

Samiha Barkat, Senior Consultant

Overview of Expertise

Samiha is an experienced development professional and has worked for both the private and not for profit sectors for over 10 years. She has worked in Asia Pacific and in Africa, and specialises in strategy development, overseeing and quality assuring M&E systems and program theories of change, with a particular emphasis on adaptive management. Samiha has led programs across ASEAN in a multitude of sectors and has managed complex regional programs funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia (DFAT). She served as Program Director of the \$50 million DFAT funded anti-people trafficking program, Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons which spanned seven ASEAN countries- Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Samiha is currently undertaking three end-of-term reviews of DFAT-Nauru's investments in infrastructure, education and public sector management to support DFAT's strategic planning across those sectors. Further, Samiha is currently working with the ASEAN & Regional Program Section at DFAT to develop an investment concept for a potential ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards program. Her current research include value for money on international development programs.

Qualifications and training

2008	Masters of Public Health (International Health), Boston University
2004	Bachelor of Arts (Economics), University of Virginia

Project experience

International Aid Programming

Samiha has extensive experience of DFAT's policies, standards and has managed programs including:

- Solomon Islands Resource Facility (SIRF) – Program Manager, Cardno, 2017
- Australian-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) – Program Director, Cardno, 2013 - 2016
- Aid Advisor Services Panel (AAS) for Design and M&E- Program Director, Cardno, 2014 - 2016
- Australia Africa Partnerships Facility (AAPF)- Program Manager, Cardno, 2012 - 2013
- Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Transition Project (ARTIP-Transition)- Program Director, Cardno, 2012 - 2013
- School Systems and Quality Program (SSQ), Program Manager, Cardno, 2012 - 2013
- Tingim Laip (HIV prevention program)- Program Manager, Cardno, 2011 – 2012

Evaluations, Reviews, Strategy and M&E Systems

Samiha has facilitated, reviewed and supported various DFAT program strategies, M&E systems, and evaluations. Most notably:

- Undertaking three end-of-term reviews of DFAT's education, public sector management and infrastructure investments in Nauru, 2018 - current
- Undertook a review of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II, AADCP II's consumer protection efforts in three ASEAN countries, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines. Developed a case study- Study on AADCP II's Influence on Consumer Protection Policy in Select ASEAN Member States (Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines), 2017
- Led the development of country strategies for all seven AAPTIP countries. Facilitated sessions with staff to assess progress against program Theory of Change and ensured strategies were aligned to relevant DFAT aid policies. Reviewed M&E frameworks, 2013 - 2016.
- Monitoring and Evaluation lab- Undertook a review of selected M&E systems of Cardno's DFAT-funded programs. Presented findings to senior management to inform future investments in M&E and identified effective ways for knowledge sharing and learning across programs, 2017

Design and Research

Samiha has undertaken research and design work including:

- Development of an investment concept for an ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards program. Working closely with DFAT- ASEAN & Regional Programs Section and Standards Australia, 2018 - current
- Reviewed and provided comments to DFAT on the investment design summary for phase II of the Mekong Business Initiative (MBI) including a review against DFAT's quality criteria assessment table and investment design standards, 2017
- Scoping missions to India and Malawi to undertake situation analyses for two potential USAID programs, Management Sciences for Health, 2010
- Conducted a study to evaluate the effectiveness of ThaiHealth's anti-smoking campaigns to other global social marketing campaigns, ThaiHealth Promotion Foundation, Thailand, 2007
- Assisted in a pilot research study on the effects of micronutrients on children's educational development in urban slums in Dhaka. Undertook baseline data collection and analysis, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Bangladesh, 2002

Positions held

Sep 2017 – Current	Senior Consultant, Clear Horizon
Jan 2013 – Aug 2017	Senior Consultant, Cardno
Jan 2011 – Nov 2013	Consultant, Cardno
July 2008 – Nov 2010	Senior Development Associate, Management Sciences for Health
May 2007 - Aug 2007	Research Assistant, ThaiHealth Promotion Foundation
Sep 2004 – July 2005	Associate Finance and Contracts Administrator, Abt Associates