

Martha Keays
Americas Regional Director
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Martha Keays, from the United States of America, was the Resident Country Director for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in El Salvador leading a program designed to improve the country's investment climate, workforce capacity and logistics infrastructure.

From 2008 to 2015 Martha served as Peace Corps Country Director in Guatemala, Kenya, and Colombia. Her first Peace Corps assignment was as a volunteer in the early 1980s in the mountains of Ecuador, where she worked as an agricultural extension agent.

Martha started her career with the American Red Cross as a program manager in San Diego, California, U.S.A., where she managed cross-border programming partnering with the Mexican Red Cross. She subsequently worked in El Salvador where she led the development of a disaster management system linking National Societies across the region. She went on to serve in various management capacities within the IFRC for more than a decade in Africa, Central and South America, China, and the Pacific, where she managed complex emergencies and large-scale operations and provided support to programming in health and disaster management.

In July 2002, Martha was appointed Senior Advisor to the IFRC Secretary General in Geneva, Switzerland, before returning two years later to the American Red Cross as their Regional Representative for East Africa, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Martha holds a B.A. degree in Foreign Policy Studies from the College of William and Mary in Virginia, U.S.A. She speaks English and Spanish.