

IVÁN GUILLERMO GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA

PhD International Development | Independent Researcher | International Consultant
Oxford University, UK

PROFILE - ACHIVEMENTS

Development economist with over 20 years of experience, including 9 years at UNDP in various global locations. Specialized in multidimensional poverty, LDC graduation, social protection, and human development. Oxford-trained, with expertise in policy advocacy, macro-economic modeling, and finance for development. Proven leadership, analytical, and communication skills, with a strong ability to work across diverse, culturally sensitive environments.

Prevented 16 million people in Mexico from falling into poverty by leading a micro-simulation study that influenced fiscal policy. Advised over 20 governments, including Panama, Cambodia, and Bangladesh, on SDG integration, LDC graduation, and economic policies. Supported Cambodia's first-ever cash transfer program during COVID-19, benefiting 700,000 households by providing empirical evidence and improving targeting mechanisms.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Economist, Cambodia Country Office, United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, August 2020- September 2025

- **Lead Technical Adviser on Economics:** Guide research for UNDP/UN, support project implementation, and provide advanced technical inputs to government partners using sophisticated analytical tools and methods.
- **High-Level Policy Advisor:** Offer expert advice to senior government officials and UN/UNDP management to enhance policy responses, long-term strategies, and institutional capacities. Contribute to strategic directions and priorities for UNDP and UN.
- **Representing UNDP in Major Forums:** Participate in high-level discussions, forums, events and meetings with governments, think tanks, and development partners.
- **Thought and Policy Leader:** Head the Economics Team in UNDP Cambodia, strengthening UNDP/UN positioning, and build influential networks, and engaging with emerging voices.
- **Detail assignment Bangladesh November 2023-February 2024:** conducting in-depth economic analysis, developing policy recommendations for LDC graduation in 2026, and providing strategic insights to support the country's economic growth and development objectives.

Regional Adviser, Poverty and Sustainable Development, United Nations Development Programme, UNDP Panama, 2016- 2020

- **Providing program support and policy advice to governments and Country Offices in Latin America** and the Caribbean for executing strategies and initiatives on poverty reduction and sustainable development. Assisting country offices in developing and implementing frameworks, coordinating analysis and policy guidance, and incorporating gender equality and human development into policy and programs. Supporting policy development through lessons from projects, identifying gaps, guiding priorities, and fostering cross-regional collaboration. Representing UNDP in meetings, events and other fora, advocating for a multidimensional approach to poverty and sustainable development, and contributing to knowledge management activities to advance policy dialogue and support SDG implementation.

Technical Secretary of the Cabinet / Liaison Advisor with the Congress of the Union, SEDATU, Mexico, 2015-2016

- **Technical Secretary of the Minister and as the Minister's Head of Advisers** a.i. at the Ministry of Agrarian, Urban and Territorial Development (SEDATU in Spanish). Among the duties and responsibilities were keeping track of the Minister's instructions and agreements, liaison with the President's office for technical issues, preparing materials such as information cards and speeches for the Minister's events and advising the Minister in diverse topics.

Advisor in Economic and Social Development, SEDESOL, Mexico, 2015

- **Advisor at the Office of the Minister,** Secretary of Social Development, providing expert analysis on the economic aspects of social policies and implementing strategies for equitable growth and improved social welfare. Contributed to the National Crusade Against Hunger, focusing on eradicating extreme poverty and food insecurity through targeted social support and community development.



CONTACT

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EDUCATION

2009 - 2017

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UK

- DPhil in Development Studies

2007 - 2009

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UK

- MPhil in Economics

1999 - 2006

INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO
AUTÓNOMO DE MÉXICO
(ITAM), MEXICO (SPECIAL
MENTION)

- Masters in Public Policy

1992 - 1998

INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO
AUTÓNOMO DE MÉXICO
(ITAM), MEXICO

- Bachelor in Economics

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (Fluent)
- English (Fluent)
- French (Basics)

SKILLS

- Multidimensional Poverty expert
- Economic Analysis and Quantitative Methods
- Policy Analysis and Development
- Research and Writing Skills
- Strategic Planning and Foresight
- Capacity Building
- Project Management
- Multidisciplinary Collaboration
- Multi-stakeholder Engagement
- Strong teamwork and communication skills
- Cultural, Diversity and Inclusion Awareness

