

Aoife McCullough

Research Consultant Intern





Post Conflict and Fragile States

SUMMARY

Aoife McCullough specialises in post-conflict and fragile states with a particular interest in the interaction between militia groups and peace processes. Aoife has field experience in Africa and Asia, with both long-term placements and short consultancies. Her work has involved engagement with national governments, international NGO's and international development agencies. Aoife's field-based experience is complemented by strong research, analytic, and writing skills. Her recent work includes a conflict assessment in Southern Sudan for Dfid/Pact Sudan, and a review of monitoring tools for use in post-conflict environments for Coffey International Development.

Aoife is a strong project manager, with experience of managing and developing diverse projects in varied locations. She has knowledge of project management and planning tools, as well as the communication and coordination skills required to work with a range of stakeholders and an international staff team.

KEY STRENGTHS

-  Experience in conducting conflict assessment
-  Strong numeric, analytical, logframe, writing and editing skills
-  Experience in programme design, implementation and evaluation
-  Effective trainer in multicultural and international working environments

QUALIFICATIONS

BSc Anthropology and Development, London School of Economics, 2009
BA Psychology, Trinity College Dublin, 2002

CLIENTS

DFID, Coffey International

COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, India, Ireland.



RECENT CONSULTANCIES AND RESEARCH**Gap Analysis, Ethiopia****Client – Ethiopian Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), DFID - Ongoing**

Supporting the analysis and presentation of qualitative and quantitative data gathered during a Gap Assessment on the four developing states (DRS) in Ethiopia; Somali, Afar, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz.

Synthesis to inform Pakistan Country Governance Analysis**Client – DFID Pakistan- May 2010**

Contributed to a review of governance and conflict literature and data for the period 2007-2010 to form the basis for the updating of Pakistan's Country Governance Analysis (CGA). Focused on compiling and describing key governance indicators which adhered to the CAR framework.

Zambia Country Governance Analysis**Client – DFID – June 2010**

Contributed the Zambia Country Governance Analysis by compiling and analysing key governance indicators which adhered to the CAR framework.

Peace and Stability in Southern Sudan Conflict Assessment**Client - DFID/Pact Sudan, Sept 2009 – Dec 2009**

As part of a team of 16 comprising representatives from the South Sudan Peace Commission (SSPC), the University of Juba, and the London School of Economics, conducted field-based conflict analysis to improve understanding around existing and potential causes and triggers of violence in Southern Sudan. Led semi-structured interviews and participatory exercises (solutions trees, rankings, drawings) with community members, students, local civil society partners and authorities at state, county and local levels. Evaluated community needs vis-à-vis peace building and assessed organisational strategies of NGOs with regards to peace programming. The results of the study informed DFID's funding strategy for peace-building in Southern Sudan.

'The Cost of a Good Deed – Project Monitoring in Post-Conflict Environments and the Application of the Logframe'**Client - Coffey International Development, Dec 2008-April 2009**

Researched monitoring tools for stabilization and peace-building programmes in post-conflict situations and developed a set of recommendations for incorporating the tools into the revised DFID Logframe. Tools evaluated included Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA), Randomization, Matrices, Media Analysis and Public Audits. The recommendations were included in Coffey's design of the 'Northern Uganda Post Conflict Recovery Programme' for DFID.

CAREER HISTORY

May 2010 to date – Research Consultant Intern, theIDLgroup in the Post Conflict/Fragile States Portfolio.

PREVIOUS

Sept 2009 – Dec 2009: Researcher, LSE Enterprise

- As part of a team of 16, conducted field-based conflict analysis to improve understanding around existing and potential causes and triggers of violence in Southern Sudan for DFID/Pact Sudan.
- Led semi-structured interviews and participatory exercises (solutions trees, rankings, drawings) with community members, students, local civil society partners and authorities at state, county and local levels. Delivered quantitative analysis of survey responses.
- Contributed to the writing and editing of the final report entitled 'At odds with itself: Fragile peace, local conflict and uncertain future in Southern Sudan' which informed DFID's peace-building strategy in Southern Sudan.

