

Roberto Ariel Telleria Juarez

Senior international development professional with over 25 years of experience in strategic leadership, programme and portfolio management, policy dialogue and partnerships, with substantial experience in the Caribbean and across diverse international settings



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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

PhD-qualified senior international development professional with over 25 years of experience across the UN system, international financial institutions, and research organizations. Brings substantial Caribbean and multi-country experience in policy leadership, programme and portfolio management, institutional engagement, and UN coordination, combined with extensive experience across Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Currently serving with FAO's Subregional Office for the Caribbean, with responsibilities spanning high-level policy dialogue, field programme leadership, multidisciplinary coordination, and oversight of a portfolio exceeding USD 30 million as Alternate Budget Holder. Repeatedly entrusted to act on behalf of the Subregional Coordinator over approximately two years, providing office-wide leadership and continuity of management. Proven record in resource mobilization, senior-level representation, partnership building, and engagement with governments, regional organizations, UN Country Teams, development partners, and the private sector. Combines strategic vision and diplomatic engagement with strong analytical, fiduciary, and results-based management capabilities.

KEY SKILLS

- Office-wide & subregional leadership
- Country strategy & policy dialogue
- Programme & portfolio management
- Government & regional organization engagement
- UN/UNSDCF coordination
- People & multidisciplinary team leadership
- Resource mobilization & partnerships
- Senior-level representation
- Budget-holder & fiduciary oversight
- Investment & advisory support
- Negotiation & conflict resolution
- Risk, results & performance management

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

POLICY OFFICER

Mar 2024 - Present

FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Bridgetown - Barbados

- Provide policy and programme leadership across FAO's Caribbean subregion, engaging governments and regional organizations on national and subregional priorities and supporting the positioning of FAO's technical and policy assistance.
- Repeatedly entrusted to act on behalf of the Subregional Coordinator for approximately two years, helping ensure continuity of office-wide management, coordination, decision-making and representation, including oversight of operational activities, staff safety, and security matters in accordance with applicable FAO and UN requirements.
- Represent FAO in senior-level engagements with government authorities, regional institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders, supporting strategic dialogue, partnerships, and institutional positioning.
- Lead and coordinate the formulation and implementation of multi-country and country-level programmes, supporting alignment of FAO assistance with Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), government priorities, subregional agendas and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).
- Contribute to resource mobilization and partnership development by identifying strategic funding opportunities and shaping programme concepts and investment proposals across diverse financing mechanisms, including TCPs, donor-funded programmes (GCP, UTF and MTF), climate finance (GEF, GCF and Adaptation Fund), and development bank financing, including CDB.
- Serve as Alternate Budget Holder for 23 projects with a combined value exceeding USD 30 million, exercising portfolio oversight and supporting fiduciary compliance, internal controls, delivery, risk management, and management decision-making.
- Provide leadership in UN coordination and UNSDCF processes, including inter-agency engagement and results-group coordination, helping align FAO's programme contribution with broader UN priorities and joint results.
- Serve as SLC focal point for multiple initiatives, including the FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative, Agrifood Systems Transformation in SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, and the FAO Villages Recognition Initiative.
- Support people and office-wide management through supervision and coordination of staff and consultants, cross-functional collaboration, audit follow-up, operational problem-solving, and integration of gender equality and social inclusion across programme delivery.

SENIOR POLICY SPECIALIST - CONSULTANT**Dec 2021 - Dec 2023****IFAD, Santa Cruz - Bolivia**

- Led policy dialogue and strategic engagement with government ministries, private sector partners, producer organizations and civil society, supporting IFAD's upstream country engagement and investment priorities.
- Supported implementation of IFAD's 50x2030 Initiative, strengthening national institutional capacity to use agricultural and rural data for policy formulation, investment planning and results monitoring.
- Provided strategic and analytical advice to government counterparts, translating sector diagnostics, market assessments and socioeconomic evidence into policy and investment recommendations.
- Convened and facilitated multi-stakeholder consultations involving government, private sector and development partners, strengthening institutional coordination and identifying opportunities for future investment and advisory support.
- Designed capacity-development approaches to strengthen government institutions in project formulation, evidence-based decision-making and alignment of investments with national development priorities.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY SPECIALIST**Jun 2019 - Nov 2021****FAO HQ, Rome - Italy**

- Led and coordinated policy, analytical and investment-preparatory work supporting agrifood systems transformation across countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.
- Advised and engaged government counterparts, private sector actors and development partners on policy and institutional conditions required to enable agricultural investment and sustainable agrifood systems development.
- Coordinated multidisciplinary inputs into project formulation and investment development, translating country priorities and sector analysis into actionable programmes and financing proposals.
- Contributed to resource mobilization in collaboration with development partners including USAID, the Gates Foundation and Italian Cooperation, aligning proposed interventions with national priorities and partner financing requirements.
- Led economic, institutional and sector analyses supporting strategic decision-making on regulatory frameworks, competitiveness, markets and investment feasibility.
- Developed investment concepts and financing proposals aimed at creating scalable and financially viable opportunities and strengthening public-private engagement.

