

Evaluator

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 the evaluation of health programmes. In particular, he has experience in programmes targeted at vulnerable groups and researching cross-sectoral causes for marginalisation such as gender, displacement and ethnicity. 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 and disabilities. He is also Gender Technical Lead in the Itad Human Development Practice, promoting and overseeing the application of gender mainstreaming approaches in our MEL work.

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 across Ethiopia. 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.

Nationality British, Italian

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

Country experience Colombia, Ethiopia, Greece, Zimbabwe, Timor Leste, Mexico

Education

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

Employment

2019 - Present	Consultant Itad Ltd Responsibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Designing and implementing evaluations of health programmes, with thematic focus on infectious diseases, equity, health systems strengthening, and global health security.-Generating robust evidence and using this to support clients and shape global debates-Supporting clients in reflecting, learning and managing change-Evaluation project management-Gender Technical Lead in the Itad Human Development Practice
2018 - 2019	Program Development Officer Jarco Consulting, Ethiopia Research organisation that specialises in the m&e of humanitarian programs across Africa. Achievements/Tasks: Wrote technical proposals for development and humanitarian programs, in response to requests for proposals from NGOs and UN agencies. Developed qualitative and quantitative research tools. Collaborated with researchers and partners in project design and proposal-writing. Designed sampling strategies for data collection. Led communication and meetings with partners and clients. Conducted negotiations with partners and clients. Recruited consultants and assembled research teams. Conducted field visits and data collection to identify adjustments as needed, and assess project implementation. Designed research tools for the UNICEF Ethiopia Country Program Evaluation and Gender Programmatic Review, and conducted field research in Somali Region.
2017	Humanitarian Volunteer Habibi Works, Greece NGO set up to provide vocational training and education to refugees from the various camps around Ioannina

Evaluator

Achievements/Tasks: Ran workshops and events for child and adolescent refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, including carpentry, cooking, arts and crafts, and sports. Provided orientation and support to refugees, particularly those newly arrived.

2017

Volunteer Clown Doctor for child refugees

The Flying Seagull Project, Greece

NGO dedicated to providing smiles and laughter to child refugees around the world through play therapy
Achievements/Tasks: Underwent training to identify vulnerabilities and develop support plans for individual children whilst protecting confidentiality and privacy, according to child protection frameworks. Chaperoned groups of Afghani, Iraqi and Syrian children in different refugee camps on a daily basis, leading games and performing comic shows. Provided play therapy to alleviate children's traumas, build self-confidence and group cohesion. Raised over £2000 for the charity by cycling from Italy to Greece in a bowler hat, and documenting the journey through my own social media campaign.

2015 - 2016

Program Implementation Officer

Mundo Nuevo, Colombia

International sustainable livelihoods project implemented with the indigenous Wiwa of the Sierra Nevada
Achievements/Tasks: Assembled and coordinated field teams for program implementation. Managed the daily running of the project, including rotas, procurement, and recruitment. Worked first-hand on agricultural crops and reforestation projects, in close consultation with indigenous leaders. Implemented sustainable livelihood and water management projects. Wrote website content, reports, blog and magazine articles in English and Spanish. Contributed to the design of the website through Weebly, and promoting Mundo Nuevo through social media.

2014 - 2015

Assistant Guide & Interpreter

ExpoTours, Colombia

Sustainable tourism company specialised in the indigenous reserve territories of the Sierra Nevada

Achievements/Tasks: Assisted the main guide on four-day trekking expeditions through the Sierra Nevada jungle to learn about indigenous Kogi culture and visit the ancient city of Teyuna. Helped trekkers in times of extreme weather conditions and physical difficulty and interpreted between the guide, indigenous leaders and tourists.

Project experience

2020 - Present

Fleming Fund One Health Programme Evaluation

Role: Evaluator & Case Study Lead | **Client:** UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) | **Location:** East Timor, Uganda

The Fleming Fund is a £265 million One Health programme, designed to support low and middle-income countries (LMICs) in tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The aim of the Fleming Fund is to improve laboratory capacity and diagnosis as well as data and surveillance of AMR in LMICs through a one health approach: building capacity to collect drug resistance data; enabling the sharing of drug resistance data nationally, regionally and internationally; collating data on AMR; and encouraging the application of these data to promote the rational use of antimicrobials.

Marco is part of the core evaluation team working on Contribution Analysis to assess how far the outputs of the portfolio of country and regional grants have contributed, or will contribute, to the outcomes and impact of the overarching Fleming Fund. He is also leading data collection on a number of country case studies.

2020 - Present

COVID-19 Vaccines Equity

Role: Lead Researcher | **Client:** Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) | **Location:** Remote data collection

The aim of this formative study is to support the Norad Evaluation Department's exploration of the effectiveness of official development assistance and global initiatives to provide equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. By analysing emerging evidence and insights we aim to capture some of the dimensions, gaps and unresolved issues around equity, with a particular focus on COVAX.

Marco is leading research on equity-related issues that will impact the provision and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, and developing a mapping of the multiple dimensions of equity by drawing on interviews with a

Evaluator

wide range of informants, from civil society groups to stakeholders leading the design and development of current global initiatives.

2020 - Present **Gender, Social Inclusion and Poverty Audit of Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)**

Role: Evaluator | Client: UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) | Location: Multi-country

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. The GCRF promotes challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, including the participation of researchers who may not previously have considered the applicability of their work to development issues. It aims to strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries through partnership with UK research and researchers, and provide agile responses to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

Marco is part of the core team leading the Gender, Social Inclusion and Poverty Audit of the GCRF. This 'social audit' assesses the extent to which poverty, inequality and other forms of social exclusion, particularly disability, are addressed in the planned outcomes and pathways to impact of GCRF programmes and other investments.

2020 - Present **Evaluation of Accelerate Trachoma Initiative**

Role: Ethiopia Lead, Zimbabwe Lead, Project Manager | Client: Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) | Location: Multi-country

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.

Marco project manages the evaluation of the Accelerate programme. This utilises impact and process evaluation methodology including modelling of secondary data to assess impact and cost effectiveness/cost benefit. The 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 also one of the core team's evaluators, providing expertise on NTD integration, and leading the Ethiopia and Zimbabwe country case studies.

2020 - Present **Evaluation of the Global Burden of Disease Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) Programme**

Role: Mexico Case Study Lead | Client: UK Department of Health and Social Care | Location: 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.

The evaluation of GRAM focuses on: efficiency and effectiveness of the data gathering approach; alignment and coherence with: (a) the UK Government's other support in the area of Global Health Security, and (b) support for this agenda by other partners; data use for policy making purposes.

Marco is one of the team's main evaluators, leading one of the six country case studies and related analysis, investigating causality for policy change by the government of Mexico.

2019 - Present **Evaluation of 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.

Evaluator

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 **2015-2019 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 seeding 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.