

Value Chain Development for Employment and Stability in Fragile and Conflict Situations

EXPERT MEETING



Message from IFC and SPARK Management

Dear Participants,

A warm welcome to the Expert Meeting on Value Chain Development in Fragile and Conflict Situations (FCS), a joint event hosted by IFC and SPARK.

We strongly believe that effective local value chains contribute to job creation and stability in FCS. The 2011 World Development Report suggests that supporting value chains could be an effective intervention in FCS, and that the private sector could play a catalytic role in situations where business confidence is very low.

So far, so good.

The hard part, however, is actually establishing value chains in countries where local businesses are held back by a lack of access to finance, a lack of training opportunities, and a cumbersome or overly-complicated investment climate. It is also often challenging to understand the dynamics of a local conflict, and how an investment might influence that conflict.

This meeting aims to tackle some of those problems, tapping the varied experience and knowledge of experts and practitioners from the public and private sectors and from developmental institutions.

We hope to inspire lively discussion and debate, to hear first-hand accounts from the field, and to study what works – and what doesn't – when establishing and growing value chains in FCS.

This booklet contains an agenda and some brief biographical information on each of the participants. Over the next two days, please take the opportunity to network with colleagues and make new connections. Please also find time to learn more about IFC and SPARK, and how we are supporting private sector development in Africa.

Thank you for attending and contributing.



Michel Botzung
Manager FCS Africa
International Finance Corporation



Yannick du Pont
Director
SPARK

Meeting Programme

DAY 1: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:20	Welcome and Opening Remarks
09:20 – 10:00	Keynote Speeches
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 11:30	Panel Discussion: How to overcome challenges in developing effective value chains in FCS? What can we learn from existing practices?
11:30 – 12:30	Group Discussion: What are the effective top – down and bottom – up approaches for VC development in FCS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All: <i>What does “effective VC” entail?</i>• Break-out topic 1: <i>Can we build an effective value chain without lead firms? What are the alternatives?</i>• Break-out topic 2: <i>How to develop a local value chain in absence of lead firms? How to deal with challenges of bottom – up approach?</i>
12:30 – 12:45	Report back from Rapporteurs
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch at the WBG cafeteria on the ground floor
14:00 – 15:00	Panel Discussion: How to conduct risk analysis for sustainable value chain in FCS?
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 – 16:00	Group Discussion: How to conduct risk analysis for sustainable value chain in FCS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Break-out topic 1: <i>How to deal with inclusiveness issues</i>• Break-out topic 2: <i>How to best address security related issues in VC in FCS (distribution/ transportation/ informal brokers etc.)</i>
16:00 – 16:20	Report back from Rapporteurs
16:20 – 16:40	Wrap – up for the day 1
18:30 – 19:00	Cocktail at Crown Plaza Hotel
19:00 –	Dinner at Crown Plaza Hotel

DAY 2: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

9:00 – 9:30	Recap of the day 1
9:30 – 10:15	Group Discussion: What are the roles of different stakeholders (private sector, governments, NGOs, development agencies, etc)? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Break-out 1: <i>What are benefits of collaboration or partnerships among different stakeholders?</i>• Break-out 2: <i>What are conditions and mechanisms for cross – sector collaboration between business, public sector and civil society in enhancing VC’s economic and conflict mitigating effects?</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Report back from Rapporteurs
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	Open Table: Topics addressed by participants
12:00 – 12:30	Wrap – up for the day 2 and way forward
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch at WBG cafeteria on the ground floor

Participants' bios



AHMED M ADEN (AHMED DAAD)

Executive Director
Green Development Centre
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Ahmed is the Founder and Executive Director of Green Development Center (GDC), a training, research and consultancy center promoting trade and investment, business networking, job creation, entrepreneurship, and access to local, regional and international markets for SMEs in the Horn of Africa. GDC has supported more than 100 SMEs, including women, youth and diaspora-owned businesses in Somaliland/Somalia and Ethiopia. Ahmed holds a BA in Accounting from Haramaya University in Ethiopia. He has 11 years' experience working in the private sector and with NGOs and has extensive value chain experience.

