

NINA BLÖNDAL

PEBLINGE DOSSERING 20, 3TV • 2200 COPENHAGEN N • DENMARK
TEL +45 20 95 04 41 • E-MAIL NINA@ENDELEZA.DK
NATIONALITY: DANISH • DATE OF BIRTH 24.05.78

SUMMARY

I help international organizations, governments and non-profits evaluate the impact of projects, policies and programs in developing countries, and I work with them to improve the quality and organizational use of their monitoring, evaluation, research, data collection and results-measurement. I am trained in quantitative and qualitative methods and have spent much time in the field in both cities and villages across Africa, Asia and Latin America acting as team leader on multiple assignments. I combine technical skills with management skills, extensive field experience and a passion for finding innovative ways to do good, better.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 2014 -
ongoing

UNOPS, Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund, Myanmar - *M&E Specialist*
Long term consultancy to advise Fund Management on the revision of LIFT's M&E system, improve its MEAL framework, theory of change development and learning approaches to better address new areas of LIFT activity and new strategic directions. I have also carried out a meta review of all the organizations evaluations, a midterm review of a major program and advised LIFT partners such as Save the Children on MEAL framework development.

April 2015 - *ongoing*

Asian Development Bank, Economic Research Department: Co-authoring ADB's forthcoming guidebook on impact evaluation.

2006-*ongoing*

Independent consultant and CEO of Endeleza.

I founded Endeleza Development Consulting in 2006 and have since then acted as Team Leader, Impact Evaluation Expert, and M&E advisor on assignments for international organizations, non-profits and consulting companies. A selection of consultancies completed either through Endeleza or as an independent consultant are listed below. Clients include the Asian Development Bank, USAID, International Finance Corporation, the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation *3ie*, IFAD, Danida, and others.

- ✓ *Ongoing: Impact Evaluation Specialist for Asian Development Bank, East Asia Department:* Designing and overseeing impact evaluation of school dormitory project in Mongolia.
- ✓ *May-July 2016: With Coffey International, evaluation provider for Dfid – Senior evaluation specialist.* Evaluation of Dfid's UK Aid Direct support for civil society organisations. Field work in Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria.
- ✓ *2014-15: Asian Development Bank, Central and West Asia Department:* Carried out a mixed methods impact study on of MSMEs in Uzbekistan under ADB's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development Project.
- ✓ *2014-15: With A2F Consulting Ltd – Team Leader on impact evaluation/ baseline study of a Warehouse Receipts reform for IFC/World Bank Group Kenya.* Led the design of the baseline study of the introduction of a Warehouse Receipts System in Kenya.

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- ✓ *2012-14: Team Leader and Impact Evaluation Expert for the Asian Development Bank, South Asia Department.* Carried out an impact evaluation of a farm roads project in Bhutan. This included theory of change development, evaluation design, training of local teams of consultants in undertaking surveys, and econometric analysis of panel data.
- ✓ *2013–14: With Social Impact, Inc. – Impact Evaluation Team Leader on USAID evaluation in South Sudan.* Led the design of an impact evaluation and baseline study of the USAID funded Greenbelt Transformation Initiative. Oversaw a team of five people, developing methodology and survey design. Intensive training of survey managers and pilot testing of survey tools. Interacted and coordinated with government staff, USAID staff, local project staff, stakeholders, and survey teams. Analyzed data and provided recommendations to policy makers.
- ✓ *2013: Asian Development Bank, Results Management Unit – Impact Evaluation and Results-Based M&E Expert.* Conducted a series of multi-day workshops on Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation and Impact Evaluation to senior policy-makers and managers in Asia.
- ✓ *2012-2013: In collaboration with 3ie - consultancy for International Fund for Agricultural Development.* As part of IFAD's effort to move towards better measurement of results and impact, I worked with a team to obtain a strategic overview of evaluations completed and data collected under IFAD's Results and Impact Management System (RIMS) and provided advice on how to move forward.
- ✓ *2011-12: Impact Evaluation Specialist for Asian Development Bank, Central and West Asia Department.* Led the design of a quantitative impact evaluation of an ADB infrastructure project in Georgia. This involved impact evaluation design and methodology, survey design, data analysis, stakeholder interviews, and presentations and trainings for international development partners, government agencies, non-governmental and private sector agencies, and academia.
- ✓ *2011-12: Experience-sharing study for International Initiative on Impact Evaluation, 3ie - an international NGO committed to funding and promoting impact evaluation in developing countries.* The job consisted of collecting experiences on design aspects and on-the-ground challenges from the 70+ evaluations funded thus far – the majority in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ✓ *2010-12: Asian Development Bank, Office of the Director General, South Asia Department – Team leader & Impact Evaluation Specialist.*
 - * Engaged to guide the South Asia Department on their strategy towards better management for results through impact evaluation. This included:
 - * Providing training on theory-based impact evaluation, methodology and survey design and for ADB staff and developing country counterparts.
 - * Advising on impact evaluation design for a number of South Asia projects including rural roads projects, agriculture projects and gender projects.
- ✓ *2007-08: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Danida, Copenhagen.*
 - * Advised Danida's Evaluation Department and contractors on approaches and

