

Consultant

Professional Profile

Ekaterina is a Consultant at Itad with over five years of experience in international development, working on a number of projects, particularly on issues related to governance, corruption and human rights. She has strong technical experience in monitoring & evaluation, and proven experience conducting research, analysis and literature reviews. The core of her work at present involves managing an evaluation of DFID's Stability, Services, and Reform Programme (SSRP) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)-funded research project on champion building and advocacy. She also supports and leading on the provision of M&E capacity building for civil society partners on DFID's Anti-Corruption in Nigeria (ACORN) programme, adopting various MEL methodologies. She has also provided research and synthesis support for WFP and Gavi's Gender Policy evaluations, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) 2017-2021 strategy, anti-corruption work in the Eastern Caribbean, as well as for CSSF's work in East Africa. Her role on these programmes have involved conducting evaluability assessments, analysing logframes, political economy analysis, and facilitating workshops. Prior to working at Itad, Ekaterina worked with the Global Fund for Women as their Freedom from Violence Program Consultant.

Nationality	Bulgarian
Languages	Bulgarian (native); English (fluent); French (advanced)
Country experience	Tunisia, Nigeria

Education

2017 - 2018	MSc, Development Management London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
2012 - 2016	BA, Economics & Development Studies Brown University, United States

Employment

2019 - Present	Consultant Itad, UK
2018 - 2019	Research Analyst Itad, UK
2016 - 2017	Project Assistant Ubuntu at Work Inc. USA
2015	Intern, Monitoring, Evaluation and Communication Mercy Corps, Tunisia

Project experience

2019 - Present	Evaluation of the World Food Programme (WFP) Gender Policy 2015 - 2020 Role: Research Analyst Client: World Food Programme Location: Global As Research Analyst, Ekaterina is responsible for providing document reviews and first-level analysis of country portfolios. She will also support policy benchmarking, review of secondary documentation at the global and regional levels, and data analysis. WFP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations that addresses hunger and promotes food security around the world. The evaluation aims to assess and report on the quality and results of the 2015-2020 Gender Policy, as well as its associated guidance and activities to implement it, to draw lessons, derive good practices, and inform a potentially new gender policy.
2019 - Present	Mid-term Evaluation of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) 2017 – 2021 Strategy Role: Research Analyst Client: BMGF Location: Multi-country As Research Analyst, Ekaterina developed a country case study template for data collection and identified key themes and data gaps to support evidence-based discussions. She also assisted in interviewing and sub-contracting of national consultants to support case study country missions. In 2014, AGRA developed a new five-year strategy and business plan with the aim to catalyse and sustain inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa by increasing incomes and improving food security for 30 million smallholder households. This mid-term evaluation aims to assess what is and is not working well in implementation, evaluation progress towards objectives and outcomes, call attention to any unintended consequences and provide evidence-based findings and recommendations.

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- 2018 - Present** **Monitoring and Evaluation of Support to the Palestinian Authority**
Role: Project Manager | Client: DFID | Location: UK, OPT
As Project Manager, Ekaterina coordinates an evaluation team of 5 and provides contract and budget oversight. As Research Analyst, Ekaterina has synthesised key points in AdHoC Liaison Committee (AHLIC) reports and analysed logframe to identify progress towards outcomes for the DFID-funded Support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) called SSRP.

DFID support to the Palestinian Authority is provided through the Stability, Services and Reform Programme (SSRP). The overall aim of the SSRP is to support the Palestinian Authority to deliver basic services, build stability and promote reform in the OPTs.
- 2018 - Present** **Strengthening Citizen's Resistance against Prevalence of Corruption (SCRAP-C)**
Role: MEL Specialist | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria
As MEL Specialist, Ekaterina is responsible for providing technical advice to the programme on monitoring, evaluation and learning. She has supported an outcome harvesting and report writing workshop in Enugu and facilitated discussions on challenges and lessons learnt in Lagos.

