

# Mara Tissera Luna

Citizenships: Argentine, Italian | Registered as a consultant in Hungary (identification number 56971646-1-42 & EU tax number HU56971646)

Email: maratisserafr@gmail.com | Phone: (+36) 70 553-6367

LinkedIn Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/maratisseraluna/>

Research portfolio: <https://bit.ly/3axUQai>

---

## KEY QUALIFICATIONS

---

**Report & Proposal Writing**  
**Qualitative Research**  
**Project management**

**MEAL (M&E) Systems Development**  
**Qualitative Data Collection & Analysis**  
**Program Evaluation**

**Languages:** Spanish (Native), English (C2), Portuguese (C2), French (C1).  
**Technologies:** MS Office (Word, Excel, PPT, MS Forms). Atlas.Ti, SPSS.  
**Sectors:** Child care and protection systems, refugee protection.  
**Regions:** Latin America & the Caribbean (experiences also in the CEE region & Europe).

---

## WORK HISTORY

---

**Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant**, contract, End Violence Lab, Colombia (Remote). **03/2021-07/2021**

- Documented and evaluated the ongoing 12-week Colombia INSPIRE Coordination Course, addressed to 100+ Colombian child protection practitioners.
- This course is being implemented by the End Violence Lab (The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the University of Edinburgh) and multisectoral partners (USAID, Together for Girls & ICBF, Government of Colombia).
- Collected & analyzed qualitative data (literature reviews, 14 surveys, interviews, participant observation in 30+ meetings, and focus groups).
- Drafted a contingency plan for the course, two reports to document the planning and delivery of the course, and a final process evaluation report.
- Drafted 3 short articles on violence against children in Colombia for the Lab's website.

**Project Proposal Developer**, contract, UNICEF The Netherlands (Remote). **05/2021-06/2021**

- Co-designed collaboratively and drafted the narrative proposal and needs assessment of a proposal for the European Commission DAPHNE fund about capacity-building for child protection practitioners in Aruba and Curaçao.
- Reviewed secondary sources on the EU Strategy for Children's Rights and on the child protection context in the Dutch Caribbean.
- Facilitated meetings with UNICEF staff and two workshops with its Aruban and Curaçaoan partners.

**Participatory Project Proposal Developer**, contract, CARE Colombia (Remote). **04/2021-05-2021**

- Drafted the narrative proposal, needs assessment and annexes of a proposal for the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide sexual & reproductive health services for Venezuelan migrant and refugee women and LGTBI+ populations.
- Reviewed secondary sources on the humanitarian context in Colombia and CARE's response.
- Coordinated communications and facilitated meetings with 10 CARE staff.

**Program & Fundraising Manager**, Refugee Program, Hungarian Helsinki Committee. **03/2019-03/2021**

- Wrote and developed 23 grant proposals and 23 donor reports (EU, UNHCR, EPIM, German Embassy, US Embassy, Dutch Embassy, etc.).
- Developed Logframe indicators, Theory of Change (ToC), and Monitoring & Evaluation frameworks for proposals and project implementation.
- Cooperated with other HHC staff and liaised with international partners to implement 10 projects on refugee protection funded by international donors (EU, UNHCR, EPIM, US Embassy, Dutch Embassy, etc.).
- Performed the process evaluation of two projects.
- Wrote and presented 3 articles on refugee protection at international conferences (including at the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Annual Meeting).

**Consultant on Alternative Care for UASC**, contract, RELAF network (Remote) **12/2016-09/2018**

- Produced a handbook to integrate Central American unaccompanied and separated migrant and refugee children (UASC) living in Mexico through foster care programs.
- Documented global inter-agency tools on child protection principles and good practices for the alternative care of migrant and refugee UASC.
- Interviewed 12 UASC experts from European non-profits working in Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Spain, and the Netherlands.
- Documented protection policies for UASC in the Northern Triangle, Mexico, and Italy.
- Represented RELAF in the inter-agency design process of the MOOC Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children (University of Strathclyde).

**Blue Book Trainee**, European Commission, Portugal **11/2017-03/2018**

- Performed background research and drafted 15 political briefings for the Political Reporting and Policy Analysis Department.
- Drafted communications directed to the European Commission Presidency.

**External Collaborator**, International Labor Organization (ILO), Hungary **06/2017-07/2017**

- Drafted briefings in Spanish, French, and English.
- Liaised between ILO and the Argentine government's senior managers before and during the Consultation workshop for Alliance 8.7 for Child Labor Prevention.

**Youth Suicide Prevention Researcher (intern)**, UNICEF Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan **06/2016-08/2016**

- Evaluated the government and UNICEF's child and adolescent suicide prevention program.
- Conducted bibliographic research and ethnographic field research (in depth-interviews with Kazakh government officials, health services providers, and focus groups with children, their families and school teachers).
- Supervised a research assistant.
- Drafted and published an evaluation report.

**Coordinator of International Relations**, RELAF network, Latin America

**03/2009-08/2015**

- Represented RELAF in the children's rights networks NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Better Care Network, and Better Volunteering.
- Built partnerships with global agencies and collaborated on advocacy and capacity-building initiatives with UNICEF, Hope and Homes for Children, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Lumos, Plan International, and USAID.
- Collaborated with agency partners in the development of global advocacy campaigns and policy tools (e.g., the handbook 'Moving Forward: Implementing the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children' and the 'Alternative Care MOOC').
- Managed partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including national child protection NGOs, governmental authorities, and international organizations.
- Provided training for governmental authorities and middle management (Argentina, British Guyana, and Guatemala) based on international advocacy tools.
- 2013-2015: Managed the project 'Implementation of the UN Guidelines in Haiti', including planning, preparing the budget, drafting its project proposal, and cooperating with entities working in Haiti (IBESR, UNICEF, Save the Children).
- 2011-2015: Recruited, trained, and coordinated the activities of 25 European interns.

