



Sameh Wahba Global Director, Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice

Sameh Wahba, an Egyptian national, is the Global Director for the World Bank's Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, based in Washington, D.C. The Global Practice, which also covers territorial development, geospatial and results-based-financing issues, has a portfolio of close to \$30 billion in commitments in investment projects, program-for-results and development policy lending, and about 450 staff. Mr. Wahba holds a Ph.D. and Master's degree in urban planning from Harvard University, and a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Architectural Engineering from Cairo University. He speaks Arabic, French, English, and Portuguese. He co-authored the World Bank's flagship publication on "Regenerating Urban Land: A Practitioner's Guide to Leveraging Private Investment" and the "Culture in City Reconstruction and Recovery" Position Paper jointly with UNESCO. Connect with Sameh Wahba at [linkedin.com/in/SamehNWahba](https://www.linkedin.com/in/SamehNWahba).

Twitter: @SamehNWahba **Email:** swahba@worldbank.org **Languages:** Arabic, English, French, Portuguese



Ayat Soliman Regional Director for Sustainable Development, Middle East and North Africa

Ayat Soliman is the Regional Director for the World Bank Group's Sustainable Development Department for the Middle East and North Africa (MNA) region. Ms. Soliman has over 25 years of experience working on global issues of sustainable development in the World Bank, United Nations and private sector, covering water, agriculture, environment, social and urban development, as well as cross cutting issues of climate change. In her current assignment, Ms. Soliman is in charge of setting the policy direction, fostering partnerships and ensuring the integrated delivery of country and regional programs of the Sustainable Development Practice Group (PG) in MNA, consistent with the regional/country strategies. She oversees a team of over 100 staff and an active portfolio of \$5.2 Billion in investments across the region in urban and social development, agriculture, water and environment sectors, as well as analytical work and multi-donor trust funds.

Twitter: @AyatSoliman7 **Email:** asoliman@worldbank.org **Language:** Arabic, English, French, Spanish



Maitreyi Das Manager, Global Programs, Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice

Maitreyi Das works on urban development, resilience, and inclusion. In her previous roles, she has worked in both human development and infrastructure related areas. Of these, social protection, social development, health, urban development and water and sanitation stand out. Dr. Das has led, and been part of, several research and policy initiatives. She was lead author of the 2013 report, "Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity"; the 2015 publication, "Scaling the Heights: Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh" and most recently, "The Rising Tide: A New Look at Water and Gender". She started her career as a lecturer in St Stephen's College, University of Delhi, has been a MacArthur Fellow at the Harvard Center of Population and Development Studies and worked as advisor to the United Nations Development Program. She has a PhD in Sociology (Demography) from the University of Maryland. Before joining the World Bank, Dr. Das was in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

Twitter: @DasMaitreyi **Email:** mdas@worldbank.org **Language:** English



Jaafar Sadok Friaa Manager, Urban and Disaster Risk Management, Middle East & North Africa

Joining the World Bank in 2005, **Jaafar Sadok Friaa** has been Program Leader for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure for Maghreb countries, Program Leader for Pakistan, etc., and currently Practice Manager for MENA Urban and Disaster Risk Management. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mr. Friaa worked for 15 years as public servant for national sanitation, environment and territorial development in his country Tunisia. Mr. Friaa has compiled intensive managerial and technical experience and knowledge in urban environment, municipal services and urban infrastructure, territorial development and local governance, infrastructure delivery & PPP, water and agriculture, climate change and disaster risk management, energy, and transport and digital development, most extensively in the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South Asia regions.