SCRAP-C is a 5-year, £4.5m project funded by DFID and implemented by Action Aid Nigeria. It aims to contribute to changes in expectations and attitudes towards corruption in Nigeria.
- 2018 - Present** **Evaluation of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) Gender Policy**
Role: Research Analyst | Client: Gavi | Location: UK
As Research Analyst, Ekaterina has conducted an evaluability assessment, led data mapping and supported country case study research for the evaluation of GAVI Gender Policy.
GAVI is a public-private health partnership committed to increasing access to immunisation in poor countries. The evaluation aims to assess the design, implementation and results of the application of the 2013 Gender Policy to inform the Alliance's forthcoming gender policy and wider strategic agenda.
- 2018** **Provision of Monitoring & Evaluation Services for the Conflict, Stability & Security Fund East Africa**
Role: Research Analyst | Client: FCO | Location: UK
As Research Analyst, Ekaterina supported a joint analysis of conflict and stability (JACS) in Somalia for the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund programme in East Africa.

The CSSF is a government fund which provides development and security support to countries at risk of conflict or instability. It has a budget of £1.28 billion and covers over 70 countries
- 2018** **Evaluation of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Security System Asset Recovery Unit**
Role: Research Analyst | Client: DFID | Location: UK
As Research Analyst, Ekaterina conducted political economy analysis of St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and supported financial benchmarking analysis for the evaluation.
DFID's support to the Regional Security System Asset Recovery Unit is provided under component five of the Caribbean Anti-Corruption Programme which aims to build asset recovery capacity in the Eastern Caribbean to improve accountability and transparency over a five-year period (2015-2020).
- 2018** **Supporting Partnerships for Accountability and Civic Engagement (SPACE) in Burma; Evidence and Learning**
Role: Research Analyst | Client: DFID | Location: UK
As Research Analyst, Ekaterina led data mapping to construct evaluation baseline (with qualitative and quantitative data) for the DFID-funded local governance programme in Myanmar/Burma called SPACE. SPACE is a DFID-funded programme that aims to foster effective partnerships between civil society and local government, to help public institutions become more responsive to people's service delivery and economic needs.
- 2018** **Field Evaluation Programme**
Role: Project Evaluator | Client: GlobalGiving UK | Location: Bulgaria
As Project Evaluator, Ekaterina conducted 3 organisational assessment visits and supported a fundraising and communications workshop for partner organisations in Sofia. She drafted 3 evaluation reports, working collaboratively with peer evaluator.

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2016 - 2017

Freedom from Violence Programme

Role: Research Consultant/Grants Advisor | Client: Global Fund for Women | Location: USA

As Research Consultant, Ekaterina conducted research on gender-based violence in Europe and Central Asia for thematic strategy development and analysed internal and external data to help develop grantmaking portfolio. She interviewed 2 gender experts to provide specialist counsel on women's movements in South Asia.

As Grants Advisor, Ekaterina supported 9 grantees in pre-contracting stage for AmplifyChange, a fund advancing sexual and reproductive health rights in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. She worked with grassroots organisations to finalise workplan, budget, indicators, and milestones for grant agreements and communicated with women's groups to resolve technical and financial issues.

2016

Europe and Central Asia Programme

Role: Intern | Client: Global Fund for Women | Location: USA

As Intern, Ekaterina assisted the drafting of regional documents and briefs to inform fundraising and grantmaking strategy and analysed survey grantee data on 45 partners for impact assessment. She identified and communicated with 3 grassroots organisations for total funding of \$44,000.

2014

Civil Society Monitoring of EU-Tunisia Privileged Partnership

Role: Trainee | Client: Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network | Location: Tunisia

As Trainee, Ekaterina advanced research on mobilising civil society monitoring of relations between Tunisia and EU and examined impacts of partnership with EU on country's economic and social rights. She supported workshops and conferences on women's rights, prison and justice reform.

Additional Experience

- Oversaw operations of semi-annual professional print publication at Brown Journal of World Affairs.