

# Dr Dennis Pain

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Dennis Pain is currently a Director and the Principal Social Policy Adviser for the UK-based ACTS Consultancy.

Dennis Pain, with a PhD in political anthropology and a Masters in social work, is a social policy expert with nearly 30 years' international development experience, leading policy reform to strengthen service delivery, incentivising outcome performance and capability for service provision, in particular affecting women and girls, demand-side approaches, state accountability and responsiveness, much of it in fragile and post-conflict situations. Dennis's social policy lens enables his work to cut across sectors including health, nutrition, gender and equity as well as social protection. Dennis worked for DFID for over 13 years, covering a number of countries across Africa as well as working with regional institutions of the AU and AfDB and was influential as head of the social protection team in DFID's Policy and Research Division in raising the profile of social protection during the food, fuel and financial crises and later providing advice to both the World Bank and the African Development Bank on their social protection approaches for Africa. Through ACTS Consultancy he has worked with the African Union on its post-2015 agenda and, through the UN, with the Government of Liberia, including an equity and situational analysis of women and children, the second poverty reduction strategy and a conflict analysis leading to a national Peacebuilding and Education programme. Dennis has extensive experience in India, including as DFID's Senior Development Advisor for four years, where he made vital contributions to social sector services responding to the country's most impoverished.

Dennis has exceptional leadership skills having worked with and led diverse teams comprising both governmental and non-governmental organisations at national, regional and local levels. He has a reputation for providing transformational leadership and inspiring working partnerships for change, bringing together teams with a range of skills and experience, and working alongside Government and negotiating at ministerial and permanent secretary level to influence change.

Dennis brings together policy influence and programme implementation with a focus on measuring impact and outcome indicators, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data.

Significant country experience: UK, India, Angola, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda  
Nationality: British  
Languages: English (mother tongue), French (basic), Acholi (basic)

## Qualifications

1982	M.Soc.Sci , Social Work, University of Birmingham, UK, with fieldwork in India
1975	Ph.D. Urban Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK, with fieldwork in Uganda
1968	M.A Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK

## Professional experience

### **Sept 2011 ongoing, ACTS Consultancy – Principal Social Policy Adviser**

- Advice on community involvement in response to Ebola containment in Liberia
- Team Leader for consortium providing for AfDB and Government of Ethiopia an analytical study of innovations in Ethiopia's multi-sectoral basic service provision
- Team Leader for UNDP study on the way forward for the national M&E system for Government of Malawi
- Led 2014 evaluation of Target Tuberculosis TB programme to reach marginalised people in remote district of 3 states in India
- Provided expertise to policy and action for social inclusion and social protection, gender equality and maternal health, with increased accountability to the poor and changed political incentives to deliver transformation; mentoring international development practitioners
- 2012–2013: report and data update for African Union on harmful practices affecting girls and women; design of Liberia education and peace-building programme; advised AUC Dept for Social Affairs on the post-2015 agenda and generating an African Wellbeing Index; Liberia consultations on Post-2015 Agenda
- 2011–2012: advised UNICEF-Liberia and Government of Liberia on its Poverty Reduction Strategy, situational analysis of women and children, equity analysis, UNICEF's new country programme, conflict analysis for design of new peace building programme, and community-based monitoring

**2009–2011, DFID, Senior Gender and Social Policy Adviser, Africa Region, Addis Ababa**

- Bridged the gap between policy and implementation in support of AU, sub-regional and national agenda for transformation of gender relations, social policy and social protection systems development
- Coordinated Africa Regional Strategic Gender Transformation planning workshop and subsequent design of a new multi-donor AWDF gender transformation mapping and fund
- External member of World Bank Africa Social Protection Strategy Review and contributed to African Development Bank social protection approach paper
- Brought alignment of UN Social Protection Floor with AU Social Policy Framework for Africa behind country-defined and implemented approach
- Drafted AU social policy implementation strategy; advising regional DFID design team on demand side approaches for a new maternal health evidence and advocacy programme
- Synthesis of gender-related outputs from DFID-funded research on growth, governance, conflict and social development

