

### Kevin Milroy Senior Operations Officer

**Kevin Milroy** is Senior Operations Officer in SURR's Partnerships and Resource Mobilization unit where he provides strategic guidance and operational support for development and strengthening of external partnerships, focused on urban and social development. Starting from 1998, he helped operationalize the World Bank's response to the Habitat Agenda that came out of Habitat II in Istanbul, including mobilizing the Cities Alliance partnership and establishing the Cities Without Slums action plan, which became embedded as an MDG target. **Languages:** English



### Francisco Obrequé Agricultural Specialist

**Francisco Obrequé** is an agricultural specialist for the World Bank. Based in La Paz, Bolivia, he supports the governments of the Andean countries in implementing agricultural and rural development projects, with a focus on strengthening public research institutions, enhancing access to markets, and promoting community-driven development. **Languages:** English, Spanish, French



### Phoram Shah Urban Specialist

**Phoram Shah** is an urban specialist in the Global Programs Unit of SURR. As an urban planner with more than eight years' experience in the urban development sector, she has been working on slum upgrading, urban planning and land use, municipal service delivery, local government institutions and finance, and national urban policies; and is now working on issues related to inclusion in cities. Prior to the Bank, she worked closely with national and sub-national agencies and academic institutions on urban development policies and programs in India. She holds Master's in public administration (Columbia University) and urban planning (CEPT University, India). **Languages:** English



### Tatiana Peralta-Quiros Technology and Data Analytics, Transport Economist

**Tatiana Peralta-Quiros** focuses on the collection and use of innovative data & technology, working with different teams to operationalize and pilot the use of digital data, data analytics, and innovative technology in transport projects. She works with various streams in this area to develop a more consistent approach to transport data that informs the sustainable mobility agenda and generates country-level data to monitor progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, climate targets, and other global commitments. **Languages:** Spanish, English, French



### Nicholas Bian International Affairs Officer

**Nicholas Bian** is an International Affairs Officer & Counsellor in the Office of the Senior Vice President of the 2030 Agenda, UN Relations, and Partnerships of the WBG to the UN. Based in New York, his portfolio includes sustainable development and climate change, as well as youth development, human rights, and rule of law. Prior to this, he worked in development effectiveness in the Bank's Europe & Central Asia Region, on operations focusing on public service delivery projects in Azerbaijan & Moldova, and analytical work in the Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to the Bank, he was a policy analyst at the OECD. He began his career in the US Congress. He holds a Master's in International Affairs & Public Policy (American University of Paris) and a Bachelor's in International Affairs & Political Science (Westmont College). He is a former Fellow with the Eurasia Foundation. **Languages:** English, French, Russian



### Sarah Xinyuan Lin Urban Analyst

**Sarah Lin** is an Urban Analyst on the East Asia and Pacific team of SURR, working on operational and analytical urban development projects in Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, and China. Prior to joining the Bank, she was an urban planner with Singapore's national land use planning agency, developing spatial and urban design plans for one of the city's largest public housing towns. She has also worked on policies and programs for low-income families in Singapore, and in an international foundation focusing on arts and culture as tools for social change. She is a Singaporean national and has a B.Sc. in Urban and Regional Studies (Cornell University) and an M.Phil. in Development Studies (University of Cambridge). **Languages:** English



### Grace Muhimpundu Junior Professional Officer

**Grace Muhimpundu** is a dual Burundian and Norwegian national working as a Social Development Specialist providing cross-sectoral support to various projects in the Bank's Africa Region. Prior to this, she worked in the rural and agricultural sectors in Rwanda, and on International Trade/WTO at the World Bank's Geneva office. She holds a Bachelor's in Development Studies (Oslo University College) and Master's in Development Studies (Graduate Institute of Geneva). She was born in Burundi, resided in Kenya, grew up in Norway, and undertook various study and work assignments in South Africa, Tanzania, Rwanda, and the US. **Languages:** English, French, Kirundi, Norwegian, Swahili



## Mahmoud Mohieldin Senior Vice President The 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations and Partnerships

**Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin** is the World Bank Group (WBG) Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations and Partnerships. Before joining the World Bank, Dr. Mohieldin held numerous senior positions in the Government of Egypt, including Minister of Investment from 2004 until 2010. He also served on several Boards of Directors including the Central Bank of Egypt and the banking and corporate sector. He was a member of the Commission on Growth and Development and selected a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum. He is a Professor of Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University, an Honorary Professor at Durham University and member of the Advisory Board of the Durham Business School. He also held leading positions in national and regional research centers and think tanks. He has authored numerous publications and articles in leading journals in the fields of international finance, economics, and development in English and Arabic. He has a Ph.D. in Economics (University of Warwick), M.Sc. in Economic and Social Policy Analysis (University of York), and B.Sc. in Economics, first in the order of merit (Cairo University). **Languages:** English, Arabic



## Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez Senior Director, Global Practice, Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience

**Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez** leads a team of over 600 technical experts deployed across the world, leveraging global knowledge and collaborating with partners to help tackle the world's most complex development challenges in: social inclusion and sustainability; mainstreaming resilience in all dimensions development; territorial and rural development; and urban planning, services, and institutions. Prior to this, he was Director for Sustainable Development of the Latin America and Caribbean Region, with an active portfolio of about \$17 billion. From 2007 to 2011, he was based in Beijing, where he managed the Sustainable Development Unit for China and Mongolia. Earlier in his career, he managed the global trust-funded programs ESMAP and WSP in energy and water and sanitation, respectively. Mr. Ijjasz has a Ph.D. and M.Sc. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology - MIT) in civil and environmental engineering, with a specialization in hydrology and water resources. He has been a lecturer at the Environmental Science and Policy Program at Johns Hopkins University, and at Tsinghua University. He is a Colombian and Hungarian national. **Languages:** English, Spanish



## Sameh Wahba Director for Urban and Territorial Development, Disaster Risk Management and Resilience

**Sameh Wahba**, an Egyptian national, oversees the formulation of the World Bank's Urban and Territorial Development, Disaster Risk Management (DRM), and Resilience strategy; and the design and delivery of all of the Bank's lending, technical assistance, policy advisory activities, and partnerships in this area at the global level. Prior to this, he was Practice Manager for the Urban & DRM unit in Africa and the Global Urban & Resilience Unit, and he served as Acting Director of Operations and Strategy for SURR. He also worked as Sustainable Development Sector Leader for Brazil, based in Brasilia, and worked as urban specialist focused on housing, land, local economic development and municipal management, and service delivery in Latin America & Caribbean and the Middle East & North Africa Regions. Prior to joining the Bank in 2004, he worked at the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies in Rotterdam and at the Harvard Center for Urban Development Studies. He holds a Ph.D. and Master's in urban planning (Harvard University), and a B.Sc and M.Sc in Architectural Engineering (Cairo University). Most recently, he co-authored the Bank's flagship publication on *Regenerating Urban Land: A Practitioner's Guide to Leveraging Private Investment*. **Languages:** Arabic, French, English, Portuguese



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 Cristina Medina, 593 998242765, [cmedina1@worldbank.org](mailto:cmedina1@worldbank.org) (Spanish speaking)



## Loïc Chiquier World Bank Group Chief Technical Specialist

**Loïc Chiquier** holds the primary responsibility for global partnership engagement on a range of high-priority issues for growth, such as housing finance, infrastructure finance, capital markets development, DRM, and financial inclusion. He is also Global Lead for infrastructure finance and housing finance. Previously, he was the Director for the Global Practice on Capital Market Development and as Director for financial and private sector development in the Middle East & North Africa. He has considerable experience in the development of securities markets, reforms of institutional investors, developing innovative insurance services and promoting more accessible housing finance markets, and has worked in more than 35 emerging economies. Prior to the Bank, he served as Director for Crédit Foncier in Central Europe and Advisor for Housing Finance Reforms to the Government of Poland. He holds degrees from École Polytechnique, École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, and the Institut des Sciences Politiques de Paris. **Languages:** English, French



