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Adam Kessler

Summary

Adam is a monitoring and evaluation specialist with experience developing simple, practical results measurement systems for private sector development programmes. He has worked on industrial development, agriculture, market systems, and challenge funds.

Professional experience

DevLearn LLP
Managing Partner
August 2018- Present

DevLearn is a development consultancy specialising in results measurement, communications, and implementation support. Selected assignments (completed and ongoing) include:

Mercy Corps, March 2020 – Present, *Global*
- Managing five-person team to evaluate impact of Mercy Corp's MicroMentors programme.

PEPZ, January 2020 – Present, *Zambia*
- Leading two-person team to design M&E system for DFID's flagship £100 million private sector development programme in Zambia

LTS, November 2019 – February 2020, *Rwanda*
- Supporting DFID-funded market systems development and impact investment programme (Imsar) to revise logical framework and value for money system.

ESSOR DRC, November 2019 – Present, *DRC*
- Leading results measurement team for £25 million DFID-funded, PWC-implemented project to improve the business enabling environment in DRC. Recruited and managed staff, implemented updated monitoring system, and managed assessments and reporting.

Rainforest Alliance, October 2019 – Present, *Global*
- Managing four-person team to review Rainforest Alliance's portfolio of 130 projects, understand the logic, programmatic coherence and effectiveness, and facilitate the Rainforest Alliance team to learn lessons for future.

Comic Relief, August 2019 – Present, *UK, India, South Africa, Zambia*
- Managing design phase of project to learn from a portfolio of programmes supporting access to housing across four countries. Assessing learning needs and information gaps, and designing three-years of learning activities to fill these gaps.

International Youth Foundation, April 2019 – Present, *Tanzania and Mozambique*
- Managing four-person team to evaluate the International Youth Foundation's Via Programme, funded by Mastercard, using an Outcome Harvesting methodology. This is a longitudinal evaluation lasting eighteen months.

Comic Relief, April – October 2019, *Global*

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- Leading two-person team to conduct mid-term review of Trade, Enterprise and Employment programme, a £20 million programme supported by DFID and Comic Relief.

SNV, March – May 2019, *Cambodia, Zambia, Uganda, Ethiopia*
- Managing three-person team to evaluate the Innovations against Poverty Fund, a multi-country challenge fund active in the ICT, WASH, agribusiness and energy sectors and funded by SIDA.

BEAM Exchange, December 2018 – March 2019, *Global*
- Managed assignment to review evidence supporting market systems development approaches.

ESSOR DRC, November 2018 – August 2019, *DRC*
- Designed and supporting evaluation of an innovative business registration status called Entreprenant, funded by DFID.

Donor Committee for Enterprise Development, October 2018 – present, *Worldwide*
- Providing support to the DCED in results measurement. Includes advertising, training, and developing guidance materials on the DCED Standard.

Sahaj Nepal, October 2018 – February 2019, *Nepal*
- Led a two-person team advising on evaluation design and implementation for nine interventions in a market systems development programme in Nepal, funded by SDC.

International Youth Foundation, November 2018 – March 2019, *Mozambique and Tanzania*
- Team leader for mid-term review of a MasterCard Foundation funded programme to improve enabling environment for skills and entrepreneurship development.

Market Development Facility, October 2018 – April 2019, *Timor Leste*
- Conducted diagnostic study into urban poverty in Timor Leste for Market Development Facility, funded by DFAT. Scope includes tool design, field research, and developing suggestions for new interventions.

REACH Uganda, September – November 2018, *Uganda*
- Conducted mid-term review of REACH, an agricultural market systems development programme implemented by the International Fertiliser Development Centre and funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Developed inception report, conducted two weeks of field work, and wrote final report.

Online trainer, March 2015 – present, *Worldwide*
- Designed, marketed, and delivered online training course on results measurement using the DCED Standard. See website at www.devlearn.co.uk. Course has been taken by approximately 200 participants over 4 cohorts, from 2015 onwards.

Enterprise Partners, August 2018 – present, *Ethiopia*
- Providing backstopping support for new results measurement lead at Enterprise Partners. Advised on reviews, evaluation findings, and conduct quality assurance of results measurement system biannually. Funded by DFID.

LIWAY, August 2018 – present, *Ethiopia*
- Supporting five-person team to improve results measurement system for a market systems programme working in urban areas in Ethiopia. Provided training, advice on system development, and input into study designs. Funded by SIDA.

Enterprise Partners

Monitoring and evaluation Lead
April 2016 – August 2018, Ethiopia
- Member of senior management team at Enterprise Partners, a £40 million DFID-funded private sector development programme in Ethiopia.
- Recruited and managed a six person monitoring team. Supported the team to design and conduct surveys, analyse data, and ensure that data is used for management decision making and reporting.
- Took on management of gender and green growth advisors, integrated into monitoring team and supported the development of relevant interventions.
- Received 96% in audit of monitoring system against the DCED Standard, and an A in the 2018 Annual Review. The MRM system was praised as "comprehensive and robust", and "steadfastly committed to transparency and openness".