He worked as a Value Chain Development consultant and Senior Marketing Expert at a World Bank Private Sector Development Program in Somalia on Value Chain Development of Gums and Resins in 2013 and 2014. Ahmed is the co-founder of the first Somali business incubation Centre "Africa House Hub" in Hargeisa, Somaliland.



ADHAN HAJI

Private Sector Growth and Development Adviser, DFID Somalia / World Bank.
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As PSD Adviser, Adhan leads on the PSD work of DFID Somalia. He has over 15 years of experience working in international development and the private sector, applying key economic and commercial concepts, developing and implementing tax policy, designing and managing development and reform programmes and projects.

Recently, he has worked with the World Bank T&C Global Practice providing PSD technical inputs/ support under MPF. Before joining DFID, he worked with PwC London, Morgan Stanley, First Chicago Bank and Lombard Investment Bank.

He holds a Ph.D Trade Policy and Law (Lund), MPH (London), MBA (Newport), MSc. Finance (Oxford Brookes) and accredited ACCA/ CIMA/ CFA member.



ANNA AKHALKATSI

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Anna is a regional lead for the SME and Value Chain Solutions practice area in IFC. Anna has over 17 years experience in private sector development with a focus on value chains, SME skills/ capability and finance, and smallholder farmer and community engagement. Previously at IFC, Anna served as Country Representative for Georgia, and as an Investment Officer for the SME Banking Program.

Before joining IFC, Anna worked as an economist at the World Bank focusing on private sector development and structural reforms. Anna has served as a Board member of the EastWest Institute, and currently chairs the Board of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs.

Anna has co-authored a number of IFC publications, including Business Linkages and Smallholder Engagement Handbook.



AWENA LEBESCHU

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Awena is an SME and Value Chain Solutions consultant at IFC. She has nine years' experience in FCS in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa MENA at IFC, Kiva and the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women. Awena focuses on MSME development, financial

inclusion, and gender and value chains. Previously, she held regional marketing, communication, and business development positions in start-ups and corporates in Europe and the Middle East. She is a Mowgli mentor for social entrepreneurs. Awena holds an MSc

in Business Administration from ESCP Europe, with a specialty in high tech entrepreneurship at the Leon Recanatti University.



ALEXANDRA SINDAHERA

General Counsel & HR Manager
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As Brarudi General Counsel, Alexandra is in charge of Brarudi Public Affairs agenda as well as of defining its social responsibility programs. As such, she is at the core of Brarudi embedment of Heineken engagement for the sustainable sourcing of raw materials, which has, to this day, led to a positive impact for more than 170,000 Burundians.

She also leads the Brarudi HR agenda and serves as its legal counsel. She has been with Brarudi for almost 10 years, after graduating and working as a tax lawyer at Landwell & Partners (PWC Legal) in Paris.

She holds a Masters of Fiscal Administration from Paris Dauphine University as well as a bar certificate from the Paris School of Law. She was sworn in at the Paris Court of Appeal in April 2001.



CATRIN FROEHLICH

Business and Peace Program Manager
PeaceNexus Foundation, Switzerland

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Catrin currently focuses on promoting conflict-sensitivity in business education and showcasing outstanding business practices from conflict-affected areas. She also provides expertise on inclusive private sector development and responsible business practices in fragile environments.

Before joining PeaceNexus, she helped business leaders develop sustainable, inclusive and conflict-sensitive business practices in her position as senior CSR manager for conflict mediation at the National Business Initiative (NBI) Nepal. There, she also worked on the rehabilitation of former combatants, supported the business start-up community, established a Social Entrepreneurship Award, and Hidden Journeys Nepal – which helps spread best practices and learning from local heroes. Catrin is a graduate of International Business and Cultural Studies from Passau University, and has trained in project management, mediation, dialogue facilitation and anti-corruption.