CERTIFICATES

- NextGen Foresight Course
- Advanced Multidimensional Poverty
- Harnessing Innovation and Decarbonisation Policies
- AI Horizon Foundations
- Basics of UNDP's Crisis SOP and Protocols
- Strategic Planning Foundations
- Equanomics Global Learning Lab - gender equality
- The Manager's Toolkit: A Practical Guide to Managing People at Work
- Coaching in Action for Leaders and Managers
- Becoming an Inspiring Mentor
- The Three Pillars of Effective Communication
- INFF and Budgeting for the 2030 Agenda
- Financing for Development
- Identifying and preventing fraud and corruption
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of the Local Population
- Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Authority
- Human Rights Responsibilities
- Ethics and integrity at UNDP

Consultant in Economic and Social Development, United Nations Development Programme, UNDP New York, 2014-2015

- **Lead author of a social protection paper** mapping experiences and good practices in Africa, identifying gaps in program implementation and financing. Also served as anchor consultant for the Inequality Mapping and Diagnostics Initiative (IMAD), providing guidance to measure and address economic inequalities.

Deputy General Director of Advisory in Strategic Planning, SEDESOL, Mexico, 2013-2014

- **Advisor of the Minister** on topics including poverty measurement, social and economic indicators, and international projects. In 2013, supervised a vital micro-simulation project with UNDP, which helped prevent a fiscal reform that would have increased VAT on food, thus avoiding a rise in poverty levels in Mexico.

Research assistant in Economic and Social Development, OPHI - University of Oxford, United Kingdom, 2010-2012

- **Skilled in using STATA to estimate multidimensional poverty measures**, with experience in household surveys, data collection and analysis. Contributed to research, policy briefs, and reports on poverty and development.

Director of Economic Analysis, SECTUR, Mexico, 2001-2007

- **Responsible for economic analysis in the tourism sector**, contributing to policy planning and decision-making. Key projects include econometric modelling, forecasting tourism variables, managing the Mexican Tourism Satellite Account, and conducting industry studies. Published several reports, including a quarterly tourism bulletin.

Deputy Director of Social Policy 1999-2001

- **Evaluating social programs** like Temporal Employment and research on poverty measurement related to the distribution of the Federal Fund for Social Infrastructure, and assessing projects under the Public Debt Social Swap Programme. Supporting the National Coordination Office by assisting and overseeing subnational ministerial offices.

PUBLICATIONS

KHOUN, T., POORTINGA, A., THIWAL, N.S. GONZALEZ DE ALBA, I. *et al.* Mapping the Dimensions of Poverty Through Big Data, Socioeconomic Surveys and Machine Learning in Cambodia. Soc Indic Res (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-025-03718-3>

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván, Ear Sothy and Theara Khoun (2024) "Tracking the Impacts of the Cash Transfer Program for Poor and Vulnerable Households during COVID 19 in Cambodia". UNDP Cambodia & NSPC. Policy Brief 10.

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván, Ate Portinga, Theara Khoun and Nyein Soe Thwal (2024) "Big Data and Artificial Intelligence for Mapping Vulnerability in Cambodia". UNDP Cambodia & SIG. Policy Brief.

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván, Bazlul Khondker, Chandarany Ouch (2022) "Economic and Social Impact Assessment of COVID 19 and War in Ukraine on Cambodia". UNDP Cambodia & Royal Government of Cambodia - Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF). Policy Brief.

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván, Bazlul Khondker, Chandarany Ouch, Kongchheng Poch (2021) "2021 Covid-19 Economic and Social Impact in Cambodia: An Integrated Modelling Approach. UNDP Cambodia & Royal Government of Cambodia - Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF). Policy Brief 02.

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván Guillermo, Alessandra Casazza, Renata Nowak-Garmer, y Leisa Perch (2016) "Social Protection in Africa: Present and Multiple Futures". In Social Protection for Sustainable Development: Dialogues between Africa and Brazil, 48-75. Rio de Janeiro: UNDP Centre for Sustainable Development.

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván Guillermo (2010) 'Poverty in Mexico from an Ethnic Perspective', Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, 11: 3. 449 — 465.

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván y Vázquez Madrigal, Gerardo (2004) "Análisis socioeconómico de los municipios de la zona", in de Alba, Aurelio, (Coord.), Suicidio o Renacimiento: Metrópoli y naturaleza, Indesol, Grupades, A.C., Plaza y Valdés, México, 233-245.

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván y de la Garza Navarrete, Thania (2002) "La descentralización del gasto social para infraestructura: ¿Las autoridades locales asignan mejor los recursos que la federación?", in Santín, Leticia, (Coord.), Perfil y perspectivas de los municipios mexicanos para la construcción de una política social de Estado, Sedesol, Indesol, FLACSO, México, 263-298.

GONZÁLEZ DE ALBA, Iván (2002) "Índices de pobreza y desigualdad", Economía Informa, Facultad de Economía UNAM, Número: 311, Octubre, México, 103-112.

REFERENCES

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