**GWENDOLYN K HEANER, PHD**

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*Social researcher with over ten years of practical and academic experience in qualitative and quantitative social research in international development; focus on social change, education, and gender in fragile states*

**SOCIAL RESEARCH AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE**

GK Consulting, LLC (2012-Present). Waltham, MA: **Founder and Managing Director**

* Project manager on all contracts; providing oversight of international and local consultants and project assistants, responsible for all business development and management of contracts. Technical work includes providing social research, training, project management; hiring expert consultants (local and international) as needed to carry out contracts.

Center for International Education (CIE) at UMass Amherst (2014 – Present). Waltham, MA. **Research Fellow**

* Research Manager for a 5-year contract for USAID (through EDC and CIE) project (USAID-ECCN) to build evidence and capacity for increasing access to education in crisis and conflict-affected environments

Save the Children (2015). Liberia: **Project Manager**

* Evaluation (mixed methods) of Ebola Community Care Centers in Liberia. Managing two international experts and field team conducting research with patients, community members, staff and volunteers

Indevelop for UNWomen (2015). Papua New Guinea: **Team Leader and Qualitative Expert**

* Baseline evaluation (mixed methods) for Port Moresby Safe Cities Programme.

Plan UK (2014 - Present). Global: **Lead Global Baseline / M&E Consultant**

* Baseline Evaluation (funded by Credit Suisse) programme on Financial and Life Skills Education for adolescent girls and boys in India, Rwanda, China and Brazil.

The Khana Group for Coca-Cola, Mercy Corps, (2014 - 2015). Nigeria: **Senior Technical Advisor – M&E**

* Coordinating the overall technical aspect of randomized control trial (RCT) evaluation of DFID-funded Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) programme in Northern Nigeria

The World Bank (2014 - Present). Liberia: **Lead Researcher**

* Development of qualitative toolkits and conducting research (desk and field) on Youth Employment in Liberia: Jobs and Job Creation in Fragile and Conflict States; management of local field team

Indevelop for UNWomen (2014 - 2015). Liberia: **Team Leader and Qualitative Expert**

* Baseline evaluation (mixed methods) for Peacebuilding Fund Program, to measure women’s economic, social and security status, basic education, quantitative survey of 1000 women in 23 communities

Hifab for Sida (2014). Liberia**: Gender Expert**

* Incorporating gender issues into existing road planning, construction and maintenance activities in the country with specific attention to women in road works

Norwegian Church Aid (2014): **Quantitative Lead and Project Manager**

* Baseline Evaluation (mixed methods) on NCA’s Gender Based Violence reduction program in North and South Kivu regions; supervising Team Leader, field coordinator (virtually); all quantitative work

Plan UK (2013 – 2014):Global: **Lead Global Consultant, Qualitative Research and Gender Specialist**

* Year 3 Formative Review (Mixed methods evaluation) of girls’ education / life skills programme in 9 countries (Cambodia, Pakistan, El Salvador, Malawi, Mali, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Kenya, Zimbabwe).

Millennium Challenge Corporation (2013 – 2014). Liberia. **Social and Gender Specialist for Liberia**

* Social and Gender Constraints to Poverty Reduction Analysis for Liberia MCC Compact Process; review and analysis of data across sectors (education, healthcare, land use, infrastructure (roads and electricity)

UNICEF (2013): Liberia. **Team leader and Qualitative Research Specialist**

* Baseline evaluation (mixed methods) for the four-year Peace building, Education and Advocacy (PBEA) program in Liberia, designing overall M&E strategy, baseline evaluation methodology and toolkits

Plan UK (2013): Sierra Leone. **Project Manager, Team Leader and Qualitative / Quantitative Research Lead**

* Baseline evaluation (mixed methods, quasi-experimental design) of Girls’ Education Challenge: Supporting Marginalized Girls in Sierra Leone; 1400+ household surveys; 6500+ learning assessments

The World Bank (2013).Home-based: **Gender Expert**

* Background research and analysis of gender issues in forced displacement in emergency situations in the Great Lakes Region (Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Uganda); recommendations on future field research

The Cadmus Group (2012-2013) for USAID: Liberia. **Social Scientist / Gender Lead**

* Qualitative fieldwork for scoping exercise and programmatic social/environmental assessment for USAID-funded rural road repair project; developing social assessment toolkit for use by local researcher

URS Infrastructure and Environment (2012) for ArcelorMittal: Liberia. **Cultural Specialist / Anthropologist**

* Qualitative research on impact of mining / land acquisition on communities’ cultural heritage developing social safeguards mechanism to guide client on future projects following WB/IFC guidelines

Lasell College (2012): Newton, MA. **Adjunct Instructor**

* Leading upper-level course: Research Methods in the Social Sciences

Oxfam GB (2012): Liberia. **Team leader / Gender Specialist**

* Utilizing process-tracing and participatory methods to evaluate effectiveness of women’s advocacy program as implemented through local NGOs; managing local field team

The World Bank (2010-2011): Global. **Field Team Trainer / Technical Associate**

* Planning and executing training events and providing in-country technical assistance on qualitative assessment of gender and poverty in South Africa, Burkina Faso, Papua New Guinea and Fiji

The World Bank (2010): Liberia. **Team Leader / Social Specialist / Gender Specialist**

* Inputs on toolkit for 20-country rapid qualitative assessments of gender and poverty to inform the Global World Development Report; leading 3-month pilot study in Liberia to inform Poverty Assessment.

Various (2007 – 2010): Liberia. **Freelance** **Research Consultant**

* + Clients include the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, SOAS Enterprise Training and Consultancy Services; Wilson Solicitors Center for Interfaith Action for Global Poverty, etc.

**EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London**, UK (2006-2011)

* ***PhD, Department of the Study of Religions****, with focus on African Studies and the Social Sciences* 
  + *Dissertation:* “Destroying the Destroyer of Your Destiny: The role(s) of Pentecostalism in Post-War Liberia”
  + Designed & executed 1+ year of ethnographic fieldwork with quantitative component in Liberia

**Harvard University,** Cambridge, MA (2010)

* ***Graduate Fellow, Department of Anthropology and Sociology***
  + Teaching assistant and research advisor; independent research

**School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London**, London, UK (2004-2005)

* ***MA (Merit), Department of the Study of Religions*,** *with focus on African Studies and the Social Sciences*

**Smith College,** Northampton, MA (2000-2004)

* ***BA, Major: Study of Religion***

**OTHER**

**Language:** Native English; Limited working proficiency in Portuguese and Spanish; Liberian English

**International experience:** Field-based primary research inLiberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Kenya, South Africa, Papua New Guinea, India, Fiji. Virtual management of local teams / consultants in Northern Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Brazil, China, Cambodia, El Salvador, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Zimbabwe.