DANIELA HENRIKE KLAU-PANHANS

Senior Operations Officer
World Bank

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Henrike is the private sector expert within the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Unit of the World Bank. Her work focuses on relevant topics for private sector development in fragile countries such as involvement of the diaspora or corporate social responsibility.

Henrike has more than 15 years of working experience in the private sector as well as in fragile environments. A banker by profession she worked for the German Savings Bank and the German Development Bank KfW and managed projects in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Most recently Henrike worked for the German Federal Foreign Office in Afghanistan leading the project work in the Northern Province Badakhshan.

She holds a master of business administration from Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany with a concentration on Finance and Management and did an apprenticeship at the German Savings Bank in Detmold.



DÉSIRÉ MUSHUMBA

Program Manager
SPARK Rwanda

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A program Manager in SPARK – Rwanda, Désiré has developed his professional career over 14 years in agriculture entrepreneurship development, value chain development, supply chain management, elaboration of economic strategies, actions plans, training curriculum and materials development, programs and projects design and management, monitoring and evaluation and advisory services to promote agriculture value chains, rural development, food security and agriculture business development in Africa.

Major achievements include the repositioning of the agriculture sector towards a market-led approach in East African countries and advising on overall countries strategies about pro-poor strategies, which resulted in the shift to inclusive business, market and finance models.

He holds a Masters Degree in Agricultural Sciences: Agribusiness and Rural Economic Development. He has developed 16 modules tailored to the business management of farmers cooperatives and facilitated a wide range of agribusiness trainings and coaching services in Africa.



ELIE NSABIMANA

Senior Agri-business Advisor
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Elie is a value chain development and microfinance expert working for over twelve years. He joined SNV in 1996 as part of a technical assistance project team in microfinance and rural economic development. Prior to that, he held senior positions with various international organizations specializing in rural enterprise development such International Labour Organisation (ILO), CARE International and Lutheran World Foundation.

As a senior Advisor Elie has been actively involved in agribusiness development with a vast experience in designing and implementing micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) related to commercial agriculture. His expertise include agriculture value chain analysis, producer organisations strengthening, farm-firm relationships development, rural finance and public-private partnerships. Major achievements include the repositioning of the honey sub- sector towards a market led approach and advised the country team on overall country strategy making about pro-poor strategies resulting in the shift to inclusive business, market and finance models.

Elie holds a Master's degree in Business administration (MBA) with a bias on strategic management from Mount Kenya University, Bachelor's degree in sociology and an advanced diploma in entrepreneurship development.



FABIEN BIZOZA

Senior Consultant in Agro economics and rural development
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Fabien is currently working with BESTE in a number of fields, including: Agribusiness & value chain development; Project planning, management & evaluation; Capacity building in agriculture and Ingénierie de formation; and TIC, e-agriculture and professional networking.

Fabien previously worked for a number of institutions, including FAO, Oxfam, Spark, IFAD, ICCO, the Dutch Embassy, GIZ, IFDC, and UNIDO. His roles have included: Value chain analysis and development; writing proposals & Business plans; evaluations using PRA & Agricultural Surveys, etc.; and training groups, Farmer Organizations and Cooperatives in management, modern rice production technique;

He Graduated in Agriculture from the University of Burundi, and has received certificates in the field of training, management, project evaluation, and Rapid Rural Appraisal



HENK F. VAN TRIGT

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First Secretary Food Security and Private Sector Development
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Henk van Trigt has more than 35 years of experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in Africa, Latin America and Asia -and Europe, including headquarters. His focus is economic development and many aspects of development co-operation, including sustainability issues extensively, but also social sectors, donor effectiveness and PFM.

In his previous assignment in the Sustainable Economic Development Department his main issue was managing for development results in both main areas of that Department: food security and private sector development. His challenge now is achieving results in these areas in a fragile and conflict affected country - e.g. South Sudan.

He graduated in theoretical physics at the Free University in Amsterdam, adding on the job training and courses in economics, sociology, economic and development policy and monitoring/evaluation.



