**Mary Rose O’Brien**

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**Professional Profile**

**Demonstrated commitment to reconciliation through development, impressive record of spearheading international reconstruction and stabilization efforts, and proven ability to manage large-scale projects with U.S. and foreign governments, NGOs, and government contractors.**

* Solutions-driven project manager and award-winning conflict, political, and business analyst with solid history as international researcher, advisor, and facilitator on conflict resolution, peace building, and post-conflict reconstruction initiatives.
* Seasoned stakeholder relations manager experienced in collaborating with and balancing needs of U.S.and foreign government agencies, NGOs, government contractors, and foreign nationals throughout design, development, and implementation of development programs.
* Versatile leader skilled in instilling sense of ownership and accountability, building consensus, and capitalizing on individual strengths.
* Tenacious, culturally sensitive world traveler; visited 60+ countries on all seven continents and worked with governments, NGOs and private enterprises in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Australia and the Americas.

**Languages:** Proficient in Spanish

**U.S.Security Clearance:** Secret (2007)

**CORE COMPETENCIES**

International Conflict Resolution  Conflict Mitigation & Response Reconstruction & Stabilization  Project/Program ManagementSituation Assessment and Needs AnalysisProgram Design & Analysis

Capacity Building  Government Agency Collaborations Monitoring and Evaluation Organizational Assessment & RestructuringGrant Writing  Business Process Reengineering Contract Development & Management  Multinational Team Building & Leadership  ISO Quality Systems

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**ACTED, Kyrgyz Republic& Myanmar (burma) 2013– Present**

**Peace Building Program Manager**

Manage $2 million dollar USAID Project, “Conflict Mitigation through Targeted Community Action and Analysis” and provide technical oversight and advice for other ACTED Peace Building Programs in Asia. Perform conflict assessments in Myanmar and develop conflict resolution programming. Coordinate countrywide activities in Kyrgyzstan aimed at identifying causes of conflict and mitigating them through community programs and policy change. Employ GIS mapping SMS mobile technology in conflict early warning systems. Foster the development of community-based Early Warning Networks. Conduct research into primary causes of conflict; provide policy recommendations and lobby for policy change by liaising with and providing forums forKyrgyzGovernment Agencies and Parliamentarians. Manage local partners and contractors.

* **Provision of technical advice for conflict resolution interventions** that employ locally relevant solutions and tailored to the situational context.
* **Perform conflict analysis and mapping** to identify conflict actors, conflict triggers, root causes and environmental factors.
* **Develop a peacebuilding media campaign** that is focused on building cohesion through sensitization and knowledge building.
* **Create intervention strategies to work with women and victims** of conflict in order to rebuild trust and communication between communities.
* **Identify areas for programmatic engagement with national stakeholders** through joint events, collaboration on programs, support for policy development and provision of technical expertise.
* **Ensure the sustainability of Early Warning Networks (EWN)** by developing capacity building programs and fostering intra-network relationships.
* **Lead EWN policy advocacy campaigns** aimed at implementing local and national policy changes to mitigate potential conflict identified by the district and provincial level EWNs.
* **Develop and provide specialized conflict resolution trainings and tools** for worldwide ACTED conflict programs.
* **Maximize impact of peacebuilding programs** through close collaboration with other USAID programs; UNDP, DFID, GIZ and OSCE funded programs to leverage programmatic strengths.

**Independent Consultant 2009 –2013**

**Conflict Resolution and International Development Consultant**

Provide strategic planning guidance and project management assistance to peace building and development NGOs in Asia, South America and Africa. Develop foundations for conflict resolution programs and conflict early warning systems. Facilitate conflict resolution, reflective practice, strategic framework, monitoring and evaluation and grant writing workshops. Perform community and organization assessments to identify opportunities for growth and realignment of goals as well as identify areas of waste and redundancy. Implement project management procedures and document management systems. Provide counsel on maximizing organizational resources and identify funding opportunities. Provide proposal support for international organizations.

