

Clear Horizon

CURRICULUM VITAE

Niketa Kulkarni, Principal Consultant



Overview of Expertise

Niketa is an experienced M&E specialist with a focus on gender and international development. She is trained in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and is particularly interested in designing gender and socially inclusive research and frameworks to inform laws, policies, and programs and improve socio-economic outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Niketa has experience in diverse issues, including infrastructure, health, women's empowerment, property rights, and financial inclusion. She has designed and implemented MEL efforts in the Pacific, Asia, Africa, and South America, for various clients, such as DFAT, the World Bank, DFID, USAID, UN Women, private commercial entities, community-level non-profits, and large philanthropic organisations.

Qualifications & Training

- 2014 Masters in Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences, Columbia University
- 2005 Masters in South Asian Studies, University of Michigan
- 2004 Juris Doctor, University of Michigan
- 2001 Bachelor of Arts with Distinction (Political Science, Sociology), University of Michigan

Project Experience

Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Support



- Papua New Guinea Economic and Social Infrastructure Program (ESIP): M&E oversight and support, including GEDSI integrated program and sector logic development, monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan design, development of activity-specific GEDSI logic and measurement frameworks, reflections workshop facilitation – covering policy, governance, and implementation of water, electricity, ICT related infrastructure (ongoing).
- Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services (ACCESS): M&E oversight and support, including drafting of MEL Plan, design of evaluations, analysis and reporting of data – covering topics of gender-based violence, disability inclusion, civil society, and public financial management (ongoing).
- Resource Equity: Theory of Change and MEL Framework facilitation and development for a knowledge building and skills training institute focused on boosting advocacy and program effectiveness for women's land tenure and property rights (2021).
- Department of Defence, Gender, Peace and Security (GPS) Mandate: Theory of Change and MEL Framework facilitation and development for use by the GPS directorate team (2020-2021).

- Facilitated several Theory of Change workshops, with a focus on gender and inclusion, for NGOs with operations across the globe.
- Provided guidance to gender-focused CSOs across Africa and Asia to develop and implement research agendas.
- Advised on the development of a Theory of Change for a US-based non-profit focused on creating empowerment opportunities for ultra-poor households in India.
- Provided advisory support across internal Landesa program teams to develop evidence-based and context specific theory of changes.
- Invited to speak at several philanthropic events and university classes to disseminate learnings from our research and provide guidance on developing a theory of change led M&E strategy.

Independent Evaluations



- Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program (SIIP): Design and implement an evaluation of the Gizo Market facility in Western Province, and report findings – covering topics of social, economic, and health outcomes, CCDR, GEDSI mainstreaming in market design and ongoing decision-making processes, and safeguards.
- Pacific Labour Mobility QTAG – conducted an independent review of the comprehensiveness and likely effectiveness of the facility’s GEDSI strategy.
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF): Managed the design and implementation of a multi-years, gender focused assessment across 3 Indian states to understand long and short term social and economic outcomes associated with the inclusion of women’s names on homestead and agricultural land titles, women’s participation in legal literacy programs, and access to convergence services to boost agricultural productivity.
- Led the development and implementation of M&E frameworks and processes for a DFID funded project aimed at improving the land tenure and socio-economic position of small-holder farmers in Tanzania and Uganda, with specific attention on gender-related outcomes.
- Developed technical notes for USAID on the United States’ progress towards reaching targets under SDG 1.4.2, by analysing publicly available census and survey data on property ownership and perceptions of tenure security, disaggregated by sex.
- Nike Foundation: Designed and implemented a series of mixed-method efforts to monitor and evaluate a Nike Foundation funded program in West Bengal aimed at improving outcomes for girls through land-based livelihood and land rights training.
- Designed a short-interval panel effort to gather information about land use and productivity of women land reform beneficiaries in Odisha and West Bengal.
- Developed a gender integrative research and monitoring framework for a DFID funded project focused on supporting responsible investments on property and land in Tanzania and Ghana.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on research and fieldwork strategies as well as sampling methodologies questionnaires for their attention to gender inclusiveness and sensitivities across multiple research efforts conducted by Landesa.
- Conducted a qualitative assessment in Papua New Guinea to evaluate the viability of mobile financial services for women for UN Women.

- Assessed the potential of linking informal savings clubs to banks in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda through in-depth individual interviews and focus groups on the ground for a BMGF funded program.
- Collected secondary research and drafted a report for the World Bank on the feasibility of developing a set of global demand-side financial access indicators that ultimately became the Findex indicators of financial access.

Positions held

2020–Present Principal Consultant, Clear Horizon, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

2014-2020 Senior Research and Evaluation Specialist, Landesa, Seattle WA, USA

2009-2012 Research Associate, Bankable Frontier Associates, Somerville, MA, USA

2005-2008 Manager, Advisory Services, Unitus Advisors Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore, India

Memberships

Australian Evaluation Society (AES)

Academic Publications

Stevens, C., Panfil, Y., Linkow, B., Hagopian, A., Mellon, C., Heidenrich, T., Kulkarni, N., Bouvier, I., Brooks, S., Lowery, S., and Green, J. (2020), Land and Development: A Research Agenda for Land and Resource Governance at USAID.

Kulkarni N., et al. (2017). The potential for homestead micro-plots to contribute to food security in rural West Bengal. World Bank Land and Poverty Conference.

Louis, E., Kulkarni, N., Fletschner, D. (2017). Using innovative research methodologies to uncover nuance and diversity: The results of household diaries in Odisha, India. World Bank Land and Poverty Conference.

Kulkarni, N., et al. (2016). Micro-plot Priorities and Limitations: Using Household Diaries to Explore Land Usage by Beneficiaries of Land Titling Programs in West Bengal and Odisha. World Bank Land and Poverty Conference.

Louis, E., Kulkarni, N., Huang, S., Kloos, K., Fletschner, D. (2016). Sufficient or Necessary? Legal Documentation and Perceptions of Land Tenure Security. World Bank Land and Poverty Conference.

Bledsoe, D., Czerwinski, L., Hannay, L., Hughes, H., Kulkarni, N., Lufkin, M. (2015). Bridging the Gap between Intention and Action: Tools to Enable Socially Responsible Land-Related Investment. World Bank Land and Poverty Conference.