South Asian Legal Empowerment Practitioners' Fair:
Monitoring and Evaluation
19th – 20th April 2012

Biographies of Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists

Ramesh Singh

Ramesh is the Director of Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Office of Programs. Ramesh joined OSF in July 2011 and is based in New York. Before joining OSF, Ramesh was a Visiting Fellow during the 2010-11 academic year at the Hauser Centre for Non-profit Organizations at Harvard University where his research focused on global civil society and international NGOs. Prior to that (2004-2010) he was the Chief Executive of ActionAid International, an international NGO with poverty, rights and justice focused work in 50 countries across Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe. He brings over 35 years of experience in various technical and managerial capacities from local to global positions and living in and working from Gambia, Nepal, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Thailand, England and South Africa. Ramesh, in his voluntary capacity, also serves as a member of Advisory Group of International Centre for Nonprofit Law, Global Governance Committee of Amnesty International and Advisory Group of the Leadership Institute Program of Moynihan Institute at Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, New York.

Vivek Maru

Vivek is the founder and CEO of Namati, an international organization dedicated to growing the field of legal empowerment. Prior to launching Namati, Vivek served as senior counsel in the Justice Reform Group of the World Bank. His work focused on justice reform and governance, primarily in West Africa and South Asia. Vivek also co-founded and co-directed for four years Timap for Justice, a grassroots justice program in Sierra Leone. Vivek has previously worked at Human Rights Watch and clerked for Hon. Marsha Berzon on the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. His recent publications include Between Law and Society: Paralegals and the Provision of Justice Services in Sierra Leone and Worldwide in the Yale Journal of International Law and Allies Unknown: Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability in Harvard Journal of Health and Human Rights. Maru graduated from Harvard College, magna cum laude, and Yale Law School.

Bilal Siddiqi

Bilal is a doctoral candidate in economics at Oxford University. His research focuses on formal and customary legal systems, conflict resolution, and public service delivery in post-conflict settings. He is currently implementing a range of field experiments in Sierra Leone and Liberia, including experimental evaluations of community and criminal paralegal programs in Liberia and Sierra Leone; a randomized trial of a community reconciliation program in Sierra Leone; and a national randomized controlled trial of two user-based non-

financial incentive mechanisms intended to improve public service delivery in Sierra Leone's health sector. Bilal was previously based at the Center for Global Development in Washington, DC, where he worked on aid delivery, global health, and education governance. He holds an M.Phil. in economics from Oxford and a BSc. (Hons) from the Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan. His previous scholarships include the Rhodes Scholarship, the Marie Curie / AMID / CEPR Fellowship, the Wingate Fellowship and the National Merit Scholarship at LUMS.

Micah Perlin

Micah is President of Susterra, a progressive management and technology firm dedicated to the empowerment of nonprofit and international development organizations. Micah specializes in the design and development of custom information management tools, web database applications, and flexible data analysis and reporting solutions. Micah has a decade of experience working with domestic and international agencies, nonprofits, and grassroots organizations to help them improve management capabilities, build institutional capacity, and measure the impact of their programs. Micah has a BA in Political Economy from UC Berkeley and Joint Masters in Public Affairs and Urban & Regional Planning (MPA-URP) from Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School. Micah is fluent in English and Spanish.

Daniel Sesay

Daniel works as program officer for Namati: Innovations in legal empowerment, providing training and technical assistance to paralegal organizations in Sierra Leone. He served as a lead paralegal for civil society organisation Timap for Justice in Sierra Leone, from 2004 – 2009, after which he joined the Sierra Leone Nationwide Scale up of Justice Services, an initiative between Timap, Open Society Justice Initiative, Namati, the World Bank and the Government of Sierra Leone, to expand community-based justices across the country. He has extensive experience in designing and supervising community-based paralegal programs, including in depth involvement in case work, paralegal training, case and program management and strategic oversight. Before Timap, he worked with the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Daniel has spoken at a number of conferences on the topic of customary law and community-based paralegalism.

Stephen Golub

With field experience in approximately 40 countries, Professor Golub regularly consults, writes, lectures and teaches courses about legal empowerment and related themes. He coined the term "legal empowerment" in co-authoring the ADB study (2001) that first articulated the concept; he later designed the first UNDP project on it (2006). He has edited collections of papers on legal empowerment and legal services for the Ford Foundation (2000), the Hague Journal on the Rule of Law (2009), the International Development Law Organization (2010), and the Open Society Foundations (forthcoming). He also has written approximately 30 papers about these topics for Transparency International's Global Corruption Report, the Cambridge Review of International Affairs, the World Bank Legal Review, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and other outlets. Professor Golub's consultancies and research assignments have included work with dozens of

institutions, including the Danish, Dutch, Norwegian, British and U.S. aid agencies; the Global Network for Public Interest Law; the World Bank; Oxfam Novib; Amnesty International and the Danish Institute for Human Rights. In the 2012-13 academic year he will teach the first U.S. law school course on legal empowerment, at the University of California at Berkeley School of Law.

Ward Berenschot

Ward (1977) is a post-doc researcher at KITLV, specializing in identity politics and local democracy in India and Indonesia. He studied political science at the University of Amsterdam, where he taught courses on conflict studies and obtained his PhD (cum laude) with a dissertation on Hindu-Muslim violence in India. He conducted ethnographic fieldwork in India and Indonesia, on ethnic violence, legal aid and local conflict resolution. In 2010/2011 he managed a research project on Access to Justice in Indonesia, in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank. He has done consultancies for Open Society Institute as well as Dutch development agencies on civil society building and legal aid. Ward is the author of *Riot Politics: Hindu-Muslim Violence and the Indian State* (Hurst/Colombia University Press 2011) as well as several articles and on ethnic violence, local governance and access to justice.