

Ms. Denna Gayle is a highly esteemed senior international development practitioner with over 18



years of distinguished service as a United Nations Diplomat. She brings unparalleled expertise in leading, managing, and providing strategic oversight for health promotion programs, with a particular emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as gender equality and women's empowerment.

Ms. Gayle's career has had a transformative impact across Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States, where she has played a pivotal role in advancing population and development initiatives. Since joining UNFPA in 2006, she has held numerous influential positions. Her journey began as a Programme Specialist in the Latin America and Caribbean Division, where she managed the Regional Reproductive Health Programme, focusing on maternal health, HIV & AIDS, and reproductive health commodities security.

As she progressed within UNFPA, Ms. Gayle served as a Technical Specialist in the organization's Technical Division, offering strategic guidance and technical support on adolescent and youth reproductive health, family planning, and community mobilization. She also contributed significantly to policy development and provided managerial support to the division's operations.

Her leadership was further solidified during her tenure as Deputy Representative in Ghana, where she oversaw the formulation and execution of the UNFPA country program and managed the day-to-day operations of the country office. Following her success in Ghana, Ms. Gayle was appointed as Country Representative to Namibia and subsequently Ethiopia. Her leadership in these roles was marked by pragmatism and transformational impact, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil war in Ethiopia. She spearheaded critical programs focused on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and the prevention and response to gender-based violence, navigating unprecedented challenges to make significant advancements in the lives of women and girls. Her tenure was also marked by revenue growth, change management, and operational efficiencies within UNFPA operations.

Ms. Gayle is celebrated for her boundless energy, drive, and unwavering commitment to advancing public health policies and implementing programs that create a measurable impact on the lives of women and young people.

She holds a Licenciatura in Psychology from the University of Costa Rica and was a Fulbright Scholar at Tulane University, where she earned master's degrees in International Public Health and Social Work. Beyond her professional achievements, Ms. Gayle is a devoted mother to a seven-year-old son, whom she considers her greatest accomplishment.