country levels. I honed consultation and negotiation experience with humanitarian agencies, local and international NGOs, local leaders, and private sector organizations. I was organizing workshops, seminars, conferences, field monitoring, and advocacy visits of donors and media.
- ✓ Languages: Fluent in English and Hindi, with working knowledge of Kiswahili, Portuguese, and Arabic.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Humanitarian and Development Consultant, Canada

January 2014 – Present

- Served as an International Project Coordinator with the International Office, Faculty of Agriculture, Truro, Dalhousie University, to initiate a project for the Ministry of Education of Uganda, "infrastructure improvement and capacity building to be excellent learning agriculture institutions." My work in Canada also involved supporting NGO (Syria to Guelph) and community work in Guelph as a member of Board of Directors for not for profit organizations, delivering lectures at the University of Guelph and Centennial College on topics such as "challenges in Humanitarian Assistance and International Development in the Syrian context," "Multicultural, Cross-cultural and Intercultural Communication in International Development" "Associated with "World Accord" NGO and Family & Children Services of Guelph & Wellington County and Kindle Guelph on their Board of Directors. Serving as the Vice President of the Canadian Association of Former International Civil Servants (CAFICS)

Chief of Field Offices, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

June 2004 – October 2013

Gulu, Uganda: August 2011 – October 2013

Moroto, Uganda: January 2008 – August 2011

Nyala, South Darfur, Sudan: June 2004 – December 2007

- Managed the program encompassing four sub-regions of 19 districts of Uganda, the program in the Acholi sub-region affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) war-torn areas, including Lango, West Nile, and Bunyoro sub-regions and addressed "Keeping Children Alive, Safe and Learning," and assisted refugees from South Sudan in health, water and sanitation needs. Initiated projects in cooperation with NGOs, UN and local government partners, such as Vocational Training for Youth, especially young girls (Adolescent Girls Health, Education project in Acholi and Lango sub-regions; and a unique pilot project, U Reporter for the youth (now has emerged as the UNICEF global project)
- Managed the UNICEF Moroto Sub-Office, including a team of 24+ staff (5 international/19 national staff including UN Volunteers), responsible for a US\$15-20M/year program encompassing Karamoja (the least developed region of Uganda and UN security phase-3 area) and the Teso region of Uganda; program supported the needs of the Karamoja region's chronic neglect and supported and addressed child health/nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention with reduction of mother to child infections and a particular focus on young people, primary education (including early childhood development education and rights/protection (especially street children and trafficking), gender-based violence, gender equality, and provision of water/sanitation facilities including emergency support.
- In Sudan, I successfully managed the UNICEF office in Darfur, including a team of 36+ staff (9 international/27 national staff, including UN Volunteers), responsible for approx. US\$15M/year program for areas within a harsh, insecure, and politically sensitive environment and supported/addressed child survival and education, water, and sanitation provision within government and rebel-controlled areas to IDPs and populations affected by conflict. I coordinated the activities of WASH and Education partners working under the education, water and sanitation, protection, community engagement, conflict risk analysis, stakeholder mapping and gender-based violence. I was responsible for ensuring that partners carried out these activities in a manner that was consistent with the efforts of other UN agencies, especially WHO, OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, NGOs, local government, and local authorities. I implemented a water supply and sanitation system for Kalma camp and other IDP camps in South Darfur while leading the Clusters. Represented UNICEF and led the extended EPI program (including Polio) with WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, and local authorities in Sudan.
- Prepared project submissions within the UNICEF Programme, including budgets, to respond to identified needs in collaboration with appropriate authorities and implementing partners. I successfully led the development of program/project planning and coordination of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, child health/nutrition, basic/primary education, and child protection. Perfected development partnerships with NGOs and relevant government ministries/private sector to develop strategies and innovative approaches to efficient program service delivery. Prepared situation analysis and reports identifying service gaps and new areas for UNICEF program implementation
- Served as the UN Area Security Coordinator, ensuring the critical safety and security of UN/NGO staff members and acted as United Nations Area Coordinator (UNAC) within the United Nations Resident Coordination (UNRC) system, liaising with the UN Country Team (UNCT) and UN agencies in the sub-regions of Karamoja and Gulu. I was acting head of OCHA in Karamoja for one year. Established linkages between UN agencies, other international aid providers, and NGOs, as well as with civil society organizations and government ministries/local administrations to ensure a coordinated strategy, develop innovative approaches, and maximize the impact of reconstruction program interventions for Karamoja (a chronically neglected area of Uganda). I designed and managed emergency preparedness and response strategies and programs for the districts, including the return of IDPs and refugees.
- Ensured sector-led support to relevant technical government priorities, including i) fostering relationships and collaboration amongst the international aid efforts, ii) acting as a liaison between government leaders and international aid efforts within sector strategies, and iii) supporting the capacity building of the district government within sector coordination lead.

