

## SHANNA TOVA O'REILLY

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### CAREER SUMMARY

Over 17 years in development with a **significant background in research and field assessments on issues of immigration and humanitarian assistance, particularly in Central and South America**. Experience managing, designing and piloting survey tools, doing political economy analysis (PEA), completing stakeholder-mapping exercises and developing research reports and briefs to support decision-making. Proven record establishing management plans, as well as reviewing and analyzing data that contributes to approaches for migrant populations, including refugees requiring humanitarian assistance. Impeccable reputation among USAID, State Department, DOJ, OFDA, FFP, UNDP, the private sector and other implementers as a detailed and result-oriented team player. Integrates across multi-cultural and interdisciplinary efforts with exceptional diplomacy, public speaking and writing skills. Complete fluency in Spanish with experience in Southeast and South Asia, North and East Africa, the Middle East and Central and South America. Experiences include but not limited to: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Egypt, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syria, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

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### EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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#### Self-Employed

- **Lead Researcher on Violent Extremism (VE) / Conflict Reduction, Asia Foundation (March 2019 - Present):** Oversee a team of researchers across Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand in a field assessment on lessons learned from programming in conflict reduction and VE prevention. Developed the overall research design, key questions and implementation approach. Lead focus group and small one-on-one interview discussions with project beneficiaries, staff and donors to document evidence on best practices.
- **Researcher on Venezuela Humanitarian Crisis, Global Communities (December 2018 – April 2019):** Conducted research on the migration crisis across Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. Completed field trips to border and capital cities in each country to identify migrants' needs and gaps in the humanitarian response and policy mechanism. Established research questions, carried out focus groups, and analysed the legal migratory framework for each country. Served as lead writer for technical proposals for OFDA and FFP.
- **Scenario Planning Analyst, DAI Contract to USAID Global Development Lab in Kenya and El Salvador (May – November 2018):** Facilitated scenario planning with USAID Missions in both countries. Contributed to the design of new Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCS) through workshops to map and analyze existing gaps, challenges and opportunities. Worked with USAID to design potential scenarios and a plan of action for each one moving forward. Produced a 25-page comprehensive report with key findings and recommendations for USAID Kenya and USAID El Salvador. Disseminated findings with USAID and State Department.
- **Field Scoping, Research and Business Development on Conflict Reduction, Security, Gender and Youth:** Provide services on citizen security, youth, conflict reduction and countering and preventing violent extremism (VE) for variety of clients including Blumont, Asia Foundation, RTI and Global Communities. Develop proposals and contribute to strategies in South and Central America, the Middle East and South Asia.

#### DAI (Development Alternatives Incorporated); Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Chief of Party

Feb 2017 – April 2018

- Senior management on the start-up of USAID's \$22-million School-Based Violence Prevention Activity (SBVPA). This included the rollout of social asset network (systems) mapping research to identify resources available and existing areas requiring technical inputs across the child protection and welfare system.
- **Launched a baseline study in 66 schools across five cities nationwide. Oversaw the development of the overall research agenda, set the 23 indicators for measuring project progress and designed the research instruments and survey questions.**

## **DAI (Development Alternatives Incorporated); Washington, DC**

Senior Global Practice Specialist

Dec 2015 – Jan 2017

- Helped drive the establishment of a new portfolio on rule of law, security and education, sectors DAI had been trying to break into for 3 years.
- Developed the market research agenda, completion of scoping trips and extensive study of country contexts.
- Served as technical writer of award-winning proposals for DAI's first rule of law and prevention awards from USAID: \$21-million USD School-Based Violence Prevention (SBVPA), \$34-million USD Justice, Human Rights and Security (JHRS).
- **Carried out a political economy analysis (PEA) on the rule of law in Honduras. Developed a 25-page report with findings and recommendations. Presented analysis to USAID Honduras and home office.**

## **Pan American Development Foundation; Washington, DC**

Practice Lead (Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas)

Dec 2013 – Dec 2015

- Launched what was a new regional strategy for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) for community-driven models of civic participation and conflict reduction.
- **Traveled extensively to country offices in Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas to coordinate the portfolio, managing start-up, implementation, documentation and promoting consistency.**
- **Oversaw the new business strategy for a \$7-million USD dollar expansion to new countries in the region based on the effort's initial success under my leadership.**
- Represented the project to all donors, Regional Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders, the government and media, serving on panel discussions and providing one-on-one interviews as requested.

