

## Consultant

### Professional profile

Abrehet Gebremedhin is a consultant in Itad's Human Development practice, working with the education and health themes. With over 5 years of experience in international development consultancy and research, she has participated in a number of education and child-centred evaluations. Abrehet has worked on education evaluations with clients such as DFID, UNICEF, WFP, Girl Effect and Save the Children. She is skilled in qualitative and discourse analysis, field methods, survey design and project management. Prior to joining Itad, Abrehet led the evaluation development team at an East African M&E firm, specifically technical design and strategy of large-scale M&E and research projects across Sub-Saharan Africa. She also provided technical guidance and quality assurance on M&E reports, primarily on girls' education and services for children. Previously to this, she worked as an independent grant writer in the design of projects centred around youth. Her work as an independent researcher focused on educational policy on development outcomes, includes authoring publications and white papers on educational rhetoric, displacement and school-aged children. Abrehet holds an MA and a BA in International Development from the University of Denver. She is fluent in English, Tigrinya and Spanish and has a working knowledge of Amharic.

**Nationality** American

**Languages** English (mother tongue), Spanish and Tigrinya (advanced), Amharic (beginner)

**Country experience** Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States

### Education

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| <b>2012 – 2014</b> | <b>MA in International Development</b><br>Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, USA |
| <b>2009 – 2013</b> | <b>BA in International Studies and Spanish</b><br>University of Denver, USA                                 |

### Employment

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| <b>2019 - Present</b> | <b>Consultant, Education and Health</b><br>Itad, Hove, UK   |
| <b>2017 - 2018</b>    | <b>Business Development Officer</b><br>Itad, Hove, UK   |
| <b>2016 – 2017</b>    | <b>M&amp;E Programme Development Manager</b><br>JaRco Consulting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia           |
| <b>2014 – 2016</b>    | <b>M&amp;E Programme Development Officer</b><br>JaRco Consulting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia           |
| <b>2014</b>           | <b>Research Assistant</b><br>Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group, Denver, Colorado, US |
| <b>2013</b>           | <b>Fellow</b><br>Centre for Creative Leadership, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Kampala, Uganda        |
| <b>2011</b>           | <b>Fellow</b><br>UNESCO Etxea, Bilbao, Spain  |

### Project experience

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| <b>2019 – Present</b> | <b>Evaluation of Dubai Cares' Girls' Education Portfolio</b><br>Role: Deputy Team Leader   Client: Dubai Cares   Location: Multi-country;<br>Dubai Cares aims to support gender equity in education, health and social outcomes. The girls' education portfolio is a complex mix of programs varying from: improving educational outcomes with a focus on girls, to empowering girls and their supportive communities to improve education outcomes. Itad is conducting a portfolio level evaluation with two overarching objectives: to capture key learning and insights in order to inform Dubai Cares' future strategy and grant-making; and to equip Dubai Cares with evidence, insights and learning from its investments that can benefit and further advocate for better policy at the global and regional level. |
| <b>2019 – Present</b> | <b>Evaluation of Adolescents 360</b><br>Role: Evaluator   Client: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Children's Investment Fund Foundation   Location: Multi-country; Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania   |

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Adolescents 360 (A360) is a \$30 million programme jointly funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation to encourage modern contraceptive use and reduce unplanned pregnancy among young girls aged between 15-19 in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Nigeria. The A360 programme is being implemented by a Population Services International (PSI)-led consortium and aims to identify youth-driven solutions through user-centred design processes and market segmentation to increase both demand for, and access to, a full range of quality, voluntary contraceptive services among adolescent girls in the three countries. Itad, in partnership with the LSHTM and Avenir Health, is responsible to independently evaluate and distil lessons from the A360 programme. The evaluation is comprised of four components: Cost-Effectiveness Analysis – led by Avenir Health; an Outcome Evaluation – led by LSHTM; a Process Evaluation – led by Itad; and an Engagement and Research Uptake Strategy – led by Itad.

### 2019 - Present **Prospective Evaluations of GPE Support at Country Levels**

**Role:** Project Manager and Evaluator | **Client:** Global Partnership for Education | **Location:** UK, Ethiopia and Malawi

Established in 2002, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), formerly the Education for All Fast-Track Initiative, is a multi-stakeholder partnership focused on supporting and financing education in low and lower middle-income countries, contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal on Education (SDG 4). Itad co-leads a consortium delivering a linked set of evaluation studies that explore how well GPE outputs and activities contribute to outcomes and impact at the country-level. The objective of the assignment is to evaluate (i) GPE contributions to the achievement of education results within GPE developing country partners (DCPs) in the areas of learning, equity and systems; and hence (ii) the effectiveness of GPE's operational model. Abrehet is the project manager for delivering the eight evaluations and responsible for writing and reviewing documents and reports, carrying out data analysis and synthesis, and carrying out field work in Ethiopia and Malawi.

