

EMILY CATHERINE DURKIN

emilycatherinedurkin@gmail.com

+1 (845) 375-7784

Skype: emilycdurkin

Professional Experience

Creative Associates - Bar ama Baro Project

Project Director

Somalia + Global

March 2022 - Present

- Provides technical and operational oversight to the Bar ama Baro five-year, USAID funded \$48 Million USD project. Project supports the Government of Somalia in the design and delivery of comprehensive, inclusive Accelerated Basic Education program in 31 districts of the country for over 100,000 direct learners. Technical focus includes foundational literacy, numeracy and social emotional learning.
- Directly manages in country Chief of Party to effectively achieve effective workflow, deliverables, communication, and compliance. This includes but is not limited to: traveling and serving as Chief of Party as needed, oversight of all planning documents and workplans, providing adaptive management based ongoing changes in context and security, proactive communication across all departments and with donor, and establishing and implementing appropriate support systems in the home office to meet USAID technical and financial deliverables and monitors subcontractors' performance, budgets, obligations, and negotiates adjustments as needed to meet project, objectives.
- Serves as humanitarian focal point, conducting positioning efforts to identify opportunities for new business, analyzing opportunities and potential competitors, and leading technical design and proposal development as relevant.

Exterior Consulting / Sesame Workshop Ahlan Simsim Project

Education Specialist - Consultant

Iraq

October 2021- March 2022

- Conducted Rapid Education Risk Analysis (RERA) to inform the design of an upcoming USAID funded program implemented by Sesame Workshop. Project focus areas include improved early childhood care and development and increased youth assets, agency, contributions, and access to enabling environments
- Responsibilities include but were not limited to contextualizing RERA methodology for project specifications, conducting a literature review, facilitating key informant interviews and focus groups, and analysis of data to synthesize recommendations for program implementation

Save the Children Norway

Senior Education in Emergencies Advisor

Norway

October 2018 - March 2022

- Co-Chair of the Education in Emergencies (EiE) Working Group, leading EiE strategic priorities within Save the Children, coordinating both technical and operational needs. Including facilitating and driving the strategic vision, developing, and socializing technical approaches and best practices, delivering learning opportunities, coordinating and leveraging SC's voice and input to Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), UNHCR Refugee Education platforms as well as testing innovative ways of addressing sector-wide challenges
- Managed EiE rapid response team members – 6 full time staff and approximately 30 part-time available roster members to be deployed to humanitarian responses based on need. Responsibilities include defining team composition, recruitment, onboarding team members, determination of deployments based on best fit, monitoring staff utilization, developing ongoing capacity building initiatives, managing, and tracking team performance, and providing ongoing supportive supervision during deployments. In 2020, this included a total of 38 EiE deployments in 18 humanitarian responses
- Positioned Save the Children as a top implementer in EiE by proactively engaging donors, leading new business development initiatives and collaboratively writing strong proposals with technical insight
- Managed the Education contribution within the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Partnership Agreement. Including donor representation, financial budgeting and tracking, impact monitoring, report writing and team supportive supervision. Key areas include EiE operational and technical preparedness, large interdisciplinary research initiatives, sector wide EiE professional development, and design and operationalization of education technology approaches
- Developed and managed the implementation of strategic initiatives across interdisciplinary teams in Save the Children. This included but not limited to the "Day 1 Preparedness" a technical and operational framework to assess and increase EiE preparedness to take early action and respond to the learning and wellbeing needs of children at the outset of every acute emergency

Save the Children Norway

Humanitarian Surge Team - Education in Emergencies Manager/Technical Advisor/Cluster Coordinator

Global

June 2016 – October 2018

- Deployments:
 - Somalia, (July-August 2018) *Technical Advisor*
 - Designed and managed the "Schools as Zones of Peace" project in Baidoa – a project focused on an all-hazards approach to school safety with particular focus on attacks on education and integration with Child Protection. This included leading a program co-design design process to develop log frame, detailed

