

## Principal Consultant

### Professional profile

Dr Abdulkareem Lawal is an agriculture and monitoring and evaluation expert with close to thirty years' experience in international development and 18 years working in M&E. Abdulkareem started his career as an agricultural research scientist, looking at the relevance of research on agricultural production and rural livelihoods. He was thereafter involved in designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating community development programmes in partnership with communities, local government officials and donor agencies, particularly with focus on poverty alleviation and economic empowerment of marginalised groups.

Abdulkareem has also built up significant experience in providing high level social policy advice to governments, and civil society institutions on programmes, projects and policies related to social sector service delivery, public sector reform, health systems development, education sector programmes and social research. He has proven facilitation skills in the application and design of participatory approaches to sustainable development; organisational development and strategic planning.

A DFID-accredited evaluation specialist, Abdulkareem has extensive experience in the use of statistical analysis packages (SPSS and SAS) and database management systems; strong analytical, logframe, writing and editing skills. In the last 18 years, he has led the development and review of M&E as well as impact assessments and shared learning systems. He has had the privilege of leading multidisciplinary programme and M&E design teams in various countries particularly in Africa and worked with Foundations as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies such as DFAT, DFID, EU, the World Bank, and the UN system.

**Nationality** Nigerian (UK resident)

**Languages** English (excellent), Yoruba (native speaker), French (basic), Arabic (basic)

**Country experience** Australia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and United Kingdom.

### Education

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2009	<b>DPhil (PhD) Rural Development</b> University of Ilorin, Nigeria
2004	<b>MSc Rural Development</b> University of Ilorin, Nigeria
1995	<b>MSc Agricultural Economics</b> University of Ibadan, Nigeria
1991	<b>MSc Animal Production</b> University of Ilorin, Nigeria
1987	<b>Bachelor of Agriculture</b> University of Ilorin, Nigeria

### Employment

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2012 - Present	<b>Principal Consultant</b> Itad, UK
2011 - 2012	<b>Social Policy Specialist</b> UNICEF, Nigeria
2005 - 2011	<b>Social Development Adviser</b> UK Department for International Development (DFID), Nigeria
2005	<b>Coordinator, Impact Assessment and Shared Learning</b> ActionAid, Nigeria
2003 - 2005	<b>Resident Consultant, Monitoring and Evaluation</b> ActionAid, Nigeria
1999 - 2003	<b>Programme Officer/Coordinator</b> Nigeria PRA Network, Nigeria
1991 - 1998	<b>Research Associate</b> International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Nigeria

### Project experience

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2019 - Present	<b>Advancing knowledge for Agricultural Impact (AVANTI)</b> Role: Project Director   Client: IFAD   Location: Global Abdulkareem is leading project delivery and strategic oversight and provides support on refinement of tools and knowledge management, including leading the self-assessments in selected countries. The goal is to
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implement Advancing Knowledge for Agricultural Impact (AVANTI); a tool that will enable national governments to self-assess, identify strengths and gaps and develop action plans on how to strengthen capacities to measure SDGs. AVANTI targets government departments delivering on SDGs relevant to agriculture; in up to 20 International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) borrowing countries globally from 2018 to 2020.

### 2018 - Present **Independent Evaluation of the Supporting Nutrition in Pakistan Food Fortification Programme (SNIP)**

Role: Itad Project Director/Gender & Equity Lead | Client: DFID | Location: Pakistan

Itad is leading the consumer level surveys as well as the cross-cutting gender and equity considerations for the evaluation of the Supporting Nutrition in Pakistan Food Fortification Programme (SNIP). Abdulkareem is responsible for leading the gender and equity workstream, which will ensure that the evaluation methodology and its conduct, reflect these focuses. At the core of the evaluation are considerations about how the programme affects men and women differently (particularly women and girl children) as well as the most marginalised and vulnerable groups.

### 2017 - Present **Strengthening Citizens Resistance against Prevalence of Corruption (SCRAP-C)**

Role: MEL Technical Director | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem is providing technical direction and support for the programme monitoring, evaluation and learning across four broad areas: managing a MEL system for adaptive decision making, supporting strategy and strategy development, logframe, Theory of Change and, lastly, the VFM approach.

