



## CURRICULUM VITAE

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**NAME :** NISAR MAJID

**NATIONALITY:** British

### SYNOPSIS

- Nisar has extensive research experience in the Horn of Africa and has managed small and large research teams and programmes. Over the last three years he has established and led the Somalia portfolio at the LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science) Conflict Research Programme (CRP), based in London, a 5-country research programme.
- As the Somalia Research Director Nisar conducted his own research and writing as well as commissioned and managed a range of studies conducted by both local and international consultants and academics. His role has included formal and informal presentations to donors and agencies and international and local audiences. The scope of work has included the Somali-speaking areas of the Horn of Africa.
- Nisar's recent Ethiopia specific experience has focused on the Somali Regional State, through work conducted under the LSE-CRP, with The Policy Practice (on the Berbera Corridor) and for the Rift Valley Institute (on the political economy of humanitarian delivery). In previous years he has worked in Amhara, Afar, Oromiya, Gambella and Somali regions of Ethiopia, for a variety of agencies including Save the Children, ICRC and ODI.
- As a researcher, Nisar has worked for the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University (Boston, USA), the Overseas Development Institute, the Rift Valley Institute, the World Bank, Chatham House (London) and most recently, the LSE. He is a Fellow of the Rift Valley Institute and Visiting Fellow at Tufts University. Nisar co-authored the book, 'Famine in Somalia, Competing Imperatives, Collective Failures, 2011-12' (Daniel Maxwell and Nisar Majid, 2016).

### QUALIFICATIONS

**Sept 2007 – May 2013 PhD: Livelihoods, Development and the Somali Diaspora**, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, Bristol University, Bristol, U.K.

**Oct 1992 – Sept 1994 MA: Area Studies (Africa)**, School of Oriental and African Studies, University Of London, U.K. Subjects: Economics, Geography, Politics (taken at the London School of Economics)

**Sept 1987 – June 1990 BSc Honours: Accounting and Economics**, Southampton University, Southampton, U.K. *Dissertation: Foreign Exchange Problems in Zimbabwe*

### RECENT WORK EXPERIENCE

**February/March 2021 Consultant, Samuel Hall with The Policy Practice, UK.**

Co-team leader of political economy analysis of the Berbera Corridor for the FCDO. Worked closely with the team leader in a research assignment led by The Policy Practice. Purpose of assignment to study political economy and inclusion/exclusion issues along the Berbera Corridor (Somaliland-Ethiopia). Tasks within the role included research on Ethiopia (including Somali Regional State) as well as overall analysis and report writing.

**June 2018 – ongoing Research Director, London School of Economics and Political Science, London**

Research Director for the Conflict Research Programme (CRP – Somalia), a 5-country research programme funded by the Research and Evidence Division of the FCDO. Responsible for establishing and implementing the full research programme for the Somalia portfolio (including Somali speaking regions of Ethiopia and Kenya) with an annual budget of £150,000 per year. This included: recruitment and management of field research team, recruitment and support to international consultant/researchers, development of own research areas, production of quarterly reports, writing of policy briefs and academic papers, convening research and policy meetings with donors and other parties. (see: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/projects/conflict-research-programme/Somalia>)

**Sept. 2018 - March 2019      Consultant/Researcher, Rift Valley Institute, London**

Lead researcher, working closely with a Somali research colleague, in the development of a study on social and trading links between Somalia and Yemen.

**January – May 2018      Consultant/Researcher, Overseas Development Institute, London**

Lead researcher, working closely with a Somali research colleague, in the development of a country case study on the World Humanitarian Summit's Grand Bargain commitment to increased support to local actors. Research conducted in Nairobi, Kenya and Somalia. (see: <https://odi.org/en/publications/funding-to-local-humanitarian-actors-somalia-case-study/> )

**May/June 2018      Consultant, Rift Valley Institute (RVI), London**

Rapid research for RVI Political Advisory Project, concerning political economy of humanitarian delivery in Somali Regional State, Ethiopia. Tasks included research in Addis Ababa with Somali colleague and verbal presentation to FCDO, World Bank and UN agencies.

**December 2017      Consultant/Lecturer, Rift Valley Institute (RVI), London**

One week visit to Hargeisa, Somaliland, in order to conduct a training in qualitative research methods for University of Hargeisa teaching staff, as well as to provide mentoring support for the production and launch of a research paper produced by University of Hargeisa staff.

**September - December 2017      Consultant, DAI, UK.**

Under a DAI technical assistance agreement with the European Union, member of a two-person team conducting a case study for the design of a Social Protection/Safety Net programme for Somalia. Work involved a 2-week visit to Nairobi and Mogadishu, home-based desk work, report preparation and attendance at an international conference on social protection in fragile contexts.

