

## Senior Consultant, FCAS

### Professional profile

Jo is a Senior Consultant in Itad's FCAS Practice, with over nine years professional experience working on and in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Her expertise lies in designing and leading evaluations of peacebuilding and conflict prevention programmes, and researching and piloting innovative participatory M&E approaches focused on conflict and peacebuilding. She brings an excellent understanding of best practice, policy, programming, and evaluation approaches in FCAS and to conflict-sensitive development. She is also experienced in designing and leading field and desk-based research in complex FCAS environments, including strong qualitative research, analysis, writing and editing skills. She has advised on conflict sensitivity, inclusion and accountability in large scale infrastructure and extractives programmes.

Recently, Jo was the M&E Lead for an independent strategic review of DFAT's Bougainville Partnership; a multi-sector peace and security programme operating across the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, leading the design of the review and conducting two weeks of fieldwork across Bougainville and in Port Moresby. She was a core team member and Conflict Specialist for a CSSF scoping study to support the FCO in designing a new programme of work addressing security and stability across Commonwealth Pacific Island countries. She was also a Conflict Sensitivity Adviser across three of DFID's large-scale extractives governance programmes in Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana, facilitating workshops and training on conflict sensitivity with programme teams and implementing partners, developing a programme level conflict, gender and social inclusion issues framework, conflict mitigation strategies and providing ongoing monitoring and evaluation support to the programme teams.

Jo has professional training in impact evaluation, process tracing and contribution analysis, development project management and working in hostile environments.

**Nationality** British

**Languages** English (native), French (working proficiency)

**Country experience** Central African Republic (remote), Côte d'Ivoire, DRC (remote) Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sierra Leone (remote) South Sudan (remote), Sudan, Uganda, Zambia

### Education

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| 2012 - 2013 | <b>MA African Studies, Politics Major (Distinction)</b><br>School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK |
| 2008 - 2010 | <b>PGDip Freelance and Feature Writing (Distinction)</b><br>London School of Journalism, UK  |
| 2004 - 2007 | <b>BA Human Geography (2:1)</b><br>University of Durham, UK  |

### Employment

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| 2020 - Present | <b>Senior Consultant – FCAS Practice</b><br>Itad, UK  |
| 2016 - 2019    | <b>Consultant – Conflict, Security and Violence Portfolio</b><br>Oxford Policy Management, UK |
| 2014 - 2016    | <b>Programme Officer – Peacebuilding Issues Programme</b><br>International Alert, UK          |
| 2014           | <b>Research Associate – Humanitarian Policy Group</b><br>Overseas Development Institute, UK   |
| 2014           | <b>Research and Programmes Assistant</b><br>Centre for Armed Violence Reduction, UK           |
| 2011 – 2012    | <b>Digital Communications and Projects Assistant</b><br>United Nations Association, UK        |
| 2008 – 2012    | <b>Freelance Journalist</b><br>DMG Media, The Times and The Sunday Times, UK                  |

### Project experience

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| 2019 | <b>CSSF Pacific Scoping Study</b><br>Role: Conflict Specialist   Client: FCO   Location: UK, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tuvalu |
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Providing specialist conflict inputs and leading two field visits to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands as part of a scoping study for the FCO Pacific Network to design of a new programme of work for Commonwealth Pacific Island countries focused on stability and security.

2019

### **Independent Strategic Review of Bougainville Partnership**

Role: M&E Lead | Client: DFAT | Location: Papua New Guinea, Autonomous Region of Bougainville

Review of Australian government support to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville through the Bougainville Partnership and sector programmes. Managing the project including client liaison and managing the evaluation team. Led the review design, conducted two week field mission including KIIs and FGDs in Bougainville and Port Moresby. Led qualitative data analysis for and co-authored the final report. Co-led presentation of the findings to senior representatives of the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby.

2018 - 2019

### **Do fragile and conflict-affected countries prioritize core government functions? Stocktaking public expenditures on public sector institutions to deliver on 2030 Agenda**

Role: Project Manager and Research Analyst | Client: UNDP | Location: USA, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Colombia.

Managing this mixed-methods multi-country research study assessing the extent to which countries that prioritise core government functions - executive coordination, security sector, public financial management, public administration, local governance and aid management – experience more stable transitions away from conflict. Managed the team, supported research design, led qualitative data analysis for Sierra Leone case study, and led and co-authored the synthesis report. Co-led presentation of the research to academic and practitioner stakeholders in London and Oxford.

