

RYAN BOURQUE

DIRECTOR – POLLEN GROUP

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS CANADA

Bukoto, Kampala, Uganda

Phone: +256 79 308 1803

Email: ryanbourque@ewb.ca

Website: <http://www.ewb.ca>

SUMMARY

I am currently co-leading Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Canada's Pollen Group initiative. I am interested in gaining an understanding of how development interventions can have sustained impact beyond the life of projects by focusing on addressing underlying systemic barriers to change.

Prior to this work, I completed a Master of Arts degree in Global Development Studies at Queen's University. My research interests, broadly speaking, were on international political economy, labour politics and more recently on understanding complexity theory and its usefulness to poverty reduction strategies.

RECENT PROJECTS

USAID Uganda Feed the Future Agricultural Inputs Activity

03 / 2014 – Present

The purpose of this assignment is to assist the Agricultural Inputs Activity develop a system for monitoring signs of systemic change within Uganda's agricultural inputs market.

More specific tasks include:

1. Development of a pilot methodology for systemic M&E
 - a. Work with activity staff to develop the overarching questions and target groups that each of the three mechanisms in FtF Ag-Inputs's systemic M&E will seek to answer.
 - b. Consult literature and experts to develop a list of preferred and alternative tools and methodologies that may be used in data collection.
2. Recruitment, training, and action-learning of high-quality local enumerators
 - a. Recruitment of enumerators who fit criteria such as: excellent discussion facilitators, able to learn quickly, and speak the local language(s) in the activity's intervention areas.
 - b. Training of the enumerators and piloting data collection
 - c. 3-4 iterations of each methodology

Kenya Markets Trust Market Assistance Programme

07 / 2013 – 12 / 2013

This assignment was broadly focused on helping KMT build its reputation as a home for market systems thinking through capturing and disseminating useful learning on best practises; developing detailed and quality analysis to inform market interventions; as well as facilitating spaces of knowledge sharing amongst the relevant stakeholders

Specific focus areas included:

1. Managing EWB's Partnership with the Market Assistance Programme
 - a. Designing and adjusting staff assignments with MAP as necessary
 - b. Providing regular, in-house management and coaching support to all EWB staff placed with MAP which will include two full-time staff and two junior fellows (summer internship program)
 - c. Designing and promoting learning exchanges, intra-project workshops and the like

d. Liaising between field-based staff and the Nairobi office as necessary to promote strong communication flows within the project.

2. Supporting the progress of KMT becoming an institutional home for market systems development.

a. Channeling useful learning into relevant platforms to increase KMT's visibility, as well as understanding of what a market systems approach entails.

b. Naming good practice. Identifying a strategy by which KMT can shift development practice in the region towards a higher preponderance of systems-based approaches.

3. Thought Partnership with the Knowledge & Results Team

a. Building on experiences from work in Uganda to test and iterate on innovative methods for collecting information on behaviour change within the markets KMT is intervening

b. Capturing and disseminating interesting learning both within KMT, as well as to relevant interested parties (e.g. donors, IPs, local government, etc)

USAID Uganda Feed the Future Livelihoods and Enterprises for Agricultural Development (LEAD) Program

07 / 2012 – 07 / 2013

The purpose of this assignment was to support the LEAD M&E team, particularly the DCoP to develop a results measurement system for the LEAD project, moving toward the DCED Standard, to evaluate the effectiveness of market facilitation activities, enable improved adaptation of activities based on progress monitoring, and contribute to an overall culture of learning oriented toward achieving impact on poverty.

Specific activities included:

1. Bringing field staff into Kampala for targeted, immediately relevant discussions on market facilitation tactics and strategy. These workshop/discussions focused on a broad range of topics from building collective results chains to a tactical discussion on how to cost share with target firms strategically.

2. Incorporating McKinsey & Co's behavior change framework into the project as a tool to get staff thinking more tangibly about how they can change the business climate in their respective value chains.

3. Using results chains as a tool for staff to be more outcome-oriented with respect to project strategy. By collectively laying out the causal model of project and being beholden to it, staff were increasingly aligned on the types of changes they wished to see in the broad array of tactics.

4. Developing an M&E system based on the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development standards, incorporating market systems thinking into the M&E framework, and building the role of M&E as integral to project learning and strategy (rather than simply a reporting function).

EXPERIENCE

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS CANADA

04 / 2013 - Present

Director – Pollen Group

Co-managing a small team of market development specialists working on market systems projects based in Africa. Our service is to provide embedded staff support in applying an M4P approach, including field staff and middle management coaching, as well as developing learning systems based on the DCED Standard.

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS CANADA

02 / 2012 - 04 / 2013

Market Development Strategist

Our team works directly with large development projects pursuing a market facilitation approach to interventions. Our service is to role model what strong market facilitation looks like to field staff and to test, iterate and learn from past interventions. Our staff are strategically placed throughout donor chains to be able to fully understand the systems in which we operate, to clearly articulate what we're seeing throughout, and to identify opportunities to have long-term sustainable impact for project beneficiaries. Our current countries of focus are Ghana and Uganda.

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS CANADA

08 / 2011 - 02 / 2012

Social Change Fellow

Working on Engineers Without Borders' Political Advocacy team, I worked on a national campaign to improve transparency within Canada's aid sector. My role included coordinating a national day of outreach through our chapter system, establishing media contacts and drafting communications. After success with Canada signing on to the International Aid Transparency Initiative, I organized a political forum at our national conference which brought together MPs and a broad array of development experts and our organizations current and past field staff. I also co-planned and coordinated a 500 person march through the streets of Ottawa, handling both logistics and ensuring a media presence at the event.

ONECHANGE

09 / 2010 - 11 / 2010

Field Representative (Contract)

Participated in a OneChange environmental initiative involving a focus on promoting fuel efficiency amongst Ontarians as a frontline advocate; organized weekly outreach events meant to directly engage the public; worked on data entry sessions and blog updates

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

09 / 2009 - 04 / 2010

Graduate Assistant

Planned and conducted weekly tutorials for fifty students; provided one-on-one guidance to young students; collaborated as a team with other teaching assistants in weekly meetings; graded papers

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

01 / 2009 - 05 / 2009

Teaching Assistant

Held weekly office hours to check with students on the progress of their research; acted in the role of mentor to first year students adjusting to university life; responsible for the bulk of student evaluation

EDUCATION

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

2009 - 2010

Master of Arts, Global Development Studies

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

2005 - 2009

Specialized, Political Theory and Latin American Political Economy