

Curriculum Vitae

Gail Hopkins (Dr.)

ADDRESS: Brighton, UNITED KINGDOM BN2 1FD
TEL: (UK) +44-7989-355946
E-MAIL: ghopkns@gmail.com **Skype:** gailonskype
NATIONALITY: British

PROFILE

A qualified expert focusing on refugees and migration particularly related to protracted situations. Expertise in integration, self-reliance and resilience at individual, household and community levels through targeted, viable responses; Specialty in community-based interventions and livelihoods (rural and urban) including areas such as training/skills training, adding value/linking projects to coincide with market, education, health, women's role in economic production; family dynamics; Identification of linkages, gaps, good/effective practices; Methods to mitigate against negative coping strategies in humanitarian and development contexts.

Extensive field & desk review expertise: Mostly West Africa and EU; some also in Lebanon (Beirut, Zahle); Rural and urban; Individual, household and community; Planning and conducting assessments (impact/rapid/gap); 10+ years in qualitative research; Design of survey instruments; Participatory method; Stakeholder/government consultation; Team leading.

Extensive project management expertise: Project design and implementation; Supervising teams; Methodology design; Logistics planning; Analysis, drafting and identification of next steps; recommendations; Engagement with international agencies, INGOs/NGOs, stakeholders, government departments, community leaders, beneficiaries.

Approach: Practical, solutions oriented; Proactive; Participatory; Stakeholder consultation; Strong analytical skills; Highly organised; Excellent skills in co-ordination. Comfortable taking the initiative and directing/supervising.

Geographic areas: EU, West Africa, Lebanon, Somalia, United Kingdom, Canada.

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT AND RESEARCH

December 2019 - January 2020

EIU/IOM - 20 days

Desk research on migration governance in The Gambia.

Desk research, consulting with Government of The Gambia Departments, ministers, officials to ascertain the degree to which The Gambia has fulfilled criteria/progress on migration governance: adherence to national and international laws and guidelines, enacting appropriate laws, progress is moving ahead.

2017 - 2021

Expert Witness role

Writing expert report as specified by the legal representation of an asylum seeker or migrant. Country of origins include The Gambia, Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau. Working with legal representation and migrants in the UK, US, and Europe.

March 2018 - ongoing interest

Independent research - Returnees to The Gambia from 'The Back Way'.

Develop research on, mainly male, migrants who have attempted to leave West Africa by 'the back way'. Having been unsuccessful in reaching Europe and encountering significant challenges en route some migrants return to their home countries either on their own or with support from IOM. Challenges that migrants face include exploitation, physical and sexual abuse, detention/imprisonment, trafficking, and financial blackmail. Often having sold a business or borrowed heavily before and during transit, returnees face the financial, psychological and family fall-out of rebuilding lives in a context of poverty and very limited opportunities for income generation and progress.

Data currently includes around twenty semi-structured interviews with Gambian and Guinean returnees, discussions with IOM, Gambian youth-oriented NGOs and with UNHCR who are part of an advisory forum.

May - July 2016 (45 days)

Consultant - UNHCR RRWA, Dakar

Impact assessment: UNHCR livelihood assistance to Senegalese refugees in Gambia and Guinea Bissau.

Task: Assess the impact of UNHCR investments for Senegalese refugees and receiving communities in The Gambia and Guinea Bissau over the five year period 2011-2015. Focus on UNHCR's diverse range of livelihood investments and the community-based approach which include those targeted at individuals, households and communities. Assess refugees' progress toward self-reliance and integration and UNHCR's role in that progress.

Project manage and devise assessment to review all livelihood investments (rural and urban) and to review the range of factors that impact on local integration (e.g. access to labour market, shelter, healthcare and land, civil documentation, social networks, protection).

- Design methodology - qualitative and survey; Devise survey document; Plan logistics;
- Conduct fieldwork in The Gambia & Guinea Bissau;
- Supervise data collection (national consultant & 2 x enumerator teams of 10 each);
- Consult with UNHCR country offices and UNHCR's government and implementing partners;
- Review UNHCR programme documents/reports; Situate investments within the wider development context;
- Review related activities of key development actors (UN & I/NGO); identify opportunities for collaboration;
- Identify gaps; identify instances where investments work well/not so well;
- Write final report; make recommendations.