### 2017 - Present **Partnership to Engage Reform and Learn (PERL) Programme**

Role: MEL Technical Specialist | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem is supporting the design and implementation of MEL approaches and tools, including supporting self-assessments in key dimensions of governance for state governments as well as citizens' influence on service delivery improvements by governments. He also facilitates learning and adaptation within the programme and with partners.

### 2018 - 2019 **The Nigeria National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP)**

Role: MEL Technical Director | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

The Nigeria National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) presents the strategic direction for modernizing livestock production through the establishment of ranches primarily for nomadic and transhumant pastoralists, supporting them and their host communities to overcome the challenges relating to seasonal migration in search of food and water for their cattle. The establishment of ranches will also improve the genetic merit of indigenous cattle for milk and meat production, and the reproductive performance of indigenous cattle. Abdulkareem, as part of a team of international experts, led the development of the corresponding Implementation Plan to ensure that the performance of the NLTP is monitored on the basis of a comprehensive Results Framework based on clear outcomes, outcome Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets.

### 2018 **Evaluation and Development of M&E Framework for Development Policy and Finance (DPAF)**

Role: Evaluation Lead | Client: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Location: Nigeria

The purpose of this work was to support the Foundation's work on DPAF in taking stock of what it has achieved over the past three years to shape future strategy, and to strengthen its ability to move forward. Abdulkareem led the evaluation of the Bodies of Work which facilitates Nigeria's transition from a low middle-income country to a full middle-income country, covering public-sector governance, revenue generation, allocation and implementation.

### 2016 - 2018 **Evaluation of UNFPA support to the Prevention, Response and elimination of Gender-based Violence, including Harmful Practices**

Role: Itad Project Director/M&E Manager | Client: UNFPA | Location: Global

This independent formative evaluation assessed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of UNFPA's support to the prevention, response to and elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices, including in humanitarian settings. Abdulkareem is leading the project delivery; he supports the refinement of evaluation methodology as well as theory of change including value for money. He, moreover, provided strategic support to stakeholder engagement and informed audiences on evaluation findings.

### 2015 - 2018 **Zanzibar Non-State Actors Support Programme (ZANSASP)**

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Role: Itad Project Director/Senior M&E Expert | Client: European Commission | Location: Tanzania

Abdulkareem led the development of a robust M&E system for optimising results of the Zanzibar Non-State Actors Support Programme (ZANSASP). He oversaw the systematic generation and analysis of ongoing performance management data to improve efficiency and effectiveness, value for money and learning.

2013 - 2018

### **Mobilising for Development (M4D)**

Role: Itad Project Director/Results Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

To demonstrate impacts and results of interventions, Abdulkareem is providing support at Output to Outcome level. He also helped senior management in ensuring a well-functioning result management (RM) system, safeguarding quality and capacity building. This included quality-assuring all M&E deliverables/reports across the programme. Additionally, Abdulkareem supported the M&E/KM team by reviewing and reporting back on intervention guides, research design, analysis of findings, and advising on how RM can be embedded more effectively in the wider team.

2016 - 2017

### **Year 3 Evaluation of Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Programme (Pacific Women)**

Role: Project Director and M&E Manager | Client: DFID | Location: Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea

The Year 3 formative evaluation examined the degree to which the Pacific Women programme has contributed to increased capacity and resources, strengthened relationships, and supported action in its key result areas. Abdulkareem was the head of project delivery and led the value for money assessments, including economic empowerment evaluation activities.

2015 - 2016

### **South Sudan Access to Justice Programme (ATJP)**

Role: M&E Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: South Sudan

For this M&E assignment, Abdulkareem oversaw the development of monitoring and evaluation systems for collecting data against project results, and coordinated the process for updating logframe and M&E work plans. He also contributed to the planning of new activities to ensure they support the desired results stipulated in the logframe. Moreover, he helped preparing project level reports such as annual reviews.

2012 - 2016

### **State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness and Capability (SPARC)**

Role: M&E Technical Stream Leader | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem led initiatives in Lagos, Enugu and Anambra States of Nigeria to ensure increased availability of data analysis and information for M&E, policy formulation and strategic planning. He worked closely with priority sectors across the 3 states, including Agriculture, to develop robust M&E frameworks and systems and, consequently, generate performance data. Abdulkareem also led initiatives aimed at enhancing the capacities of Government institutions on performance management processes.

