

Maryam Ehsani

Child Protection, Child Safeguarding Expert

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Maryam has more than 8 years' experience on working with governments and organisations to implement and strengthen the United Nation's International Child Safeguarding standards frameworks.

Maryam leads more than 75 member organisations with their development of the international movement to safeguard children through Keeping Children Safe's Network. Maryam is accountable for driving quality in implementation of the International Child Safeguarding Standards globally.

She provides her support in English, French, Farsi and Arabic. She has developed an international child safeguarding community of practice, providing ongoing technical advice and coaching to more than 75 member organisations globally in undertaking certification and auditing.

Maryam is an active guest lecturer in Kings College London. She teaches the international child safeguarding measures and the overall accountability to the international and national Child Rights Studies' MA students.

Maryam established an international working group on child safeguarding in faith based setting and working in strengthening this area internationally.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Child safeguarding and Child protection
- Assessment of CS and CP approaches in different levels in the organisation
- Auditing organisational CS and CP systems
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Staff capacity building
- Partnerships development and support
- Network development
- Child safeguarding in inclusion setting
- Child safeguarding in communities and school settings
- Logistic management

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led a global network of more than 75 organisations to raise their awareness around child safeguarding and further develop their CS and CP systems
- Provided child safeguarding expertise by delivering a set of workshops to USAID- PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS and Relief) programme in different African countries.
- Increased the number of 27 members to more than 70 during her first 2 years of taking her current role
- She successfully led the first child safeguarding conference in South Africa in 2014, which brought together 250 participants including Government bodies, donors and local and International NGOs across 49 countries to examine the implications of the child safeguarding measures in the African context.
- She developed the first online Child Safeguarding Community of Practice which attracted more than 80 organisations and currently expanding

- Led the certification assessment on Child Safeguarding with several International NGOs such as Terre des Hommes and British Council and supported others to prepare for the assessment
- Trained OAK Foundation's programme and senior management team on the implementation of their CS and CP mechanisms
- Audited and assessed Save the children Finland towards their child safeguarding implementation development
- Took lead in the assessment, selection and capacity building of Keeping Children Safe's members in delivering CP and CS topics through different online webinars on child rights
- Identified gaps and supported the reporting and risk management mechanisms through a child safeguarding knowledge sharing session with Centre for Inclusive Education in Bulgaria
- Supported establishment of Child Safeguarding Working group in Faith based organisations (CSWGFB) that enhanced networking among organizations working with faith leaders
- Took part in the assessment of more than 50-member organization to identify the gaps around internal child safeguarding measures and how to address them.
- Establishment of the Annual Members Conference of Keeping Children Safe that has enhanced unity and networking around global members
- Trained and developed capacity building for staff and partners in Child safeguarding and how to report child abuse cases
- Delivered a workshop on how to implement child safeguarding policies in Africa and MENA region in partnership with Star Foundation Award winning organisations
- Took part and supported the research of King's College London on how to increase the awareness around the international child protection programs globally
- Invited by King's College London's International Child Studies MA programme as a guest lecturer in 2018 to deliver a module session on the roles and responsibilities of governments and organisations towards the international child safeguarding frameworks

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

To coordinate effective implementation of child safeguarding and child protection activities in multi organisational approach. Hosted a global community and monitoring implementation of child safeguarding activities. Provided leadership and technical expertise to child protection and child safeguarding member representatives, focal points and senior managements. Audited and held organisations accountable towards their CS and CP implementation plans.

Keeping Children Safe

2011 – present

Child Safeguarding Network Manager

Team Management and Member Support

- Child safeguarding global focal point for more than 75 member organisations, provided regular support on child safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Established a global webinar series on different child safeguarding related topics such as emergencies, faith based, guidelines for journalists and child safeguarding in research.
- Ensured that all relevant staff within membership organisation receives appropriate induction and training on child safeguarding awareness and accountabilities.
- Mentored the relevant staff to facilitate the implementation and the understanding of child safeguarding measures.
- Support in the resource and budget management of the child protection programmes.
- Worked closely with member organisation in the formation of Keeping Children Safe's child safeguarding's 11 standards to 4 standards.

- Built capacity building around child participation within member organisations to ensure that children's opinions are considered within different field programmes and activities.
- Worked with member organisations within the international development sector to ensure that child safeguarding is considered in the process of policy making.
- Provided capacity building to more than 40 partner organisations
- Reviewed and provided feedback on different child safeguarding activity programmes submitted by members against their compliance.
- Undertook regular audits to member organisations to examine and monitor project implementation and provide technical support through capacity building
- Leads the assessment, selection and evaluation of local and International NGOs

Keeping Children Safe

2010 – 2011

Global Consultancy Manager

Reporting to the head of capacity building manager, the position involved market research and the needs assessment for child safeguarding around local and international NGOs, liaising with global consultants and donors.

- In conjunction with the head of capacity building in KCS, supported the implementation of a strategy and business plan for the training and consultancy service
- Supported the implementation of a quality assurance and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) strategy for KCS training and consultancy services
- Developed and maintained efficient project management and administrative systems for the consultancy service
- Supported the budget preparation and financial management of all consultancy activities to include, annual budget setting, monitoring and reporting on budgets and expenditure.
- Provided contract negotiation and management throughout each consultancy contract.
- Networking and coordination with global consultants and organisations

EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS/AFFILIATIONS

- *Master of International Child Rights Studies, Child protection policies and international frameworks, King's College London, 2013*
- *Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management, Swansea Metropolitan University, 2010*

Competencies

- **Resilience:** Ability to achieve timely and manage large and diverse workload under pressure with competing priorities.
- **Communication:** Ability to effectively represent and advocate for an organisation's policies.
- **Flexibility:** Willingness to work with people from different cultural orientation
- **Advocacy:** Ability to advocate and raise awareness around trends and themes on different child right's matter
- **Negotiation:** Ability to undertake difficult contract and bring the best ending result with the best interest to the host organization