April 2014 - 2016

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon - Independent research

Focus: Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Lebanese receiving communities. April & September 2014 and Jan/Feb 2016: Scoping trip; Meet with key actors; Arabic training; Follow-up meetings with those active in refugee response.

Gain understanding of the context of Lebanon in relation to Syrian refugees and poorer Lebanese communities, and the approach of the Lebanese government toward the crisis. Do so via informal conversation with Lebanese, some semi-structured discussion with Syrian refugees, and via discussion with INGOs and government departments. Highlight the impact on both refugees and receiving communities including dynamics between communities, coping strategies of refugees, methods of building self-reliance among individuals and communities. Discussions held in Beirut with two days in Zahle informal settlement for interviews.

September 2012 - November 2013

Consultant Research Co-Ordinator – UNHCR Bureau for Europe, Brussels

Output: *A New Beginning: Refugee Integration in Europe*, Published September 2013, UNHCR. (<http://www.refworld.org/docid/522980604.html>)

Project management role with four national consultants reporting. Regular liaison and dialogue with four UNHCR focal points and with project head in Brussels. Responsibility for setting timeframe and achieving goals on time.

This research set out to identify what specific integration challenges exist for refugees in the four project countries (France, Sweden, Ireland, Austria) and what differences exist between refugee and wider migrant integration. Findings based on consultations with refugees and with stakeholders and government representatives, plus extensive literature reviews at country and EU level.

- Establish and monitor methodology for desk and field research; provide support/guidance on national research;
- Identify key thematic areas impacting integration, cohesion, and self-reliance of refugees;
- Conduct desk review of EU policy on integration; conduct 'snapshot' desk review on three additional countries;
- Comparative analysis of findings; Synthesise four national reports into the final report.
- Participate in launch conference; Represent UNHCR and present at launch of Scottish integration report.

June-July 2012

Liberian refugees in The Gambia and cessation. Pilot research.

Following cessation in June 2012, this pilot explored Liberian refugees' motivation for decisions to take up assisted voluntary repatriation or to accept local integration after protracted exile. Interviews with Liberian refugees plus consultations with international agencies, local partners, and Gambia Immigration Dept.

Autumn 2011

Visiting Lecturer – University of The Gambia - Methodology course for 2nd and 3rd years.

2009 - 2016/17

Casamance (Senegalese) refugees in The Gambia

- **Field research 2009-2012; also 2015. UNHCR Consultancy 2016. (See publications)**
- **Funding: UNHCR, British Academy, Japanese Ministry of Education.**

Focus: Senegalese urban and rural refugees and Gambian receiving communities in the context of protracted displacement. Refugees live in self-settled situations in The Gambia hosted by Gambian communities in border villages since 2006. Around 15% have moved to urban areas. Since 2010, UNHCR has switched to a community-based approach in order to promote self reliance, local integration and community cohesion.

Data: Gathered through interviews with Senegalese refugees, Gambian community, participant observation, rapid appraisals (with ICRC, UNHCR), ongoing dialogue with agencies (UNHCR, WFP, WHO), local implementing partners, Gambia Immigration Dept and local involved NGOs.

- Improve understanding of the economic and social impact of protracted displacement on refugees and host communities, including refugee/host relations;
- Consider issues and challenges of establishing self-reliance in protracted situations and in contexts of existing poverty and poor infrastructure (e.g. establishing sustainable livelihoods, skills, education);
- Assess challenges encountered by governments and agencies regarding protection, vulnerability and sustainability of programming; consider the effectiveness and viability of programming;
- Consider existing technical capacity in-country and the impact of shortfalls;
- Includes women and youth's access to programmes and level of training.

October 2000 – December 2004

Doctorate - University of Sussex

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, UK

Thesis: *Gains Losses & Changes: Settlement of Somali Women Refugees in London & Toronto*.

Doctoral research which explored the challenges of Somali women refugees settling in London and Toronto. Focus on integration and cohesion. Comparative analysis. Presented the processual and individual nature of displacement and the different ways women approached integration and created new cohesive connections to establish a life in the new country.

