

Amy Catherine Jersild

Current address: 5229 King Charles Way, Bethesda, MD 20814 USA
Telephone: 301-640-1533; Email: amyjersild@yahoo.com; Skype: Amy.Jersild

SUMMARY OF KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Over twenty years experience in the international development sector as an evaluator, project manager and technical adviser working in partnership with both civil society organizations and governments, in the following functional areas: policy development and advocacy on social development issues, capacity development, and institutional strengthening; and in the following thematic areas: civil society development, human trafficking and promotion of safe migration, labour migration, child protection, education, HIV/AIDS, gender mainstreaming, and human rights. Experience in both post-conflict and development setting.
- Twelve years senior evaluation experience serving in the following roles:
 - Faculty at School for International Training (SIT) Graduate Institute in Washington DC, teaching courses on evaluation (both in India and Washington) and theory and practice of sustainable development from 2014 to the present.
 - Independent evaluator since 1997 advising clients on social development issues (clients include The Rockefeller Foundation, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, Plan International, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and Grameen Trust).
 - Internal evaluator as Deputy Director of Quality Programming at Education Development Center from 2008-2012 in Bangkok where I led a team effort to develop M&E frameworks for Hewlett Packard's flagship global entrepreneurship education program.
- Experience in directly negotiating with and reporting to bilateral donors as a manager (USPRM, CIDA, SDC, GIZ, AusAID), multilateral (UNICEF, World Bank), and corporate (HP, Adidas, Deutsche Bank); in coordinating with military bodies (KFOR, Kosovo); and in partnering with civil society organizations (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, China, and India).
- Extensive in-country work and living experience in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Japan, Kosovo, Lao PDR, Thailand, and USA; additional work experience in Ethiopia, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Uganda, and Vietnam.
- Mandarin Chinese language proficiency (at highest level in 1997), and basic to intermediate skills in Spanish, French, Lao, Thai and Khmer.

EDUCATION

MA, Sustainable Development, 1998, School for International Training, Brattleboro, Vermont, USA

Focus: project management, research and evaluation, and policy advocacy

Thesis: "The Problem of Multilateral Debt: Politics and Implications for Advocacy"

BA, Music with minor in Asian Studies, 1988, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, USA; graduated with honors

Professional development workshops on evaluation theory and practice with Michael Scriven, Jane Davidson, Michael Quinn Patton, and Donna Mertens, American Evaluation Association annual conferences, 2013-2015

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

Faculty, School for International Training Graduate Institute, World Learning, August 2014 - present

I teach Monitoring and Evaluation courses as part of a master's degree program in sustainable development. Lead role in developing an M&E professional development certificate.

Independent Evaluation Consultant, August 1997 – present

I have served in a number of roles as an independent evaluator, including Team Leader on complex multi-country evaluations; developing tools and guidelines for capacity building on M&E; and conducting synthesis reviews on multiple evaluations within the Asia Pacific. My recent and significant consultancy assignments are highlighted below:

Evaluator, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and ILO Headquarters in Geneva, October 2012 – present

- Served as Team Leader on a multi-country program evaluation on greening of businesses, ILO ROAP, October 2012 - January 2013
- Served as Team Leader of a 4-person team to evaluate the USDOL-funded program to combat child labour in the Philippines, ILO Geneva, September 2013 – February 2014
- Conducted an evaluation of a Norwegian-funded multi-country initiative contributing toward the realization of an organizational outcome on labour administration and labour inspection, ILO Geneva, January – May 2014.
- Led a 3-person team to evaluate a USDOL-funded program to eliminate child labour in the Thai shrimping industry, ILO Thailand, March – September 2015.
- Currently carrying out a synthesis review on ILO labour migration programming in the Asia Pacific.
- Currently serving as Team Leader for a mid-term evaluation of a program focused on trafficking prevention of women migrant workers across 5 countries in South Asia and the Middle East.

Evaluator, Plan International, Lao PDR, January 2013 - January 2014

- Served as Team Leader on assessing Plan's first Country Strategic Plan (2007-2012) in the Lao PDR, January-April 2013;
- Participated in and facilitated a strategic planning workshop with staff, provided technical assistance, and led in the drafting of Plan Lao PDR's second Country Strategic Plan, October 2013 – January 2014.

Evaluator, UNDP Regional Office of Asia Pacific, April – October 2013

On a two-person team, evaluated the 10-year initiative, Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Human Trafficking (COMMIT) Process, a 6-Government forum to combat human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. The final evaluation covered three phases since its inception in 2004, and involved both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis in all six countries – Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and China – plus regional level.

