

Name: Grace Achieng' Okonji
Gender: Female
Date of Birth: 29-09-1957
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1. Summary of specific areas of expertise and competencies

- Over 15 years of increasingly responsible professional experience and thorough knowledge about the broad development issues of policy design and program development at country, regional and international levels.
- Substantial experience in providing technical, strategic support and guidance on development from gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women perspective including: Joint Needs assessments; women, peace and security – women's participation in Sudan and Somalia peace processes; gender and human rights, gender equality and aid effectiveness; gender responsive budgets, gender audit, gender and ICT/digital Diaspora, gender and MDGs, sexual and gender based violence; Strengthening women's access to justice and increasing women's role as decision-makers and leaders; women's participation in Kenya constitutional review process; women's participation in Kenya and Sudan elections; women participation in Sudan referendum; HIV and Aids; micro and small enterprise development; Provided analytical based advice, in gender and sexual and gender-based violence as part of community security and arms control in Southern Sudan.
- Contributed to the development and implementation and monitoring of strategic results frameworks for 5 sub-regional offices in Africa for the delivery of technical assistance and program support in the region.
- **Operational experience in monitoring and evaluation (M&E); Results Based Management. Organized, managed and participated in evaluations as well as ensuring that decisions on key recommendations are taken and implemented by parties concerned.**
- Led successful teams; strong analytical and management skills; Built and sustained relationships with key constituents in development; Communication: Demonstrated strong oral communication skills; excellent writing skills, as well as presentation/facilitation skills.

2. Work Experience

- 2011 – Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network
- 10 September 2009 to 30th September 2010: Senior Gender Advisor (P5), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), South Sudan.
- May-September 2009: UNICEF consultant, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Kenya.
- January 2005- January 2009: Program Specialist (ALD contract), UNIFEM, Africa Section, New York.
- Oct 2001-Dec. 2004: Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (National Officer): United Nations Development Fund for Women, East and Horn of Africa¹- Based in Kenya
- 1992-2001: Program Analyst, United Nations Development Program, Kenya
- 1981-1992: Senior Economist, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Kenya

3. Educational Qualifications

- Master of Arts Economics (Economic Policy management, Public Finance and statistics) University of Nairobi, Kenya– 1989
- M.A. Thesis: impact of macroeconomic policies on nutritional status of children in Kenya.
- Bachelor of Philosophy in Economics (Macro and Micro Economics, Development Economics, monetary economics, Project Planning and Appraisal and Statistics), 1984, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- B.A. (Hons) Economics, 1981 University of New Delhi, India.

¹ Covered 8 countries – Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

RESUME and SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Grace Achieng' Okonji's attest assignment was with AGDEN where she provided quality assurance of the "rights based gender responsive M&E toolkit. Ms Grace Okonji comes to AGDEN with many years of experience in Development from a gender perspective. In 2010, She was the Senior Gender and conflict Advisor for UNDP Southern Sudan. She has had a long service with the UN. From 1992-2001, she worked with UNDP Kenya as Programme Officer and from 2001-2004, she worked with UNIFEM East and Horn of Africa as the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist covered 8 countries. During this period Grace was the Gender Expert for the Sudan Joint Assessment Mission. From 2005-2009, Grace was a Programme Specialist with the Africa section of UNIFEM, New York where among other duties she, provided technical support to sub-regional offices on monitoring and evaluation . In 2009 Ms Okonji worked with UNICEF East and Southern Office, as a consultant and undertook a regional overview of gender programming in the 20 countries covered by the regional office Before joining the UN, Grace was a Senior Economist with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development in Kenya.

She has a Masters in Economic Development from the University of Nairobi.

She brings with her over 15 years of professional experience in development work covering wide programmatic areas of democratic governance, poverty reduction, micro and small enterprise development, private sector development, HIV/AIDS/AIDS, conflict resolution and peace building, and gender equality and women's rights, monitoring and evaluation.