

CURRICULUM VITAE

Erika Lopez Franco



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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Officer; projects with Participation cluster and Power and Popular Politics cluster

DATE OF BIRTH: 23-April-1984

NATIONALITY: Mexican

LANGUAGES: Spanish (mother tongue), English (fluent), Portuguese (good), French (basic)

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Citizen Participation, accountability, knowledge for social change

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: Latin America (Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru) and Africa (Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa)

OVERVIEW

Five years of professional experience in the development sector at national and international level. Focused on conducting research, knowledge mobilisation and evidence-based advocacy for the participation of vulnerable and marginalised citizens in development policies and programmes through participatory action research and other qualitative methods.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2010 - 2011 **M.A. Development Studies**
Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex UK

2003 - 2007 **BA International Relations**
ITAM (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México), Mexico

2006 **Exchange programme**
McGill University, Canada

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2012 – PRESENT **Research Officer Participation and PPP clusters, IDS, UK**

Experience in conducting desk-based research to support the review and synthesis of a vast array of literature to inform the design and implementation of participatory research.

Designing and delivering diverse research and learning processes carried out by grassroots and national NGOs, INGOs, and international donors

Coordination of action-learning, participatory and qualitative research with networks formed by diverse actors: the global Participate initiative (18 NGOs & researchers), the social accountability Citizen Engagement Programme in Mozambique (10+ partners) and the Valuing Volunteering partnership (VSO HQ, 4 country offices & partners in the sector), the Market-systems for the Extreme Poor (5+ partners)

Experience on the use of mixed-methods for qualitative research: facilitation of focus group discussions, life story based inquiries, semi structured interviews, ethnographic observation, as well as visual and other creative approaches.

Strong knowledge on the debates related to the interactions between formal, academic research institutions, civil society organisations and citizen collectives as a means of mobilising knowledge for policy and more broad social change

Scoping funding sources and developing participatory and systemic methodologies for new project proposals for research and learning processes

Project management and coordination

2011 – 2012

Consultant, Transparencia Mexicana (national chapter of Transparency International), Mexico

Defined strategies for the joint initiative of UNDP Mexico and Transparencia Mexicana's: Initiative to Strengthen the Institutionalisation of Social Programmes in Mexico

Liaised with federal and state-level government officials for maintaining effective communication and negotiating their participation in the web-based project

Wrote periodical internal and external progress reports for a variety of audiences in Spanish and English

Evaluated the validity and quality of the information provided by ministries, states and municipalities through the platform and notified government counterparts of their performance

Elaborated analytical inputs for influencing key government, civil society international and national networks, as well as federal ministries, the National Council for Social Policy Evaluation (CONEVAL) and UNDP Mexico

Assisted the Project Coordinator and Executive Director in writing press releases and other communication materials

2010

Project Coordinator UN World Youth Conference 2010, National NGO SERAJ 'Youth Services', Mexico City

Collaborated in the planning and execution of the conference programme

Provided management support and tracked the activities related to the different sub-areas of the office

Reported progress and kept track of completion of the tasks alerting of significant delays to the office Director

Organised and wrote inputs for high level meetings with Mexican Government officials, UN representatives, embassies, civil society and other participants in the conference

AFFILIATIONS

Advisor, TALISMANIN A.C., Mexican Support Network for Indigenous Students

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Research Reports

Lopez Franco, E. and Wheeler, J. (2017 forthcoming) *Integrating Social Accountability with Social and Behaviour Change Communication strategies for gaining the right to Health*, Maputo: N'WETI

Lopez Franco, E. and Dumangane S. (2016) *N'WETI's Community Scorecard Experience in Nampula: Case Study*, Maputo: N'WETI

Burns, D., Picken, A., Hacker, E., Aked, J., Turner, K., Lewis, S., Lopez Franco, E. (2015) *The role of volunteering in sustainable development*, London: VSO

Shahrokh, T. Lopez Franco, E. and Burns, D. (2015) *Citizen Participation and Accountability for Sustainable Development*, Brighton: IDS

Lopez Franco, E. (2014) *Citizen participation in social accountability: Case study from Nampula in Mozambique*, Maputo: CEP

Burns, B., Howard, J., Lopez-Franco, E., Shahrokh, T., and Wheeler, J. (2013) *Work With Us: How People and Organisations can Catalyse Sustainable Change*, Brighton: IDS

Policy briefings

Howard, J., Lopez-Franco, E. and Wheeler, J. (2017) *Using knowledge from the margins to meet the SDGs: the real data revolution*, Brighton: Participate/IDS

Howard, J., Lopez-Franco, E. and Wheeler, J. (2017) *Participatory Accountability for the SDGs: beyond Social Accountability*, Brighton: Participate/IDS

Lopez-Franco, E. and Shahrokh, T. (2013) *Informing Post-2015 Development with Ground Level Knowledge*, Brighton: IDS

Lopez-Franco, E. and Shahrokh, T. (2013) *Achieving Meaningful Accountability for People Living in Poverty and Marginalisation*, Brighton: IDS

Opinion Blogs

[SDGs: genuinely reflecting priorities of poorest & most marginalised?](#)

06 Jul 2017

[When people with disabilities drive research](#)

15 Mar 2016

[Volunteering in Development: challenging the status quo](#)

17 Jun 2015