HERVÉ- SACHA RWAMIBANGO

Corporate Affairs Advisor
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Hervé- Sacha has a marketing background with over 12 years of experience working for Heineken. He recently joined the Corporate Affairs department as the Advisor. He is currently involved in various aspects of the local sourcing sorghum project that he will be leading starting in January 2016.



ILIAS DIRIE

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Ilias is currently working with the International Labour Organization as a technical advisor focusing on the following thematic areas: employment creation, enterprise development, skills development and women economic empowerment.

Prior to joining the ILO, he worked as an infrastructure advisor with the Department for International Development and as Senior Program Officer with the Local Government Association (England and Wales).



JEAN TWILINGIYUMUKIZA (JOHN)

Director General
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Jean, a Rwandan citizen, earned his Master's Degree in Development Studies from Kabale University, Uganda, in 2011. He gained post graduate diplomas in Rural Development and in Project Management while studying in India.

Jean is a Director General working with IBAKWE Rural Innovation and Development Centre of Rwanda (IBAKWE RIC-RWANDA), which is an NGO registered in Rwanda as a community-based agriculture and livestock development organization. The NGO's overall objective is to accelerate sustainable economic growth and development by building the capacity of agricultural operators and professionalizing the stakeholders in agribusiness.

Jean is an expert in rural and agri-innovations development; in using Agri-business Clusters (value chains) Development (ABCD); and in capacity building and proximity services approaches. Known as an agribusiness coach and value chains development facilitator, Jean successfully pioneered cassava and maize value chain development in Rwanda's Southern Province.



JOACHIM WEBER

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Joachim has worked in Africa since 1997, for some time as a farm manager and agricultural trainer in Tanzania. More recently, he has helped certify roughly 100 000 smallholder farmers in Africa, linking them to global exports.

Joachim is a convinced organic farmer, but readily supports sustainable development initiatives even if not organic.

Joachim is a founding member of the ValueLinks Association and since 2007 he has been a ValueLinks trainer. ValueLinks is the value chain development methodology of GIZ.

He is currently working in South Sudan for the DFID funded Urban Food Security, Livelihoods and Markets program implemented by GIZ.

MENNO KEIZER

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Menno has worked for over 16 years in various countries across Africa and South East Asia for companies, research institutions and development agencies. His experience ranges from working for companies in Mozambique and Uganda; for marketing and business management in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines; and as a mentor and in coaching support to business start-ups in South Sudan and Yemen. He has worked with a wide range of stakeholders in the private sector, donor community and government by facilitating business meetings to discuss issues affecting value chains. Menno has extensive experience in value chain research, conducted mainly in East Africa. Currently, he is a freelance consultant for Mott Mac Donald, SPARK and Chemonics in South Sudan, mainly dealing with agribusiness development programmes.

MICHAEL FREUDENBERG

Senior Economic Adviser
Director
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Michael is a Senior Economic Adviser with UNDP Somalia, based in Nairobi, Kenya. Before that, he was a Principal Advisor at the New Zealand Treasury (2012-2013); an Adviser to the Cambodia Ministry of Commerce (2009-2012); the leader of the International Trade Centre's market analysis studies team (2003-2009); a Senior Economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 1998-2003); and an Economist at the Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales (CEPII, 1992-1998). Michael's experience includes country and sector analyses in areas such as international trade and development, competitiveness, innovation, and the business environment.

He traveled extensively -- especially in Africa and Asia -- to undertake research or training, organize workshops, and participate in conferences. Michael has a multidisciplinary background, with degrees in Public Affairs (B.A., Germany), Political Science (M.A., United States) and Economics (M.A. and PhD, France). Michael is a national of Germany, and is fluent in German, English and French.

MICHEL BOTZUNG

Manager, FCS Africa
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Michel is IFC's Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations Manager for Africa. In this capacity, he supports the growth of IFC's projects across Africa's most challenging markets. Michel joined IFC in November 2002 and has contributed with several field based assignments in the Middle-East, in South Asia and in Africa. He is currently based in Nairobi (Kenya).