**May - July 2017      Consultant, Centre for Humanitarian Change (CHC), Nairobi.**

Team member providing research and advisory support for the UK's Department for International Development's (DfID) Somalia programme, on issues around marginalisation and exclusion during the 2017 drought/humanitarian crisis.

**September 2016 – July 2017      Consultant/Researcher, Rift Valley Institute (UK) and World Bank (USA).**

Study leader for a World Bank initiated and funded study entitled 'Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia'. This study contributes to the World Bank's analysis and direction on social protection issues in Somalia. Supervisor of two-person field research team and lead author of final report. (see: [World Bank Document](#))

**May – December 2016      Consultant/Researcher, German Development Institute (DIE), Berlin.**

Team leader, in the development of a Somalia case study, as part of a research project entitled 'Enhancing Food Security in Fragile States using Cash-based Interventions'. Study involved investigating the role of cash-based interventions on food security and aspects of statehood in Somalia. Research conducted on behalf of the German government by DIE. Desk and field-based research carried out with one local researcher.

**May – December 2016      Consultant/Researcher, Danish Refugee Council, Copenhagen.**

Research on the response of the Somali diaspora, in the UK and Europe, to the drought/crisis in Somaliland and Puntland (Somalia), in early 2016. Leader of two-person research team. Research conducted with the Somali diaspora in the UK and Europe, as well as in Somaliland and Puntland.

**December 2015 - July 2016      Consultant/Researcher, Humanitarian Outcomes/Transparency International.**

Lead researcher of Somalia case study on corruption in humanitarian aid, in Somalia. Role included field research in Nairobi, supervision of a 2-person field research team, lead analyst and lead author of the final report.

**January / February 2016**      **Evaluation Consultant, Adeso and Save the Children, Nairobi.**

Team leader for evaluation of cash-based safety nets programme in northern Somalia, with two local researchers.

**August – December 2015**      **Consultant Trainer, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Nairobi.**

Team leader in 'learning from conversations' training and support exercise, involving classroom-based teaching and distance support to NGO staff, with the aim of improving qualitative data collection and analysis.

**May 2014 – December 2015**      **Consultant/Researcher, Humanitarian Outcomes, London.**

Researcher for large DfID funded study, entitled Securing Access in Volatile Environments (SAVE – <http://www.saveresearch.net/>). Lead researcher for Somalia case study, including supervisor of 4-person local research team.

**May 2013 to December 2015**      **Co-principal Investigator, Feinstein International Centre, Tufts University.**

Co-principal investigator and contributor to all aspects of research study focused on lessons learned from the Somalia famine of 2011. Outputs included: Presentations of study findings and book launches in Mogadishu, Nairobi, London, Geneva, New York, Washington, Boston; two donor reports, one briefing paper, one book manuscript, one conference paper, two technical papers, and one journal paper.

**May 2012 – January 2013**      **Food Security & Livelihoods Consultant, Humanitarian Outcomes, London.**

Member of four person core team conducting evaluation of US\$100m+ unconditional cash and voucher programme, in response to the Somalia famine. Work conducted over nine months. Responsibilities included food security & livelihoods analysis, and piloting and supervising innovative Somali telephone-based research and investigation methodology.

## **PAST SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Training**

- Food security and Livelihoods training (Darfur, Sudan, for the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation, 2011)
- Team leader and trainer for post-tsunami food security and livelihoods assessment (Sri Lanka, for Save the Children UK, 2005).
- Co-trainer and team leader of post-disaster (tsunami and earthquake) livelihoods assessment (Indonesia, for Save the Children UK, 2005).
- Joint lead trainer and team household economy analysis (HEA) training, in support of the development of a food security early warning system (Somali Region, Ethiopia, for Save the Children UK, 2001/2002)

### **Reviews and Evaluations**

- Evaluation of innovative cash programme in southern Somalia (for Oxfam GB, Nairobi, Kenya, 2011)
- Review/evaluation of the Red Cross Movement's response to the 2008-2010 food security/humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa (including Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti) (for the British Red Cross, 2010/2011)
- Member of two person team conducting an evaluation of a Pastoral Early Warning System in Afar and Somali Region State, Ethiopia (for Save the Children UK, 2009)
- Member of two person team conducting a mid-term review of FAO's Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) regional roll-out project (including Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) (for the Food and Agricultural Organisation, 2009)
- Member of four person team evaluating the overall FAO emergency programme in the Horn of Africa (Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda) (for FAO, Rome, 2008).
- Team leader of three person team evaluating cash based interventions to pastoralists by an Oxfam led consortium of NGOs, in southern Somalia (for Oxfam GB, 2006).
- Member of four person team reviewing the links and disconnects between emergency needs assessments and decision-making within WFP (for the Overseas Development Institute, 2006).
- Member of three person team evaluating the ICRC's Economic Security programme in Ethiopia, looking at its integration within the overall ICRC mandate, focused on Afar, Somali region and Gambella (for the ICRC, 2006).
- Member of team reviewing WFP food security assessment practice Ethiopia (for the Overseas Development Institute, 2005).

