



Maria Kasparian, Executive Director, Edesia (U.S.A.)

Maria Kasparian, Executive Director, Edesia, Inc. (U.S.A.) Maria Kasparian is the Executive Director at Edesia, a non-profit organization based in Providence, RI, U.S.A. Edesia is dedicated to the treatment and prevention of malnutrition for vulnerable people in the developing world through peanut-based ready-to-use foods (RUFs)— such as Plumpy’Nut and Nutributter. The organization produces high quality RUF products, supports research and development to improve products and their distribution, and supports local producers of RUFs in the developing world.

Ms. Kasparian’s experience includes ecology and conservation work in Madagascar, education and public health-focused Peace Corps service in Bangladesh and work at a rural development NGO (Street Survivors India) in West Bengal, India. Presently, she manages Edesia’s relationships with important partners like the USDA, USAID, UNICEF, and the World Food Programme. Ms. Kasparian holds a Bachelor’s in International Relations from Brown University and a Master’s in Public Administration in International Public Service and Development from Rutgers University. She has been with Edesia since it launched its Providence office and factory in 2009.