## **Asia Foundation; Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Chief of Party

Jan 2011 – Dec 2013

- Team lead for a unique 3-year partnership between Department of Defense, Department of Justice, PACOM and USAID to enhance trust in government. **Led the recruitment, orientation and mentorship of a 69-person team of internal staff and sub-grantees from five partner organizations that worked in 518 field sites. Rolled out the implementation of a baseline study across 600 households.**
- My management resulted in a healthy system for integrating the Performance Management Plan, Project Logic Model, M&E Plan, work plans and budget controls under 1 cohesive strategy. This project received strong praise from senior State Department officials during the endline evaluation, which showed an approximately 24% increase in positive citizen perceptions of government in intervention sites.
- **Coordinated field research assessment of lessons learned which culminated in national directives for integrating best practices into daily government operations. Documented and disseminated the results by traveling to present them regionally among projects in Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Nepal and India.**

## **Asia Foundation; Regional South Asia (Delhi-based; Coverage of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh)**

Acting Country Representative

July – Sept 2013

- Oversaw regional and technical operations for four field offices (India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka).
- Worked on a trans-border partnership to promote access to water in targeted communities in Nepal and India.
- Led a regional team in launching a working group of female economic leaders from across South Asia.

## **National Strategy Information Center; Washington, DC (Mexico, Colombia, Central America)**

Rule of Law Director

June 2007 – Jan 2011

- Oversaw a 6-country regional portfolio with INL funding. Ensured country performance and revenue targets, championing best practices and capacity building through mentoring, regional exchanges and peer learning.
- Performed extensive travel to country offices along the U.S.-Mexico border, and in other countries throughout Latin America, using the Border Governors' Conference as a platform for external promotion.

## **Bi-National Advocacy Project; San Diego, California (Northern Mexico)**

Research Team Coordinator

June 2003 – May 2005

- **Supervised a 2-year binational field research project on challenges affecting migrants that led to the enhancement of cross-border communication and information sharing systems.**
- **Coordinated the operations of a 12-person team to perform hundreds of interviews and focus groups as part of field assessment activities. Mentored and trained staff on research goals, ensuring high-impact and quality research deliverables.**
- **Promoted the results of data collected at field sites among 18 government agencies and service providers along the border. Bridged the communication gap between San Diego County and Mexican government officials, serving as the project representative for my organization.**

## **Various Positions – Conflict Reduction and Human Rights (Mexico)**

- **Coordinator, Ichimeame Community Resource Center; Creel, Mexico (Jan 2002 – June 2003):** Oversaw conflict resolution education in five rural villages, supporting the establishment of a community-based civil society organization dedicated to this topic.
- **Instructor, Pro Human Rights Center; Mexico City, Mexico (Jan – Dec 2001):** 1-year assignment to build the capacity of community-based organizations in international and national human rights protection mechanisms.

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## **EDUCATION**

- **Masters in Economics and Development, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), 2007.**
- **Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management, Ohio State University, 2000.**

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## **LANGUAGES**

- **Spanish:** Complete fluency (written and verbal communication in front of large audiences).
- **Bangla, French and Portuguese:** Basic study and knowledge of spoken language.

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## **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

- **Roger Sanchez:** USAID Contracts Officer Representative (COR) on School-Based Violence Prevention at DAI; [rsanchez@usaid.gov](mailto:rsanchez@usaid.gov); +(504) 9478-8193.
- **Caterina Valero:** Supervisor at Pan American Development Foundation; Current Chief of Party for Puentes in El Salvador; [caterina\\_valero@dai.com](mailto:caterina_valero@dai.com); (240) 543-5874.
- **Patrick Bowers:** USAID COR in Bangladesh at the Asia Foundation; [pbowers@usaid.gov](mailto:pbowers@usaid.gov); (202) 826-6043.