



Maria Stavropoulou

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Maria Stavropoulou is a Senior Research Officer in the Social Development Programme at ODI. She is a trained social anthropologist who combines a strong academic background with eight years of experience in high quality policy research and advisory work for a range of international development organisations, including UN bodies, government departments and NGOs, on issues of gender and youth, poverty, vulnerability and social protection, conflict and forced migration. Her research support for projects in different regions from South-East Asia to Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, has enabled her to acquire a solid knowledge of gender and its linkages to conflict and peace-building, physical and mental health, sexual and domestic violence, education, discriminatory social norms, food insecurity and malnutrition, social protection, care economy, economic crises, rural livelihoods and agricultural growth but also urban landscapes of exclusion. Her strong research and analytical skills are amply demonstrated by various publications from thematic reports and country evidence gap maps to guides for gender vulnerability assessments and journal papers.

Education

- 2008-2009** **MSc in Development Studies**
London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)
- 2008** **Certificate in Development Studies**
Birkbeck College, University of London
- 2005-2007** **MSc in Medical Anthropology**
University of Oxford
- 1999-2005** **BA in History and Ethnology** (First class with Distinction)
Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH), Greece

Employment

- 2016: Senior Research Officer, Social Development Programme, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London**
- Research and analysis, including country evidence reviews, for the Evidence Synthesis stream of the DFID-funded Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) project
- 2010-2015** **Research Consultant, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London**
- Research and analysis for various social development projects along with supervision of research assistants, editing, reviewing and disseminating research findings in meetings and conferences. Key projects include:
DFID. Girls and young women in chronic poverty

DFAT. Gender and food insecurity in Viet Nam
 DFID. Gender-based violence in Viet Nam
 DFAT. Gender and Social Protection in South-East Asia
 DFID. Evidence Uptake in Development
 Plan International. State of the World's Girls Report Update
 UN Women. Gender and Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific
 DFID Transforming Cash Transfers
 ReBUILD Consortium. Adolescent girls and mental health in post-conflict settings
 FAO. Gender, agriculture and social protection
 Indian Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. Gender and urban poverty
 UNGEI. Good Practice in Girls' Education and Gender Equality
 William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Effects of Unpaid Care Work and Gender Equality

2009-2010 Research Consultant, International Alert, London

- Gender, economic security and peace-building: desk research and recommendations for Alert's field projects with a focus on women's empowerment and the promotion of their economic rights in post-conflict settings

2008 Protection Unit Assistant (Internship), UNHCR Solwezi Field Office, Zambia

- Participation in the development of the first Women's Centre at Meheba Refugee Settlement, Zambia; field research, interviews, and FGDs with officers and refugees on gender issues; preparation of UNHCR reports to WFP for the provision of food rations to vulnerable refugee groups such as disabled refugees and female-headed households

2006-2007 Programme Assistant (Internship), UNHCR Office Athens, Greece

- Administrative support; fundraising; advocacy; preparation of articles for the Newsletter; liaising with local NGOs for the provision of assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in line with UNHCR mandate and guidelines

Selected Publications and Presentations

Stavropoulou, M., Holmes, R. and Jones, N. (2016). 'Harnessing informal institutions to strengthen social protection for the rural poor'. *Global Food Security* (forthcoming).

Stavropoulou, M., Gupta-Archer, N., Rezel, E., Noland C. and Marcus, R. (2016). *Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Bangladesh Evidence Gap Map*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

Stavropoulou, M., Gupta-Archer, N. and Marcus R. (2016). *Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Rwanda Evidence Gap Map*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

Samuels, F. and Stavropoulou, M. (2016). "Being Able to Breathe Again": The Effects of Cash Transfer Programmes on Psychosocial Wellbeing'. *Journal of Development Studies*.

Samman, E., Presler-Marshall, E., Jones, N., Bhatkal T., Melamed C., Stavropoulou, M. and Wallace J. (2016). *Women's work: mothers, children and the global childcare crisis*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

Molyneux, M., Jones, N. and Stavropoulou, M. (2016). 'Gender, urban poverty and social protection: Lessons from Latin America', in Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, *State of the Urban Poor Report 2015: Gender and Urban Poverty*. New Delhi and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Perezniето, P. and Stavropoulou, M. (2015). *UNGEI Strategic Approach Paper*. London: Overseas Development Institute and United Nations Girls' Education Initiative.

Stavropoulou, M. and Samuels, F. (2015). *Mental health and psychosocial service provision for adolescent girls in post-conflict settings: literature review*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

Holmes, R., Jones, N. and Stavropoulou, M. (2014). *Harnessing informal institutions to strengthen social protection for the rural poor*. Background paper prepared for SOFA 2015. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Holmes, R., Jones, N., Presler-Marshall, E. and Stavropoulou, M. (2014). *The linkages between social protection, gender and agricultural growth*. Background paper prepared for SOFA 2015. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Holmes, R., Jones, N., Bhuvanendra, D. and Stavropoulou, M. (2013). *A Guide to Conducting a Gender Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment to inform Gender-Responsive Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific*. London: Overseas Development Institute and UN Women Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

Jones, N. and Stavropoulou, M. (2013). *Resilience for All? Towards Gender-Responsive Social Protection in South-East Asia*. Bangkok: UN Women.

Stavropoulou, M. and Jones, N. (2013). *Off the balance sheet: the impact of the economic crisis on girls and young women*. London: Plan International and Overseas Development Institute.

Jones, N., Tran, T.V.A. and Stavropoulou, M. (2011). *The role of social protection in tackling food insecurity and under-nutrition in Viet Nam and its gendered dimensions*. London: Overseas Development Institute and Institute for Family and Gender Studies Viet Nam.

Jones, N., Harper, C., Watson, C., Espey, J., Wadugodapitiya, D., Page, E., Stavropoulou, M., Presler-Marshall, E. and Clench, B. (2010). *Stemming girls' chronic poverty: catalysing development change by building just social institutions*. Manchester: Chronic Poverty Research Centre.

Stavropoulou, M. (2008). *'Women here are shy': SGBV and silent suffering in Meheba Refugee Settlement, North-Western Province, Zambia*. Solwezi: UNHCR Zambia.

Research assistance for books

Principal research assistant for: Holmes, R. and Jones, N. (2013). *Gender and Social Protection in the Developing World: Beyond Mothers and Safety Nets*. London: Zed Books.

Research assistant for: Laws, S., Harper, C., Jones, N. and Marcus, R. (2013). *Research for Development: A Practical Guide*, 2nd Edition. London: SAGE.

Presentations

Stavropoulou, M. (2015). 'Gender, urban poverty and social protection: Lessons from Latin America'. International Conference on Gender and Urban Poverty, February 16-17, India International Center, New Delhi.

Stavropoulou, M. (2014). 'Harnessing informal institutions to strengthen social protection for the rural poor'. Preparatory Meeting for the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2015, June 30-July 1, FAO, Rome.

Samuels, F. and Stavropoulou, M. (2013). 'The effects of CT programmes on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing'. Transforming Cash Transfers Symposium, October 16-17, ODI, London.

Languages

Greek: mother tongue; **English:** fluent; **Spanish:** advanced; **French:** intermediate

Other courses and training

2016 Systematic Evidence Reviews. Systematic Screening Training. International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

2009 Psychosocial Responses to Conflict and Forced Migration Course, Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), Department of International Development, University of Oxford

2008 European Computer Driving License (ECDL)

2006 UNHCR Protection Induction Programme