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- September 2007 – August 2008 methodology for impact evaluation. Undertook a study of possible methods for impact evaluation of community driven development of rural roads in Nicaragua.
* Peer reviewed impact evaluations in Tanzania and Bangladesh with focus methodology of the quantitative components. Participated in workshops for stakeholders in Tanzania.
- September 2006 – June 2007 **University of Copenhagen**, Department of Economics – *Researcher*.
* As a member of the Development Economics Research Group, designed an impact evaluation of Danida's forthcoming agricultural support programme in Vietnam using a difference-in-difference approach with panel data. This included design of a rural household survey and field visits.
- January – August 2006 **The World Bank**, Independent Evaluation Group, Washington D.C. – *Consultant*.
* Worked on an impact evaluation of the World Bank's support for rural electrification: Included country case studies of development and reform of the power sector in a number of countries; portfolio review; and analysis of household survey data to uncover the welfare impacts of rural electrification.
- February 2004 – December 2005 **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark**, Danida, Copenhagen – *Technical Advisor*.
* Assisted Danida's evaluation department in their efforts to start up an impact evaluation programme and to advise on methodological approaches for impact evaluation.
- The World Bank**, Operations Evaluation Department, Washington D.C – *Consultant*.
* As part of a team, conducted an impact evaluation of rural poverty projects in India: Included evaluation design; design of large field survey with quantitative and qualitative components; supervising the implementation of the survey in rural India; analysis of data and findings. Focus on poverty reduction through irrigation schemes and community driven development.
* Also worked on an impact evaluation of maternal and child health projects in Bangladesh: Involved components as above as well as a field study in rural Bangladesh.

EDUCATION

- 2008 – 2011 **Ph.D. coursework in Economics** (*thesis not submitted*).
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
* Researched the impact of microfinance on productivity and women's empowerment in India.
* Coursework in econometrics, micro- and macroeconomics, development economics.
* Taught/lectured a course on economic development to MA students.
* Designed and undertook fieldwork as described in the employment section above.
- 2009 – 2010 **Visiting scholar at University of California, Berkeley**: Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, as part of Ph.D.
- 2005 – 2006 **Post-graduate Certificate in Agricultural Economics**:
University of London, Imperial College/School of Oriental and African Studies.
* Completed coursework corresponding to all compulsory courses of the MSc in

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agricultural economics: Micro and macroeconomics, agricultural trade and development, agricultural economics and political economy.

2001 – 2002

M.Sc. Political Science.

The London School of Economics and Political Science, England.

* Politics and development in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and CIS.

* Statistics and econometrics for research in social science.

* Thesis: Analysis of economy, institutions, political opposition in Belarus. *With distinction.*

1998 – 2001

B.A. Honours Political Science.

The University of York, England.

* Exchange year at the Ohio State University, USA

* Political systems, democracy, political economy and development studies.

* Thesis: The Rule of Law in Colombia. *With distinction.*

PUBLICATIONS

White, Rozelle & Blöndal (forthcoming 2016) *Guidebook on Impact Evaluation*. Asian Development Bank.

Blöndal, N. (2014) *Impact evaluation of farm roads to support poor farmers' livelihoods in Bhutan*, Report for Asian Development Bank.

Blöndal, N. (2008) *Evaluating the impact of rural roads in Nicaragua*, Evaluation Study, Danida, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark.

White, H. & Blöndal, N. (2008) 'Projecting Progress toward the millennium development goals', in McGillivray, M (ed) *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, Palgrave-Macmillan.

World Bank (2008) *An Impact Evaluation of the Second and Third Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Projects – A case of poverty reduction with low economic returns*. Independent Evaluation Group, Washington D.C. *Co-author.*

World Bank (2008) *The Welfare Impact of Rural Electrification: A Reassessment of The Costs and Benefits*. Independent Evaluation Group, Washington D.C. *Co-author.*

White, H. & Blöndal, N. (2007) *Projecting Progress toward the millennium development goals*, United Nations University - WIDER, Research Paper 2007/47.

World Bank (2005) *Maintaining Momentum to 2015? An Impact Evaluation of Interventions to Improve Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition in Bangladesh*. Operations Evaluation Department, Washington D.C. *Co-author.*