

CATHERINE LEILA POULTON

Date of Birth: 1979 Nationality: French and English

KEY PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Over 3 years experience as a Protection and GBV Coordinator with IDPs and refugees in Chad, Darfur, the Central African Republic and Afghanistan.
- Excellent management, coordination and project implementation skills honed in refugee and IPD camps on both sides of the Chad-Darfur border, in Afghanistan and in the CAR.
- Thorough commitment to community mobilisation and participation

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Worked specifically on child/youth protection, Education and SGBV
- Advocacy and protection information gathering and sharing skills
- Capacity-building and on the ground training of governmental staff in Afghanistan
- Management, coordination and advocacy skills developed over the years
- Hands-on experience of trauma management and rehabilitation in war-torn areas

LANGUAGES:

- **French/English:** Mother tongue; **Italian, Spanish:** fluent
- **Arabic and Dari :** elementary

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

April 07 to current **GBV Coordinator-** International Rescue Committee- Central African Republic

Set-up, manage and coordinate all GBV activities for the IRC emergency programme in the CAR both in government and in rebel held areas. Main responsibilities are to:

- 1) Ensure implementation of the Clinical Management of Rape Protocol in all health facilities, including proper medication and confidential space. Train all health staff in the GBV guiding principles, all in coordination with the health programme.
- 2) Hire, train and support psychosocial staff to work closely with survivors of sexual violence. Case management is provided for male and female survivors of rape, as well as support for survivors of domestic violence.
- 3) Hire, train and support a Community Outreach Team as well as 20 community volunteers to run information sessions on GBV, including links with STIs and Reproductive Health. Work closely with this team to undertake monthly analyses of the situation of women and girls in the areas of operation.

I initiated the GBV programme in the CAR for the IRC, and have managed together with my team over 1100 survivors of rape in less than 8 months.

Ensure advocacy for the GBV programme both within the CAR and abroad.

June '06 to March 07 **Social Protection Officer EVI & AS projects/Head of office** - INTERSOS Afghanistan

Responsible for the management and implementation of two projects:

- 1) Building the capacity of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, in 17 provinces to respond to extremely vulnerable returnees from Pakistan and Iran. Providing technical advice and training on protection issues. Particular focus on children.
- 2) Supporting Asylum Seekers in Afghanistan, especially logistically, whilst their case was being processed

For both projects, managing human and financial resources, travelling so as to provide Ministry staff with the adequate skills to respond to EVIs, report writing and networking both at governmental and provincial level.

Also acting as the Social Protection focal point for the mission, advising on policy and strategy.

- Sept '05- March '06 **Social Protection Coordinator** - INTERSOS Chad
 Managed and coordinated all programmes regarding protection, education and community services in INTERSOS' mission in Chad, including in two refugee camps. This involved:
- project design and development ensuring maximisation of resources and genuine impact on the field
 - Financial and narrative reporting following the rules and regulations of donors
 - managing and training a team of 4 expatriates and 50 local staff- insuring community participation was intrinsic to all programmes.
 - Coordination and advocacy at central level.
- Implementation covered were child protection, Education, hygiene promotion, vulnerable caseloads, women, IGAs, Recreational Activities and Psychosocial activities.
- Oct '04- July '05 **Protection Officer and Project Manager Women and Youth Centres** - INTERSOS Darfur, Sudan
- Designed and managed a project in Western Darfur building a community network for women and youths survivors of sexual violence.
 - Built a strong relationship with the women, youths and local communities.
 - Implemented, with the communities, IGAs and literacy classes as tools to build confidence, and deter attention from the SGBV aspect of the project.
 - Negotiated with hostile local authorities, and a hostile environment.
 - Enlarged project to include youth, particularly targeted by the sexual violence.
 - Succeeded in creating an efficient and confidential information network with other organisations so as to react quickly to cases of rape.
 - Documented and analysed data collected, insuring utmost confidentiality
- July '04- Oct '04 **Community Services Manager** - Djabal Refugee camp, INTERSOS Chad
- Implemented Community Services, including child protection, schools, kindergartens, recreational activities, hygiene promotion, community support for vulnerable caseloads, in the newly opened Djabal refugee camp, population of 15000. Mobilised community so as to implement systems they managed on a voluntary basis, trained staff in community based approach, the cornerstone of all my work.
- June '99- Sept '99 **Field Researcher** - NGO Committee on UNICEF, Guatemala
- Led a research team of 6 staff in a semi-urban periphery of Guatemala City, analysing the position of the young girl within these communities. I developed management and team building skills, and also achieved privileged relations with members of the community. I published a report: The Semi-urban Guatemalan girl. (English and Spanish)
- Jan '98- Jun '98 **Volunteer**- CCF Guatemala
- Volunteered mainly as a translator, enabling me to discover NGOs and post-conflict communities. Perfected Spanish, working in sponsorship and program departments.

EDUCATION

- '02- Dec '03 European University for Peace Studies (EPU)- Austria
Masters in Advanced Science in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation (**Grade 1**)
 Thesis: Private Military Companies and the future of peacekeeping operations
- Sept '98- July '02 University of Wales, Cardiff (Great Britain)
BSc Econ (First Class Honours) European Union Studies with **firsts in Spanish and Italian language**
- Jan '01- June '01 Universita degli Studi di Pavia- Italy ERASMUS
 Sept '00- Jan '01 Universidad de Valencia- Spain ERASMUS Programme
 1994- 1997 Lycée Français International de Ferney-Voltaire, France
 Baccalaureat Economique et Social- **Mention Bien**
- 1987- 1994 Ecole Française de Bamako- Mali, West Africa