- implementation plan and budget, developing baseline tools, stakeholder mapping and consultation and a technical training package to deliver in schools
- Bangladesh, Rohingya Response (January-April 2018) *Learning Specialist*
 - Designed a multi-modal teacher professional development and support model including practiced-based trainings; providing ongoing direct, in-classroom coaching and support from partner coaches; and facilitation of peer learning meetings
 - Provided day-to-day guidance and in-the-field training through coaching and modeling for approximately 400 temporary learning center teachers and 25 implementing partner field staff.
 - Developed key technical materials to support new business development e.g., program design, advocacy briefs, case studies
- Uganda, South Sudan Refugee Response (July-October 2017) *UNHCR Education Officer*
 - Support Yumbe field teams in quality education sector coordination and service delivery for the Bidibidi Refugee Settlements 270,000 + beneficiaries
- Ukraine (May-June 2017) *Technical Advisor*
 - Designed and managed the “Schools as Zones of Peace” pilot project - a project focused on an all-hazards approach to school safety with particular focus on attacks on education and integration amongst EiE and Child Protection actors successfully securing funding from for full implementation beyond pilot
- Turkey/North West Syria (April 2016) *Technical Support*
 - Led development of a capacity building guidebook to support educational personnel in Northwest Syria. Guidebook included the following technical areas: Basic teacher training, Inclusive Education, Psychological First Aid, Development and Management of Parent Teacher Associations and Child Safeguarding. Capacity building guidebook has been utilized by over 20 Cluster partners
- North East Syria (January – March 2017) *Technical Advisor and Program Manager*
 - Managed 6.2 million USD grant portfolio supporting the design and delivery of 51 formal and non-formal education facilities
 - Provided supportive supervision to 8 team members - defining team composition, recruitment, onboarding, developing ongoing capacity building initiatives, managing, and tracking team performance
 - Led the contextualization and delivery of INEE Training for Primary School Teachers in Crisis Contexts for Ministry of Education Trainers
- Occupied Palestinian Territories (October – December 2016) *Cluster Coordination and Technical Advisor*
 - Served as Education Cluster lead for the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan writing, project vetting and targeting.
 - Supported the development of capacity building resources, high quality concept notes, proposals, and a full spectrum education strategy
- Turkey/North West Syria (June –October 2016) *Technical Advisor and Program Manager*
 - Managed education NW Syria 10.1 million USD grant portfolio, managing three team members and four partners` implementation of 60 schools (Basic education, ECCD and Youth Centers) in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama.
 - Served as Technical Advisor leading on strategy and proposal development and partner capacity development in key areas of Psychological First Aid, development of Teacher Learning Circles and participatory Safety and Security planning
- Program Development: Ongoing program support to develop Safe Schools/Schools as Zones of Peace projects through:
 - Conducted desk review analyzing different frameworks on Safe Schools components: Psychosocial Support (PSS) & wellbeing, Comprehensive School Safety (CSS) & Education Safe from Disasters, Safe Schools Declaration (SSD), Conflict Sensitive Education (CSE), Protecting Education from Attack (PEA) guidelines
 - Conducted humanitarian review and input for Safe Schools Common Approach proposal and design
 - Design, contextualization, and leading country roll out of SZoP in select locations
 - Development of implementation tools
 - Provide ongoing technical support to country offices implementing Safe schools/Schools as Zones of Peace projects
 - Document and disseminate best practices, tools developed and guidance from field offices

Save the Children International

Education in Emergencies Manager – Rakhine IDP and Myanmar Flood Response

**Rakhine State, Myanmar
November 2014 – May 2016**

- Managed SCI education portfolio of 5 intersecting grants which resulted in ongoing implementation of the following:
 - 52 Primary Temporary Learning Spaces for over 9,000 students and 200 volunteer teachers
 - 30 Adolescent Centers' NFE programming for nearly 4,000 adolescents and 120 Adolescent facilitators

- Teacher training on positive discipline, inclusive education, psychosocial support, classroom management, media literacy, non-formal education
- Proactively led new business development through donor representation, scoping opportunities and writing strong proposals with technical insight
- Co-led Rakhine State Education Sector coordination in partnership with UNICEF, leading strategic development, and Government advocacy. Initiatives led include development of WASH in Schools joint guidance note between sectors, a post-distribution monitoring framework, and training on safer school construction quality checklists
- Managed a diverse team of 38 individuals including local, relocatable and camp-based education staff. This includes but is not limited to ensuring staff capacity development, accountability, and performance management

