Stephen Anderson

POSITION **Partner, Food Economy Group**
NATIONALITY **Canadian**

SUMMARY

Stephen Anderson has over 30 years of international experience in food and nutrition security linked to integrated poverty reduction strategies. A seasoned leader in food systems, social protection, and humanitarian resilience, he has directed high-level facilitation teams for the World Bank's Regional Dialogue on Food Systems Transformation in Malawi (2025) and the Africa-wide Food Systems Resilience Program in Ethiopia (2025), designed the UN World Food Programme's global Resilience Policy (2023-24), and is currently supporting a roadmap for national social protection actors in Mozambique. He has overseen major global analyses for the World Bank on cash-transfer linkages, led worldwide lessons-learned studies on the World Bank's $10 billion COVID-19 social protection surge, and provided quality-assurance oversight for multiple UN and World Bank evaluations, including supply-chain outcomes in Eastern Africa (2021-22) and the Scaling-Up-Nutrition movement (2013-14). His experience spans designing strategic frameworks for ASEAN shock-responsive protection, providing strategic UN Country Team support in Mozambique, and crafting joint resilience strategies for UNICEF, WFP, and FAO across Ethiopia, Uganda, and the broader region. He has consistently facilitated large-scale forums and learning events—bringing together 275+ World Bank staff and external experts—while delivering policy guidance, diagnostic studies, and operational designs that strengthen coordination, improve program effectiveness, and advance sustainable food systems worldwide.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENTS

PARTNER & PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, **Food Economy Group, 1998 - present**
Co-founded the Food Economy Group (FEG) to specialize in devising practical interventions to protect and improve access amongst poor populations and the assessment of livelihoods. Select activities:

Policy Design & Strategic Planning

- UN World Food Programme global Resilience Policy (2023-24)
- Roadmap for national social-protection actors in Mozambique (ongoing)
- ASEAN shock-responsive social-protection guidelines (5 UN agencies, 2018-19)
- Joint resilience strategy for UNICEF, WFP & FAO (Ethiopia 2013; Uganda 2015)
- Social-protection surge response lessons-learned study (World Bank COVID-19, $10 bn)
- World Bank social-protection surge response lessons-learned study (2021) feeding into new strategy
- Design of national Food Security Country Framework for USAID (Ethiopia 2015)
- Strategy for innovative refugee-host community approach (Uganda 2016-17)
- Strategy and toolkit linking livelihoods & conflict for USAID (global, 2005)
- Disaster-management strategy with livelihoods perspective for USAID (Ethiopia 2004)
- Rwanda social-protection strategy (DfID 2009) and major mechanism combining safety net & credit (2008-9)

Program & Project Design

- Next-generation PSNP Phase III (Ethiopia 2014-2020) – design & consultation
- PSNP Phase III design for Ethiopia (2014-2015)
- Ethiopia Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) governance redesign (2015-16)
- Ethiopia Social Accountability Program (ESAP) design & next-phase planning (2016-17)

- Ethiopia Productive Safety Net contingency-budget analysis (2015-16)
- Ethiopia Agricultural Growth Program Phase 2 design (2014)
- Ethiopia Agriculture Investment Framework review (2014)
- Ethiopia CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund Phase 2 consultation (2014)
- Mozambique national productive safety net for DfID (2011-12)
- WFP Protracted Relief & Recovery Programme redesign (Ethiopia 2008)
- WFP Protracted Relief & Recovery Programme design (Kenya 2009)
- WFP Country Strategies for Sudan (2012) and Zimbabwe (2012)