***Center for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (CPBR), Colombo, Sri Lanka***

* **Identified conflict early warning systems** that utilize CPBR’s ground-level religious clergy and youth networks.
* **Provided consultation on peace building program development** and monitoring and evaluating conflict resolution initiatives.
* **Performed organization assessment** to evaluate organizational performance and effectiveness of interfaith peacebuilding programs.
* **Conducted stakeholder interviews** to identify areas for increased engagement, strategies for maximizing existing resources and ensuring sustainability.
* **Developed and facilitate** workshops for creating strategic frameworks and three-year strategic plans with staff and stakeholders

**Allconnex, Gold Coast, Australia**

* **Facilitated the transition** of a private entity to a public utility.
* **Ensured continuity** in business processes and document security.

**University Research Council, Bethesda, Maryland**

* **Provided proposal support** to identify strategic options for engagement.

***Pisco Sin Fronterras, Pisco, Peru***

 **Delivered remote capacity development support for disaster recovery programs** by providing guidance on organizational reforms and development strategies. Analyzed findings of qualitative research and created community assessment report.

 **Engaged local communityand provided advocacy** through appreciative inquiry interviews and community assessment reports. Obtained stakeholder input for Pisco Sin Fronterra’s strategic planning process and identified growth opportunities. Developed inclusive disaster recovery programming strategies.

 **Developed project management guidelines** for long-term and high profile development and disaster recovery projects. Created project management toolkit and trained key staff in project management procedures.

 **Performed functional assessment,**defined policies and protocols based on organizational needs.

***Friends of the Orphans, Pader, Uganda***

 **Designed conflict resolution programs**for former child soldiers and provided train the trainer sessions.

 **Assessed organization’s programmatic** goals and resources to identify waste and redundancy. Reviewed funding and current programs to ensure they met and advanced the organization’s mission.

 **Provided consultation on grant writing** through workshops on how to write effective and powerful grant proposals from a reviewer’s prospective.

 **Identified potential funding opportunities** and wrote grant proposals.

**Torres AES, Baghdad, Iraq 2006 – 2009**

**Project Manager, Capacity & Organization Development**

Appointed to assist reconstruction and stabilization efforts and build institutional capacity of Government of Iraq’s Prime Minister’s Office and Council of Ministers’ Secretariat (CoMSec) by consulting to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Managed $1.5M project budget.

Worked with senior Government of Iraq (GOI) officials and Department of State (DOS) leaders to establish project goals. Formulated solutions that reflected political and cultural factors, industry standards, and change management and conflict resolution strategies. Applied project management expertise to develop project plans, schedules, budgets, risk management and communication plans, and statements of work (SOWs). Utilized conflict resolution training to resolve USG and GOI conflicts. Defined contractor roles, evaluated proposals, and selected contractors. Trained GOI counterparts to ensure seamless project management transition to GOI.

 **Provided support and guidance to legislative and governance programs** within the Department of State’s Office of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs/Office of Legislative Statecraft.

 **Maximized international community’s impact** in Iraq by regularly interfacing with U.S. State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, contractors, and foreign agencies to discuss project progress, identify roles and responsibilities, and minimize duplicative efforts.

 **Utilized conflict resolution techniques and mediated between conflicting parties to resolve** complex and often controversial issues surrounding International Zone’s security badging process and GOI claims of U.S. military-induced damages.

 **Improved Government of Iraq transparency,** streamlined government process and increased efficiency by spearheading project to develop and implement Electronic Document Management System.

 **Built and led high performance 60-member Iraqi implementation team** through revolutionary approach to leadership that focused on accountability, efficiency, productivity and inclusive decision making.

 **Secured GOI approval to assess institutions, provide technical assistance, and engage in GOI reconstruction and development projects** through extensive meetings with high ranking GOI officials including Chiefs of Staff for Prime Minister, Iraqi Presidency Council, and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

 **Successfully mapped Government of Iraq institutions** through a series of qualitative and quantitative research methods and analyses.

 **Played key role in initiating multimillion-dollar, multi-year reconstruction initiative** by creating interpretive, analytical CoMSec Organization Assessment. Identified waste and redundancies across 11 directorates and 6 offices. Developed reconstruction plan, new organization structure, and implementation strategy.

 **Strengthened CoMSec staff capacityby facilitating workshops and training sessions** for100+ students on business process identification and mapping; management, facilitation, and presentation skills; document and records management; Microsoft Visio; and Xerox DocuShare on site in Iraq, as well as in Jordan and Malaysia.