**Researcher**, RELAF, Latin America

**11/2009-08/2015**

- Performed qualitative research (literature reviews, interviews, ethnographic field research, participatory methods, and focus groups) to evaluate child protection policies and programs in Argentina, British Guyana, Mexico, and the US-Mexico border.
- Drafted advocacy papers and reports to ensure child protection systems complied with international children's rights legislation, 8 of them published by UNICEF.
- Trained practitioners and governmental authorities in Argentina, Guyana, and Guatemala.
- Carried out in-depth interviews and focus groups with children and adolescents.
- Carried out participatory methods (workshops) with children and adolescents living in orphanages and other alternative care settings.
- Presented research findings at international conferences.
- Coordinated and trained 2 researchers (2014).

**Junior Academic Researcher**, Buenos Aires University, Argentina

**07/2011-07/2014**

- Designed and carried out a research project on international children's rights networks.

- Performed ethnographic fieldwork (literature review, observation-participation at inter-agency meetings, in-depth interviews) involving children's rights experts in Argentina, England, Mexico, Switzerland, and The Netherlands.
- Published a 120-page thesis and presented 3 academic articles at international conferences.

---

## EDUCATION

---

**Master of Public Administration (full time, English-language, US-accredited),** **2015-2017**  
 School of Public Policy, Central European University.

- Selected coursework: Qualitative and quantitative research, the policy cycle, project cycle management, migrant integration, refugee law, human trafficking, leadership.

**BA (Hons) Socio-cultural Anthropology,** Buenos Aires University. **2007-2014**

- Areas of specialization: Social research methods; ethnographic research methodologies (focus groups, interviews, analysis of qualitative data); Latin American history; human rights; theory and methodology of the research of gender, family and sexuality issues.

---

## PROFESSIONAL COURSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

---

<b>Diploma in Latin American Studies.</b> CLACSO (underway).	<b>11/2021</b>
<b>Evaluating Social Programs.</b> J-PAL (underway).	<b>05/2021</b>
<b>Advanced Course Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Systems.</b> INTRAC.	<b>03/2021</b>
<b>PHAP Certification in Monitoring, Accountability, Evaluation &amp; Learning (MEAL)</b>	<b>03/2021</b>
<b>Graduate Diploma in Migration &amp; Refugee Protection.</b> UBA.	<b>02/2021</b>
<b>International Refugee Law.</b> International Institute of Humanitarian Law.	<b>10/2020</b>
<b>Summer School EU Migration &amp; Asylum Law.</b> Odysseus Academic Network.	<b>09/2020</b>
<b>Open-Source Human Rights Monitoring Training.</b> OSCE, ODIHR.	<b>09/2019</b>
<b>Project Management Workshop.</b> Central European University.	<b>10/2015</b>

---

## PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)

---

- 2021, RELAF, UNICEF. *Guide of standards for foster care programs for unaccompanied and separated migrant and refugee children in Mexico* (in press) (author).
- 2018, Tissera Luna, M. Article. Child and youth participation in Latin America: the Brazilian case. *IINfancia*, 6 (Second season). Inter-American Children's Institute, Organization of American States.

- 2018, Tissera Luna, M. Article. The hegemonic role of international non-governmental organizations and agencies as regards to the conceptualization of childhood. *Journal Sociedade Infancias*. 2, 2018: 39-57. Universidad Complutense de Madrid.
- 2016, Tissera Luna M. Report. *The government and UNICEF- led suicide prevention program inKyzylorda Oblast, Kazakhstan*. UNICEF Kazakhstan Country Office (author).
- 2015, RELAF, Save the Children, UNICEF. Report. *Migrant Children and Adolescents: An Analysis of the Contexts and Responses of the Services and Protection Policies* (co-author).
- 2015, RELAF, UNICEF. Report. *Early Childhood and family life. Guide of good practices for the right of young children to live in a family and a community* (co-author).
- 2015, RELAF, UNICEF. Report. *Forgotten children: macro-institutions in LAC* (co-author).
- 2013, RELAF, UNICEF. *Report on Discrimination in Residential Care Institutions* (co-author).
- A full list of publications and presentations is available [here](#).

---

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

---

#### Languages (1=basic to 5= full professional proficiency)

	Reading	Speaking	Writing	CEFR level
Spanish (native)	5	5	5	C2
English	5	5	5	C2
Portuguese	5	5	4	C2
French	5	3	3	C1
Italian	4	4	3	B2

**Countries of work experience:** Argentina (2008-2015), British Guyana (2012), Brazil (2010), Colombia (2021), Hungary (2017 and 2019-2021), Kazakhstan (2015), Mexico (including the Mexico-US border, 2014), Panama (2017), Portugal (2017), Romania (2014), Paraguay (2014).

---

### REFERENCES UPON REQUEST

---

Gábor Gyulai

Director of the Refugee Program – Hungarian Helsinki Committee

Phone No.: +36 30 982 1429 | Email Address: [gabor.gyulai@helsinki.hu](mailto:gabor.gyulai@helsinki.hu)

Aigul Nurgabilova, PhD.

Health and Nutrition Specialist – UNICEF Kazakhstan (currently Sudan)

Phone No.: +7 701 522 6597 | Email Address: [anurgabilova@unicef.org](mailto:anurgabilova@unicef.org)

María Sanchez Brizuela

Coordinator – Latin American Network RELAF

Phone No.: +54 9 115341 2888 | Email Address: [gestion@relaf.org](mailto:gestion@relaf.org)