Save the Children International

Emergency Education Manager – Syrian Refugee and Iraq IDP Response

**KR-I, Iraq
October 2013 – October 2014**

- Served as education technical focal point for Iraq country office and emergency response team, leading on education sector fundraising and strategy development including master log frame, master budget and staffing structure
- Co-led KR-I Education Working Group responsible for ensuring Ministry of Education collaboration with UNICEF, a coordinated response for both camp and non-camp educational needs of Syrian refugees,
- Developed, implemented and monitored SCI education regional response strategy in KR-I including;
 - Construction of additional learning spaces;
 - Teacher training on ECCD, positive discipline, psychosocial support, inclusive education and active learning;
 - Integrated child protection and education non-formal learning centers pilot;
 - Community outreach on strategies to promote literacy development
- Developed education program monitoring tools and worked with MEAL team to monitor education programming using the Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) as a grants management data collection tool
- Managed recruitment, training and promotion of staff and ensure availability of appropriate professional development opportunities for staff through using performance management techniques

Teaching Matters Inc.

Education Operations and Talent Manager

**New York
June 2010 – October 2013**

- Oversaw daily operations and ensured the collective efficiency of the organization through monitoring reporting of 50 + consultants working throughout the New York City Public School system, improved communication with 300+ New York City teachers and principals
- Managed the recruitment, hiring and on-boarding of all educational staff. This included over 25 staff members.
- Supported existing educational staff in meeting organizational expectations, monitored relevant reports and used data to drive institutional change and managed the staff evaluation process
- Managed and executed 50 + program events a year, including professional development institutes for teachers and large-scale events for middle-school students focused on civil rights, constitutional issues, and creative writing

International Rescue Committee

Education in Emergencies Graduate Program Project Officer

**Nairobi / Virtual
November 2012 - 2013**

- Increased program's network, engaging both international and Kenyan organizations and practitioners in resource development.
- Identified, procured and created publications and visual teaching aids for the University of Nairobi and the International Rescue Committees joint graduate program in Education in Emergencies
- In conjunction with the IRC practitioner, developed EiE courses, training materials and tools to support experiential learning for University of Nairobi students and faculty

United Nations Development Programme

Consultant Support, Research Assistant

**New York
2012**

- Supported UNDP consultants Erin McCandless and John Ohiorhenuan in preparing a literature review to support the creation of a strategy document to provide key program options and entry points for UNDP's conflict prevention work
- Researched existing conflict-prevention frameworks, key United Nations documents and academic publications

Interpeace

Consultant Support, Researcher

**New York
2012**

- Supported Consultant Erin McCandless, in conducted a rapid assessment of state-society relations in five countries to support the country selection process and design of an emerging program analyzing resiliency and fragility in post-conflict countries

- Researched the nature and status of civil society, issues and mechanisms of state-society engagement and existing peacebuilding and state building policy frameworks

Open Society Initiative for West Africa

Liberia

Education and Peacebuilding Intern

2011

- Coordinated and provided technical support to education programs and civil society organizations throughout the 2011 election through working with government ministries, international NGOs, and donors
- Conducted research and produced concept notes concerning formation of community-based peacebuilding forums throughout border regions to support peaceful dialogue concerning the 2011 elections and Ivorian refugee influx.
- Aided strategic planning of initiatives as recommended by education and transitional justice policies

Literacy Partners Inc.

New York

Adult Basic Education Center Coordinator

2009 – 2010

- Supervised 200+ adult learners and 50+ teachers in daily literacy classes, developing individualized learning plans for resettled refugees and individuals with physical and mental disabilities
- Designed and led in-service trainings for 50+ teachers in the implementation of designed curriculum of applied educational skills.
- Administered formal testing for city, state and federal funding and increased educational gains by 20%

New Horizons Special School

Accra, Ghana

Special Education Teacher

2006

- Assisted students with multiple mental and physical disabilities to develop academic and social skills
- Fundraised and aided the creation of a cerebral palsy center

Education

Master of Arts in International Affairs – Conflict and Security Studies

Graduate Program in International Affairs; The New School, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts: Double Major: Anthropology & Africana Studies, 2008

New York University, New York, NY

Academic credit received from University of Ghana, Legone and Asheshi University, 2006

New York University in Accra, Ghana

Trainings Completed

- Global Education Cluster Core Skills Training
 - UNDSS Advanced Security in the Field
 - Save the Children Humanitarian Intermediate Program
 - Hostile Environment Awareness Training
 - IIEP Education Planning for Safety, Resilience and Social Cohesion
 - SCI Humanitarian Mid-Level Technical Training
 - SCI Media Training
 - SCI Child Safeguarding
 - CALP – Cash and Voucher Assistance – The Fundamentals
 - USAID Contract Management for NGOs
-