**Acclaro Research Solutions, Washington, D.C. 2005 – 2006**

**Management Analyst**

Contracted to Department of Interior’s (DOI) National Business Center to assist in implementing ISO-compliant quality management system. Liaised between program office and DOI government representatives. Drafted policy and reports for senior management. Delivered seminars on Conflict Resolution and Intercultural Communication.

 **Provided conflict resolution**andintercultural communication seminars to local business associations and Department of Interior employees.

**Drove efficiency improvements,** business process reengineering, and documentation of policies and standards through successful ISO 9001 implementation and collaboration with diverse Department of Interior employees to identify and map more than 30 business processes.

 **Contributed to program planning and management** by completing stakeholder assessments, creating communication plans, risk mitigation strategies, and gap assessment matrices, performing cost and resource analysis, and participating in development of project plans, schedules, and reports.

 **Played instrumental role in organization-wide adoption** of $5M ISO 9001 implementation project by facilitating training and problem solving workshops, as well as round table discussions.

**Institute for Conflict Analysis & Resolution (ICAR),Arlington, VA 2005**

**Project Manager, Policy Seminars on Conflicts in Eurasia / Special Projects Assistant to Director**

Managed two grant-funded projects including one DOS Title VIII Grant, conference planning, and budgets. Served as Advisory Board member, President of ICAR Alumni Chapter, and Co-Chair of ICAR Religion and Conflict Working Group Conference.

 **Enabled policymakers to make sound decisions regarding fragile states of Eurasia** by managing Title VIII Grant, orchestrating conferences, and fostering scholarly research.

 **Drove successful completion of ICAR Point of View Architectural Competition** by managing hundreds of applications.

**Renewing Our Minds,Fužine, Croatia 2004**

**Conflict Studies Researcher**

Evaluated an international peace building and reconciliation program to assess its effectiveness and utility.

 **Monitored and evaluated** religion and peacemakingseminars and workshops by performing stakeholder interviews and conducting participant-observer research.

 **Developed comprehensive report** that assessed initial goals against resulting outputs, accepted conflict resolution practices and methodologies.

**Virginia Mediation Network,Fairfax, VA 2004**

**Program Evaluator for Conflict Mediation Initiatives**

Assessed the theoretical and practical application of the Mediator Peer Consultation Program. Recommended program improvements based on participant surveys and interviews, as well as observation and analysis of training programs and consultation sessions.

 **Performed literary review** of theories guiding the implementation and direction of the Mediator Peer Consultation Program.

 **Designed qualitative research methods to monitor and evaluate program** by creating surveys, conducting stakeholder interviews and performing observational research.

 **Created final report** that included suggestions for improvement and industry best practices.

**Builders For Peace,Gračanica, Bosnia 2003**

**Conflict Studies Researcher & Volunteer**

Researched nationalist and religious aspects of the Balkans conflict. Performed interviews of political and community leaders and survivors of concentration camps in Republika Srpska. Provided support to the local community by teaching English and facilitating a theater for conflict transformation workshop.

**Additional Experience:**

2005: Participant with Strategic Economic Needs & Security Exercise for Iraqi Civil Servants with United States Institute for Peace, U.S. Department of State, and Iraqi Foreign Ministry

2003: Open Source Research Analysis at Educational Development Center in Boston, MA

2002: Political Analyst Intern at Office of the Honorable U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton in Buffalo, NY

2002: International Politics Research Intern at World Federalist Association in Boston, MA

2001: Political Research Intern at Centro de Estudios por la Nueva Mayoria in Buenos Aires, Argentina

2000: Refugee Aid Volunteer with International Rescue Committee in Boston, MA

**EDUCATION & TRAINING**

George Mason University, ICAR: **Master of Science in Conflict Analysis & Resolution**

Oxford University: **Honor’s Program Abroad**

Boston College: **Bachelor of Arts in Political Science& Global Proficiency Certificate**

Universidad de Belgrano: **World Capitals Study Abroad, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

University of Pittsburgh: **Slavic Languages Fellowship, Awarded by U.S. Department of Education**

Xerox Docushare: **Administrator & User Training**

ISO 9001: **Quality Management Systems Training**

United states institute of peace:**Introduction to Conflict Resolution**

**HONORS**

Ambassador’s Recognition of Service in Iraq  Commendation from Secretary General of Iraqi Council of Ministers Secretariat.  Iraq Reconstruction Management Office Recognition of Service