

Consultant

Professional profile

Fabiola is a development economist and evaluator specialised in impact evaluation approaches using mixed-methods methodologies in the context of international development, primarily on Private Sector Development, Market systems, and Business Environment Reforms.

Her main areas of expertise and interest include M&E (DCED Standard), Impact Evaluation, Private Sector Development, Value Chains, M4P, Business Environment Reforms, International Trade, Multinational Enterprises, SMEs, Foreign Direct Investment, Industrial Organization and Industrialization and Industrial Policy.

Fabiola has strong experience working on programmes which promote engagement and uptake of research. For example she has recently designed a mapping tool for the Business Environment Reform Facility (BERF) to help DFID Country Offices to access evidence on key Business Environment Reform themes quickly and easily. She holds a PhD in International Development from the University of East Anglia, where she conducted an econometric assessment of the impact of Outsourcing on Domestic suppliers in Mexico, in terms of productivity and upgrading.

Nationality Mexican

Languages Spanish, English

Country experience Bangladesh, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa

Education

2011	PhD International Development, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK
2004	MRes Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK
2003	MSc Industrial Economics, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK
2000	BA Economics, Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Mexico City, Mexico

Employment

2015-Present	Consultant, Private Sector Development theme, Itad Ltd
2012 – 2015	Consultant, Cardno Emerging Markets, UK
2011 – 2012	Research Assistant, University of East Anglia
2011 – 2012	Associate Tutor, University of East Anglia
2009 – 2010	Research Assistant, Colegio de Mexico

Project experience

2018 - Present	Monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) programme Role: Quantitative lead and project manager Client: DFID Location: Kenya Providing technical lead on the design of the quantitative data collection for the evaluation. Working with the implementers to develop the Monitoring Framework and a robust data collection process. Responsible for the management of the project.
2017 - 2019	Impact Evaluation of the Samarth- Nepal Market Development Programme (NMDP) Role: <i>Quantitative Design Advisor</i> Client: DFID Location: Nepal Itad was contracted to deliver an independent ex-post theory-based evaluation of Samarth-NMDP to enrich the global knowledge base of the effectiveness of market systems

Consultant

programmes. Fabiola co-designed and implemented the quantitative assessment of the Impact evaluation. The evaluation used mixed-methods and the objective of the quantitative assessment was to measure the effectiveness of the specific interventions in increasing incomes for smallholder farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs. Quasi-experimental methods (i.e. difference in differences and regression analysis) were used to identify the impact on some of the key outcome variables.

2017 - 2019 **Evaluation Management Unit for West Africa Food Markets Programme**

Role: Consultant | Client: DFID | Location: Ghana

The West Africa Food Markets (WAFM) Pilot Programme was a 5-year initiative that sought to increase the availability of staple foods and purchasing power of farmers in food-insecure regions of the Sahel, as well as to increase their resilience to hunger and malnutrition during the regular hungry seasons and periodic shocks. Fabiola oversaw the verification and quality assurance of the data collected by the Project Management Unit (PMU), in terms of data matching to the logframe needs, gaps and inconsistencies in the data and provided recommendations for improvement in their data collection process and in the quality of the data collected.

2016 - present **Global WASH Results Programme**

Role: Consultant | Client: DFID | Location: UK

Itad leads a consortium which provides the Monitoring, Verification and Evaluation (MVE) services related to the programme. Fabiola works closely with implementing partners providing technical advice on sampling methodologies and survey designs for the Water and Sanitation Outcome Surveys in Bangladesh, Pakistan, DRC and Kenya. She quality assures survey data and verifies the results reported by implementing partners.

2016 - 2018 **Business Environment Reform Facility (BERF)**

Role: Senior Research Assistant | Client: DFID | Location: UK

Fabiola designed the methodology approach for the BERF evidence map for the different reform areas of Business Environment Reforms. The aim of the BERF evidence map is to enable policymakers and practitioners to explore the findings and quality of the existing evidence within key BER reform domains identified by the DCED, in order to support informed judgement and evidence-based decision-making.

2016 **BEAM Exchange**

Role: Consultant | Client: DFID and SCD | Location: Nigeria

The BEAM Exchange is a forum for knowledge exchange and learning about the role of market systems approaches in reducing poverty. Itad led the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) spoke for BEAM, which aims to build the credibility of the market systems approach by strengthening the evidence base of its impact, and to support practitioners to improve implementation by generating and responding better to information on the effects of their interventions. Fabiola prepared a case study on a Dynamic and Adaptive Monitoring System for the Propcom Mai-karfi Shea nut intervention in Nigeria

2015 - 2016 **Impact Evaluation of the Dutch Good Growth Fund (DGGF)**

Role: Research Assistant | Client: Ministry for Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands | Location: UK

The DGGF is specifically designed for SMEs in low- and middle-income countries and in the Netherlands. Responsibilities: (i) support the evaluation team on the design of the ToC; (ii) to conduct literature review and to propose feasible methodologies to measure indirect job creation and knowledge transfer; (iii) to provide feedback on the methods proposed for the quantitative assessment and survey design.

2012 - 2015 **Legal Assistance for Economic Reform (LASER)**

Role: Impact Evaluation Consultant | Client: DFID Bangladesh | Location: Bangladesh

Consultant

LASER undertook a rigorous impact evaluation of voluntary taxation Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms that were introduced in 2012 in Bangladesh with support of IFC. Fabiola co-designed the evaluation approach. She also undertook an extensive literature review on taxation issues including the political economy of the taxation system, tax compliance and tax morale, relationship between tax reforms and economic performance and encouragement designs targeting SMEs to increase formalisation.

2015 - 2016 **Mobilisation for Development (M4D)**

Role: Quantitative Methods Advisor | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

Itad managed the impact evaluation of the programme. The M4D programme aims to support local governance and service delivery in select Local Government Areas (LGAs) in three states in Northern Nigeria: Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa. Fabiola provided support to the evaluation team on sampling design and statistical methods.

2013 - 2014 **Fund Manager for Trade in Global Value Chain Initiative**

Role Deputy Project Manager and Monitoring Specialist | Client: DFID | Location: Bangladesh, Kenya, South Africa

The programme aims to improve the lives and conditions of those working in horticultural and garment value chains. Fabiola supported the programme team to establish robust systems for grant management, procurement and contract management. She designed the monitoring frameworks, resourced and mobilised country coordinators in the three pilot countries (Kenya, South Africa and Bangladesh) for data collection, coordinated the delivery of information, prepared quarterly reports to DFID and to the Evaluation Management Unit, and monitored the performance of the programme.

2012 - 2013 **Provision of Research, Procurement and Secretarial Services for Climate Change Mitigation Policy in South Africa**

Role Deputy Project Manager and Monitoring Specialist | Client: DFID | Location: South Africa

Fabiola designed the M&E framework and monitored the programme activities.

2012 **Measuring the Impact of Aid Agency Programmes in Rapid Onset of natural Disasters in Sri Lanka**

Role Research Assistant | Client: Oxfam | Location: UK

Responsible for data cleaning and results measurement at household level in 3 communities in Sri Lanka to identify resilience strategies adopted by households after a natural disaster.

2009 - 2010 **Technical assistance to design a program to improve and strengthen the statistical system of measuring FDI in Mexico,**

Role Research Assistant | Client: Mexican Ministry of Economy | Location: Mexico

Assessed key problems on the collection of FDI data, analysed methodologies to measure FDI, and provided recommendations to improve and strengthen the methodological approach.