

Consultant

Professional profile

George is a Consultant at Itad, working in the Fragile and Conflict Affected States (FCAS) theme. He has over 5 years of experience in international development, with a focus on conflict, peace and security issues in North Africa, East Africa and the Middle East. In that time, he has contributed to a number of M&E projects for Itad, initially as an external Research Assistant, and more recently as an Itad staff member. He has experience and expertise across a number of themes, with a focus on conflict and security issues, but also including humanitarianism, livelihood, climate change resilience, organisational effectiveness and governance. He has worked on projects for clients including the FCO, DFID, UNICEF, Sida, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, WFP, and CIFF. He specialises in the design and delivery of MEL capacity building support, and is an outstanding qualitative and quantitative researcher, with a strong command of a range of monitoring, evaluation and learning methodologies.

George is project manager and a core technical team member for the Itad-Altai Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) North Africa MEL (NAMEL) contract. In this role, he oversees technical delivery across the contract, delivers MEL capacity building team to CSSF teams across the region, managing a MEL 'Helpdesk' facility accessible programme teams, and is a core member of the portfolio evaluation team. George is also a team member for the Itad-Altai MEL Partner for CSSF Eastern Africa. In this role he was part of the team to develop the Training Assessment System for Evaluation and Reporting (TASER) for the British Peace Support Team-Africa (BPST-A), which will enable the BPST-A to better measure the effectiveness of their training to African peacekeeping forces. He was part of the team to conduct a review of the CSSF-funded Conflict Early Warning Early Response System (CEWERS) in South Sudan. He wrote a literature review on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in East Africa, which informed the redesign of the CSSF CVE programme in the Eastern Africa Portfolio in 2017. He has also worked with the MEL Unit's innovative Political Access and Influence (PAI) framework, to collate evidence and produce case stories on PAI achievements by CSSF East Africa programmes. George also recently worked on Itad's Evaluation of Sida's Strategic Partnerships for Humanitarian Assistance, and was part of the team for the field mission to South Sudan for that evaluation.

Nationality British

Languages English (mother tongue), French (intermediate), Welsh (intermediate)

Country experience Algeria, Australia, Cameroon, France, Kenya, New Zealand, South Sudan, Tunisia, UK

Education

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| 2016 | M.A. Conflict, Security, and Development (Distinction),
University of Sussex, UK |
| 2013 | BSc Politics and International Relations (1st Class Honours),
University of London, UK |

Employment

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| 2018 - Present | Consultant
Itad, UK |
| 2018 | Research Analyst
Itad, UK |
| 2015 - 2018 | Research Assistant
Independent, UK |

Project experience

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| 2018 - Present | CSSF North Africa: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (NAMEL)
Role: Consultant Client: Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) Location: North Africa
Delivering MEL capacity-building support and conducting research and analysis for the Itad-led NAMEL Unit. NAMEL is delivering a three-year nested evaluation strategy, consisting of MEL capacity building work with CSSF Country Programme teams, project/programme level M&E work, multiple cross-regional thematic evaluations, and a portfolio level evaluation of the North Africa Good Governance Fund's (NAGGF) CSSF portfolio. Programme manager for the project, coordinating technical inputs across the contract, managing a MEL 'Helpdesk' accessible to CSSF programme teams, and delivering MEL capacity building support and training to CSSF programme teams in the region. |
| 2015 - Present | Provision of Monitoring and Evaluation Services for the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) Programme in East Africa
Role: Consultant Client: Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) Location: East Africa |

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Conducting research and analysis for the MEL Unit. The MEL Unit works alongside CSSF programme teams to generate information about the impact of programmes in East Africa on high level strand objectives and cross-cutting regional UK goals, in order to inform design and prioritisation of future programming. Part of the team to develop and support implementation of the Training Assessment System for Evaluation and Reporting (TASER) for the British Peace Support Team-Africa (BPST-A), part of the MEL Unit's support to the CSSF Africa Peace and Security (APS) portfolio. Part of the team to conduct a review of the CSSF-funded Conflict Early Warning Early Response System (CEWERS) in South Sudan Produced literature review on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) to inform a redesign of the CVE programme within the Eastern Africa portfolio. Produced impact assessments of the Africa Peace and Security (APS) programme and Eastern Africa portfolio. Provided contextual research to support the development of more robust Theories of Change for the CSSF criminality programme in Tanzania and Kenya. Collated evidence for the development of case studies of Political Access and Influence (PAI) achievements by CSSF programmes in East Africa.

