Donela Besada is an epidemiologist and health economist working in the areas of maternal and child health services, HIV, TB, mental health, and human resources for health.

Her work involves costing, cost-effectiveness and return in investment analysis. Most recently she co-led the national costing work of current mental health services in South Africa that formed the foundational work of the South African investment case to scale up mental health care in South Africa to achieve UHC.

She recently completed her PhD degree at King’s College London where her research was focusing on the development and application of a cost-effectiveness methodology for multi-sectoral investments for mental health services in South Africa.