Pierre Townsend



Principal Consultant

Pierre is a Principle Consultant in Itad's FCAS Practice and has over 30 years of experience in the humanitarian sector. He has specific experience in policy and programme design covering the span of conflict-related humanitarian aid with a strong background in complex emergencies and non-permissive environments. He is very familiar with inter-agency and civil-military coordination processes and has a good knowledge of OECD-DAC evaluation criteria. Pierre has long-term experience working with the ICRC, and therefore has a strong and in-depth understanding of the ICRC's principles and processes; he worked over a decade with the ICRC as Delegate, Deputy Head of Delegation, Head of Sub-delegation, and Head of Mission. As a member of the ICRC's Institutional Performance Management Unit (2008-2010), Pierre conducted an in-depth review of the ICRC's results-management system ("Planning for Results"), with findings and recommendations presented to the Directorate in January 2010.

Pierre's specialties include integrated programme design in Protection, Emergency Relief, Operational Communication and Advocacy sectors. He has a formidable background in humanitarian policy covering security, access, performance and accountability: As DFID Senior Humanitarian Adviser, he ensured conformity of DFID programmes to the Department's guidelines on AAP in Iraq (2015-2017) as well as Ethiopia (2017-2019) and facilitated the introduction of new humanitarian policy across the UK government. Pierre, moreover, has worked on gender-focused projects; from 2011 to 2109, Pierre advised on gender mainstreaming across DFID-funded humanitarian programmes providing advisory input into the design of DFID-funded protection interventions with an SGBV prevention component. Pierre is also experienced in supporting organisational change and participatory facilitation: As DFID Representative to the Refugee Donor Group in Ethiopia (2017-2019), he led on the design of a donor engagement strategy in support of government reform, aimed at enabling Ethiopian line ministries to implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. From 2011 to 2019, he conducted workshops and led on stakeholder consultation drives in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as at DFID Headquarters, to inform the design or review of DFID-funded interventions.

A global spread with past assignments includes Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Latin America. Pierre has conducted reviews of operational planning processes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Israel/West Bank, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan, Uzbekistan, India, Kenya, Senegal, Thailand, and the United States. Pierre is fluent in French and English.

Nationality

British

Languages

English (native), French (fluent), Spanish (working knowledge)

Country experience

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, India, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United States,

Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe

Education

2003 - 2006 MSc in Public Policy and Management

School Of Oriental And African Studies, Centre for Financial and Management Studies (CeFiMS), London

1983 - 1987 BA in

BA in International Affairs American University Of Paris

Employment

2019 - Present

Principle Consultant, Humanitarian Lead

Itad Ltd, UK

2017 - 2019

Senior Humanitarian Adviser for Southern & Eastern Africa

UK Department For International Development, Ethiopia

- Regular duties included leading on consultations across four DFID Country Offices in East Africa, aimed at formulating a regional approach to the roll-out of the Refugee Compact/CRRF Supported Country Office engagement with the UN, the World Bank and host governments. Assignments covered Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Uganda.
- Pierre was on surge deployment to support senior management in DFID Offices in countries impacted by cyclone Idai (Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe).
- Pierre advised on policy aspects of DFID's humanitarian and resilience programming in South Sudan.
- For Ethiopia, he was in charge of a five-year £170m refugee programme geared to supporting the Ethiopian government's implementation of the Refugee Compact. He advised on governance aspects of the humanitarian response and its interface with the Government-run Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), which aims to mitigate climate-induced vulnerabilities among Ethiopia's rural population.

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UK Department For International Development, UK and Iraq

- Pierre headed a six-person advisory team in DFID's humanitarian response to the Mosul emergency (£90m DFID spend in 2016). This included forward planning of early recovery, transition to stabilisation, and close co-ordination across HMG and with the Government of Iraq.
- Pierre spearheaded the establishment of the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF), which became the
 world's second largest Country-based Pooled Fund in 2016. He, additionally, secured UK catalytic
 funding for the IHF, amounting to over half of its first allocation, and mobilised other donors. Pierre
 led on consultations with the UN on fund operations, including on choice of management agent
 and on aspects relating to partner capacity assessments, risk management, assurance and
 accountability.
- He developed a multi-year humanitarian strategy for Iraq, aimed at transitioning DFID support from UN emergency cash programming to government-owned social safety nets. Pierre led on the design of a £120m humanitarian and resilience programme described as "potentially ground-breaking" by DFID's Quality Assurance Unit.

2012 - 2014 Senior Humanitarian Adviser for Afghanistan & Pakistan

UK Department For International Development, UK and Afghanistan

- For Afghanistan, Pierre made a successful case for a doubling of DFID's humanitarian spend in 2013 and 2014. He led on the design of DFID's humanitarian funding programme, and managed engagement with the relevant UN partners.
- Pierre championed the establishment of the Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund, and secured UK catalytic funding at its inception. He represented donors on the fund's Advisory Board, and introduced innovative measures designed to build the capacity of local grant-holders.
- For Pakistan, Pierre provided lead advisory input into the design of £180m worth of emergency and resilience programmes, with heavy focus on building local risk reduction and risk management capacities, in the context of both climate-induced disasters and large-scale population displacements along the border with Afghanistan.