Fieldwork: two urban locations - London and Toronto. Method: interviews with Somali refugee women, participant observation, consultations with Somali community organization staff. Extensive literature review.

- Challenged overarching concepts of victimhood often attached to women and to refugees;
- Advanced through evidence the presence of agency and choice even in situations of exile and vulnerability;
- Revealed ways in which women select and reject aspects of the new country with which to engage according to context and their desired outcome;
- Demonstrated through analysis of employment, housing, social networks, education, community organisations and identity the multiple ways women approach the various aspects of life as a migrants, woman and refugees;
- Considered which support programmes work well and not so well and where challenges exist;
- Identified emergence and impact of changed, new & unexpected dynamics arising from migration & integration.

May 2005 - August 2005 - Consultant Researcher - Commonwealth Secretariat, London

Output: Internal report: Commonwealth Secretariat, Evaluation Dept on assistance given to Sierra Leone 1999-2005

Oct.1998 - April 2000 - Researcher - Commission for the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain (0.5)

Output: Researcher: *The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain: The Parekh Report*, London: The Runnymede Trust, 2000).

April 1999 - June 1999 - Consultant - NACRO Brighton

Output: Internal report: *Sorted? Youth Magazine Project: Report on Focus Groups*, Brighton: NACRO, April 1999

October 1998 - August 1999 - Research Assistant - Brighton and Hove Racial Equality Service (0.5)

Output: Researcher: *Widening Participation Project for Black & Ethnic Minorities and Refugees*. Brighton, Dec.1998

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL COURSES

2000-05	University of Sussex	DPhil Geography (focus on women refugees)
1997/8	University of Sussex	MA Culture, Race and Difference
1994/7	University of Sussex	BA Hons. English with Media Studies
January 2016	American University of Cairo	Short Course on International Refugee Law.

PUBLICATIONS:

Articles, Contributions, Reports

- (2020) Buffoni, L. & Hopkins, G. 'Improving information and communication to boost inclusion and self-reliance for urban refugees.' *Forced Migration Review* 63 February 2020.
- (2019) Hopkins, G., Buffoni, L. 'The IGAD Kampala Declaration on jobs, livelihoods, and self-reliance: from declaration to reality'. *Palgrave Communications* 5, 157 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-019-0370-2>
- (2016) 'Impact Assessment of UNHCR investments in the livelihoods and self-reliance of Senegalese refugees in The Gambia and Guinea Bissau.' UNHCR RRWA, Internal report.

- (2015) 'Casamance Refugees in Urban Locations of The Gambia'. In Koichi, K. & G. Hoffstaedter (eds) *Urban Refugees: Challenges in Protection, Services and Policy*. Pub. Routledge.
- (2013) – 'Casamance Refugee Women's Engagement with Development Programming in the Gambia'. *Diversities*, Vol. 15/1. Co-published by UNESCO and Max Planck Institute for the Study of Ethnic and Religious Diversity. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002270/227068E.pdf#page=81>
- (2013) *A New Beginning: Refugee Integration in Europe*. September 2013, UNHCR. (<http://www.refworld.org/docid/522980604.html>)
- (2011) *Casamance refugees in The Gambia: self-settlement and the challenges of integration*. Working Paper 220 New Issues in Refugee Research. UNHCR PDES. <http://www.unhcr.org/4e79ef7c9.html>
- (2010) 'A Changing Sense of Somaliness: Somali Women in London and Toronto', *Gender Place Culture*, Vol. 17/4: 519-538. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0966369X.2010.485846#.VRps-kuBJIA>
- (2006) 'Somali Community Organizations in London and Toronto: Collaboration and Effectiveness', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 19/3: 361-380. <http://jrs.oxfordjournals.org/content/19/3/361.full.pdf>

Professional Affiliations and Memberships

- Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society
- Affiliated with University of Sussex, UK (School of Global Studies)
- Peer Reviewer: *Gender Place Culture*, *Journal of Ethnic & Migration Studies*, *African Geographical Review*. British Academy, Economic and Social Research Council (grant funding reviewer).
- Trustee of the Barbara Harrell-Bond Foundation <http://barbaraharrellbond.org>
- African Peace and Conflict Network – Member of International Editorial Board.