- I hosted high-profile visits to the programme implementation locations for the National Committees of UNICEF, Goodwill Ambassadors, UN organizations, and Diplomatic/Donor Missions. I represented UNICEF at various meetings/forums with NGOs, local government (s), international agencies, and donors. Advocated for children; organized donor and joint government/UNICEF/UN visits. Developed/managed emergency preparedness and response strategies and programs for districts, including the return of IDPs and refugees. Oversaw financial, supply, logistics, human resources, and administration requirements within the field offices of experience. Represented UNICEF and led the extended EPI program (including Polio) with WHO, UNDP, and UNFPA in Uganda

Program Coordinator

Damascus, Syria

December 1997 – June 2004

- Coordinated, planned, implemented, and monitored UNICEF programs in Syria; managed and led a team of 9 staff members (3 internal/ 6 National) responsible for a US\$3-4M budget
- I served as a deputy UNICEF Representative. Served as a program coordinator and provided technical input into the overall country program's strategic planning in collaboration with the Syrian government and its ministries and counterparts (NGOs, UN, and donor partners). The Country Program included the Disparity Reduction program (focussed on community development, community participation, health, education, environment sanitation and early child development), the Support to National Policy & Development program (included protection of children, education, early childhood development, primary health care, nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention among youth, gender-based violence, water and sanitation), the Promotion of Children's & Women's Rights program and the Palestinian Refugees in Syria program and initiated projects "Family Meeting Centres" for divorced parents to meet their children and "Safe Playgrounds" for the children in the Quentera area.
- I represented UNICEF in joint UN activities, thematic groups, UN Country Team meetings and preparation of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Syria. As one of the senior UN staff members in Syria, I had the opportunity to provide support to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Food Program (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to act as Officer-In-Charge of their respective offices on various occasions. Gained a better understanding of the operations of other UN agencies, UNDAF and joint UN programming processes
- UNICEF Syria deployed me in Turkey during the initial assessment of earthquake damage and prepared donor proposals for the initial response & rehabilitation of the water resources.
- Assigned to the UNICEF office in Iran from October to December 2001 to lead the joint UN team entrusted to prepare plans for setting up water and sanitation facilities in refugee camps for Afghan Refugees, as well as to establish a sub-office in Mashhad, a hub for cross-border humanitarian operations. Provided support to address the humanitarian response after the earthquake from the Syria office.
- I led the UN team during the Iraq crisis to prepare for the influx of Iraqi refugees into Syria. I led the operation to plan and manage the proposed refugee camp to accommodate more than 20,000 refugees, jointly with UNHCR. Proposed projects to provide education, water and sanitation facilities to refugees and to accommodate the special needs of children, youth and women. In liaison with OCHA, I led the UN team for "Risk Assessment for the cross-border operation between Syria and Iraq. Opened and established a sub-office in Hasakeh to manage the refugee influx and led the teams to implement water, sanitation, primary education and primary health facilities for the refugees in the camp settings. Our team at UNICEF Syria was awarded the "UNICEF Staff Award" for managing refugee services.

Resident Project Officer (Head of Zonal Office)

Kismayo, Southern Somalia

February 1994 – December 1997

- Organized, coordinated, and supervised UNICEF programs/projects in Southern Somalia, one of the most dangerous UNICEF missions in a volatile environment. Managed and led a team of 16 staff (3 International/13 National) and 168 ancillary staff working at the six UNICEF Feeding Centres. Executed a US\$5M program budget, including oversight for accounting documentation and expenditures
- I continuously negotiated and advocated with local authorities, armed groups, community/religious elders/leaders, UN agencies, NGOs, etc., to maximize support and involvement in interventions favouring children and women throughout Southern Somalia.
- Planned, managed, and monitored UNICEF program interventions to provide facilities including water and sanitation, primary health care, nutrition, and primary education, early childhood care & development, including child protection in southern Somalia and provided program leadership to improve the content of NGO/Government agreements as well as the overall quality of program documentation and monitoring
- Monitored politico-socio-economic development and prepared comprehensive and accurate daily, monthly, quarterly, annual, and other relevant reports as required during the highly volatile period of civil war and UN interventions

- Successfully responded to emergencies from floods, cholera, etc., in armed conflict zones. Supervised financial, logistics, and human resources departments and prepared project proposals for fundraising, program plans of action and office work plans. Represented UNICEF and led the extended EPI program (including Polio) with WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, and local authorities in Somalia.