Dec 2008 – April 2009: Researcher, Coffey International Development

- Researched monitoring tools for stabilization and peace-building programmes in post-conflict situations and developed a set of recommendations for incorporating the tools into the revised DFID Logframe. Tools evaluated included Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA), Randomization, Matrices, Media Analysis and Public Audits.
- The recommendations were included in Coffey's design of the 'Northern Uganda Post Conflict Recovery Programme' for DFID.

Jan 2008 – Sept 2008: Consultant, Tolka Area Partnership, Ireland

- Evaluated a multifaceted education programme which aimed to increase student retention in formal education in disadvantaged outer areas of Dublin.
- Designed questionnaire and carried one-to-one interviews with students aged 8-18.
- The results informed the Tolka Area Partnership 2009-2014 education strategy.

March 2007 – Dec 2007: Programme Coordinator, Meath Partnership, Ireland

- Using results from a consultation process, designed and coordinated a pilot training programme (€130,000) to promote empowerment and leadership among women living close to the North/South border. A key area of focus was on promoting participation in local decision making structures and on facilitating networking among women across communities.
- Managed a needs analysis and evaluation to inform further work in promoting leadership among rural women.

March 2006 – Dec 2006: Logistics Coordinator, GOAL DRC

- Assessed GOAL's strategy and operational capacity in providing conflict sensitive distributions. Restructured and led technical team to provide effective food distribution to difficult to access areas.
- Using participatory methods, designed new systems of accountability for GOAL DRC's logistics to reduce corruption and increase efficiency. Coordinated the implementation of the new systems within the first nine months, succeeded in reducing programme support costs by 15%.

Jul 2005 – Dec 2005: Programme Assistant, GOAL Niger

- Conducted a needs analysis and an assessment of the strengths of GOAL to determine the impact of a livelihoods approach to the Food Crisis in Niger during 2005. Designed and implemented Livelihood Fairs to support the recovery of vulnerable households in the Zinder region in East Niger.

- In conjunction with WFP, managed a General Distribution (€150,000) to support the recovery of vulnerable households in the Zinder region in East Niger.

Jul 2004 – Jun 2005: Assistant to Operations Manager GOAL, Head Office, Ireland

- Managed and promoted the Management Information System as a reference tool. As a result of the initiative, the development and submission of project proposals across GOAL became streamlined.
- As a member of the Gender Working Group, participated in formulating a gender policy, a Logistical Framework Analysis and a Toolkit to mainstream gender in GOAL.

Jun 2003 – May 2004: Programme Manager SST (Stree Sanghshema Trust), India

SST is a National NGO working for the empowerment of rural women in a volatile area of Andhra Pradesh.

- Carried out a needs assessment in 15 primary schools to determine their suitability for a Rainwater Harvesting programme. Developed a proposal for the construction of 10 Rainwater Harvesting Structures in primary and secondary schools in the Anantapur area and was awarded a grant of INR10,000 from the Government of India.
- Project management of the Rainwater Harvesting Programme, including the recruitment and management of builders, plumbers and labourers; initiation of water committees that represented both men and women; and management of an awareness building campaign
- Carried out quantitative and qualitative research to evaluate the impact of SST's work

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

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| Year of birth | 1979 |
| Nationality | Irish |
| Languages | English (mother tongue) French (competent) German (basic) |
| Professional Development | 2008: How to Measure and Assess Impact – 3 day course conducted by <i>DTalk/Irish Aid</i> 2007: Negotiation Skills – 1 day workshop conducted by <i>Nurture Development</i> 2006: Participatory Learning and Action – 3 day course in PLA conducted by <i>Sustainability</i> in conjunction with <i>GOAL</i> 2006: Security in Unstable Environments – 2 day course facilitated by <i>GOAL</i> 2005: Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Peacemaking Skills – 60 hours of training at the <i>Glencree Centre for Reconciliation</i> in accordance with the Part I requirements of the Mediators Institute Ireland 2005: Gender Analysis/Gender Mainstreaming – 2 day course at the <i>Centre for Development Studies</i> , UCD, Dublin, Ireland |