

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced international development professional with 15 years of expertise at the nexus of climate adaptation, policy engagement, and inclusive resilience-building. Proven leader in designing and managing high-impact initiatives that strengthen civil society and government capacities for climate and disaster risk management. Skilled in translating complex research into actionable learning and policy tools, with a deep track record working across USAID, UN agencies, and global networks. Recognized for leading participatory and gender-responsive climate and learning programs across Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Brings a strategic yet practical approach to training design, stakeholder engagement, and facilitation—rooted in a strong understanding of National Adaptation Plan processes and broader resilience frameworks.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Strategy:** Designed and led Abt Global's climate adaptation strategy and designed and advised USAID's flagship CACCI program supporting NAP and NDC implementation.
- **Civil Society & Stakeholder Engagement:** Facilitated inclusive engagement strategies across multiple USAID and UN programs, including CSO-driven resilience learning in the Caribbean and Pacific.
- **Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI) Mainstreaming:** Organized and led GESI-focused sessions at global forums (e.g., NGO CSW66, InsuResilience), and authored guidance on gender in climate and disaster risk processes.
- **Participatory Training:** Supported curricula development and design of *Foundations of Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI)* and *Impactful Civil Society Engagement* for stakeholders across the world.
- **Cross-Regional Expertise (Africa, Caribbean, Asia Pacific):** Supported food security, climate adaptation, and resilience project design and programming across dozens of countries, with deep experience in West Africa and the Pacific.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cornell University – Sponsored Research Lead
Ithaca, NY, USA

May 2025 – Present

- **Manage and curate a catalog of funding opportunities** for Collaboration for International Development Economics Research (CIDER) core faculty and Structural Transformation of Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STARS) Fellows.
- **Provide pre-award support for proposals and post-award technical assistance** to ensure successful project execution.
- **Represent Cornell University in negotiations**, enhancing the institution's research profile.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – Agricultural Transformation Consultant
Remote, Togo/USA | through Bristlepine Resilience Consultants

May 2025 – Present

- **Conduct comparative evaluation** of transformation models in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Togo.
- **Lead desk reviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions** with national agencies and donor partners.
- **Apply** matrices and coding and AI to analyze across dimensions, including governance, coordination, and delivery.

Abt Global – Senior Director, Climate Adaptation and Resilience
Rockville, MD, USA (remote)

July 2022 – Apr 2025

- **Led Abt's Climate Adaptation and Resilience practice**, including strategy and business development; project advisory; team recruitment, mentoring, and management, and thought leadership across its public sector client portfolio.
- **Drove \$80 million in US Agency for International Development (USAID) sales**, including the Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Initiative (CACCI), Caribbean Resilient Economies and Sectors, and Senegal Weather and Climate Information Services 2 activities.
- **Designed and advised USAID's Abt-led CACCI project** to support countries in executing their National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions.

Munich Climate Insurance Initiative – Senior Research Manager

July 2019 – July 2022

UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security – Associate Academic Officer
Bonn, Germany

- **Oversaw the MCII research portfolio**, including the creation and management of a new research collaboration with the United Nations University and universities in the Pacific and the Caribbean.
- **Contributed to the curriculum design and recording of the self-paced eLearning course** *Foundations of Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI)* and *Impactful Civil Society Engagement* as part of a broader support to the



Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP) on Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and Preparedness in the Context of the InsuResilience Global Partnership project.

- **Led the global disaster risk finance (DRF) evidence roadmap process** in close coordination with the InsuResilience Global Partnership, including the multi-stakeholder From Innovation to Learning – Creating a Climate and Disaster Risk Finance (CDRFI) Evidence Roadmap virtual workshop.

US Agency for International Development – Senior Risk Advisor

Jan 2017 – July 2019

Rockville, MD, USA (remote)

- **Served as technical authority on complex issues at the intersection of risk and food security**, including risk management, agricultural insurance, disaster risk finance, and risk and resilience policy.
- **Managed USAID’s contributions to and relationships with** the African Union’s African Risk Capacity program and the World Bank’s Agricultural Insurance Development Program.
- **Served as USAID’s representative on a Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)** technical working group. Provided timely and technical inputs to the G-7/InsuResilience technical working group on premium support for sovereign risk insurance.
- **Designed and managed the USAID Bureau for Food Security’s risk and insurance portfolio** and supported risk integration across the Feed the Future Initiative and Resilience Focus Countries through direct technical assistance, creation and dissemination of guidance, and communication of research and evidence (through webinars, etc.).

EDUCATION

- **PhD in Applied Economics and Management** – Cornell University, USA 2012 – 2017
- **MA in International Relations** – The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), USA 2005 – 2007
- **BA in Mathematics** – Smith College, USA 1998 – 2002

PUBLICATIONS since 2021 (30+ papers and popular media publications | 800+ citations | 20+ presentations total)

- “How Can Urban Governance Better Respond to Climate Risks in the Global South? A Multi-Disciplinary Review.” United Nations University Working Paper (2024). [Link](#)
- “Enhancing Community Resilience: Addressing Compound and Cascading Climate Shocks.” ClimateLinks (2024). [Link](#)
- “Defining climate adaptation success is possible – and urgent.” Devex (2023). [Link](#)
- “The Road to Climate Resilience.” ClimateLinks (2023). [Link](#)
- “A Win/Win: Driving Improved Climate and Health Outcomes Through Mainstreaming of Co-benefits Quantification.” Abt White Paper (2023). [Link](#)
- “Gender considerations for disaster risk financing in Fiji.” UNU-EHS, UNDP, UNCDF (2023). [Link](#)
- “How needs-based climate insurance can help communities in the Pacific.” UNCDF Blog (2022). [Link](#)
- “Fidschi – wie parametrische Versicherungen Resilienz stärken” (Fiji – how parametric insurance strengthens resilience), Geographische Rundschau (2022). [Link](#)
- “From Innovation to Learning: A Strategic Evidence Roadmap for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance.” InsuResilience Global Partnership & Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (2021). [Link](#)
- “Climate and Disaster Risk Financing Instruments: An Overview.” UNU-EHS (2021). [Link](#)

LANGUAGES AND SOFTWARE SKILLS

- **English** (native), **French** (professional proficiency), German (beginner), Spanish (beginner), Mandarin (beginner)
- **Technical Skills:** Stata, KoBo Toolbox, MATLAB, GAMS, SPSS, SAS, Blackboard, and QGIS.

CERTIFICATES, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Mindful Leadership, Gender Scholar Level 1 certification in Rapid Gender Analysis, Richard D. Aplin Teaching Excellence Fund, Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE) Graduate Student Travel Grant Recipient, Presidential Management Fellows Program Finalist, Cornell University Certificate in Performance Management, USG Compliance and Cash Management Workshop Certification, Management of USAID/CDC Cooperative Agreements Certification