



BIOGRAPHY – Pernille Ironside

Pernille Ironside is an international civil servant with the United Nations, currently serving as UNICEF's Chief of Field Operations in Iraq based in Baghdad, where she is leading efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to vulnerable children and their families across Iraq. She has held this position since October 2015. Prior to this, she was UNICEF's Chief of Field Office in the Gaza Strip for which she and her team were awarded an internal UNICEF staff team award for their humanitarian action during the 51-day conflict in Gaza in 2014.

Since joining the UN in 2002, Ms Ironside has also served in Tacloban leading UNICEF's emergency child protection response in the immediate aftermath of super-typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines in 2013; in Yemen as Chief of Child Protection; in Goma, DRC as a Child Protection Specialist; and in UNICEF global Headquarters in New York during which she advised UNICEF child protection staff working in 20 countries affected by armed conflict and/or natural disaster involving frequent deployments to the frontlines. She is specialized in negotiating the release of children associated with armed forces/groups and supporting their community reintegration.

In addition to her work with UNICEF, Ms. Ironside has held positions with the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in New York, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. A licensed lawyer, Ms. Ironside holds Canadian degrees in Commerce and Law, as well as a Masters in Law from Columbia University in New York with a specialization in International Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, Comparative Law and Transitional Justice. Pernille was born and raised in Edmonton, Canada.