Twitter: @JaafarFriaa **Email:** jsfriaa@worldbank.org **Languages:** Arabic, English, French



Photo: Lois Goh / World Bank



Ahmed Eiweida Global Coordinator for Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism

Ahmed Eiweida is also Lead Urban Specialist covering East Asia & Pacific Region. He is based in the World Bank's Singapore Urban & Infrastructure Hub Office. Ahmed has 30-year experience. He joined the World Bank in 2000 and since then worked in more than 15 countries. He led several World Bank-financed culture and tourism programs in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Albania. He is currently leading similar initiatives in China, Philippines, and Papua New Guinea. He holds a PhD on Urban Development and an MSc. on Environmental Management from the University of Glasgow, UK. He also holds a Pre-MSc. on Urban and Regional Development from the University of Cairo.

Twitter: @EiweidaA **Email:** aeiweida@worldbank.org **Languages:** Arabic, English, French



Ellen Hamilton Lead Urban Specialist

Ellen Hamilton is a Lead Urban Specialist for the Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice – Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank. She has 25 years' experience leading analytical work and projects focusing on sustainable urban development, 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 conflict and violence prevention. **Twitter:** @ellen_ehamilton

Email: ehamilton@worldbank.org **Languages:** English



Horacio Terraza Lead Urban Specialist

Horacio Terraza has more than 20 years of professional experience in the urban-environmental field, having worked both in the private sector and multilateral development organizations. He is currently the Lead Urban Specialist for the Latin American Region of the World Bank focusing on cities, urban infrastructure and resilience. Previously he worked at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as the Coordinator of the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI) and as Principal Water Specialist. Horacio has extensive experience in complex projects related to urban infrastructure and industrial pollution.

Twitter: @TerrazaH **Email:** hterraza@worldbankgroup.org **Languages:** English, Italian, Spanish



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

Jon Kher Kaw is a senior urban specialist and heads the Urbanscapes group on urban planning, technology, and city innovation at the World Bank. He brings with him over 15 years of technical and policy expertise in urban planning and design, urban resilience, and real estate. He has led numerous city engagements in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa regions, and is the lead author of The Hidden Wealth of Cities (2020). Prior to joining the World Bank, he served with the Singapore government, where he held various key positions at the Urban Redevelopment Authority. He holds a master's degree in housing and urbanization from Harvard University and a master's degree in architecture from Columbia University.

Twitter: @jonkherkaw **Email:** jkaw@worldbank.org **Language:** English, Chinese (Mandarin)



Somik Lall Global Lead, Territorial Development; Global Co-Lead, Transport Economics and Policy

Somik V. Lall is the Global Lead for Territorial Development and Global Co-Lead for Transport Economics and Policy. Somik is a recognized expert on development policy related to urban and territorial competitiveness, agglomeration and clusters, and infrastructure with over 22 years' global experience. He has led the MENA region flagship on development of lagging areas. Previously, 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.

Twitter: @SomikCities **Email:** slall1@worldbank.org **Language:** English



Ayah Mahgoub Senior Urban Development Specialist

Ayah Mahgoub is a senior urban development specialist and co-lead of creative cities, competitive cities, and results-based financing for the World Bank. Regionally, she focuses on Latin America and the Caribbean and until recently focused on the Middle East and North Africa.

Twitter: @ayahmahgoub

Email: amahgoub@worldbank.org

Languages: Arabic (Sudanese dialect), English, French, Spanish



Emily Owen Urban Development Specialist

Emily Owen is an Urban Development Specialist in the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and brings almost 20 years of experience in over 20 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Asia, South Pacific, Caribbean, UK and Australia. Emily advises policy-makers and city leaders on how to achieve low carbon urban development outcomes. She is one of the leads of the Bank's knowledge silo breaker for Spatial Planning.

Twitter: @emily_urbanism **Email:** eowen@worldbank.org **Language:** English



Sohaib Athar Urban Economist

Sohaib Athar has a decade of multilateral and think-tank experience at the World Bank and the International Growth Centre in economic, urban and local development policy, and program design and management. Areas of expertise include: municipal governance and financing, local economic development, urban infrastructure & services and metropolitan city strategies. He has a Master's degree in public policy from Harvard Kennedy School.

Email: sathar@worldbank.org

Languages: English, Hindi / Urdu