## Ming Zhang Urban Practice Manager, South Asia and Latin America Regions

**Ming Zhang** is responsible for the delivery and monitoring of the investment and analytical programs in urban development in South Asia and Latin America. Over his nineteen year career in the Bank, he has covered a wide range of issues, including urban and housing development, infrastructure, local government, and decentralization. Before this, he was Lead Urban Specialist in the Latin America Region and Infrastructure Sector Coordinator for the Philippines. His publications include *Growth and Competitiveness of Brazilian Cities* and *Meeting Infrastructure Challenges in the Philippines*. He has a Master's in Economics and a Ph.D. in City & Regional Planning (University of California at Berkeley). **Languages:** English, Chinese



## Ayat Soliman Practice Manager, Urban, Social and Resilience

**Ayat Soliman** covers an active portfolio of over \$1.5 billion in MNA, a growing pipeline of lending, and a large RAS and TF program. The portfolio is growing to respond to the demands articulated by the MNA strategy, and covers a range of urban and social development programs, support to social safeguards, and a growing risk management and resilient recovery agenda, given the vulnerability of most of MNA countries to a wide range of risks, including disasters, climate change, and most prominently, conflict. Prior to this, she was the Program Leader for Sustainable Development for six countries in Central America, where she oversaw the programs cutting across energy, infrastructure, social development, climate change, and logistics, and coordinated the articulation of the systematic country diagnostics and country partnership frameworks for Panama and Costa Rica. She holds a Master's of Environmental & Water Resources Engineering (American University in Cairo). **Languages:** English, Arabic, Spanish, French, German, Dutch



## Roland White Global Lead: City Management, Governance and Financing

**Roland White** has over 25 years' experience in urban development and the financing and management of cities. He has led major analytic, policy advisory, and investment operations in over 25 countries across several global regions; has worked in many others; and has written widely and speaks regularly in these fields. Prior to joining the Bank in 2000, Roland researched and worked operationally on urban development and financing, and related fields, such as housing, in South and Southern Africa, the UK and the US in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. He is currently serving as co-chair of the Municipal Finance Policy Group for the Habitat III conference. **Languages:** English, Afrikaans



## Somik Lall Global Lead, Territorial and Spatial Development

**Somik V. Lall** heads the Bank's global research program on urbanization and spatial development and founded the urbanization reviews program. He is an expert on development policy related to urban and territorial competitiveness, agglomeration and clusters, infrastructure, and impact evaluation, with more than 18 years' experience in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. He was a core member of the team that wrote the *World Development Report 2009: Reshaping Economic Geography*; a senior economic counselor to the Indian prime minister's National Transport Development Policy Committee; and the lead author of the Bank's flagship report on urbanization *Planning, Connecting, and Financing Cities Now*. His work focuses on "place-shaping policies" around cities, clusters, and corridors, and the functioning of factor and product markets. **Languages:** English



## Arturo Ardila-Gomez Global Lead Urban Mobility & Lead Transport Economist

**Arturo Ardila-Gomez** is the Global Lead for Urban Mobility and a Transport Economist in the World Bank's Transport & ICT Global Practice, and he co-leads the Bank's Urban Mobility Global Solutions Group. He oversees a portfolio of transport projects and research activities. Prior to the Bank, he was Director of the Transportation Studies Group at Los Andes University in Bogota. He is the author of several peer-reviewed articles and two books. He is currently finishing research on Smart Cities, ITS, Mobility, and Energy Efficiency. **Languages:** Spanish, English, Portuguese



## Nancy Vandycke Lead Economic Adviser

**Nancy Vandycke** is the Lead Economic Adviser of the Transport and Information & Communications Technology Global Practice. Prior to joining the World Bank in 1999, Nancy was a Lecturer at the University of London and at Georgetown University. She spent several years as a Research Associate at the Russian-European Center for Economic Policy in Russia, and at the Centre for Economic Performance in the UK. She was also an Advisor to the Belgian Chair at IMF. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics (London School of Economics). **Languages:** English, French, Russian



## Soraya Goga Lead Urban Specialist

**Soraya Goga** started her career working for the Durban Metropolitan Council in the Economic Development Department, and she continues to work on issues related to city economic performance, including in Indonesia and Russia, and on the lagging regions agenda in Turkey and now in the European Union. She has significant experience in improving local government performance, including in Pakistan, Jordan, Palestine, and Tajikistan. She also works on the sustainable cities agenda, examining issues of social, economic, and financial and environmental sustainability, particularly in Turkey. Finally she has extensive experience in post conflict reconstruction including urban planning in Dili, urban upgrading in Afghanistan, housing in North East Sri Lanka, and local government development in Palestine. **Languages:** English