2010 - 2011 Independent Consultant

UK Government, Multiple Locations

2008 - 2010 Management Adviser, Institutional Performance Management Unit

International Committee Of The Red Cross (ICRC), Switzerland

- Pierre was a member of a four-person advisory team reporting to the Director General, and responsible for introducing performance management processes at the ICRC.
- He designed and conducted a comprehensive review of the ICRC's Results-Based Management (RBM) system, and related practices in monitoring and evaluation.
- Pierre reviewed operations-level management processes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uzbekistan, India, Kenya, Thailand, and the United States.

2006 - 2008 Head of Sector, Field Communication

International Committee Of The Red Cross (ICRC), Switzerland

- Pierre was responsible for driving policy and best practice in strategic communication, aimed specifically at enabling humanitarian access and IHL compliance by participants in armed conflict.
- He conducted programme reviews in South Caucasus (Georgia, Azerbaijan) and South America (Columbia, Peru).
- He took part in multi-sectoral work to assess the feasibility of promoting IHL-based humanitarian norms in contexts of urban violence (Brazil, Mexico).
- Provided advisory support to the ICRC's Washington Delegation, in the design of a communication strategy aimed at getting US Government backing for ICRC protection activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

1995 - 2006 Delegate, Head of Sub-delegation, Deputy Head of Regional Delegation, Head of Mission

International Committee Of The Red Cross (ICRC), Multiple Locations

- Pierre headed ICRC programmes and operations in the Balkans (Bosnia, Serbia), Latin America (Mexico), Western Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Togo) and Melanesia (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands).
- As Head of Mission for Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands (2005), Pierre led on a humanitarian audit of places of detention run by the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). He engaged with tribal leaders in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea,

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and helped secure their participation in the design of an ICRC programme to mitigate the impact of endemic conflict in the region.

- As Deputy Head of Regional Delegation for West Africa (2001-2002), he represented ICRC in initial contacts with insurgent leadership in Ivory Coast. Pierre ecured ICRC access to places of detention and security guarantees for ICRC staff in insurgent-held areas. As head of Sub-delegation in Southern Mexico (1988), Pierre engaged with the Zapatista insurgency; he led locally on mediation efforts aimed at allowing MoH staff into Zapatista-held territory, for public health programmes.
- Pierre was a member of ICRC Delegation to the Sudan, headed by President Jakob Kellenberger, in April 2004. He reported internally on meetings held with Sudanese Head of State, and drafted the ICRC's first emergency appeal for Darfur.

1993 - 1995 Desk Officer for Eastern Europe

The British Red Cross Society (BRCS), UK

- Pierre was in charge of co-ordinating BRCS relief and development programmes with those of other Red Cross organisations (ICRC, IFRC, and other RC Societies).
- He was also in charge of application processes for institutional funding of BRCS programmes in the
 region as well as of reporting in compliance with donor requirements (ECHO, ODA) BRCS
 participation in Red Cross Movement programmes in Eastern Europe totalled £7 million in 1994.

1989 - 1992 Editor

Continental Information - Private Consultancy Firm, Denmark

Pierre edited a fortnightly newsletter on reforming countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Subscribers mostly consisted of private sector investors and international organisations.

1989 - 1990 Staff Reporter, Free-lance Writer, Stringer

International Media Partners, The New York Times, et al., Multiple Locations

Pierre's work focused on development issues, as well as programmes and policies of Bretton Woods and other multilateral lenders. Main regions covered were Central America and Eastern Europe.

1988 - 1989 Programme Coordinator

Médecins du Monde, France

- Pierre sconded to French State Secretariat for Humanitarian Affairs to lead NGO consortium in Bangladesh, in response to flood crisis in 1988.
- He secured European Commission funding for several programmes, including rehabilitation of public health structures in Armenia, following earthquake of 1988.

Project experience

2010 - 2011 Support to political transition in Tunisia

Role: Consultant | Client: British Embassy/DFID | Location: Tunisia

On a secondment to the British Embassy in Tunisia, Pierre scoped opportunities for the UK government support to political transition in the country. He researched and reported on refugee influxes and migratory flows stemming from Libya, and advised on UK response.

2010 - 2011 Support to political transition in Tunisia

Role: Consultant | Client: DFID | Location: Tunisia, Libya

For DFID, Pierre monitored and advised on the refugee crisis in Tunisia, June-July 2011. From Tripoli, Libya, he reported on humanitarian developments in the Libyan civil war. He, thereby, liaised with the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence counterparts to ensure a co-ordinated response.