



David Jackson

Director, Local Development Finance

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

David Jackson, a British national, has over 30 years of experience in Local Development. He started his career as an urban planner in London in 1980s and later on ran a consulting company supporting local development in over 10 African and Asian countries. The beginning of his career at UNCDF was in the 1990s in Mozambique, where he designed and piloted a national system of local government finance for capital investment that was taken to scale by government. Since 2006, he worked as Decentralisation Advisor to the Government of Indonesia and UNDP. In 2009, he became Head of UNCDF Asia and Pacific office where he designed the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility, a global mechanism that enables local governments in the least developed countries to access climate finance for resilient investments. In May 2013, he was appointed Director of UNCDF's Local Development Finance Practice in New York. In this position he manages portfolio of local development finance programmes with a focus on fiscal decentralisation, infrastructure development, climate resilience grants, municipal finance and private sector investments.



Amita Gill

Local Governance Specialist

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Ms. Amita Gill is Local Governance Specialist in the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions Team within the Crisis Bureau at UNDP, as well as DeLoG's focal point since 2013/2014. She has over 20 years of experience in managing international development programmes and projects for NGOs, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and UNDP. Over the years she has specialised in issues related to subnational governance, public administration reform, service delivery and decentralisation, with a focus on recovery in fragile and crisis-affected situations. Since 2007 she has been working for UNDP and after having spent three years in Afghanistan and two years in Somalia, she now serves UNDP from its headquarters in New York.



Tehmina Akhtar

Deputy Director, Local Development Finance

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Tehmina Akhtar is the Deputy Director of the Local Development Finance Practice at UNCDF. She is responsible for the development and management of a portfolio of local economic development programmes that provide investment capital and technical support to local governments, and public and private sector, to address local economic development, climate change, land degradation, food security, and women's economic empowerment challenges.

Tehmina has worked in international development for over 20 years at the global, regional and local levels. Her expertise includes economic development, environment and climate finance, as well as civil society and community development. Prior to joining UNCDF, Tehmina worked in UNDP's Global Environment Finance Unit since 2000, as Regional Technical Advisor in Eastern Europe and West Asia, as Senior Programme Advisor organising regional and national policy dialogues on priority development issues, and as Deputy Global Manager of the Small Grants Programme overseeing a global grantmaking programme for civil society. Prior to this, Tehmina was one of the core staff of the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP) project preparation facility in Cairo where she worked with local governments and municipalities to develop priority investment projects for urban pollution hot spots. She also served as Programme Officer for institutional strengthening in UNDP's Regional Aral Sea Basin initiative in Central Asia.



Dmitry Pozhidaev

Decentralisation Advisor

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Dmitry Pozhidaev is the Decentralisation Advisor based in Uganda in charge of UNCDF programming in East Africa, the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa. Having joined the United Nations in 1998, Mr. Pozhidaev led local government and local development programmes in Afghanistan and Yemen in 2007-2012 and worked as an international municipal administrator under the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo in 2000-2005. In this latter capacity he oversaw the preparation and execution of the municipal budget and capital investment programme of €11 million annually, including a large portfolio of infrastructure PPPs. He participated in the design and launch of UNCDF's Local Finance Initiative in Uganda and Tanzania. He also worked as a consultant on decentralisation, public financial management and reforms at the central and local levels for the World Bank, Council of Europe, UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and Adam Smith International in Albania, Kazakhstan, Palestine and Serbia.

Mr. Pozhidaev holds a master's degree in finance and investment from the Geneva Business School, a master's degree in public administration and development from the University of Birmingham and a doctorate in quantitative research and statistics from Moscow University. He authored a number of publications on local development, finance and investment.



Christel Alvergne

Regional Technical Advisor

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Christel Alvergne is the Regional Technical Advisor and Team Leader for the Africa region at UNCDF. She has worked for 20 years on local development and fiscal decentralisation. In the 1990s, she worked for the French Prime Minister agency – DATAR – to develop innovative approaches to decentralisation such as the Time Management offices, local sport policies and innovative rural develop plans.

A former academic, Christel holds a PhD in Economics. She has been a researcher and professor in academic institutions in France, Canada, Senegal and Egypt. She has been involved in the Municipal movement in developing countries and has supported decentralisation processes since their beginning in the 1990s.