## Ellen Hamilton Lead Urban Specialist

**Ellen Hamilton** is a Lead Urban Specialist for the Middle East and North Africa Unit of SURR. She has two decades experience leading analytical work and projects focusing on inclusive cities, covering topics such as: affordable land/ housing supply and demand; urban growth; urban planning: urban services; municipal management; municipal finance; urban upgrading and regeneration, and urban violence prevention. She particularly enjoys working across sectoral boundaries. **Languages:** English, Russian



## Josef Leitmann Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist

**Josef Leitmann** is Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the World Bank, heading teams on Resilient Recovery and Urban Resilience at the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), and is GFDRR's focal point for humanitarian and fragility/conflict issues. Previously, Joe spent four years managing the \$400 million Haiti Reconstruction Fund, supporting post-earthquake recovery; he supported the creation of crisis response and development funds in a number of fragile and conflict-affected states (Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan); and he developed and managed the \$650 million Multi Donor Fund to help rebuild after the Indonesian tsunami. Joe has over 30 years of development experience in DRM, climate change, natural resource management, urban development, forestry, and clean energy. He holds a Ph.D. in city & regional planning (UC Berkeley) and a Master's (Harvard Kennedy School), and has authored *Sustaining Cities* and *Investing in Urban Resilience*.

**Languages:** English, French, Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesia



## Catalina Marulanda Lead Urban Development Specialist

**Catalina Marulanda**, originally from Colombia, is Lead Urban Specialist in the Urban and DRM Division of the Latin American & Caribbean Region at the World Bank. This role involves working with national and local governments on urban development, promoting initiatives that aim at making cities more economically productive, environmentally sound, livable, and less vulnerable, particularly for the poor. Over the past 13 years at the Bank, Catalina has focused on topics related to solid waste management, chemicals management, and industrial pollution in Latin America, East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. Catalina has a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering (MIT) and a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering (Lehigh University). **Languages:** Spanish, English, French, Portuguese



## Victor M. Vergara Lead Urban Specialist

**Victor Vergara** is the thematic coordinator for SURR in the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank. Prior to this, as urban practice leader for the East Asia & Pacific Region, he led urban lending operations as well as quality assurance. Previously, he was with the World Bank Institute as senior urban specialist where he led global capacity-building programs on urban development, focusing on social inclusion, sustainable finance, and land use; and was an urban specialist for the Latin America Region, where he collaborated in the preparation of urban planning and management capacity building operations. Before the Bank, he was with the Government of Mexico as manager for community & regional development, concentrating on lagging coastal regions. He holds Master's in City Planning (MIT) and Agriculture (Texas A&M).



## Jon Kher Kaw Senior Urban Specialist & Lead (Urbanscapes Group)

**Jon Kher Kaw** (@jonkherkaw) is a Senior Urban Specialist with SURR and he also leads the Urbanscapes Group (@wbg\_urbanscapes) at the World Bank, a cross-sector community-of-practice focused on urban planning, design, and public spaces. He brings with him expertise in integrated urban planning and design, sustainable development, and real estate. He holds a Master's in Design Studies (Harvard University) and a Master's of Architecture (Columbia University).

**Languages:** English



## Joshua Gallo Senior Municipal Finance Specialist

**Joshua Gallo** leads the Bank's City Creditworthiness Initiative and related technical assistance programs (Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi), and is Program Manager for the Multi-Donor City Creditworthiness Partnership. Previously, he was Program Leader for the Sub-National Technical Assistance (SNTA) Program under the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF), as well as Program Manager for the Norwegian Trust Fund for Private Sector and Infrastructure (NTF-PSI). He has worked in Peru and Tanzania. Professional focus on sub-sovereign financing, helping cities to improve their creditworthiness and identify opportunities for commercial-based transactions. **Languages:** English, Italian, Spanish, German (basic)

