



Hannah Laufer-Rottman – Founder and Executive Director

An international professional with extensive experience in successfully delivering hunger relief to countries and people in need. Joined the United Nations in 1976 and worked mainly with the World Food Programme. Has traveled extensively and lived in Africa and in Latin America with long term assignments in Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Brazil.

She is Executive Director of Palms for Life Fund, a not for profit that promotes a global alliance to end poverty and hunger. She is an unconditional supporter of human rights and tolerance.

Hannah has a vast experience in alleviating poverty and hunger. During her field assignments she successfully managed large development programs such as food for education, rural development, vulnerable groups' projects, advancement of women and assets creation. She was a pioneer in launching one of the first WFP school feeding programs in the Latin American region in Ecuador in 1986. On the humanitarian side, she secured and managed comprehensive immediate response to victims of earthquakes, floods, and social and political conflicts. She is a strong supporter of sustainable development, of building national capacity and empowering the local populations, and for promoting accountability.

She has been successful in fundraising and partnerships' development. While at WFP's headquarters in Rome she managed the European Commission's annual portfolio of over \$100 million. In 1997, she was appointed Director for Ecuador and held this position for five years. During this assignment, she strongly advocated for universal coverage of social programs and successfully negotiated a \$24 million donation by the US government which she then leveraged to secure an additional \$10 million in government counterpart funds, enabling her team to feed 1.5 million poor people in the country. At the WFP Liaison Office in New York, she established numerous new partnerships with large US corporations and foundations, and with her team secured over \$6 million from US corporations and foundations.

She was able to achieve these successes thanks to her strong advocacy skills, her persistence and an indefatigable commitment to helping the poor.

Hannah holds a Master's in Social Sciences from the University of Brussels, Belgium. She is fluent in many languages including English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Yiddish, Hebrew, German and Flemish/Dutch, and is an excellent networker and public speaker.