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## **JOHN G. TOMASZEWSKI**

*Acting Regional Director (Africa)*  
*jt@iri.org | @tomozeus*

Mr. John G. Tomaszewski ("JT") currently serves as acting regional director for Africa. Prior to assuming his current post in May 2016, he served as IRI's deputy regional director for Africa in Washington, D.C. Before returning to headquarters, Tomaszewski spent nearly seven years living on the African continent and managing various project for IRI focusing on political party strengthening, local governance and civil society development, youth and gender initiatives, and civic education in Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Tomaszewski also participated in several IRI international election observation missions on the African continent including in Nigeria, Egypt, and Somaliland.

He most recently served as Nairobi-based IRI resident country director for Kenya since 2012, directing a wide range of programs focusing on civic engagement, gender empowerment, civil society and legislative strengthening, and Kenya's transition to devolved government. In this capacity, he also oversaw IRI's political party programming in South Sudan and the institute's regional democratic governance initiatives in the five East African Community (EAC) countries. Tomaszewski also previously served as IRI's resident deputy country director in both South Sudan and Egypt where he was responsible for supporting the management some of IRI's then-largest country programs and directing their respective political party strengthening projects.

Prior to joining IRI, Tomaszewski solidified his position as a proven communications practitioner in the Crisis and Litigation Practice at Levick Strategic Communications in Washington, D.C. While there, he managed a range of crisis communications, reputation management, and grassroots and public affairs projects for Levick's domestic and international clients. Tomaszewski built the foundation for his communications and political experience on Capitol Hill, where he worked for nearly five years as public affairs and legislative policy professional for two Republican Members of Congress - U.S. Reps. Curt Weldon, R-PA (2004-07) and Gus Bilirakis, R-FL, (2007-08). He also served as a key communications advisor for their individual congressional campaigns.

Tomaszewski holds master's degree in Central and Eastern European studies from Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland and a bachelor's degree from Ramapo College in New Jersey. He currently resides in Washington, DC with his wife, Linda Akinyi, son, Nathaniel, and daughter Emily.