MOUSTAPHA OSMAN GUELLE

Somaliland Beverage Industries (SBI)
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Moustapha is the Chief Operating Officer of SBI, the Coca-Cola franchise in Somaliland and the region of Puntland.

He has lived in Somaliland since 1995, and previously worked in a family-owned commodities and logistics businesses. Moustapha is a graduate of Oxford Brookes University in Oxford, England.

PAULINE NGARI

Chief Executive Officer
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Pauline is the founding CEO of HiH EA, an NGO registered in Kenya that operates in Eastern Africa. Previously, she worked with the CIC Insurance Ltd as General Manager, Marketing & Co-operative Development. She has over 25 years of experience on social entrepreneurship development, rural development and financing, with special focus on social mobilization of rural & peri-urban populations. Pauline has also devoted her time to designing, developing and implementing value chains for agricultural products, helping create opportunities and jobs for small holder farmers.

Pauline holds a masters degree in Business Administration (Entrepreneurship) from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, a Bachelors of Commerce (Marketing) from Egerton University, and a diploma in Co-operative Management from the Co-operative University College of Kenya. Pauline's passion is to contribute toward transforming lives through service to the society.

PETER KIMATHI KIRIMI

Agribusiness Cluster Advisor International Fertilizer
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Peter is the Agribusiness Cluster Advisor of 2SCALE in Kenya, a five-year Dutch Government initiative that seeks to improve rural livelihoods and nutrition security in Africa by integrating smallholder farmers in local, national and regional value chains in sub-Saharan Africa. The project, being implemented by a consortium (IFDC, ICRA and BoP Innovation Center), will develop a portfolio of 500 agribusiness clusters in nine focus countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Benin, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria in West Africa and Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan and Uganda in East and Southern Africa).

He also served as Agribusiness Relationship Manager for Equity Bank Limited, and Extension Coordinator for Kenya Tea development Agency limited before joining IFDC. Kirimi is an agriculture educationist and extension specialist with a strong background in smallholder farmers training and agriculture value chain financing, specializing in agricultural project planning and management. He has over 11 years of hands-on smallholder agriculture extension services and 4 years of hands-on work in agriculture financing. Kirimi holds a BSC in Agricultural Education and Extension from Egerton University; a Regional Certificate in Agriculture Financing from Kenya School of Monetary Studies; and a Diploma in Agricultural Engineering from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. He is currently writing a thesis for a Masters of Arts in Project Planning and Management at the University of Nairobi.



ROBLE ELMI

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Roble is a supply chain management and business development professional focusing on value chains of FMCG industry, mainly foods. He has strong strategic and conceptual thinking skills to improve business performance. He studied industrial engineering, learning value-adding technical processes and how to optimize logistics. He holds a masters in business administration, and is specialized in supply chain management, giving him valuable insights on how to enhance global value chains.

He has seven years of practical value-chain expertise in corporate business, of which five are for PwC as a senior supply chain management consultant and two as a manager for supply chain projects for a FMCG company operating in West Africa.

For both companies he led value chains improvement projects and worked with the most cited professor in supply chain management (of MIT University). He also contributed to a paper led by a Harvard research associate on how to revive the Nigerian textile industry by analyzing its value chain. With DutchSom, he gained experience on doing business in Somalia.



SELEUS NEZERWE

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Seleus founded MOBINC which is a business incubator created to promote entrepreneurship in rural area in Burundi taking into account specific context of illiterate and poor people. The incubator is mobile, in the sense that our teams meet people in their villages instead of them coming to town. Prior to Mobinc, he was a coordinator of World Bank program on economic reforms in Burundi between 2003 and 2010.

His formal training includes PHD program (paper on rural entrepreneurship) with Rushmore University, MBA with Northern Washington University in USA and Bachelor of Commerce with University of Dar es Salaam- Tanzania.



SOPHIEKE KAPPERS

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Kubita means Economic Empowerment in the Tshokwe language (Congo) and that is Kubita's mission: Reinforcement of Small and Medium Enterprises operating in emerging markets.