Results Measurement Consultant
April 2012 – April 2016, Worldwide
Contracts included:

Business Innovation Facility, October 2013-April 2016
Burma, Malawi, Nigeria, UK
- Head of Global Monitoring and Evaluation for DFID-funded market development programme working in Myanmar, Nigeria and Malawi, with a £37 million budget.

Donor Committee for Enterprise Development, January 2013-April 2016, *UK*
- Supported the use of the DCED Standard for Results Measurement, a practical framework for monitoring and managing results.

Schools for Life, July 2015- July 2016
- Team leader for evaluation of "Education Quality Initiative Project", an education project in Ghana, funded by Comic Relief.

Independent Commission for Aid Impact, Jan 2014 – Mar 2015; *Zambia, India, Rwanda, Ethiopia*
- Team member for reviews of DFID's nutrition portfolio and DFID's approach to impact.

African Enterprise Challenge Fund, February-November 2013, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya
- Supported AECF M&E team, covering portfolio of over 200 grants to businesses. Created a matrix for prioritising projects for results measurement, revised manual and delivered training to staff and partners on the monitoring system.

TradeMark East Africa, April 2012 – January 2013, *Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania*
- Worked with multi-million-dollar private sector development projects to improve their results measurement. These included complex programmes to improve the business enabling environment, develop infrastructure, and streamline trade processes.

Save the Children UK,
Humanitarian Leadership and Development Programme
September 2011 – March 2012
Ethiopia and UK
- Roving Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator for Save the Children UK's emergency response.

Project Harar, a medical charity working in Ethiopia
Project Officer
November 2010 – September 2011
London, UK

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Professional trainings and exposures

2017, 2019: Advanced Training in Monitoring and Results Measurement, one-week course provided by Aly Miehlbradt and Hans Posthumus.

2013: Computing for Data Analysis and Data Analysis, (Coursera), 12-week online course offered by professors at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in statistics and data analysis using R.

2011: Emergency Operations Programme (Save the Children UK); training course for field-based emergency personnel, including two response simulation exercises (3 weeks total), security training for hostile environments, radio communications, field first aid, and seminars

2011: Monitoring and Evaluating: 3 days as participant, 2 days as facilitator. I presented topics including Complaints Response Mechanisms, Sphere Standards, and Database Usage.

2010/11: BOND training courses: Logical Frameworks in International Development (2 day) and Monitoring and Evaluation (2 day)

2005: International House, London: Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Educational background

2018: University of Leicester, England: Master of Research in Labour Market Studies (Distinction). Conducted mixed methods research into the effect of industrialisation on the career pathways of workers at special economic zones in Ethiopia.

2009: **Cambridge University, England:** Philosophy and Experimental Psychology BA, First Class Hons.

Publications

- Posthumus, Miehlbradt, Shah and Kessler. A Pragmatic Approach to Assessing System Change. May 2020. https://beamexchange.org/resources/1334/
- Adam Kessler. Urban Industries and Urban Poverty in Timor-Leste. May 2019. https://marketdevelopmentfacility.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/MDF-TL-Urban-Industries-Poverty.pdf
- Kevin Conroy and Adam Kessler. *The results achieved by programmes that use the market systems development approach.* April 2019. https://beamexchange.org/uploads/filer_public/a9/b5/a9b5c464-b21a-4537-85b2-aba11ee381a3/beam_evidence_review_2019_final_compressed.pdf
- Adam Kessler and Will Fairbairn. *Practical advice for selecting sample sizes*. April 2015. (http://www.enterprise-development.org/page/download?id=2578)
- Adam Kessler and Jim Tanburn. *Why Evaluations Fail: The Importance of Good Monitoring*. August 2014. (http://www.enterprise-development.org/page/download?id=2484)
- Adam Kessler. *Assessing Systemic Change: Implementation Guidelines for the DCED Standard*. August 2014. (https://bit.ly/2KUYUFm)
- Adam Kessler (editor). *The 2014 Reader on Results Measurement: Current thinking on the DCED Standard*. February 2014. (http://www.enterprise-development.org/page/download?id=2367)
- Adam Kessler. *Measuring Results in Challenge Funds: Practical Guidelines*. October 2013 (https://bit.ly/2L31O7V)

- Ben Fowler and Adam Kessler, *Measuring Achievements in Private Sector Development in Conflict Affected Environments: Practical Guidelines. Version II*. August 2013. (https://bit.ly/2u7arYC)
- Adam Kessler, *Measuring Results of Private Sector Development in Conflict-Affected Environments: A Case Study of the Sustainable Employment and Economic Development (SEED) Programme in Somalia,* August 2013 (https://bit.ly/2znoa2i)
- Adam Kessler, *Measuring Results of Private Sector Development in Conflict-Affected Environments: A Case Study of the Employment Promotion Programme in Sierra Leone*, August 2013 (http://www.enterprise-development.org/page/download?id=2218)
- Adam Kessler with Nabanita Sen, *DCED Guides to Results Chains/Measuring Indicators/ Tracking Programme Costs/Managing the System for Results Measurement*, February 2013 (http://enterprise-development.org/page/implementing-standard)

References

Provided upon request