Senior Qualitative Evaluator, The Rockefeller Foundation, August 2011 – April 2012

As a grantee of The Rockefeller Foundation (HQ in New York), assessed RF's three-year, \$16.5 million initiative on Accelerating Innovation for Development;

- As part of a three-person team, examined whether innovation models initially conceived in the private sector, such as open and user-driven innovation models, are effective and efficient processes applicable to addressing the needs of the poor in a developing country context;
- Conducted data collection (interviews and surveys) on three continents, including countries India, Kenya, Uganda, and USA;
- Deliverables include high quality visual materials, case studies, written report, and presentation to senior management in New York.

Independent Evaluator, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR; October 2007 - August 2009

- Assessed UNICEF’s trafficking programming in Thailand and Lao PDR
 - Implemented a mixed methods approach in three project sites in each country, and analyzed nexus between trafficking and migration;
 - Prepared an evaluation report for each country, detailing findings and conclusions, and recommendations for future UNICEF programming on child trafficking;
 - Presented findings at regional UNICEF conference and advised on how UNICEF can address trafficking within a migration framework;
 - Reports included in the UNICEF publication “Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend” (UNICEF EAPRO: August 2009).
- Evaluated UNICEF’s Child Protection Network Project (CPN) in both Cambodia and Lao PDR, as a means for governments to effectively provide safety networks to children at the community level

Independent Evaluator, Grameen Trust, Dhaka, Bangladesh and northern China, 1997

- As part of a two-person team, carried out my first independent evaluation of four Grameen-funded microcredit projects in northern and central China implemented by government-affiliated organizations;
- Conducted semi-structured interviews in Mandarin Chinese with project staff, borrowers and local government officials; and translated English to Mandarin and Mandarin to English as required for team member at project sites;

Deputy Director of Quality Programming, Education Development Center (EDC), Health and Human Development Division, Thailand, 1 September 2008 – January 2012

- Ensured quality control in the design, development and implementation of programs, providing technical support and guidance to staff;
- Developed Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks for country-level and regional projects; led a team of colleagues in developing an M&E framework for Hewlett-Packard’s (HP) flagship global education program and creating an online RFP Management and M&E IT tool;
- Led teams in implementing research studies and end-of-project evaluations for clients;
- Provided direct oversight to regional HIV/AIDS capacity building and grants management project;
- Led teams in drafting concept notes and proposals, and negotiating work plans (including M&E) with donors;
- Assumed role of Acting Regional Director from 1 September 2009 – 15 February 2010 during Director’s maternity leave.

OTHER MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

Official, International Organization for Migration (IOM), August 2000 - April 2007 (Kosovo, Lao PDR and Thailand)

Regional Program Manager, Thailand, March 2006-April 2007

- Led a team of five staff in implementing a Mekong regional advocacy campaign aimed at prevention of human trafficking; utilized video and related materials to raise awareness among at-risk populations, including youth from communities with high out-migration rates;
- Identified and cultivated partnerships with agencies in Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam to support the use of the video in their activities;
- Conducted Training of Trainers for partner agencies and facilitated strategy sessions for IOM offices in the Mekong region;

Project Manager for Lao PDR, Thailand and Vientiane, Lao PDR, 2002–2005

- Facilitated the development and implementation of a return and integration program for returned trafficking victims, in coordination with the Lao Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Lao Women’s Union;
- Facilitated cross-border agreements on the return and reintegration of returned trafficked victims between the Thai and Lao governments; facilitated development and implementation of an MOU on trafficking

- signed by the Lao and Thai governments;
- Managed a training program aimed at building government capacity to provide assistance to trafficking victims;
- Developed new counter-trafficking activities in cooperation with the Lao government, including community theater as a means of prevention of trafficking; and promotion of safe migration activities with a focus on migration health and trafficking;
- Laid the foundation for the opening of the IOM office in Lao PDR, negotiating with the Lao MFA, and drafting MOU;
- Represented the Regional Representative in the Lao PDR, attending UN Country Team meetings, meeting with donors, and liaising with the Lao government;
- Assumed regional coordinator functions as needed, furthering project activities on trafficking in Yunnan Province, China, and Vietnam;
- Monitored and evaluated activities; wrote reports to donor.

Training Advisor, Kosovo, 2000-2002

- Assisted in the development of a 6.5 million USD (annual) training program for newly formed Kosovo civil protection organization, as part of IOM's work in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;
- Identified capacity building needs in the areas of train the trainers (TOT), human rights, emergency medicine, search and rescue, environmental protection, and language and computers;
- Solicited proposals for training services in support of the program; reviewed and negotiated contracts; facilitated the implementation of services and monitored outcomes;
- Liaised with UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and Kosovo Forces (KFOR) on long-term planning for training;
- Presented briefings on the development of the program and program achievements to UNMIK, KFOR, other potential donors and interested parties as required;
- Assisted Project Manger in securing continued funding; drafted proposals, drafted progress reports, monitoring and evaluating program outcomes.

