

Dr. Dafna H. Rand

Dr. Dafna H. Rand is the Vice President for Policy and Research at Mercy Corps. She leads Mercy Corps' global policy and research teams, manages the organization's research agenda, and oversees Mercy Corps' engagement with global institutions. Dr. Rand most recently served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) at the U.S. State Department, where she led DRL's work on the Middle East and U.S. security policy. Prior to her role at DRL, Dr. Rand covered the Middle East on the State Department's Policy Planning Staff and served on the National Security Council. She was previously the inaugural Leon Panetta Fellow and Deputy Director of Studies at the *Center for a New American Security*.

Dr. Rand has served two tours as a staff member in the U.S. Senate, where she worked on a range of national security, budget, trade, and development issues. She has testified multiple times in front of key U.S. Congressional committees. Dr. Rand holds an AB from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from Columbia University's Department of Political Science. She has published extensively on political developments and international security issues related to the Middle East and North Africa. Dr. Rand lives in Washington D.C. with her husband and three children.