

Maria-Threase Keating



Maria has a long history in both development and humanitarian work spanning 25 years with the United Nations (UNDP, UN-OCHA and UN-HABITAT), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Non-Governmental Organization GOAL (Ireland).

Prior to taking up her current appointment in early 2011 as UNDP Country Director (D-1) for Kenya, she served for four years as the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (Programmes) with UNDP Liberia at a time when early recovery programmes were closely implemented with the DPKO mission UNMIL in the spirit of a UN Integrated mission context. As a seasoned conflict and post conflict specialist, she also served for three years with UNDP Kosovo as Head of the Interim Government's Minority Returns Programme for spontaneous and organized returns.

As the UN-HABITAT Deputy Country Coordinator in Baghdad, Iraq and Amman, Jordan in 2002 and 2003, the focus of UN-HABITAT's work from a human settlements viewpoint was on supporting the return of thousands of IDP's displaced by civil conflict to their place of origin in northern Iraq in an integrated and sustainable human settlements manner. She also served as Senior Coordinator with UN-HABITAT in Brussels at the UN House to the European Union.

Earlier in her career with the United Nations, Ms. Keating served with UN-OCHA as Humanitarian Affairs Officer for the Great Lakes Region, SADC and the Horn of Africa at the UN Palais in Geneva and later transferred to OCHA in New York and eventually to the office of the Deputy Secretary General on the Iraq Programme where she spent five years.

Prior to joining the United Nations she worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with its operations in Somalia and The Sudan. Additionally, she was also the Country Coordinator for the Irish NGO GOAL in Ethiopia during the green famine in 1988/89. Shortly after graduating, Maria spent six years as a staff Journalist with the National Broadcasting Service of Ireland in Radio and Television.

Maria holds a post-graduate in Development Studies, a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts and Mixed-Media Communications; Diplomas in Arts Administration, Technical Communications; Production Management as well as a Teaching Diploma in Montessori Education. She is a recent graduate of the UN Leaders Programme on Global Challenges and a former lecturer at Fordham University, New York on the UN Humanitarian Coordination post graduate Diploma Programme and in Humanitarian Coordination at the UN's International Summer School in Geneva.