

Samiha Barkat, Principal Consultant

Overview of Expertise

Samiha has over 13 years' experience in program management, international development and has worked for both private and not for profit sectors. She specialises in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), design and strategy development with an emphasis on adaptive management. Samiha has led programs in various sectors - health, inclusive education, law and justice, governance, and institutional strengthening - and has managed complex regional programs funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia (DFAT). Samiha's professional training in public health and economics coupled with her practical experience of implementing programs allows her to co-design realistic and fit-for-purpose M&E frameworks that meets the needs of her clients.

Most recently, as Senior M&E-Adviser Health for DFAT's bilateral health portfolio in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samiha supported DFAT to refine their existing program logics and M&E and learning Framework (MELF) at the portfolio level. She worked closely with select health programs to align their M&E Frameworks to the overarching MELF, ensuring adequate reporting at both program and portfolio levels. Samiha's current research include mental health and Covid-19 and understanding how programs can deliver value for money to clients while providing value to ultimate beneficiaries.

Qualifications & Training

- 2008 Masters of Public Health (MPH), Boston University.
- 2004 Bachelor of Arts (Economics), University of Virginia.
- 2017 Complexity Aware Monitoring and Evaluation, Clear Horizon
- 2019 SROI Practitioner Training, Social Ventures Australia

Relevant Consultancies

Design of M&E Frameworks and Plans

- Lead Adviser, icare Foundation. Providing MEL advisory support across the Foundation, including for the Foundation's Funds and their respective investments; current.
- Senior M&E Adviser- Health for the DFAT-funded Human Development Monitoring and Evaluation Services (HDMES) program. Providing support to DFAT to refine the existing Portfolio-level program logic and M&E and Learning (MELF) Framework. Developed a portfolio-wide annual report for 2019.
- Senior M&E Adviser for the DFAT-funded Economic and Social Infrastructure Program (ESIP) in PNG. This included: developing a nested MELF with an overarching program logic and three sectors logics - energy, telecommunications and water and sanitation; develop data collection tools. December 2018 – October 2019
- Developed the M&E Framework for the DFAT-funded support to the think tank, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), 2018
- Reviewed the M&E framework for the ASEAN MPAC strategy (Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity) and provided comments to the ASEAN Secretariat Connectivity Division ASEAN/AADCP II, 2018

Evaluations, Reviews and Strategy

- Senior M&E Specialist on the mid-term evaluation of the regional ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II) program. The evaluation findings and recommendations will inform future program designs, 2019
- Team Leader on three separate end-of-term reviews of DFAT's investments in education, public sector management (PSM) and infrastructure in Nauru using realist evaluation principles, 2018. The end-of-term education review is contributing to Australia's strategy and design for supporting education initiatives in Nauru (Samiha is currently part of the design team).
- Undertook a review of the 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
- Conducted a desktop study to evaluate the effectiveness of ThaiHealth's anti-smoking campaigns to select global social marketing campaigns, ThaiHealth Promotion Foundation, Thailand, 2007
- Assisted in a pilot study on the effects of micronutrients on children's educational development in urban slums in Dhaka. Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Bangladesh, 2002

Design and Appraisals

- Program Logic and M&E Specialist on the design team for the re-design of DFAT's education program in Nauru. The end-of-term education review, undertaken in 2018, is contributing to Australia's policy and strategy for the next phase of support to Nauru
- Independent appraisal of the DFAT-funded PNG Australia Transition to Health (PATH) program, August 2019
- Developed an investment concept note for an ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards program, DFAT ASEAN Regional, 2018
- Reviewed the DFAT- ASEAN investment design for Phase II of the Mekong Business Initiative (MBI) that aims to support vulnerable women and girls' economic empowerment, 2017

Facilitation, Workshops and Trainings

- Facilitated a series of workshops with senior stakeholders to refine DFAT - PNG's Health Portfolio Program Logic and M&E Framework and identified policy initiatives and knowledge products for Australia's strategic engagement with the Government of PNG
- Facilitated three reflection workshops with Australian and Nauruan stakeholders during the end-of-term reviews – education, PSM and infrastructure
- Facilitated workshops with DFAT, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, Standards Australia and ASEAN stakeholders to develop the ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards program concept note
- Co-developed and co-delivered a training on *Introduction to Value for Money*, 2018

Positions held

Jan 2013–Aug 2017 Senior Consultant, Cardno

Jan 2011–Nov 2013 Consultant, Cardno

Jul 2008–Nov 2010 Senior Development Associate, Management Sciences for Health

May 2007–Aug 2007 Research Assistant, ThaiHealth Promotion Foundation

Sep 2004–Aug 2005 Associate Finance and Contracts Administrator, Abt Associates