INTERNATIONAL FREELANCE CONSULTANT**Sep 2016 - May 2019****Consultant, World Bank, Santa Cruz - Bolivia****Mar 2019 - May 2019**

- Provided strategic analysis to identify investment opportunities in Bolivia's agrifood systems, climate resilience and agricultural sectors, assessing market conditions, institutional readiness and private sector demand.
- Assessed climate risks, food-security vulnerabilities, regulatory barriers and institutional constraints to inform sector priorities and investment decision-making.
- Developed recommendations on investment prioritization and policy reforms aimed at strengthening the enabling environment and building a pipeline of viable, finance-ready opportunities.

Senior Policy Evaluator, Econometría, Santa Cruz - Bolivia**Jul 2018 - Feb 2019**

- Evaluated agriculture, climate, and food-security initiatives to assess investment performance, operational effectiveness, and alignment with national development priorities, generating evidence for strategic decision-making.
- Reviewed rural and community-level infrastructure, including water and irrigation systems, to assess results, inform government dialogue, and strengthen due diligence for future investment decisions.
- Applied economic, financial, and impact-assessment approaches to identify lessons, scalable models, and opportunities to strengthen future programme design and private sector engagement.

IPC Policy and Investment Officer, FAO - Bangladesh, Philippines and Uganda**Sep 2016 - Dec 2017**

- Supported implementation and refinement of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity analysis across Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Uganda, working in diverse country contexts to strengthen evidence for long-term food-security and poverty-reduction policy.
- Analyzed structural drivers of chronic food and nutrition insecurity and livelihood vulnerability, including resilience and coping mechanisms in the face of natural hazards, to inform policy recommendations.
- Supported ministries of agriculture and other line ministries in translating analytical findings into policy and strategic priorities related to infrastructure, electricity, water, and social protection.
- Convened high-level consultations with national stakeholders to identify institutional capacity gaps, build alignment around policy recommendations, and strengthen uptake of project results.

ICARDA, Amman - Jordan

- Led and coordinated multi-country agricultural policy and research initiatives across the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia and South Asia, working with government ministries, national institutions and international development partners.
- Provided policy and strategic advice in diverse and complex country environments, identifying national and regional development constraints and translating analytical evidence into policy and programme priorities.
- Mobilized resources from CGIAR, IFAD and bilateral partners and contributed to the design and management of multi-country programmes on sustainable agriculture, irrigation efficiency and climate-smart technologies.
- Coordinated multidisciplinary technical and research inputs across countries and institutions, strengthening collaboration among national partners and international experts.
- Established monitoring and evaluation approaches for assessing household food security and poverty outcomes and strengthened government and partner capacity in agricultural policy, markets and programme design.

EARLIER INTERNATIONAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- | | |
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| • University Lecturer , Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno, Santa Cruz - Bolivia | Mar 2008 - Jun 2011 |
| • University Lecturer , University of Reading, Reading - UK | Aug 2005 - Dec 2007 |
| • Agricultural Policy Officer - Economist , FAO, Rome - Italy | May 2002 - May 2005 |
| • Agricultural Economist , ICARDA, Aleppo - Syria | Apr 2001 - Apr 2002 |
| • Economist , PRODEVAT, Cochabamba - Bolivia | Jul 1998 - Jul 1999 |
| • Junior Economist , FAO, Cochabamba - Bolivia | Jan 1997 - Jun 1998 |

EDUCATION

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| PhD Economics , University of Reading - UK | Jan 2005 - Dec 2007 |
| MSc Agricultural Development Economics , University of Reading - UK | Sep 1999 - Sep 2000 |
| Bachelor of Economics , National University of Córdoba - Argentina | Feb 1990 - Dec 1995 |

KEY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- World Bank (WB), *"Bolivia: Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems"*. La Paz, Bolivia, March 28 - 29, 2019.
- Food and agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *"Integrated food security phase classification - Chronic Food Insecurity"*. Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 5-9, 2016.
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), *"Global Futures and IMPACT Training"*. WorldFish, Malaysia, April 28-May 9, 2014.
- Florida International University and Miami-Dade County - USA. *"Building the Productive, Efficient, and Equitable Municipality: New Challenges - New Opportunities"*. Miami, June 16 - 19, 2008.
- Purdue University, West Lafayette - USA. *"12th Annual Short Course in Global Trade Analysis - GTAP"*. Web-based modules from May 17 to July 18, 2004, and on-site training from August 7 to 13, 2004.
- Harvard University - John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge - USA. Two-week training course on *"The Practice of Trade Policy: Economics, Negotiations & Rules"*. September 28 - October 10, 2003.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Proven ability to generate high-quality analytical products that translate complex data into clear conclusions and actionable recommendations for decision-makers. Track record includes **51 publications** (two books; six book chapters; 17 peer-reviewed articles; and 26 working papers) and more than 30 presentations at international conferences, demonstrating strong communication skills and the capacity to inform policy dialogues, sector diagnostics, and investment strategies. All are available online at <https://robertotelleriajuarez.com>.

AWARDS

- University of Reading **doctoral scholarship**, from Oct/2005 to Oct/2007.
- British **MSc "Chevening" scholarship**, from Sep/1999 to Sep/2000.
- **PhD thesis - Merit**, University of Reading - UK, December 2007.
- **MSc thesis - Distinction**, University of Reading - UK, September 2000.
- Several institutional distinctions, including prizes to research papers.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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| Status: | Bolivian, married, two children |
| Date of Birth: | December 29 th , 1970 (55 years old), La Paz - Bolivia |
| Languages: | Spanish (mother tongue), English (fluent), Italian (intermediate), and French/Portuguese (beginner) |