- Evaluation of European Commission Somalia Food Security Programme, including 14 food security projects (for Landell Mills, 2002)

### **Technical support**

- Co-author, on-line forum moderator and contributor to FAO initiative on Food Security & Nutrition 'Response Analysis' (2010/2011)
- Preparation of guidelines on community based early warning systems (CBEWS). Role involved literature review, worldwide telephone-based consultations on experiences in CBEWS and drafting of guidelines (2010/2011)
- Co-author and designer of an early warning system, in the form of a Project Implementation Manual, for all pastoral areas of Ethiopia (for Save the Children UK, 2005)

### **Fixed-term positions:**

**June 2018 – ongoing**

As above.

**Research Director, LSE-Conflict Research Programme, London**

**December 2002 – December 2004**

**Food Security and Livelihoods Advisor, Save the Children (UK), London (Head Office)**

Role included technical support to country programmes and projects: strategic direction, project design, recruitment, training, monitoring and evaluation, at head office and country levels.

**December 2001 – May 2002**

**Organisation, Kenya**

**Food Security Consultant, UN Food and Agricultural**

Working within the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development and the Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP, in Kenya, on extending and adapting the ALRMP drought early warning system to semi-arid areas of Kenya.

**January 2001 – August 2001**

**Food Security Analyst and Northern Regions (Somalia) Focal Point, Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) Somalia, FAO Somalia**

Based in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Activities included management, training, assessments and liaison.

**November 1998 – December 2000**

**Food Economy Analyst, Save the Children (UK) Somalia-Kenya Programme, with the Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) for Somalia**

Seconded to the Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) as a household economy analyst.

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- 'Jubbaland and the Transborder Ogadeen: Identity Politics and Regional Reconfigurations in the Ethiopia-Kenya-Somalia Borderlands' (2021), Nisar Majid and Khalif Abdirahman, CRP Research Memo, LSE: London. (see: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2021/02/23/the-jubbaland-project-and-the-transborder-ogadeen/> )
- 'The Kismayo Bubble: Justice and Security in Jubbaland' (2021/forthcoming/draft available), Nisar Majid and Khalif Abdirahman, CRP Research Memo, LSE: London
- 'Transborder Citizenship and Activism; Political Engagement and Resistance in the Somali Environment.' (2021), Nisar Majid, (forthcoming/under review – Journal of Civil Society)
- 'The Galkaio 'local' Agreement' (2021/forthcoming/draft available), Marika Theros and Nisar Majid (forthcoming/draft available)
- 'Somalia's Evolving Political Marketplace: From Humanitarian Crisis to Permanent Precarity', Susanne Jaspars and Nisar Majid (2021/forthcoming/draft available).
- 'Mobility, trust and exchange: Somalia and Yemen's Cross-border Maritime Economy', Research Report, 2019, Nisar Majid and Khalif Abdirahman: <http://riftvalley.net/publication/somalia-and-yemens-cross-border-maritime-economy>
- 'Famine in Somalia: Competing Imperatives, Collective Failures, 2011-12', Daniel Maxwell and Nisar Majid, (London: Hurst Publications) <https://www.hurstpublishers.com/book/famine-in-somalia/>
- *Facing Famine, Somali experiences in the Famine of 2011*, Maxwell, D., Majid, N., Adan, G., Abdirahman, K., and Jeeyon, K., Kim., *Food Policy*, Vol. 65, December 2016: 63-73 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306919216304900>
- Narratives of Famine, Majid, N., Adan, G., Abdirahman, K., and Maxwell, D. <http://fic.tufts.edu/assets/Somalia-Famine-Narratives-Maxwell-FINAL-2-1-20161.pdf> )

- Majid, N. and McDowell, (2012), Hidden dimensions of the Somalia famine, *Global Food Security*, Vol 1, Issue 1, December 2012; 36-42.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211912412000041>
- Majid, N. (2010). *Livestock trade in the Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopian borderlands*. Briefing Paper. Chatham House. Available at:  
[https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/field/field\\_document/0910majid.pdf](https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/field/field_document/0910majid.pdf)
- Majid, N. (2007). *Alternative Interventions in Insecure Environments: The Case of Cash in southern Somalia*. Humanitarian Exchange, Number 37. Humanitarian Practice Network. London: Overseas Development Institute.