

Clara Richards

Senior Programme Specialist

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Biography

Clara is a Senior Programme Specialist at INASP. Besides designing and implementing interventions to support research use across different regions, Clara contributes to the development of the INASP organisation and programme strategies. She has carried out various consultancy assignments on improving organisations' research-uptake strategies. She was Programme Director of the VakaYiko Consortium for the DFID funded BCURE programme, until March 2017, leading an international team to build the capacity of policymakers to use research evidence in Ghana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Uganda.

Clara previously worked as an independent consultant on policy influence and evidence-informed policy in various contexts, including Africa, Latin America and Asia. She has also worked closely with the Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) programme in the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) to coordinate the Evidence-Based Policy in Development Network (EBPDN). She was formerly based in Argentina at the think tank CIPPEC, where she spent more than five years developing the policy influence and evaluation capacities of Latin American think tanks and coordinating the Latin American network of EBPDN.

Languages: English (excellent), Spanish (excellent), Portuguese (moderate), French (basic)

Main country experience: Latin America, West Africa, South East Africa

Key skills and expertise

- Strategic planning
- Research uptake
- Organisational assessment
- Capacity building
- Multi-country programme management

Specialist thematic areas

- Evidence-informed policy making
- Innovation in government and public policy

Posts held

2018 – Present	Senior Programme Specialist, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2015 – 2018	Senior Programme Manager, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2013 – 2015	Programme Manager, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2011 – 2013	Independent Consultant (Asia, Africa and Latin America)
2006 – 2011	Policy Influence Coordinator, Centro de Investigación de Políticas Publicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) (Argentina)

Qualifications

2012	MA, International Studies: Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina (One semester Sciences Po, Paris, France)
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2006	B.A. International Relations, Universidad Católica, Argentina (One semester Universidade de Brasília, Brazil)
2001 – 2002	Diploma in Institutional Communications, Universidad Católica Argentina

Project experience

Jan 2019 – Dec 2019	Evidence Diagnostic and support for change at UNICEF, South Asia, East and South Africa. INASP Consultant. Funded by UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti.
June 2017 – Oct 2017	SPARKS! Peer learning between five African parliaments, Kenya (with a network spanning Uganda, Ghana, Malawi and Zimbabwe). Senior Programme Manager. Funded by UNDP/OECD.
Jan 2016 – June 2018	Context Matters – Improving the use of knowledge in policy in Ghana and Peru. Senior Programme Manager for the Peru strand. Funded by DFID.
Apr 2015 – July 2015	Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems (SRSP), Sahel. Programme Manager (INASP) consultancy work for Oxford Policy Management (OPM). Worked as an INASP consultant for Oxford Policy Management (OPM). Developed a strategy for research uptake at global and local levels and provided guidance during the project on the use of the strategy by other team members. The strategy covered the range of audiences for whom the research is intended and planned for regular dissemination of information rather than one-off activities on completion.
Nov 2013 – Dec 2014	Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) project, MENA. Programme Manager (INASP) consultancy work for OPM. Worked as an INASP consultant to build the capacities of researchers in the Middle East and North Africa region to influence policy and strengthen parliamentary skills on research uptake.
Sept 2013 – Mar 2017	Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (VakaYiko), Ghana, Zimbabwe, Uganda and South Africa. Senior Programme Manager/Programme Manager. Funded by DFID. Designed and implemented research uptake interventions to support the capacity of policy makers in Ghana, Zimbabwe, Uganda and South Africa to use research evidence
2012	Consultancy work for INASP, Oxford, UK. Independent Consultant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of training programme for policymakers in Africa. • Delivery of pedagogical training skills program for policymakers in Latin America.
2011 – 2012	Consultancy work for Overseas Development Institute, London, UK. RAPID programme. Independent Consultant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on think tanks in emergent economies (Brazil, India, South Africa and China). • Evaluation of the Evidence Based Policy for Development Network and developed strategy for network's next phase. • Coordination of the Evidence Based Policy for Development Network and manager of the regional sub-networks in Latin America, Africa, Asia. • Research on the Rapid Outcome Mapping Approach and the link between research and policymaking.



- 2011 Consultancy work for RIMISP, Santiago, Chile. Independent Consultant.
- Assistance in organisational evaluation of IDRC funded network in Latin America.
- 2011 Consultancy work for CIPPEC, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Independent Consultant.
- Development and management of communities of practice (climate change and childhood).
- 2008 – 2011 Spaces for engagement, using knowledge to improve public decisions, Centro de Investigación de Políticas Publicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC), Argentina. Coordinator of the Policy Influence Programme.
- Using knowledge to improve pro poor public policy (funded by the Overseas Development Institute and the Global Development Network)
 - Technical assistance and face-to-face training in research communication, strategic planning and Monitoring & Evaluation for local think tanks in Argentina and Latin America.
 - Developed strategy and coordinated the Latin American chapter of the Evidence Based Policy for Development Network Attained a 20% (400 people) increase in new members in two years.
 - Developed CIPPEC’s first e-learning strategy (www.vippal.org) In 2010 the platform served more than 60 students in 15 Latin American countries and in 2011 we facilitated first course for African and Asian participants with more than 90 applicants.
 - Developed and coordinated an online community of practice (www.vippal.org/deal) for engaging Executive Directors of think tanks in Latin America.

Selected Publications

- 2016 INASP. (2016). [*Approaches to Developing Capacity for the Use of Evidence in Policy*](#). Oxford: INASP.
- 2014 Overseas Development Institute. (2014). [*ROMA, a guide to policy engagement and influence*](#). London: ODI.
- 2012 Overseas Development Institute. (2012). [*A ‘light touch’ review of the evidence-based policy in development network*](#). London: ODI.
- 2010 CIPPEC/GDN. (2010). [*Learners, practitioners and teachers: Handbook on monitoring, evaluating and managing knowledge for public policy influence*](#) (available in Spanish and English).
- 2010 CIPPEC/GDN. (2010). *Knowledge Management in Latin America* (research paper only available in Spanish).
- 2011 CIPPEC, 3ie and Overseas Development Institute. (2011). *Conceptual framework for case studies series on policy influence of impact studies*.