2020

Evaluation of Sida's strategic partnership for humanitarian assistance

Role: Evaluator | Client: Sida | Location: South Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo

Conducted desk-based research and member of the South Sudan field visit. Itad is evaluating Sida's current strategic partners as well as five new organisations under consideration for a future strategic partnership. The evaluation will assess the competency of these organisations, their reliability to deliver high-quality humanitarian assistance across a range of contexts, and their ability to be adaptive and flexible. The findings from the evaluation will offer Sida added strategic value beyond the delivery of specific humanitarian assistance. Conducted desk-based research on the performance of Sida's humanitarian partners. Member of the field visit team for the South Sudan field visit, conducting visits to humanitarian projects which included key informant interviews with partner organisation staff and focus group discussions with beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance.

2018

Evaluation of the Coverage and Quality of the UNICEF Humanitarian Response in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

Role: Evaluator | Client: UNICEF | Location: Desk-based

Conducted a desk-based country case study of UNICEF's response to the complex humanitarian emergency in Burundi between 2015 and 2018. This entailed conducting a review of documentation relating to the crisis and UNICEF's response, conducting key informant interviews, data analysis, and write up of the case study report. The case study represented 1 of 12 (5 field missions and 7 desk reviews) case studies which formed the basis of this evaluation of UNICEF's performance in achieving coverage and quality in its humanitarian action.

2017 - Present

Evaluation of Strengthening Research and Knowledge Systems (SRKS).

Role: Junior evaluator | Client: DFID | Location: Desk-based

Conducted 6 desk reviews to evaluate SRKS performance and achievements at country level in: Ghana, Nicaragua, Somalia, Uganda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. This involved reviewing programme documentation, conducting key informant interviews, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and writing the reports. Wrote report on cross-programme communications and advocacy activities and achievements. Contributed to synthesis of findings from evaluation desk reviews, case studies, and cross-programme studies, and the drafting of final report.

2016 - 2018

Provision of Post-Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) & Annual Summary Report Services to WFP

Role: Research Assistant | Client: WFP | Location: Desk-based

Reviewed PHQA reports on WFP evaluations, produced summary documents, and then conducting comparative qualitative and quantitative analysis of the PHQA reports to inform the Annual Summary Reports. Compared and synthesised findings from 2017 and 2018 for the 2018 Annual Report.

2017

Human Centred Design Evaluation

Role: Research Assistant | Client: Hewlett Foundation/Marie Stopes International | Location: Kenya/Tanzania

Evaluation of the use of Human Centred Design (HCD) to design innovative Marie Stopes International adolescent sexual and reproductive health services in Kenya and Tanzania. Conducted literature review on HCD, design thinking and innovation in development. Mapped HCD process against Marie Stopes standard programming design processes.

2016

International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI) Mid-Term Review

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Role: Research Assistant | **Client:** NICE International / Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | **Location:** Global
Mid-Term Review of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI) led by NICE International, aimed at strengthening and advancing provisions of Universal Health Care across the developing world. Conducted literature review on best practice in governance of inter-organisational networks, and comparison with governance structure and practices in iDSI network. Desk-based research on the competencies of the four iDSI core partners. Developed database cataloguing knowledge products published by the iDSI network. Conducted in-depth interviews with key stakeholders in the iDSI network.

2015 **Evaluation of Children's Investment Fund Foundation's (CIFF's) Contribution to the 2015 International Climate Negotiations**

Role: Research Assistant | **Client:** CIFF | **Location:** UK

Reviewed programme documentation to inform contribution analysis to identify which CIFF grants and approaches have proved most effective in contributing to the positive outcome of the COP21 climate change negotiations.

2016 **Research and Engagement Intern**

Role: Intern | **Client:** Peace Direct | **Location:** UK

Peace Direct are a London-based NGO who work to support local peace-builders in fragile and conflict affected states. Conducted research and analysis and report writing including on: UK government policy towards local peacebuilding; the thematic area of atrocity prevention; conflict in Northern Nigeria, and locally-led and international peacebuilding interventions in Somalia/Somaliland and Democratic Republic of Congo.