

CURRICULUM VITAE

Laura Bolton



Institute of Development Studies
Library Road
Brighton
BN1 9RE
UK

E: l.bolton@ids.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)1273 915769
W: www.ids.ac.uk

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Officer

DATE OF BIRTH: **1 March 1980**

NATIONALITY: **British**

LANGUAGES: **English**

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: **Health, nutrition, education, economics, statistics.**

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: **Global**

OVERVIEW

Laura is a Research Officer in the Health and Nutrition Cluster at IDS. Her current role is to support decision making for UK Government Department for International Development (DFID) advisers. This involves gathering and analysing evidence to produce reviews on nutrition, health and education.

Laura brings expertise from Economics and Statistics qualifications to the work she does. She has contributed quantitative analysis to research for IDS fellows: constructing a vulnerability index for countries post-financial crisis, and producing aid concentration curves to analyse aid allocation.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2014 - 2015	Clinical Trials - Postgraduate Module London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
2012-2013	Health Economics Post Graduate Diploma University of Aberdeen, UK
2006- 2008	Economics Graduate Diploma University of Sussex, UK
1999- 2002	Geography with Statistics BSc (Honours) University of Plymouth, UK

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2010 – PRESENT	Research Officer, HEART, IDS, UK Helpdesk service: rapidly responding to information requests from DFID advisers, sourcing research and data, assessing the quality of evidence, synthesising, obtaining expert input, drawing out policy lessons, and writing reports. Topic guides: negotiating, designing and writing topic guides with a team on nutrition, health and education issues.
2006 – 2010	Resource Guide Editor, Eldis, IDS, UK Responsibilities included: sourcing economic policy research as part of an editorial team; managing external consultants to write abstracts; editing content according to in-house style guide; project management of monitoring and evaluation, including statistical research & reporting to donors.

2003 – 2007

Programme Assistant, IDS, UK

Responsibilities included: project management of monitoring and evaluation activities including design and implementation of case study research; management of editorial products and processes; management of outside correspondence.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Peer-reviewed journal publication

Gottschalk R, Bolton L. (2009) Macroeconomic Policy, Stimuli, Aid and Budgeting: What Options? *IDS Bulletin*, 40 (5), 78-88.

A SELECTION OF HEART HELPDESK REPORTS (Rapid evidence reviews)

Bolton L. 2016. *School Feeding*. HEART.

This report identifies research on the outcomes of school feeding programmes which are mixed but largely positive. Some programme costs and design considerations are presented which provide lessons for sustainability and affordability. Some cost-benefit analyses are also included and trade-offs discussed.

Bolton L and Thompson S. 2015. *Seasonality in South Sudan*. HEART.

This review documents the characteristics of seasonal spikes in South Sudan with regard to food insecurity, acute malnutrition and disease. It also investigate the extent to which humanitarian and development interventions in the country plan seasonally, for example: dry season planning, surge plans in health, nutrition, and food security or social protection.

Bolton L. 2014. *Nutrition Interventions in Developing and Fragile Contexts with a Focus on Community Interventions and Yemen (2014)*

This report identifies evidence on the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of different interventions to impact malnutrition in Yemen and other fragile contexts. Community-based management interventions are identified as of particular interest. Breastfeeding, sanitation and supplement interventions are also identified.

Bolton L and Thompson S. 2012. *Nutrition Data and Accountability*. HEART.

This research discusses the evidence of the impact of community score cards and identifies the key lessons for making them work. It also looks at the evidence for using SMS to report data on nutrition outcomes.

Bolton L. 2011. *Fetal Health and NCDs*. HEART.

This report gives an overview of the evidence about the relationship between gestational nutrition, and disposal to non communicable diseases. It notes that smaller size at birth appears to be more related to chronic disease when due to intrauterine growth rather than premature birth. Maternal and fetal nutrition are related to size at birth.

Bolton L. 2011. *Salt Intake*. HEART.

This review investigates the extent of the problem of high salt intake in developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. It looks at sources of salt and strategies used to reduce salt intake.