

## Valerie Newsom Guarnieri



**Valerie Newsom Guarnieri** is the Director of Programme Design and Support at the United Nations, World Food Programme (WFP), responsible for ensuring that WFP remains at the cutting edge of food security assessment and analysis and has the most appropriate programmatic tools, capacities and partnerships to address urgent hunger and nutritional concerns. Since joining WFP in August 2000, she has also served as Country Director and Representative in the Philippines, Deputy Country Director in Zimbabwe and as Senior Policy Advisor at WFP headquarters in Rome.

Born in Germany and raised primarily in Asia, Guarnieri is the daughter of Donell Newsom, a retired director in the international labour movement and former officer in the U.S. Army, and Lena Newsom, originally from France. She began her career while in college, working as an intern at a news station in Virginia, and moved to intercultural training at the Meridian House International after graduation.

In 1991, Guarnieri joined the U.S. Agency for International Development, where she was responsible for coordinating, implementing and monitoring over \$150 million in U.S. humanitarian assistance to Africa. From 1998-2000, she served as Director for Humanitarian Assistance at the National Security Council, advising President Clinton and the National Security Adviser and coordinating joint civil/military humanitarian operations in Central America, Kosovo and in Africa.