



Biography of Ariel Kestens

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (“IFRC”) appointed Ariel Kestens as Head of Delegation of the Country Cluster Delegation for the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean, based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 1 July 2019. In this capacity, he also serves as IFRC Head of Delegation in Jamaica. Immediately prior to this appointment, Mr. Kestens was the IFRC’s Head of Country Office in Afghanistan.

Mr. Kestens has spent more than 20 years in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (“Movement”), occupying national, regional and global roles. He was Head of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (2001-2010), based in Panama, where he oversaw humanitarian logistics for the Americas Region. Before that, he served as Operations Manager (2001-2002) in Peru, and as Programme and Youth Officer for South America (1996-2000), based in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

At the IFRC headquarters, in Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. Kestens previously acted as Head of Support Services, Head of Organizational Development and Learning, and Head of Learning, Education and Research. He also served in the drafting committees of the XIV, XV and XX General Assemblies of the IFRC and in the working group of the Standing Commission for the evaluation and monitoring of the strategy of the Movement in 2003 and 2006.

Mr. Kestens began his career in the Movement as a volunteer with the Argentina Red Cross, mainly focused on community-based social development efforts. He also served as its Director General from 2002 to 2006.

Mr. Kestens holds a Masters in Business Administration from the IESE Business School in Barcelona, Spain, and postgraduate degrees in Health Management and Policies and in Humanitarian Diplomacy.