2012 - 2016

### **State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI)**

Role: Results M&E Specialist | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

As results M&E specialist, Abdulkareem managed the Output to Purpose level survey data collection, analysis and reporting (Governance Baseline/Citizens Perception Survey and Open Budget Index). He was also responsible for M&E of Value for Money at Output to Purpose Level.

2012 - 2014

### **Retrospective and Prospective Evaluations of the Human Rights and International Justice Programme**

Role: Project Coordinator | Client: MacArthur Foundation | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem provided oversight for project delivery and led the human rights evaluation activities. Additionally, he supported grantees to develop their theory of change in relation to evaluation activities.

2011 - 2012

### **Meeting the needs of Children in Crises Communities**

Role: Social Policy Specialist | Client: Government of Japan/UNICEF | Location: Nigeria

This Government of Japan funding to UNICEF Nigeria seeks to ensure that children in crises communities returned to school. Abdulkareem provided, firstly, advice on the design and take-off of the project and, secondly, monitored and evaluated the school feeding and scholarship scheme for children in Delta State.

2009 - 2011

### **DFID Nigeria Education Programmes (Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) and Girls' Education Project**

Role: Social Development Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

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As social protection specialist, Abdulkareem led the design of the social assistance and scholarship schemes for children and women respectively and convened a social protection working group across DFID Nigeria projects.

2009 - 2011

### **Coalitions for Change (C4C) programme**

Role: Lead Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem provided management oversight and managed the synthesis of lesson learning and communication within DFID. He initiated and led the 2009 and 2010 annual reviews of the programme and managed revisions of the project's logical framework in 2009. Abdulkareem also led consultations between DFID, C4C and SAVI on issues-based approach programming.

2009 - 2011

### **State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI)**

Role: Lead Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem provided management oversight from DFID and ensured linkages with other DFID programmes - SPARC, ESSPIN and PATHS. Abdulkareem commissioned and led the 2009 and 2010 annual reviews. Furthermore, he commissioned and led a review of DFID support to voice and accountability mechanisms from 2000 to 2010, which fed into the design of a new programme on empowerment and accountability.

2010

### **Enhancing Nigeria's Response to HIV (ENR) Programme**

Role: Lead Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem led the inception review of the programme; an assessment of progress during the inception phase. He also validated the proposed future direction of the ENR programme.

2007

### **DFID Human Rights Practice Review**

Role: Policy Analyst | Client: DFID | Location: UK

The review looked at a selection of DFID country offices work on human rights (Bangladesh, Malawi, Pakistan and Peru). Abdulkareem was part of the team that commissioned this study (undertaken by ODI) and provided oversight and coordination between DFID and ODI.

2005

### **Enhancing Girls' Basic Education in Northern Nigeria (EGBENN)**

Role: M&E Team Leader | Client: Oxfam Novib/ActionAid | Location: Nigeria

In the role as M&E team leader, Abdulkareem contributed to the proposal development - managing the logframe development process and baseline surveys at the start of the project. Moreover, he led the institutional capacity assessments of civil society implementing partners under the project as well as the implementation of strategic planning and M&E training for partners.

2003 - 2005

### **Partnerships Against Poverty (Local Rights Programme) Programme**

Role: Lead M&E Consultant | Client: ActionAid | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem oversaw the design and implementation of the baselines for the Partnerships Against Poverty (PAP) in 8 Nigerian States and helped to evolve a comprehensive M&E system for ActionAid Nigeria which linked to the global framework.

2004

### **Adolescents Right-to-Know (RTK) about HIV and AIDS**

Role: Lead Consultant/Researcher | Client: UNICEF/ActionAid | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem led a team of researchers to design the tools and delivered training on action research to young people, who then worked with their peers to gather and synthesize information across different youth segments in-school and out-of-school.

2004

### **Social Assessment of the Opportunities for Girls' Education in Nigeria**

Role: Lead National Consultant | Client: World Bank/ActionAid | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem led a team of national consultants and ActionAid staff to design and undertake the research in the 3 states, focussing on the most disadvantaged areas.