Sophieke is a creative and innovative entrepreneur with extensive international and intercultural experience in emerging markets. She is well experienced as an organiser and Co-ordinator. Independent judgement, energetic and results-orientation and a positive and enthusiastic work attitude characterise her style of working. She gains readily confidence, shows a sincere commitment and her excellent writing skills result in to the point reports.

Sophieke graduated as MSc Agricultural Development Economy, Wageningen University, The Netherlands (1989). She commands Dutch, English and French excellently.

Sophiekes' expertise is value chain and business development, as well as cost-benefit analysis and financial calculations.

Sophieke's experience is mainly in Africa and Eastern Europe / former Soviet Republic countries including many post-conflict countries.



STEPHANIE SINES

Operations Officer
International Finance Corporation
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Stephanie is a community investment and local sourcing specialist for IFC's Infrastructure and Natural Resources, Strategic Community Investment Unit in Africa. She has fifteen years experience working on development programs in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, including eight years on local content development and mining community investment. Her key areas of focus include: community investment strategy assessment & development; SME capacity building & financing; and coordination between mining, donor, and government stakeholders. Ms. Sines holds an MBA from Georgetown University and a dual BA from Smith College in Government & French Studies.



STEPHEN GUDZ

Economic Growth Team Leader
 USAID/Somalia
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Stephen joined USAID/Somalia in July, 2015 to start the new Economic Growth Team. Previously, he managed the regional agricultural portfolio for USAID/East Africa to support agricultural trade and regional economic integration. In 2012, he served his first tour with USAID in Kabul, Afghanistan, promoting agricultural production and processing. He joined USAID in 2011 with a diverse background in agricultural, financial services, and private sector development. He lived for 12 years in Mozambique, where from 2007-11 he served as National Director for CLUSA/Mozambique, managing 9 projects with outreach to approximately 90,000 farmers. Before that assignment, he was the managing partner of a consulting firm that engaged in assignments for donor organizations, international NGOs, local organizations, and private enterprises. He grew up in New Jersey and worked on local farms while completing a BA in Agricultural Economics at Rutgers University and MS in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University.



SYLVIA ZULU

Global Manager
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Sylvia, currently based in Cairo, is the Global Manager for IFC's Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Value Chain Solutions Program. Her team provides advice and practical solutions to private sector clients that strengthen and grow value chains in emerging markets, in particular improving the productivity of SMEs in the value chains. This work also covers the joint IFC-ILO Better Work Program, which seeks to improve labor standards and competitiveness in global supply chains.

Prior to this, Sylvia was Manager for Sustainable Business Advisory, Middle East and North Africa, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Sylvia holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business and she is a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow (Pennsylvania State University).



THEOPHILE DJEDJEBI, PHD

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Theophile is an international consultant and advisor with an educational and experience background in agricultural economy and social sciences. His extensive experience is grounded in rural development and action-oriented research, in which he demonstrates a deep understanding of the interaction between local and global socio-economic challenges, as well as unique skills to facilitate dialogue for sustainable conflict resolution over resource use. While aiming for a holistic approach towards Climate Smart Agriculture/Pastoralism, his focus is on the improvement of people's livelihoods in highly dynamic, regional and global contexts, where people need to develop the structures and systems to function best.



YANNICK DU PONT

Director
 SPARK
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Yannick is director of SPARK, an international, not-for-profit organization working on Youth Entrepreneurship and SME development in fifteen developing countries emerging from conflict in Africa, South-Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

He holds degrees in Political Science and Sociology and has been working with states in conflict and emerging from conflict since 1994. He is primarily responsible for programme development. He is also a board member of the Foundation Max van der Stoep (FMS), member of the advisory board of the Centre for Theory of Change in New York, and sits on the steering committee of the Knowledge platform Security & Rule of Law. All these latter positions he fills "pro bono".

Through job creation, entrepreneurship promotion and the advocacy for an enabling business environment, SPARK aims to diminish the potential for conflict.



