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Leadership bios and photos

Omar Abdi - Deputy Executive Director



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Omar Abdi

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Mr. Omar Abdi was appointed UNICEF Deputy Executive Director in June 2007. Prior to this appointment, he served as UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa from June 2006. In 2003 he was appointed UNICEF Representative in Pakistan where he was responsible for the overall planning, coordination and implementation of a broad range of UNICEF programmes to improve the status of women and children in Pakistan. Mr. Abdi also coordinated the emergency response in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake

in October 2005.

Mr. Abdi joined UNICEF in April 1992 as Programme Coordinator in Liberia. He served as UNICEF Representative in Liberia from September 1996 and subsequently in Ghana from June 1998. He was appointed Deputy Director of Programme Division in June 2000. Prior to joining UNICEF, Mr. Abdi held senior positions in the Government of Somalia. He was Senior Planning Officer in the National Refugee Commission from 1982 to 1986 and later on was Director of the Planning Department from 1987 to 1989.

Mr. Abdi, a Somali-born Canadian, holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, a Master's degree in Regional Planning and a Ph. D. degree in Development Economics.

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