

Evaluation Analyst

Professional profile

Marco Maragno is a Consultant at Itad. He has worked on humanitarian and development projects in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Drawing on his background in anthropology and his fluency in multiple languages, he has been involved in extensive fieldwork in challenging settings, including working with refugees, internally displaced people, indigenous minorities and children.

Marco now specialises in humanitarian and development health programmes. In particular, he has experience in health programmes targeted at vulnerable groups and researching cross-sectoral causes for marginalisation such as gender, displacement and ethnicity.

Prior to joining Itad, Marco was leading the design of M&E projects at JaRco Consulting in Ethiopia. In this position, he carried out complex field research in projects such as the 2019 UNICEF Ethiopia Country Program Evaluation and Gender Programmatic Review. He has previously managed the implementation of a sustainable livelihoods projects in Colombia, coordinating field teams and working together with indigenous communities on agroforestry, nutrition and water management. He also has field experience with displaced communities, having volunteered full-time in Greek refugee camps with Habibi Works and The Flying Seagull Project, in particular working closely with child refugees.

Marco holds a MSc in Anthropology and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science and has been trained on protection frameworks for child refugees, as well as for children with additional needs or disabilities.

Nationality British, Italian

Languages English (Native), Italian (Native), Spanish (Fluent), Greek (Fluent), Arabic (Elementary), French (Elementary)

Country experience International, with long-term field experience in Colombia, Ethiopia, Greece

Education

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| 2016 - 2018 | MSc Anthropology & Development, Distinction
London School of Economics and Political Science, UK |
| 2008 - 2011 | BA International Business & Economics, First Class
University of Greenwich, UK |

Employment

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| 2019 - Present | Consultant
Itad |
| 2018 - 2019 | Program Development Officer
Jarco Consulting, Ethiopia |
| 2017 | Humanitarian Volunteer
Habibi Works, Greece |
| 2017 | Volunteer Clown Doctor for child refugees
The Flying Seagull Project, Greece |
| 2015 - 2016 | Program Implementation Officer
Mundo Nuevo, Colombia |
| 2014 - 2015 | Assistant Guide & Interpreter
ExpoTours, Colombia |

Project experience

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| 2020 - Present | Accelerate Trachoma Initiative
Role: NTD Integration Expert and Zimbabwe Lead Client: Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) Location: Multi-country |
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The Accelerate Trachoma Initiative is a five-year programme (mid-2018 to mid-2023) tackling primarily trachoma in 12 African countries, but also encouraging integration with other preventive chemotherapy (PC) NTDs. The programme is funded by CIFF and its partners Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), ELMA Philanthropies (ELMA) and Virgin Unite. Itad is leading an evaluation of the Accelerate programme, utilising impact and process evaluation (quantitative and qualitative) methodology including modelling of secondary data to assess impact and cost effectiveness/cost benefit. This evaluation will generate evidence

and learning that will be key to informing programmatic course correction and contribute to the wider evidence base and dialogue on the elimination of trachoma and other NTDs.

Marco is one of Itad's main evaluators, providing expertise on NTD integration, and leading the Zimbabwe country case study.

2020 - Present

Global Burden of Disease Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM)

Role: Evaluator | Client: UK Department of Health and Social Care | Location: Indonesia, Mexico

The goal of this project is to create globally-comparable estimates of the burden of AMR/DRI for bacteria-antibacterial drug combinations that currently pose the greatest threat to public health, and to provide estimates in an interactive visualization platform to track changes over time. To meet this goal, the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) and Oxford University will gather and assemble global data on the 17 bacteria-antibacterial drug combinations, develop methods to generate AMR/DRI burden estimates for the selected pathogen-drug combinations of international concern and provide results through a compelling interface for data visualisation.

Itad has been asked to conduct an evaluation of GRAM focussing on: efficiency and effectiveness of the data gathering approach; alignment and coherence with the UK Government's other support in the area of Global Health Security, support for this agenda by other partners and data use for policy making purposes.

Marco is one of the team's main evaluators, conducting two of the six country case study field visits and related analysis, investigating causality for uptake of GBD data by the governments of Indonesia and Mexico.

2019 - Present

Accelerating the Sustainable Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ASCEND)

Role: Evaluator, Project Manager, Learning Champion | Client: DFID | Location: Multi-country

ASCEND is a £200+ million UK government programme, working towards the sustainable control and eliminations of NTDs in 25 high burden countries in Africa and Asia. It focuses on six NTDs: Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis, Visceral Leishmaniasis, Soil Transmitted Helminths, and Trachoma. Itad, as part of a consortium with Ecorys, Tropical Health and BDO, is conducting the Third-Party Monitoring of the ASCEND programme.

As Itad Project Manager and Core Team Member, Marco is working on multiple aspects of the evaluation, including the development of an overall Theory of Change for ASCEND that can be used to evaluate the programme across the various countries of intervention. He is conducting two out of the six country case study field visits and related analysis. Marco is also the project's Learning Champion, being responsible for identifying opportunities for sharing insights from the evaluation to encourage learning and uptake by varied stakeholders of ASCEND.

2019

Ethiopia Country Program Evaluation and Gender Programmatic Review

Role: Research design and evaluation | Client: UNICEF | Location: Ethiopia

This multi-sector evaluation involved studying programmes on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights, public health systems strengthening, nutrition, and food security.

Marco was involved in all stages of the programme, from research design to quantitative and qualitative tool development. He carried out the evaluation in the Somali Region of Ethiopia, conducting research with multiple stakeholders. This included interviewing staff at UNICEF, implementing partners and government departments, and conducting FGDs with adolescent boys and girls in remote pastoralist communities.

2019

Assessment of the effect of PICS bags on household (HH) income

Role: Research design and project management | Client: USAID | Location: Ethiopia

This study explores the effects of using Purdue Improved Crops Storage Bags (PICS) on household income in rural areas of Ethiopia, part of the Feed The Future Ethiopia programme.

Marco designed the research methodology, which included a mapping exercise to develop a sampling frame and two rounds of quantitative data collection. Marco was also responsible for project management, including assembling field teams and acting as the main client contact.

2019

Cost benefit analysis of hydroponic fodder production

Role: Research design and project management | Client: USAID | Location: Ethiopia

As part of the Feed The Future Ethiopia programme, this study aims to gather information on the economic viability of hydroponic fodder production, and collect data that can be compared to other types of fodder, including field green forage production, and using concentrates.

Marco designed the research methodology, which involved conducting KIIs and FGDs, as well as an analysis of primary and secondary data on the nutritional characteristics of hydroponic fodder. Marco was also responsible for project management, including assembling field teams and acting as the main client contact.

2019

Assessment of the effect of FTFE VCA support on coffee nursery seedling

Role: Research design and project management | Client: USAID | Location: Ethiopia

This study aims to measure the effect of the Feed The Future Ethiopia programme on coffee nursery seedling sales.

Marco designed the research methodology, which included a nursery level quantitative survey as well as FGDs and KIIs to assess whether improvements were made in nurseries regarding nursery operations and management, record keeping, quantity and quality of seedlings produced. Marco was also responsible for project management, including assembling field teams and acting as the main client contact.

2019

Baseline, Midline and Endline Evaluations for Improving Access to Education in Ethiopia for Most Marginalised Girls Project

Role: Research design and project management | Client: People in Need | Location: Ethiopia

This multi-year assignment for People In Need (PIN) involves carrying out all evaluation stages for the DFID-sponsored Improving Access to Education in Ethiopia for Most Marginalised Girls project.

For this project Marco designed a research methodology that included extensive qualitative and quantitative data collection in Afar, Oromia, Amhara and SNNP regions.