

Clear Horizon

CURRICULUM VITAE

Niketa Kulkarni, Lead 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

- 2022 Developmental Evaluation (Clear Horizon)
- 2020 Theory of Change for Design (Clear Horizon)
- 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



- Incentive Fund 5 (IF5): Ongoing MERLA support, including development MERLA Plan and refinement of the program ToC through a face-to-face and remote consultative process involving all IF5 staff and leadership to ensure relevance, awareness, and user-friendliness of the tools and strategies (2023 - ongoing).
- The Asia Foundation Ponlok Chomnes II Program: Support the development of a MEL Plan, rubrics, data gathering tools, and reporting templates to support critical programmatic learning and effective donor reporting (2023 – ongoing)
- Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED): Provided initial strategic support for the development of CAPRED's MERL Plan and facilitated a revision of the program logic one year after project inception. (2022-2023)
- Papua New Guinea Economic and Social Infrastructure Program (ESIP): M&E oversight and support, including facilitating revisions to the program and sector logics that ensured GEDSI

integration, designing the MEL plan through a process that invited feedback from diverse staff, facilitating reflections workshops, and development of situational analyses to inform the design of several social and economic infrastructure projects. (2021-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 (2020 - 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 Research and Evaluations



- Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES): Development of situational analyses for three of the program's sub-outcome areas, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), women's economic empowerment, and gender mainstreaming; support provided to local female experts to draft reports for the remaining four outcome areas. (2023 – ongoing)
- Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program (SIIP): Design and implement an inclusive review of the Gizo Market facility in Western Province. Review covered topics including social, economic, and health outcomes, CCDR, GEDSI mainstreaming in market design and ongoing decision-making processes, and safeguards. Report published here: <https://siip.com.sb/publications/gizo-market-redevelopment-review/> (2022)
- Pacific Labour Mobility QTAG: conducted an independent review of the comprehensiveness and likely effectiveness of the facility's GEDSI strategy. (2021)
- 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.
- 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	Lead 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.