World Food Programme

Biography

Robert Turner
Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer

Robert (Bob) Turner was appointed Chief of Staff for WFP in July 2021 and his focus is on collaborating closely with the regional bureaux and country offices to support operations and working with the senior leadership to ensure that WFP delivers on its priorities. In July 2022, he was also named as Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Turner brings more than 30 years of diverse experience to the role. He first began work in the United Nations system with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) in Rwanda in 1995 and since that time served in various United Nations entities, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in Sudan as well as multiple duty stations with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and more recently as the Director of Operations for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Gaza.

Since 2018, Bob Turner has managed key strategic projects on behalf of WFP, including leading the inter-agency project team for the Business Innovations Strategic Results Group (BIG) that was part of the United Nations Secretary General’s reform looking at developing more efficiencies and the introduction of a United Nations agreement on mutual recognition. Between 2020-2021, he headed up the Bottom Up Strategic Budgeting Exercise, an initiative launched by the WFP Executive Director to ensure better alignment between funding sources and WFP’s activities and thus strengthened transparency and flexibility.

In addition to his extensive work within the United Nations system, Bob Turner has worked extensively with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies in Canada as well as the private sector.

A Canadian national, he holds a master’s degree in Development Studies from Guelph University and a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the University of British Columbia.