

## **Dominique Crivelli**

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### **What do you like about your work, what makes it special?**

I like to work for a better future, and I identify with SDC's values. Our work is exciting and very varied. We have the chance to move around regularly, to travel, to live in different countries, even if the contexts can sometimes be very difficult and we ask a lot in terms of adaptation and flexibility from our partner and our children! I am passionate about meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds. We are confronted with current issues and seek viable answers to the great challenges of our century at local, national and regional level. I like to

build bridges between people and cultures and consensus building is important to me. Being close to people, their diversity, their fragility and their creativity is essential for my professional and personal development.

### **If you could be doing anything, anywhere right now, what and where would it be?**

I would be on a sabbatical again! Before going to university, when I was 19 years old, I took a gap year and made a trip around the world between New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia. No email, no whatsapp or social media (they didn't exist yet) just a call home once a month to say you were fine. Unforgettable experience! It's an adventure I want to repeat in a few years as soon as the childrens' age will allow me to. This time heading to Canada, Patagonia and the Pacific Islands. Time for myself, for encounters, the great outdoors, wonder, photography, reading and reflection, and the occasional e-mail.

### **What is the most important lesson you have learned from your work?**

Change takes time! I am by nature keen to see changes and results from our projects quickly but in development I have learned that it takes a good deal of patience and perseverance, commitment over time to achieve tangible and lasting results. The obstacles and challenges are numerous, the processes sometimes cumbersome and lengthy and our instruments sometimes too rigid. In order to achieve sustainable results, I have also learned the importance of involving actors on the ground, of understanding local power dynamics, the essential role of policy dialogue and the great advantage of systemic approaches.

### **Biography:**

Dominique has a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences and an Executive Master in Intercultural communication. She has been working for 16 years in development cooperation. First for a Swiss NGO in Senegal, then she joined SDC in 2014 (Junior Programme, JPO),

which allowed her to work both abroad (UNDP in Nicaragua, Cooperation Office in Burkina Faso and Swiss Embassy in Kenya) and at headquarters in Berne. Dominique has an interest in a wide range of issues and during these years she has been involved in a variety of themes: education and vocational training, local economic and private sector development, health. Since September 2021 she has joined the current Economics and Education section at the head office in Bern.