ZAHIA LOLILA

Senior operations officer
 International Finance Corporation
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Zahia is a senior operations officer working with IFC since 2007. She was IFC's program manager for SME Banking program in South Africa. She joined IFC's FCS program in Africa in 2011 as Country Coordinator for South Sudan and Somalia based in Juba.

She worked as Sr. Financial sector specialist with the World Bank from 2004 to 2006. Before joining the WBG she worked as Chief of Party and country representative for USAID funded financial sector strengthening program in West Africa based in Mali and Benin (2001-2003). She holds MBA Finance from Maastricht school of business and Bachelor of Commerce Honors in Finance and marketing.

Event planning team



JASON HOPPS

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Jason joined IFC in 2007 in Johannesburg and has worked on IFC's Conflict Affected States in Africa Initiative since 2011. Formerly, he was a journalist for Reuters News Agency in London, England, and Toronto, Canada. He is a native of Vancouver, Canada.



JIYEON (JANICE) RYU

Senior Knowledge Management Officer
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As Senior Knowledge Management Officer, Janice leads the KM program of IFC FCS Africa. She has over 15 years of diverse experience, including strategic supply chain management, advisory services project design, implementation and management, monitoring and evaluation, and KM in both World Bank Group and multi-national organizations in private sector.

Most recently, she managed a team of KM, learning and results at the Water Global Practice of the World Bank and had worked with various teams of IFC. Before joining IFC, she worked in multi-national companies such as Levi Strauss Inc., and DuPont Korea Inc. in supply chain management, focusing on strategic planning for global operations.

She holds a Masters of Public Administration from Columbia University, New York, with a concentration on Economic Policy Management, and studied political science and diplomacy at Dongguk University in Seoul, Korea.



NANCY VISAVILWA

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Nancy is an Operations Analyst with IFC's FCS Africa team. Before joining IFC she worked for the World Bank for 7 years, including as Research Assistant for the Governance Global Practice in the Eastern Africa Region. She holds an MBA in Strategic Management and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kenyatta university and the University of Eastern Africa Baraton, respectively.



NEHA SUD

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Neha leads communications for IFC's Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations initiative and for Eastern and Southern Africa. She found her way to IFC from Mali, where she worked as the Communications and Knowledge Management advisor for SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, covering eight countries in West Africa. Before venturing into development, Neha worked as a journalist at CNN, BBC and Indian newspaper, The Statesman. She holds a Master's degree in War and Conflict Journalism from the Erasmus Mundus Program, and studied International Relations at Sciences-Po, Paris and Colby College in the United States.



ROSEMARY MAKOTSI

Team Assistant
International Finance Corporation
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Rosemary is Team Assistant working with the International Finance Corporation(IFC), World Bank Group.

She supports the Fragile and Conflict States, Africa Region. She also supports the Trade and Competitive T & C team.



SIMON VAN MELICK

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Simon leads SPARK's Youth Engagement Program in Burundi, South Sudan and Occupied Palestinian Territories. This program aims to improve and advocate for the socioeconomic position of youth in fragile and conflict affected regions. Before SPARK, he worked as a concept developer and campaign manager for a leading Dutch campaign and communication agency with clients such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs and Defense, Achmea and the Technology Platform. Simon studied Newest History and Liberal Arts in Amsterdam and New York.



VEDRANA HALEPOVIC

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Vedrana joined SPARK a year ago as a Communications Coordinator, maintaining internal and external communication channels, and organizing a series of expert meetings and SPARK's annual IGNITE Conference.

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FCS Africa

IFC's Fragile and Conflict Situations (FCS) Africa program supports private sector development in FCS countries in sub-Saharan Africa, helping them attract and generate investment, develop infrastructure, and create opportunities for smaller businesses. Launched in 2008, the Conflict Affected States in Africa Initiative (CASA) is its flagship program funded by Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and by IFC. CASA expands its development through a combination of funding, knowledge management and presence on the ground.

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