

Mai Skovgaard

Senior Programme Specialist, Gender

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Biography

Mai is INASP's Gender Specialist focusing on gender-responsive programming and pedagogy as well as individual and organizational capacity strengthening. Mai is an experienced project manager, facilitator, and trainer. She has managed projects totalling £5.8 million designed to build capacity in the research and tertiary education sector, including managing and delivering the £3.8mn FCDO-funded Transforming Employability for Social Change in East Africa project and the £2mn Sida-funded Global Platforms for Equitable Knowledge Ecosystems project. Mai co-designed INASP's gender-responsive pedagogy approach and has subsequently overseen the delivery of this to 565 lecturers in East Africa along with its integration into AuthorAID online courses. Mai has a Master's in International Studies from Aarhus University.

Languages: Danish (native speaker), English (excellent), Spanish (moderate/excellent), Arabic modern standard (basic)

Main country experience: Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Jordan, Nicaragua, Denmark

Key skills and expertise

- Design and delivery of gender-responsive pedagogy
- Gender mainstreaming in higher education institutions
- Design and delivery of in-person and online training and mentoring of lecturers
- Project and partnership management
- Gender responsive programming

Specialist thematic areas

- Gender
- Teaching and learning in higher education
- Inequity in research and knowledge systems

Posts held

Jan 2024 – present	Senior Programme Specialist – Gender, INASP (Oxford UK)
Jan 2022 – Dec 2023	Programme Specialist – Gender, INASP (Oxford, UK)
Apr 2021 – Dec 2021	Programme Specialist, INASP (Oxford, UK)
Apr 2020 – Apr 2021	Programme Specialist (Acting), INASP (Oxford, UK)
Apr 2018 – Apr 2020	Programme Coordinator, INASP (Oxford, UK)
Feb 2015 – Mar 2018	Programme Officer, Information Access, INASP (Oxford, UK)
Apr 2013 – Dec 2014	International Project Coordinator, Crossing Borders (Humblebaek, Denmark)
Oct 2012 – Jan 2013	User Analyst, Youth Center Gellerup Toveshoej (Brabrand, Denmark)
Jan 2011 – Jul 2011	Programme Assistant, ActionAid Denmark Regional Office (Amman, Jordan)

Qualifications

Jan 2024	GenderPro Credentials, The George Washington University & GenderPro Alliance, Online
Sep 2020	Project Management for Development Professionals (Project DPro), Humentum, Online Flex Workshop
May 2019	Gender Analysis and Planning, INTRAC, Oxford
2009 – 2012	MA in International Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark
2005 – 2009	BA in Science of Religion and Globalisation and Development, Aarhus University, Denmark

Project experience

2025-present	Equipping early career African researchers to succeed: A partnership to strengthen research capacities at NORHED universities in Africa. Project Manager. Funded by Norad.
2024-present	A digital learning and knowledge community: positioning early career researchers to make a difference to society. Sida Cooperation Lead. Funded by



	Sida.
2024-present	Digital Hub for Open Research in East Africa: Harnessing open research capabilities to generate new knowledge solutions in East Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Project Director. Funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc.
2024-present	Girls Education and Skills Partnership (GESP) project at Yaba College of Technology, Nigeria. INASP Lead. Funded by FCDO in partnership with UNICEF.
2022-2023	Global Platforms for Equitable Knowledge Ecosystems. (GPEKE), Ethiopia and Uganda. Project Manager. Funded by Sida.
2018-2021	Transforming Employability for Social Change in East Africa (TESCEA), Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda. Project Manager (from May 2020, previously Project Coordinator). Funded by FCDO.
2017-2018	Strengthening Research and Knowledge Systems (SRKS), Africa, Asia and Latin America. Programme Officer. Funded by DFID.
2014-2015	Youth Organization in Three Rural Municipalities in Matagalpa, Nicaragua (Ungdomsorganisering i tre landkommuner i Matagalpa, Nicaragua). Volunteer (the project was entirely managed by volunteers). Funded by The Danish Foreign Ministry through the Civil Society Fund.
2014	From Overconsumption to Solidarity, Global. Project Coordinator. Funded by EuropeAid.
2011	Building Bridges for Youth Action, Jordan. Programme Assistant. Funded by The Danish Foreign Ministry through the Danish-Arab Partnership Programme.

Selected publications

2024	Skovgaard M. & Buchner T. (2024). Time and effort pay off for gender champions in research . University World News
2023	Skovgaard, M., Wild, J., Fabian, F. & Munene, A. (2023). Gender responsive pedagogy in online learning: a framework and guidance for designers and learning . Oxford: INASP
2023	Skovgaard, M. (2023). An equitable knowledge ecosystem must include the voices of women and men: Exploring the voices of early career researchers with a gender lens . Oxford: INASP
2023	Skovgaard, M., Teketel, Y. & Mekuannent, M. (2023). Addressing gender disparities to create a more equitable knowledge system in Ethiopia . Oxford: INASP
2023	Skovgaard, M., Sebbale, S. & Nakamya, I. (2023): Creating a more equitable research system: lessons from Uganda . Oxford: INASP
2021	Skovgaard, M., Chapin, J. & Fabian F. (2021). Gender-responsive teaching improves learning outcomes for both women and men . Oxford: INASP
2021	Muchungi, K., Kingsbury, C., Dennis, A., & Skovgaard, M. (2021). Transformative Learning Toolkit . Oxford: INASP
2021	Omingo, M., Dennis, A., & Skovgaard, M. (2021). Course Redesign Toolkit . Oxford: INASP
2020	Chapin, J., Skovgaard, M., & Warne, V. (2020). Integrating Gender Responsive Pedagogy into Higher Education: Our Approach . Oxford: INASP
2020	Skovgaard, M. (2020). How to make university classes more gender responsive . Oxford: INASP blog