Water & Sanitation Project Officer, UNICEF

Baidoa, Central Somalia
Hargeisa, Northwest Somalia

October 1993 – February 1994
October 1992 – October 1993

- Managed and prepared project plans, proposals, and agreements; implemented and monitored 24 successful urban, peri-urban, and rural water supply and sanitation projects in Northwest and Northeast Somalia with a budget of more than US\$4M in 1992-1993. Liaised with international and local NGOs to implement projects as required; prepared reports to document the same. Planned, implemented, and managed the Hargeisa Water Supply & Management Project with a budget of US\$1.8 M, which was the only self-sustainable project of this type

Water & Environmental Sanitation Consultant, UNICEF

Angola

June 1991 – May 1992

- Provided advice and input in consultation with the WES Programme Officer for reviewing and restructuring the activities of the water sector in Angola; conducted a water resources survey and a diagnostic survey of existing boreholes in Huila Province; advised on measures required to strengthen the National Directorate for Water's institutional capacity. Provided expertise concerning hand pump installation and well design guidelines, construction, pumping tests and hydro-geological data recordings as required. Assisted with the construction of hand-dug wells in the Kapunda-Kavilongo area. Provided technical assistance to the Special Relief Program in Angola (SRPA)

UNV Hydrogeologist Specialist, UNDP & UNICEF

Yemen

December 1987 – June 1991

- Held the position of UNV Hydro-Geologist Specialist for rural water projects and was the coordinator for UNDP/UNICEF-assisted water projects with the Department of Local Administration in the Republic of South Yemen; implemented a successful water well drilling program in Hadramout Governorate and prepared a detailed water supply and sanitation project plan for Socotra Island.

Chief Hydrogeologist/Drilling Manager, Turn-O-Metal Engineers

Nairobi, Kenya

June 1985 – December 1987

- Managed/supervised 50+ staff and provided strategic planning within the Water Well Drilling Department and sanitation projects. I handled marketing and purchasing and advised management on tendering, planning, and developing cost estimates. Undertook and supervised the drilling operations, including site preparation, drill rig mobilization / demobilization, rigging up and down, site fencing and site clearing. It ensured quality control for related construction work and materials.

Geologist/Senior Hydrogeologist, Government of Kenya - Ministry of Water Development

Nairobi, Kenya

May 1981 – May 1985

- Supervised and implemented drilling works for irrigation, domestic, industrial, and public water supplies and executed water well drilling and construction while working with rotary drilling rigs, percussion rigs, and test pumping units. Formulated various project components, did comparative cost estimates, bills of quantities, general and technical specifications for tender documents, and comparison and evaluation of bids.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Educator, Teaching Service Commission

Nairobi, Kenya

February 1980 – April 1981

- Performed teaching and teaching-related duties for A-level students in geology, chemistry, and biology; developed educational materials, prepared examination materials, graded tests and responded to student inquiries.

Research Scholar & Teaching Assistant, Panjab University

1980

January 1979 – January

Chandigarh, India

- Conducted a research study. Published five research papers. Assisted the professor in teaching Geology & Applied Geology to 1st Year B.Sc. students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – organized by UNFPA	November 2018
Basic Security In Field II - organized by UNDSS	March 2015
Advanced Security In The Field – organized by UNDSS	March 2015
Train the Trainer – A Principled Approach to Humanitarian Action (PATH) and Sphere Standards Organized by UNICEF New York in Montreux, Switzerland	September 2005
Thematic Workshop on Early Child Development UNICEF & UNESCO, Amman, Jordan	May 2002
Humanitarian Principles & Emergency Preparedness UNICEF – Middle East & MENA, Amman, Jordan	November 2000
Communication in Development UNICEF – Middle East & North African Countries (MENA), Tunisia	May 2000
Result-Oriented Monitoring & Evaluation UNDP for the Middle East & North African Countries, Damascus, Syria	September 1998
Project Planning, Implementation & Monitoring UNICEF for East and South African Countries, Windhoek, Namibia	July 1996

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science, B.Sc. & Master of Science, M.Sc. (Honours) in Geology