Facilitation & Event Leadership

- Regional Dialogue on Food Systems Transformation (World Bank, Malawi 2025)
- Africa-wide Food Systems Resilience high-level event (World Bank/IGAD, Ethiopia 2025)
- World Bank Agriculture & Food Global Practice forums (Jan 2023; Nov 2020) – 275 staff + external experts
- High-level Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue (Rome 2019)
- UN Economic Commission for Africa social-policy strategy retreat (Ethiopia 2019)
- UN Country Team retreats (Mozambique 2019-2020)
- Operational retreat for Nepal, Sri Lanka & Maldives World Bank teams (Sri Lanka 2019)
- Strategic retreat for World Bank Agriculture Global Practice directors (Washington DC 2018)
- Annual learning weeks for World Bank Global Agriculture practice (Washington 2018-2019)
- Various internal/external consultative workshops for WFP country programme evaluations (Nigeria 2019; Ethiopia 2018-19; Kenya 2019)

Evaluation & Quality Assurance

- QA & technical oversight for WFP Supply-Chain Outcomes evaluation (Eastern Africa 2021-22)
- Global lessons-learned study on humanitarian-social-protection cash transfers (World Bank)
- QA for World Bank's $10 bn COVID-19 social-protection surge evaluation (2021)
- QA for UN Rome-based agencies thematic evaluation (FAO, IFAD, WFP 2020-21)
- QA for WFP Nigeria country programme evaluation (2019)
- QA for WFP Kenya Sustainable Food Systems Programme (2019)
- QA for WFP School Feeding Programme evaluation (Nepal, Laos, Bangladesh 2016-17)
- QA for Scaling-Up-Nutrition (SUN) global evaluation (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2013-14)
- QA for UN REACH initiative evaluation (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO 2015-16)
- QA for WFP Republic of Congo portfolio evaluation (2012-13)
- QA for WFP global School Feeding Policy (2011)

Coordination & Partnership Strengthening

- Building roadmap for national social-protection actors in Mozambique (World Bank, ongoing)
- Strengthening development-partner collaboration for Ethiopia Social Accountability Program (2017)
- Coordination architecture for Tanzanian Productive Social Safety Net (SIDA 2015)
- Donor-government missions on safety nets for DfID & CIDA (Ethiopia 2004-2006)
- Multi-agency consultations for ASEAN shock-responsive protection (5 UN agencies, 2018-19)
- Negotiation process for UN Inter-Agency Steering Committee on cash use in humanitarian contexts (2016)
- Consultation process for WFP Country Strategies (Sudan 2012, Zimbabwe 2012)

Research & Analysis

- Global analysis of emerging lessons linking humanitarian assistance & social protection (cash transfers) for World Bank

- Four-country analysis for ASEAN shock-responsive protection (5 UN agencies, 2018-19)
- Diagnostic studies on adaptive social protection during El Niño drought (Lesotho & Swaziland 2017)
- Decision-making process analysis for Ethiopia PSNP contingency budget (2015-16)
- Retrospective analysis of 2002/3 emergency for USAID/REDSO (Ethiopia 2004)
- Linkage analysis between emergency assessments & global decision-making for WFP SENAC (2007)

AFRICAN POSTINGS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE DIRECTOR, Save the Children Fund UK Ethiopia, 1995-98

- Responsible for SCF-UK's emergency preparedness and response programs in Ethiopia, managing 60 staff and an annual budget of US$15 million.
- Managed the operation of SCF-UK emergency activities and food aid (35,000 - 40,000 MT per year); a US $5 million CIDA-funded capacity building project developed to increase disaster management capabilities at national and regional levels; and the early warning system including the Nutritional Surveillance Program which covered the most vulnerable areas of Ethiopia – the largest of its kind in Africa.

JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER, UN World Food Program, Turkana, Kenya, 1989 - 1992

- Responsible as WFP representative in Turkana District, Kenya for a US $5.4 million multi-sectoral pastoralist project focusing on drought intervention (Turkana Rehabilitation Project - TRP) and a school feeding program.
- Seconded to WFP Nairobi office to initiate the operational response to drought in Kenya initially involving 120,000 MT of food aid.
- Assisted in the emergency operation for Somali refugees in northern Kenya, and participated on need assessment missions to areas affected by ethnic clashes.