



JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE on
FAITH & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



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Bridging the Gap: the role of local faith actors in humanitarian response

Research associate position available

Term: 5 months full-time (May-September 2019) or over a longer period if part-time (e.g. Feb-Sept 2019). End of September 2019 is the completion of the project.

Location: Juba, South Sudan (with internal travel in country)

Pay: TBC (depends on level of experience and availability)

How to apply: send CV, English writing sample, and a statement outlining how your skills and experience fit the job description, to Professor Emma Tomalin, University of Leeds, UK, e.tomalin@leeds.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: January 15th 2019

Interviews conducted by Skype: around January 20th 2019

Project description

- A new 12 month project (1/10/18 - 30/09/19) in South Sudan funded by the Belgian Government for Development Cooperation.
- The project brings together a consortium of 6 agencies to engage faith actors, including faith-based organisations (FBOs), faith leaders, faith communities and places of worship, within the humanitarian sector.
- The project seeks to *bridge the gap* in localisation dialogues by practically facilitating the engagement of faith actors in first line humanitarian response by bringing together faith actors and non-faith actors to increase understanding, trust, coordination and collaboration.
- The main part of the project consists of capacity building for local faith actors, coupled with the provision of grants that will allow them to build organizational skills and start to apply for more and diversified funding, as well as increase their coordination with other humanitarian actors. The project also has a component to increase knowledge and awareness of local faith actors among the broader humanitarian system.

- There is a strong research element ensuring existing learning is incorporated into the approach and new evidence and learning is captured and incorporated into a model for engaging local faith actors in humanitarian response, which will be disseminated among the international humanitarian community.
- It will provide a conduit to capture valuable input and learning from faith actors about the way forward on the World Humanitarian Summit and Charter-4-Change commitments, thus progressing the localisation of aid agenda.

Job Description

We are looking to employ an researcher with experience in both academic research and humanitarian organization environments. This is an unusual position that bridges between academia and practice. The researcher must be independent and motivated, as well as used to working with some remote/virtual supervision. The researcher will come along side at the main implementation and final stages of an innovative humanitarian project to conduct a project ethnography, i.e. working alongside the consortium partners as they implement the project to document and research the progress and learning from the work.

The researcher will spend their time both in Juba with headquarters in the capital and then in the implementation sites, researching the training and its effects among the local faith actors and their beneficiaries. It is expected that the researcher will be able to conduct interviews and focus groups, analyse the qualitative data collected, and write up a final draft report from the findings. It is also expected that the researcher will be able to conduct a final internal evaluation of the project in the final month (September 2019). The researcher is not expected to design the research or research ethics (which be done by the consortium partners), but they are expected to be well versed in qualitative research methods and practices in research ethics, as well as providing inputs to the research design if updates are needed.

Essential Skills

- Local languages (Juba Arabic essential, Dinka and/or Bari are preferable)
- Qualitative research methods including interviews and focus group discussions
- Applying research ethics in qualitative research
- Strong English language writing skills
- Strong interpersonal communication skills and the ability to work with others in a consortium
- Ability to use qualitative analysis software (NVivo), or willingness to be trained to use it

Experience

- Experience of the humanitarian system and working with NGOs, including coordination mechanisms in South Sudan
- Ethnographic research
- Humanitarian/development evaluation experience
- Experience of academic publishing and/or writing NGO research reports is preferable
- Experience of the study of or an interest in religion in South Sudan and/or religion and development research is preferable