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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Officer

NATIONALITY: German/British

LANGUAGES: English

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Disability inclusion, humanitarian response, IDPs/refugees

OVERVIEW

Brigitte Rohwerder is a researcher in the Participation, Social Change and Inclusion Cluster, based at the Institute of Development Studies. Her current work mainly focuses on themes of social justice and inclusion, particularly disability inclusion in low-income contexts, using participatory methods. Her research interests include disability stigma, forced displacement, and marginalised groups' experiences of conflict, crises and humanitarian response. She currently works mainly on supporting the Better Social Assistance in Crises (BASIC) programme, as well as the work of the Disability Team in IDS. She has published and presented at international conferences about disability inclusion in humanitarian response. She has undergone training in and regularly applies gender analysis. Core skills and competencies include: excellent research and writing skills, interview coding and analysis, capable of producing concise reports in clear, practical prose; strong interpersonal, negotiating, networking and presentation skills.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2016 - 2021	Postgraduate Certificate Disability Studies: Inclusive Theory and Research (MSc) University of Bristol
2010 - 2011	MA in Post-War Recovery Studies (distinction) University of York
2006 - 2010	MA (Hons) in International Relations (2:1) University of St Andrews

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2013 – PRESENT **Research Officer, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK**

As part of the Better Social Assistance in Crises (BASIC) programme I have cowritten a paper on [The Risks and Outcomes of Getting Help for Marginalised People: Navigating Access to Social Assistance in Crises](#) and am involved in a participatory project looking at marginalised peoples (people with disabilities, rural youth, older people) experiences around accessing social assistance in crises settings in northern Uganda and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq using peer researchers and participatory and creative methods.

As part of the work on the IDS disability team I have worked on two main projects. Disability Inclusive Development (DID) focuses on programmes supporting people with disabilities in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, and Tanzania in relation to education, health, livelihoods, and stigma and discrimination. Inclusion Works! was focused on supporting people with disabilities in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda into formal employment. I have supported the two projects in a variety of ways, including reports looking at [stigma](#) in the countries involved in the two programmes; writing situational analyses for [Kenya](#), [Nepal](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Uganda](#), writing up reports on people with disabilities experiences during the [Covid-19 pandemic](#), and co-facilitating

participatory methods workshops in Kenya and Uganda. In DID I have also focused on supporting a participatory research project in Kenya looking at [children with disabilities, parents, and teachers' experiences of disability inclusive pre-primary education](#) using peer researchers with disabilities, including doing a literature review on [disability inclusion in early childhood development and education in humanitarian settings](#). Through the CREID programme I have worked on papers focusing on the [experiences of people with disabilities from religious minority and marginalised caste backgrounds in India](#). I also did additional work on the effects of the pandemic through PARDAN ([focused on adolescents with disabilities in Nepal](#)) and the Covid Collective (focused mainly on [forcibly displaced persons](#)).

The [Evidence and Knowledge for Development \(K4D\)](#) and [Governance and Social Development Resource Centre \(GSDRC\)](#) provided research for DFID, EU and Australia DFAT advisers on a range of conflict, humanitarian, governance and social development policy issues. I've produced over 60 rapid demand reports synthesising the latest evidence and expert thinking to inform policy and practice. Examples of my reports include: a topic guide on [disability inclusion](#); an emerging issues report on the [social impacts and responses related to COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries](#); conflict analyses of [Iraq](#) and [Kenya](#); and helpdesk reports including [NFI and the needs of women and girls](#) and [women and girls in forced displacement](#). Reports relating to disability have focused on [disability stigma](#); [Syrian refugees in Turkey](#); [North Africa](#); [South Sudan](#); [Somalia](#); [assistive technologies](#); [women and girls in conflict and crises](#); and [social protection](#).

Work for the Humanitarian Learning Centre has included operational practice papers on [disability inclusive humanitarian response](#) and [sustainable refugee return](#), as well as content for a module on vulnerability and disaster risk reduction. I've coded interviews on Nvivo and written up the analysis for the working paper and national report on [balancing unpaid care work and paid work in Rwanda](#).

2011 - 2013

Research Fellow (previously Research Assistant and Intern), Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit, University of York, UK

The PRDU is an international centre of excellence for the study of post-conflict societies and their recovery. Worked collaboratively on evaluation and research projects including: an evaluation of UNICEF's Emergency Preparedness Response/Disaster Risk Reduction capacity building training of the education sector in Eastern and Southern Africa; an evaluation of the impact of the National Solidarity Programme on Returnee Reintegration in Afghanistan; and a systematic review for DFID on the sustainable scale-up of low-cost private education in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Responsibilities included drafting and editing reports, carrying out study searches and quality assessment, analysing and incorporating data from focus groups and online surveys into the findings, writing up findings related to gender and disability, and verifying content. In addition, I worked on project proposals, preparing scoping notes and publicity material.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Rohwerder, B. et al. (2022) '[Describing adolescents with disabilities' experiences of COVID-19 and other humanitarian emergencies in low- and middle-income countries: a scoping review](#)', *Global Health Action*, 15.1, DOI: 10.1080/16549716.2022.2107350

Rohwerder, B. and Szyp, C. (2022) [The Risks and Outcomes of Getting Help for Marginalised People: Navigating Access to Social Assistance in Crises](#), BASIC Research Working Paper 7, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/BASIC.2022.007

Rohwerder, B. (2021) [The Right to Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), IDS Working Paper 553, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2021.052

Rohwerder, B.; Njungi, J.; Wickenden, M.; Thompson, S.; and Shaw, J. (2021) ["This Time of Corona Has Been Hard"-People with Disabilities' Experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya](#), Brighton: Institute of Development Studies

Rohwerder, B. (2018) [Disability Stigma in Developing Countries](#), K4D Helpdesk Report, Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

Rohwerder, B. (2015) [Disability inclusion: Topic guide](#), Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham.

Rohwerder, B. (2013) '[Intellectual disabilities, violent conflict and humanitarian assistance: advocacy of the forgotten](#)', *Disability & Society*, 28.6: 770-783