Technical Advisor, VBNK, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 1999-2000 (a training institute for Cambodian civil society leaders and NGO staff)

- Conducted workshops with staff on gender and development, and how to integrate gender into the training curriculum and develop gender-sensitive policies for the organization; wrote guideline for staff;
- Conducted workshops with trainers to define sustainable development issues in Cambodia as they relate to values and ethics, and how to integrate these concepts into the curricula; wrote guideline for staff;
- Facilitated study sessions on international and Cambodia-specific development issues with trainers;
- Conducted series of training of trainers workshops on experiential learning cycle and facilitation skills;
- Researched and gathered technical training materials for the institute's resource center;
- Advised Training Manager of Training Unit;
- Developed organizational statements on gender and values and ethics.

Field Officer, Global Rights (formerly International Human Rights Law Group), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 1998-1999

- Designed and implemented a capacity building program with local human rights and development NGOs with a focus on women and ethnic minorities;
- Advised and trained partner NGOs in the areas of advocacy, project development, proposal development and strategic planning;
- Managed Field Office, supervising local staff and overseeing management of finances.

International Policy Associate, Bread for the World, Washington, DC, 1995-1996

- Networked and strategized with partner NGOs on advocating for meaningful US foreign aid and reduction of Africa's external debt to the multilateral institutions and US government;
- Analyzed policy issues and wrote action alerts and background papers for grassroots membership on development issues related to sub-Saharan Africa;

REPORTS AND ARTICLES

Jersild, Amy. "Final Evaluation of CIMI's Programme 'Migration Management Capacity Building in Israel: Promoting Migrant Rights in the Context of Mixed Migration Flows': A review of programme and partnership effectiveness and prospects going forward", Center for International Migration and Integration, Jerusalem, May 2016

Jersild, Amy, Nantaporn Ieumwananonthachai and Piyanute Kotsan. "Final Evaluation of the ILO IPEC Project Combating the worst forms of child labour in shrimp and seafood processing areas of Thailand", ILO HQ Geneva, October 2015

Jersild, Amy. "Final Independent Evaluation of the ILO Project on Good Governance through Labour Administration and Labour Inspection", ILO HQ Geneva, August 2014

Jersild, Amy and Lucita Lazo. "Final Independent Evaluation of ILO-IPEC Child Labor Programming in the Philippines", ILO-IPEC Philippines, March 2014

Baker, Simon and Amy Jersild. "Final Independent Evaluation of the Coordinated Inter-Ministerial Mekong Initiative Against Human Trafficking (COMMIT)" UNDP EAPRO: Bangkok, September 2013

Jersild, Amy and Kinnalone Kittiphanh. "Final Independent Evaluation of Plan Lao PDR's Country Strategic Plan, 2008-2013" Plan Lao PDR, April 2013

Jersild, Amy and Taeko Takahashi. "Final Independent Evaluation of the ILO's Greener Business Asia Program," ILO Regional Office of Asia and Pacific: Bangkok (February 2013)

Shroff, Ritu, Amy Jersild, and Jane Martin. "Evaluation Report - Accelerating Innovation for Development: An Initiative Funded by The Rockefeller Foundation," The Rockefeller Foundation: New York, NY (April 2012)

Jersild, Amy, Yupaporn Boontid, and Minavanh Pholsena. "Evaluation of Child Protection Networks in Lao PDR" (July 2009) UNICEF: Vientiane, Lao PDR (An evaluation conducted by Education Development Center, Bangkok office).

Jersild, Amy and Ritu Shroff. "Feasibility of Various Responses and Interventions to Build Capacity of Local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Lao PDR" (June 2009) A study prepared by Education Development Center, Bangkok office, on behalf of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Swiss Cooperation Office, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Jersild, Amy. "Assessment of UNICEF Thailand's Anti-Trafficking Program" (June 2008) UNICEF: Bangkok, Thailand; and "Assessment of UNICEF Lao PDR's Child Trafficking Program" (August 2008) UNICEF: Vientiane, Lao PDR. Both Lao and Thailand reports included in the UNICEF publication "Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend" (UNICEF EAPRO: August 2009).

Jersild, Amy. "Evaluation of the Child Protection Network Project" (December 2007) UNICEF: Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Jersild, Amy. "Evaluation of Grameen Trust-funded Microcredit Projects in China" Grameen Trust, Dhaka, Bangladesh, March 1997.

PRESENTATIONS

American Evaluation Association annual conference, Chicago, November 2015. Presented as part of a panel presentation entitled "Exemplary Evaluation partnerships: Experiences of global evaluation teams". Title of presentation was "Evaluating complex social policy initiatives in a developing country context: multicultural and multinational evaluation teams can result in exemplary evaluation outcomes".