

Biography



AMIR MAHMOUD ABDULLA Deputy Executive Director

Amir Mahmoud Abdulla became the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme in March 2009.

In addition to his responsibilities as deputy principal, Mr Abdulla currently oversees the Executive Board Secretariat and the divisions providing key support to WFP field operations worldwide: Emergency Operations, Supply Chain Operations, and Security.

Since February 2017, he has led the successful implementation of the new corporate architecture aligning WFP's strategy, human resources, programme structure, financial management, and planning, monitoring and reporting to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at country level. As part of his inter-agency responsibilities, in November 2019 he became the interim chair of the UN System Standing Committee for Nutrition (UNSCN) and led its merger with the UN Network for Scaling-Up Nutrition to form UN Nutrition before handing over the chair of the newly-created entity in January 2021.

In 2015 and 2016, Mr Abdulla was based in New York to enhance WFP's engagement with the UN system, Member States and key stakeholders. In addition to his WFP responsibilities, he was appointed Vice-Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) from January 2016 until November 2017, and facilitated the inter-agency discussions around the repositioning of the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and related reform initiatives.

Before moving to New York, he was the Chief Operating Officer (COO), overseeing the WFP Regional Directors and the Directors of Emergencies, Gender, and Field Security, and was responsible for leading WFP's extensive field operations.

Mr Abdulla's career at WFP began as a logistics officer in 1991. He then went on to serve in a variety of field and headquarters posts. From 2000 to 2001, as Project Manager for WFP's corporate information management system, he successfully led the implementation of an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution using SAP software. From 2001 to 2004, Mr Abdulla served as Director of Budget and, in 2004, was named Regional Director for the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. He served in that position until July 2006, when he took up the post of Regional Director for Southern Africa until his return to WFP headquarters in 2008 to become WFP's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and led WFP's successful implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the first large-scale adoption of IPSAS within the UN system.

Prior to joining WFP, Mr Abdulla was a Branch Manager in Juba and Port Sudan for the shipping and forwarding company Transintra, and Assistant Area Manager for the engineering company Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor in the Sudan. He also taught at the American School and Comboni College in Khartoum.

Mr Abdulla is a graduate of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, where he read Electrical Engineering and graduated in June 1978 with a BSc Honours degree. He is an Associate of The City & Guilds of London Institute.

A national of the Sudan and the United Kingdom, Mr Abdulla was born in Khartoum in 1957. He is married with three grown children and three grandchildren.