#### **2008–2009, DFID, Social Protection Team Leader, Policy and Research Division, London**

- Strategic networking to raise profile of social protection in G20 and White Paper, generating evidence of household level impact of the financial crisis on the poor
- Led DFID's analysis of affordable social protection policies and strategies to address needs of the most vulnerable; leading DFID's response to the UNSG High Level Task Force's "Comprehensive Framework for Action" identification of strengthening social protection mechanisms in relation to the food price crisis

#### **2002–2008, DFID Deputy Head, Country Policy and Social Sectors, Malawi**

- Developed DFID Country Assistance Strategy Performance Framework; multi-donor budget support Performance Assessment Framework; social and governance programme quality/results monitoring; risk registers; political influencing strategy; engaged across political spectrum to generate mediation possibilities; initiated new programme to change incentives towards service delivery for changed outcomes for the poor; initiated inter-church theological analysis relating to HIV pandemic

#### **2001–2005, DFID, Senior Social Development Adviser, India**

- Quality control of social development advice in sector and budget support and strategies.
- Led on: political-economy and poverty analysis; civil society and advocacy; India-Pakistan Conflict Strategy; 3 Strategic Conflict Analyses; strategic partnerships including ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, INGOs, focusing on social exclusion and achieving re-focus of the \$10 billion national health programme, RCH2; social equity auditing, initiated to assess post-tsunami response, applied to organisation structure and to social sector programming; Influential contributions to DFID-India and HQ policy on Diversity, Difficult Environments, Reaching Very Poorest

#### **1999–2001, DFID Social Development Adviser: Africa, Great Lakes and Horn Department**

- Mainstreamed poverty and conflict reduction strategies, developing approach to working on conflict
- Lead Adviser on: gender programme in Rwanda; participation in Rwanda/Ethiopia PRSPs, introducing direct participation of the poor in policy and programming; Luanda Urban Poverty Programme; Strategic Conflict Assessments; initiated All-Africa Conference on African Principles of Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation

#### **1998–1999, DFID Social Development Adviser, Natural Resources Division and Africa, Great Lakes and Horn Department**

- Assured poverty focus to natural resources research; sustainable livelihoods; land tenure; biodiversity; participatory forestry. Assured strategic poverty focus to cross-Africa initiatives.
- Contextualised social development advice for programmes in conflict countries, including contributing to Rwanda Unity and Reconciliation Commission

#### **1996–1997, Freelance Consultant**

**1990–1996, Director, Dunford House, National Council of YMCAs**

**1987–1990, Centre Manager, St Alban's Community Centre, Smethwick, West Midlands**

**1984–1987, OXFAM Country Representative for Uganda**

**1978–1984, Senior Community Worker, Birmingham Social Services**

**1975–1978, Tutor in Charge, Overseas Social Workers Course, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham**

#### **Reports & Publications, including:**

"Celebrating Courage – a report on generating the evidence to monitor actions to address Harmful Practices", GIZ for AUC, 2013

"Post-2015 Liberia Consultation Report – an Agenda out of Fragility" UNDP for Govt of Liberia, 2013

"Proposal for an African Wellbeing Index" report for AUC Dep't for Social Affairs 2012

"Africa's Post-2015 Goals – an African Development Agenda" report for AUC DSA 2012

"Harmful Traditional Practices towards Women & Girls in Africa", AUC published 2012

"Peacebuilding & Education Conflict Analysis", UNICEF-Liberia 2012

**“The Situation of Children & Women in Liberia – from conflict to peace”**, UNICEF published 2012  
**“Liberia – Equity & Inclusion”** Analysis & Presentation, UNICEF 2012  
**UNICEF-Liberia Country Programme Document**, 2012  
**Core Research Findings on Economic Growth & Gender**, DFID Technical Report 2011  
**Core Research Findings on Gender Equality & Empowering Women & Girls**, DFID Technical Report 2011  
**“The Role of Women and Civil Society in Conflict Reduction in Africa: the challenge for Sudan”** paper delivered at “Sudanese Women for Peace” Conference at Maastricht, April 2000.  
**“Conflict Reduction Strategies & Poverty Reduction”** for DFID 1999  
**“The Bending of Spears: producing consensus for peace and development in N. Uganda”** International Alert, Dec 1997.