### 2017 **Evaluation of School Feeding Programme Modalities in Lesotho**

**Role:** Lead Technical Proposal Writer and Researcher | **Client:** World Food Programme | **Location:** Ethiopia and Lesotho

The evaluation assessed the three models and the school feeding programming's contributions to development objectives; this includes social protection, employment creation, poverty reduction and nutrition.

**Activities:** led the technical design of the proposal and approach to the process evaluation; selected and coordinated external team members; managed the initial evaluation budget and liaised with the key stakeholders and client in the WFP Office of Evaluation based in Rome. She also contributed to a literature review in the inception phase and developed subsequent report outlines for team input.

### 2016 – 2017 **Endline Evaluation of DFID GEC's Pastoralist Afar Girls' Education Support Project**

**Role:** Researcher | **Client:** DFID Ethiopia and Save the Children | **Location:** Afar, Ethiopia

Independent Monitoring and Evaluation for the five-year Pastoralist Afar Girls' Education Support Project (PAGES), a project being funded by DFID/Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) and implemented by Save the Children and other partners. The evaluation included the development of the M&E Framework, the undertaking of baseline, midline and endline evaluations (applying EGRA and EGMA tools) and conducting regular reporting on the project's progress.

**Activities** included coordinating the quantitative household survey on the endline, providing research inputs and quality assured/coordinated the inputs of external consultants and implementing changes in report based on client's comments.

### 2016 **Baseline Survey of Girl Effect Ethiopia's Safe Space Pilot Programme**

**Role:** Lead Technical Proposal Writer | **Client:** Girl Effect Ethiopia/DFID | **Location:** Ethiopia

A new safe spaces programme is being developed by the Government of Ethiopia to support adolescent girls, aged 11-14 years old which will equip them with personal, social, health, safety, education and financial outcomes - building girls' confidence, agency, skills and knowledge as they progress through adolescence.

Abrehet designed the survey methodology and approach, supported qualitative tool development and training of quantitative enumerators for the household survey; worked in close collaboration with senior statisticians to design the sampling approach and frame, conducted qualitative interviews in the field;

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supported analysis and report writing; coordinated inputs of external consultants; liaised closely with the client in budget negotiations and coordinated submission of quality-assured deliverables.

2015

### **Country Assessment of Essential Education and Health Commodities and Related Services for Children**

**Role:** Researcher on Educational Commodities | **Client:** UNICEF Ethiopia and JSI | **Location:** Ethiopia

The CAECS was to provide UNICEF with nationally representative and comparative supply chain data on the availability and affordability of products needed for the survival, development and protection of children in Ethiopia and Kenya.

**Activities:** Independently designed the initial proposal to UNICEF and conducted the literature review of educational commodities' availability and affordability in Ethiopia during the inception period; received an Excellent rating from UNICEF on literature review.

2015

### **M&E Services for the End Child Marriage Programme**

**Role:** Lead Technical Proposal Writer | **Client:** UNICEF Ethiopia | **Location:** Ethiopia

Design of an M&E system to monitor the progress of the End Children Marriage programme over its 5-year duration – including monitoring every six months and base, mid and endline evaluations. The project is designed to measure qualitative and quantitative indicators related to early marriage, and explore changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices among the communities living in the Amhara region.

**Activities:** Led the design of the technical and financial proposal; selected and coordinated the team of external consultants; worked closely with external and internal team members during contract negotiation and inception period with the client.

2014

### **White Papers on the challenges of addressing disaster-induced urban displacement in the Philippines and El Salvador**

**Role:** Research Assistant | **Client:** Norwegian Refugee Council | **Location:** US, Desk-based

The briefing papers present key findings of research into how to better protect people displaced by disasters and how to improve disaster management in urban areas of the Philippines and El Salvador. Intended to support the Nansen Initiative, these twin studies are part of a research project commissioned by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) – entitled 'Urbanisation, disasters and displacement in Central America and Southeast Asia' – which combines a global desk study with country studies on the Philippines and El Salvador. It explores challenges related to protection of the displaced and disaster management in urban areas before, during and after disasters and how humanitarian actors address them in policy and practice.

## Publications

- Gebremedhin, Abrehet and Devin Joshi. 2016. "Social Justice, Human Rights and Education Policy Discourse: Assessing Nelson Mandela's Legacy." *Education as Change*, 20(1): 172-19, link: [Education Policy Discourse by A. Gebremedhin](#)
- Harkey, J., Bryson, A., Hwang, J. Krystalli, R., Spencer, K., Vanerwillik, K., Erger, B, **Gebremedhin, A.**, and Cochran, J. Sept 2014. "Challenges of addressing disaster-induced urban displacement in El Salvador." *Norwegian Refugee Council*. Briefing Paper, link: [Urban Displacement in El Salvador](#)
- Harkey, J., Bryson, A., Hwang, J. Krystalli, R., Spencer, K., Vanerwillik, K., Erger, B, **Gebremedhin, A.**, and Cochran, J. Sept 2014. "Challenges of addressing disaster-induced urban displacement in the Philippines." *Norwegian Refugee Council*. Briefing Paper, link: [Urban Displacement in the Philippines](#)