



# Biography



## **Margot van der Velden** Regional Director for Western and Central Africa Regional Office

Margot van der Velden has taken up her duties as Regional Director for Western and Central Africa in September 2024, after holding the position ad interim for most of 2023 and 2024.

With more than 20 years at WFP, holding leadership positions at country office, regional bureau and headquarters levels, Margot brings a wide range and depth of experience into this role.

From 2018 to 2022, Margot served as Director of Emergencies in Rome, leading WFP's global COVID response and emergency operations in countries like Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Ukraine.

Prior to this, Margot served as Deputy Regional Director for Western Africa (2016-2018) with a particular focus on complex regional interventions and WFP's Sahel Resilience Programme.

Other senior roles filled by Margot include Regional Emergency Coordinator in Dakar (2015-2016), coordinating the Ebola response and the set up of WFP's presence and emergency operation in Northeast Nigeria; Deputy Country Director in Sudan (2013-2015), leading one of WFP's largest operations where she was responsible for negotiating access in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and for re-opening the humanitarian corridors to South Sudan and Northern Abyei; Chief of Nutrition in Rome (2010-2013); Deputy Country Director in Mozambique (2007-2010) leading WFP's humanitarian response and supporting the strengthening of the National Institution for Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Prior to joining WFP in 2000, she worked with Médecins Sans Frontières in the Great Lakes and Mozambique on providing humanitarian assistance to forcibly displaced populations.

A native of the Netherlands, Margot holds a Master's degree in food science and technology from the Agriculture University in Wageningen and a Master's degree in public health and nutrition from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.