2017 - 2019

### **Facility for Oil Sector Transparency and Reform II (FOSTER II)**

Role: Conflict Sensitivity Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: Nigeria

Delivering training and facilitation sessions on conflict sensitivity with programme team on this large scale adaptive programme supporting institutional reform across the oil and gas sector to contribute to improved management of the sector and sustainable economic development. Developing a programme level conflict, gender and social inclusion issues framework. Supporting the integration of conflict analysis into programme political economy analysis and developing and piloting conflict mitigation strategies across two programme intervention areas.

2017- 2019

### **Ghana Oil and Gas for Inclusive Growth (GOGIG)**

Role: Conflict Sensitivity Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: Ghana

Integrating conflict sensitivity throughout the programme cycle of this innovative 5 year governance programme promoting inclusive economic growth in Ghana by improving the management of the country's oil and gas resources, through team training and facilitation sessions, integrating conflict considerations into programme's Inclusive Growth framework, partner proposal review guidance, project monitoring and developing impact stories. Supporting the development of stakeholder engagement framework and including accountability mechanisms and local content policy.

2017 - 2018

### **Kenya Extractives Programme (K-EXPRO)**

Role: Conflict Sensitivity Adviser | Client: DFID | Location: Kenya

Supporting training and facilitation sessions on conflict sensitivity with programme team on this large scale implementation programme contributing to poverty reduction in Kenya through inclusive and sustainable economic development within the extractive industries. Developed a programme level conflict, gender and social inclusion issues framework, conflict mitigation strategies and providing ongoing support to the programme team on proposal review.

2017

### **Evaluability Assessment of four year cross-border project focusing on conflict prevention and preventing radicalisation in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**

Role: Project Manager and Conflict Adviser | Client: UNICEF | Location: UK

Managing this project which assessed the extent to which the design of the CSSF-funded project was evaluable, and providing recommendations for changes to the design and on how to measure progress throughout the life of the project. Managing the evaluation team, supporting desk review and analysis, coordinating stakeholder interviews, providing conflict-focused inputs to the final evaluability assessment report and the M&E Framework and supporting the design of a programme baseline tool.

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- 2017**                    **Effective entry points and sequencing of Private Sector interventions in African Fragile situations**  
Role: Project Manager and Co-lead Researcher | Client: IFC | Location: US, Liberia, Côte D'Ivoire, DRC, Sudan  
Managing this research study into the effectiveness of private sector interventions in differing situations of fragility and conflict, including client liaison and managing the research team. Supporting desk review and analysis, leading qualitative data collection tool design, undertaking two field visits, multiple stakeholder interviews, leading qualitative data coding and supporting analysis of findings and leading writing final report.
- 2016**                    **Evaluation of International Alert Conflict Sensitivity Consultancy**  
Role: Project Manager/Evaluator | Client: Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy South Sudan | Location: UK, South Sudan  
Managing the final evaluation of International Alert's Conflict Sensitivity Consultancy with the Dutch Embassy, including leading the desk review, multiple stakeholder interviews, analysis of findings, writing final report, and conducting an internal learning presentation.
- 2015**                    **Evaluation of Partnership for Effective and Sustainable African Union Liaison Offices**  
Role: Co-Lead Evaluator | Client: AU | Location: UK  
Brief description of the project, the role, and activities carried out Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote D'Ivoire and Sudan  
International Alert – Africa Programme  
Co-led this mid-term evaluation of a SIDA-funded programme supporting capacity building of African Union Liaison Offices; specifically their role in promoting the ratification and domestication of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). Co-led desk review, multiple stakeholder interviews (in English and French), co-leading restitution workshop and co-writing the final report.

## Selected publications

- Orsini, Y. & Robinson, J. (2019) *Do fragile and conflict-affected countries prioritise core government functions?*, UNDP: New York
- Robinson, J (2018) *Conflict Sensitivity: understanding and applying best practice in the energy sector*, EEG Energy Insight Series.
- Attah, R. et al. (2017) *Evaluation of the Kenya Hunger Safety Net Programme Phase 2: Qualitative Impact Evaluation Round 2 – Exploratory study on youth opportunities and exclusion*, Oxford Policy Management.
- Robinson, J (2016) *Making Social Accountability Work: Promoting Peaceful Development in Uganda*, International Alert: London
- Robinson, J & Stephen, M (2015) *A disconnected system in an interconnected world: Multilateral responses to emerging conflict challenges*, International Alert: London (prepared for DFID)