

Curriculum Vitae



Helena Raijas Social Development Consultant

Nationality: Finnish
Expertise: Gender and social inclusion
Present position: Project Manager, IMA International

Key Experience:

Helena Raijas is a Project Manager at IMA and a social development consultant with long-term experience overseas in Lao PDR and short-term consultancy experience mostly from Nepal. She has worked with government counterparts, user committees, NGOs and CBOs. She is specialised in qualitative socio-cultural research, qualitative assessments, gender and marginalised groups in water supply and environmental projects and NGO/CBO and private sector participation in rural water supply and environmental projects. Over the past two years, Helena has been consulting in Eastern Nepal on a Finnish government-funded environmental administration project to develop a Gender and Social Inclusion Policy and Action Plan.

Qualifications:

Degree or Diploma obtained & Name of Course	Institution	Year
MA in Cultural Anthropology (research carried out in Uganda)	University of Helsinki, Finland	1996
BSc in Business and Administration	Vaasa Business School	1988

Language capabilities: (Indicate competence for reading, speaking, writing on a scale excellent, very good, good, fair, basic)	
Finnish	mother tongue
English	Excellent speaking, writing and reading
German	Good speaking, writing and reading
Italian	Fair speaking and writing and good reading
Swedish	Basic speaking and writing, good reading
French	Basic speaking and writing, fair reading

Country experience:

Kenya, Lao PDR, Nepal, Uganda

To contact this consultant, e-mail helena.raijas@imainternational.com

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Experience:

Date & Location: (date from – date to)	Description: (Indicate client, position , description of tasks)
February 2009, August 2009, March 2010 Nepal	Strengthening of Environmental Administration and Management at the Local Level in Nepal (SEAM-N) Project Phase II. FCG/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFa), Finland/ International Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Adviser The first input was to participate in the interviews of the National GESI Specialist and to prepare an outline for the GESI Policy and Action Plan including preparing recommendations for GESI actions within coming five months. During the second input the Policy and Action Plan will be finalised. The third input was a monitoring visit.
July – August 2007 Nepal	Strengthening of Environmental Administration and Management at the Local Level in Nepal (SEAM-N). FCG/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFa), Finland/ International Gender and Poverty Specialist Prepare an assessment report on the gender, poverty and social inclusion achievements and lessons learned of the SEAM-N. Facilitate and provide technical assistance for the Gender and Safe Motherhood Workshop for the industries and develop a simple checklist of Safe Motherhood measures for the industries. Facilitate and take part in gender, poverty and social inclusion related trainings and workshops.
2005 September – ongoing UK	IMA International/ Project Manager Manage projects; Prepare tenders and Expressions of Interest; Business development
2004 April-June Nepal	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Support Programme, Nepal/ Plancenter Ltd, Finland/ Short term consultant. Conduct a Support Organisation (NGOs, CBOs) Assessment for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Support Programme funded by the Governments of Nepal and Finland. The study included interviews and focused group discussions with different stakeholders in all 6 programme districts and analysis of the questionnaire data collected by the programme.
2000 – 2002 Lao PDR	UNAIDS Lao PDR. Advisor/ Liaison Officer (UNV) Support the national UNAIDS Country Programme Advisor and the National Committee for Control of AIDS Bureau; Liaise between partners; Prepare the first extensive HIV/AIDS Country Profile for Lao PDR in co-operation with the Lao HIV/AIDS Trust; As a member of Task Groups develop the first Lao HIV/AIDS/STI Policy, the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI, and the UN Integrated Workplan for HIV/AIDS
1997 – 2000 Finland	Plancenter Ltd. /Assistant Project Manager Prepare Tender documents and Expressions of Interest in environment, water supply, health sectors to various clients such as EU, WB, ADB; Administration of overseas projects; Work on short term basis in ongoing projects in Kenya and Nepal (see below). Co-ordinator for the EC Framework LOT 7 tendering.
1999 Jan-May Nepal	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RWSSP), Lumbini Zone, Nepal/ Plancenter Ltd/ Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland. Conduct an assessment and give recommendations to further integrate gender and marginalised groups issues in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in Lumbini Zone working approach and guidelines. The assessment included desk study and interviews with the project staff and community members in the schemes.
1998 Feb-May Kenya	Community Water Supply Management Programme in the Western Province of

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Date & Location: (date from – date to)	Description: (Indicate client, position , description of tasks)
	Kenya/ Plancenter Ltd / Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland. Participate in one-week training on PRA tools with local water engineers and as member of team conduct a feasibility study on the capacity and willingness of the community to take over the Funyula-Nangina water supply services in Busia District run by the Government. Particular responsibility for reporting on the awareness of community on environmental issues.

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