

CURRICULUM VITAE

Ben Ramalingam

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Fellow, Digital and Technology Cluster

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Governance; Humanitarian Relief and Development; Digital technologies and ICTs; Sustainable Development Goals.

OVERVIEW

An internationally recognised policy entrepreneur, strategist, thought leader, researcher and author focusing on global humanitarian and development issues, with an established reputation for bringing creative, practical and sustainable approaches to complex problems.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

BSc Management and Anthropology London School of Economics, England
Professorial Grade Fellow, Institute of Development Studies
Commissioner, Economic and Social Research Council UK
Honorary Faculty Fellow, Centre for Research on Innovation Management, Brighton University
Senior Research Associate, Social Psychology, London School of Economics
Visiting Lecturer, Royal Veterinary College London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

SELECTED RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2015 – PRESENT

Leader, Digital & Technology Group, IDS

Working at the world's No 1 ranked institute for international development research and learning (QAS rankings, 2015 and 2017), I currently lead two programmes of research, policy and practice. The Digital and Technology group has led a number of influential studies and programmes, including Making All Voices Count, an \$80m Global Grand Challenge for the use of innovation in citizen accountability. The team leads research, analysis and evaluation across 8 priority countries, with a cross-cutting focus on disaster preparedness and response. We have undertaken a major review of emerging technologies in development and humanitarian work, which was endorsed by Sir Tim Berners-Lee and has led to the launch of a new \$10m programme to invest in innovative programmes. The Disasters and Development group comprises 40 people across the Institute and has led a successful consortium bid with International Rescue Committee and Crown Agents to run the \$3m Humanitarian Leadership Academy's UK Collaboration Centre for Humanitarian Learning.

2011 – PRESENT

Board Chair and Founder, Humanitarian Innovation Fund, England

As well as conceptualising, designing, advocating for and establishing the first and sector-leading funding and capacity development mechanism for humanitarian innovation, I have served as Chair since it was founded. In this capacity, I provide strategic leadership and oversight, and have pioneered the development and implementation of a number of new innovation approaches.

2011 – 2015

Director, Adaptive Thinking Ltd, Country

Director of an independent strategic research consultancy focusing on development and humanitarian issues. Designed and led major research projects on a variety of issues; advised international organisations on strategy, policy and programme development; designed, implemented and led a number of global initiatives focused on research, design and innovation. Clients included: USAID, DFID, World Bank, World Vision, Oxfam, Action Aid, Christian Aid, CAFOD.

AFFILIATIONS

Chair-Elect, Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation

Chair, Humanitarian Innovation Fund, London

Board Member, HERE Think Tank, Geneva

Board Member & Innovation Lead, Disaster Emergency Preparedness Programme DFID/Start/CDAC

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

January 2015-September 2018 Human Development Innovation Fund, Tanzania

Human Development Innovation Fund, identifies and supports innovations that have the potential to create social impact in education, health and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) across Tanzania.

May 2017 - September 2017 InnovationXchange collaboration, Australia

Digital Development: IDS and DFAT InnovationXchange collaboration, strengthen DFAT's capability to appropriately use technology to more effectively deliver aid outcomes, building on its existing expertise and experience.

April 2016 - June 2017

mSTAR, England

mSTAR Real Time Data for Adaptive Programming Conceptual Framework, The project will focus on the growing importance of real-time data and in particular how digital tools can be used to generate information in support of more adaptive, contextually relevant, decision-making and programme management and implementation.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Ramalingam, B. (2016), Real-time Monitoring in Disease Outbreaks: Strengths, Weaknesses and Future Potential, IDS Evidence Report 181, Brighton: IDS.

Ramalingam, R.; Hernandez, K.; Prieto Martin, P. and Faith, B. (2016) Ten Frontier Technologies for International Development, Brighton: IDS

Ramalingam, B. and Bound, K (2016) Innovation in International Development, London: NESTA

Ramalingam, B. (2015) Global Solutions Networks in Infectious Disease Management and Pandemics, GSN Network Paper, Ontario: GSN.

Ramalingam, B.; Rush, H.; Bessant, J.; Marshall, N.; Gray, B.; Hoffman, K.; Bayley, S.; Gray, I. and Warren, K. (2015), Strengthening the Humanitarian Innovation Ecosystem, DFID Working Paper.

Ramalingam, B., et al (2014) Dealing with femtorisks in international relations, PNAS 2014 111 (49)

Ramalingam, B., et al (2014) From best practice to best fit: understanding and navigating wicked problems in international development, ODI Working Paper, London: ODI

Ramalingam, B. (2013) Aid on the Edge of Chaos, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Ramalingam, B. (2012) Resilience to Disasters, DFID Policy Paper, London: HMG

Ramalingam, B. (2011) Innovations for Aid in Lord Ashdown Review of UK Aid, London: HMG

Ramalingam, B. (2011) Learning how to learn: 8 lessons for impact evaluations, London: ODI

Sida, L and Ramalingam, B. et al. (2010) Evaluation of Swiss Aid to Fragile & Conflict Affected States, Bern: SDC

Proudlock, K. and Ramalingam, B. (2009) Humanitarian Impact Assessments, London: ALNAP

Ramalingam, B. et al. (2009) Aid Performance and Effectiveness, London: ALNAP

Ramalingam, B. et al (2008) Exploring the Science of Complexity, ODI Working Paper 285, London: ODI

Ramalingam, B. (2007) Strategic Futures Planning: A Guide, London: Ark Group

Ramalingam, B. (2006) Tools for Knowledge and Learning, ODI Toolkit, London: ODI

Ramalingam, B. (2005) Implementing Knowledge Strategies, ODI Working Paper 242, London: ODI