

Biography



Dereje Wordofa Gidda

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme)

Mr. Wordofa, a national of Ethiopia, brings to the position over 28 years of successful experience in providing strategic leadership, advocacy, programme development and operations management in complex environments, largely focused in Africa.

Before joining UNFPA, Mr. Wordofa served as the International Regional Director for the Eastern and Southern Africa Region for SOS Children's Village International. He was responsible for the region's programme interventions and operations, overseeing over 4,500 employees and leading the management of social development, humanitarian response, and advocacy programmes with a focus on children and youth.

Mr. Wordofa also previously served as Regional Director for Africa at the American Friends Service Committee, where he led reconciliation and conflict resolution programmes at regional and country levels and provided strategic leadership in promoting peace and social justice in Africa.

Prior to this, Mr. Wordofa served as Country Representative for Oxfam in Uganda, as well as Head of the Regional Policy Team based in Oxford, UK. He represented Oxfam at high-level fora including various strategic networks, alliances, governments, donors and non-governmental organizations, and provided leadership and direction to a team of regional policy advisers responsible for Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Other earlier roles held by Mr. Wordofa include Deputy Programme Director at Save the Children, as well as National Rehabilitation Programmes Coordinator and Emergency Coordinator, both with Save the Children, Ethiopia. He was also Regional Programme Development Adviser for the East and Great Lakes Region at Oxfam Great Britain based in Kenya.

Mr. Wordofa holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Oxford Brookes University, a Master of Science degree in Social Policy in Developing Countries from the London School of Economics, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.