2002 - 2003

### **Reflect and STAR projects**

Role: M&E Consultant/Trainer | Client: ActionAid | Location: Nigeria

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The regenerated Frierien literacy through empowerment of community technique (Reflect) and Stepping Stones and Reflect (STAR) are participatory approaches that ensure stakeholder engagement on rights to education and health including HIV/AIDS. Abdulkareem was responsible for the design and implementation of baselines and teasing out indices for a comprehensive system for the projects.

2002

### **Situational Analysis of Women and Children**

Role: Consultant | Client: UNICEF | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem was part of a team of consultants that carried out a situational analysis of women and children in Niger State of Nigeria, focussing on health, education, water and sanitation. This assignment also included the training of community facilitators.

1999 - 2003

### **Training for Farmers in Northern Nigeria**

Role: Programme Officer/Coordinator | Client: Nigeria PRA Network | Location: Nigeria

Abdulkareem supported IFAD funded network members and provided training for farmers in Northern Nigeria on participatory approaches to increasing agricultural productivity and marketing. In Addition, he facilitated national and international exchange of information, experiences and learning in participatory approaches and advocacy for practitioners.

1991 - 1998

### **Collaborative Study of Cassava in Africa Project**

Role: Research Associate | Client: Rockefeller Foundation/IITA | Location: Nigeria

Using household and field surveys, the collaborative study of cassava in Africa (COSCA) sought to improve the relevance of research on cassava by collecting authoritative information on the socio-economic circumstances of cassava farmers. Abdulkareem led the data validation processes and the supervision of data transcription as well as the participatory action research processes. He furthermore anchored the liaison with COSCA and managed the working paper series.

## Selected publications

- Lawal, A and E. Nwankwo (2012), Primary concern: why women are not part of decision-making and local governance, ActionAid, Abuja, London.
- Lawal A O (2011). Women and Food Rights: Status of smallholder women farmers in Nigeria. ActionAid Nigeria, Abuja.
- Lawal A. O (2011). Women's benefits from agricultural technologies: evidence from poultry production among Nigerian fisherfolks. *Development in Practice*, 21: 3, 371 – 378
- Lawal A. O and Adekunle O A. (2008). Impact of improved chicken production on intra-household decision-making among fisherfolks in the Kainji Lake Basin, Nigeria. *Livestock Research for Rural Development*. Vol. 20 (8), Article 129
- Udonsi C, C. and O. Lawal (2008). Understanding the needs and rights of adolescents in relation to HIV and AIDS: A participatory Action Research process. ActionAid Nigeria, Abuja.
- Lawal A. O, Adekunle O, Ayorinde K L and Ibiwoye T I (2007). Determinants of adoption of improved chickens in fishing communities on Kainji Lake Shorelines of Nigeria: A Logit analysis. *Livestock Research for Rural Development*. Vol 19 (8). Article 106.
- Lawal A.O. (2004). "Relevance of Monitoring and Evaluating Partnership". ActionAid Nigeria Newsletter Vol. 2: July – December 2003. ActionAid International, Nigeria, Abuja.
- Lawal, A.O (2002), 'Reducing rural poverty in Nigeria: a collective challenge', NIPRANET Newsletter, Kaduna Nigeria, Vol. 4: 4 – 5. Nigeria Participatory Rural Appraisal Network.
- Lawal A.O. (2000). Participatory Learning and Action in Nigeria: Opportunities and constraints. In: Proceedings of an international workshop of the Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action (RCPLA) Network held in Cairo, Egypt from September 23 – 30, 2000.
- Ezedinma C. I. and A. O. Lawal (1999). Population pressure, land tenure systems and cassava production growth in sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Technology and Education in Nigeria*. Vol. 4, Nos. 1 & 2: 1 – 10.
- Lawal A.O. (1998). Participatory learning for functional literacy. *Journal of Curriculum and Instruction* Vol. 5: 71 – 75, University of Ilorin
- Lawal A. O. and B. O. Ugwu (1997). The impact of land tenure on cassava root yield in Nigeria. In: Proceedings of the 13th Annual Conference of the Farm Management Association of Nigeria held at the Federal University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria from October 12 – 15, 1997.
- Lawal A. O. (1997). The effects of land tenure on cassava land area expansion in sub-Saharan Africa. In: Book of Abstracts of the 31st Annual Conference of the Agricultural Society of Nigeria held at the Institute of Agricultural Research, ABU, Zaria from May 4 – 7, 1997.