

# Robert Friedman

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Thailand  
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## Professional Experience

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### Volunteer

#### Risk RED

06/15 -

Formed part of a team that carried out a comparative assessment of school safety after the 2015 Nepal Earthquake in the hardest hit districts of Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Rasuwa, and Sindupalchowk. The assessment focused on three, geographically proximal public schools in each district assessing and comparing damage sustained by the schools and differentiated by: 1) schools without seismic resistant design, 2) schools with seismic resistant design and technical intervention, and 3) schools with seismic design and intervention plus local community engagement.

### Regional Advisor

#### United States Agency for International Development, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

*USAID Regional Development Mission Asia*

*Athenee Tower 25th Floor, 63 Wireless Road, Bangkok, 10330 Thailand*

*40 hours/ week*

05/09 – 05/14

As the Regional Advisor covering South Asia (Bangladesh to Afghanistan) my primary responsibility was to act as the organization's point of contact for on-going disaster responses, and disaster risk reduction and resilience programs designed to strengthen national-level institutions and communities. Duties also included disaster analysis and country or sector specific assessments, which informed and led to the creation of new programs. I oversaw, monitored and evaluated all programs in my portfolio. While I reported to Washington D.C and Bangkok I maintained clear coordination and communication with the USAID

country missions whom we served. I actively coordinated with other donor agencies (i.e. JICA, ECHO DFID), U.S. Military, UN NGOs and the private sector, seeking partnerships where possible to increase the reach and scope of OFDA programs.

Supervisor: Bill Berger ([wberger@usaid.gov](mailto:wberger@usaid.gov)) - Phone +662-257-3271

### **Associate Field/Protection Officer**

#### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

02/08 – 05/09

*ADF Haus 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Musgrave Street, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea*

*40 hours/week*

As the Field Officer, I worked in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea in partnership with a refugee community of 2,500 from the Indonesian province of West Papua, to jointly develop the representative governing capacity of the group and seek avenues for economic development and self-sustainability. The governing body was founded around areas of communal concern including economic development, health, education, transportation, social welfare and the promotion of women. I coordinated with district and provincial governments, NGO implementing partners, and national aid agencies to insure the refugee community was included in government-driven infrastructure and economic development planning in the province. As the Protection Officer in the capital of Port Moresby, work focused on the capacity building of the Immigration Department to ensure the proper handling of refugees and asylum seekers consistent with the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. Work included training for border guards encountering people of UNHCR's concern and immigration officers focusing on refugee status determination.

Supervisors – Wallaya Pura ([Pura@unhcr.org](mailto:Pura@unhcr.org)) - +675 321 7422

Rick Towle ([Towle@unhcr.org](mailto:Towle@unhcr.org)) - +612 6281 9111

### **Associate Repatriation Officer**

06/05- 01/07

#### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

*Gul Mohar Lane House #1, University Town, Peshawar, Pakistan*

*40 hours/week*

I headed Sub-Office Peshawar's Repatriation department and managed its 55 temporary and fixed-term staff members. The department carried out a program that facilitated the return of displaced Afghan refugees that numbered approximately 3.0 million when I arrived in mid-2005. The post included the overall management, budgetary responsibilities and strategic planning of the department which features fixed and mobile registration teams working throughout the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, as well as the running of UNHCR's first iris scanning center which uses sophisticated iris identification technology to record returnees and prevent the abuse of UNHCR's assistance program. The position includes a considerable amount of liaison and coordination with the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Supervisor: Kedar Neupane ([Neupane@unhcr.org](mailto:Neupane@unhcr.org)) – Phone 0092 91 584 2027

#### **Emergency Field Officer – Mansehra, Pakistan**

11/05-01/06

*40 hours/week*

During my tenure in Peshawar, I was called upon by UNHCR for a special emergency mission to act as a Field Officer in the earthquake-hit

areas of northern Pakistan/Kashmir. I was responsible for a geographical region (Siran Valley) and coordinated relief efforts in that area. I worked closely with the Pakistan Military to prioritize affected villages and create a forum (UN Cluster system) where contributing organizations including the Pakistan Military, local authorities, other UN organizations and NGOs coordinated their efforts to enhance the delivery of life-saving assistance.

Supervisor: Mohammed Adar ([Adarm@unhcr.org](mailto:Adarm@unhcr.org)) – Ph +92 91 5842027

## **Head of Field Office**

05/03 - 06/05

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Gorazde, BiH**

*Unis Building Tower B, Fra Andela Zvizdovica 1, Sarajevo, BiH*

*40 hours/week*

I was responsible for the overall management of the UNHCR Gorazde Field Office, including scheduling of activities, finances, field operations, project development, administration, auto maintenance and domestic items distribution (stoves, beds, blankets, hygienic items, food and tents). I oversaw project implementation carried out through two UNHCR partner organizations - IRC (International Rescue Committee - reconstruction and infrastructure projects and economic development plans) and CEFA (Italian Agricultural NGO - agricultural sustainability and regeneration of farming lands). The field office was also the focal point in the AoR for education initiatives targeting the reintegration of minority children, and pension and health schemes for returning individuals. Duties also included liaison with other international organizations in the region: the multi-national Stabilization Force (SFOR), the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the European Union Police Mission (EUPM), in order to achieve effective working relationships and coordinate activities in the area. This liaison role also covered coordination with national and local authorities and citizens' groups with whom we worked to enhance effectiveness for assistance and coordinate beneficiary selection.

Supervisor: John Farvolden ([farvolden@unhcr.org](mailto:farvolden@unhcr.org)) – Phone 00387 33 666-160

## **Field Officer**

04/01- 05/03

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

*Unis Building Tower B, Fra Andela Zvizdovica 1, Sarajevo, BiH*

*40 hours/week*

Responsible for coordination and organization of international aid efforts in the Gorazde area of responsibility (Republica Srpska and Federation) through RRTF (Reconstruction and Return Task Force). Managed funds of over \$2.1 million under UNHCR's Quick Support Funding targeting housing reconstruction, infrastructure development, sustainability, and economic development projects. Worked closely with government officials to carry out property implementation laws spelled out under the Dayton Peace Accords.

Supervisor: Bashir Khan ([Khanb@unhcr.org](mailto:Khanb@unhcr.org)) – Phone 00387 33 666-160

**Political Risk Analyst**

12/98- 04/03

**Political Risk Services Inc.,***6320 Fly Road Suite 102, East Syracuse, NY 13057-0248**Paid per report*

I assessed the degree of political and economic stability of foreign countries for governments, international corporations and NGO clients. My focus area was Eastern Europe. These evaluations were a planning tool primarily used as a basis for international investment decisions.

Supervisor: Ben McTernan – Phone 001 315-431-0511

**Civil Society Program Manager**

08/00 – 01/01

**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe***Fra Andela Zvizdovica 1 Tower A, Sarajevo, BiH**40 hours/week*

Worked closely with nascent and established Civil Society organizations in BiH to promote and further support the sector. Supported initiatives aiming at higher education, women's rights and return through selective funding programs. Headed the OSCE Anti-Corruption campaign for the Civil Society Department and was responsible for a nation-wide citizen outreach program, using local NGOs, designed to promote dialogue and educate citizens on the issue of corruption. Played a major role in the creation of a lasting effort to combat corruption through the creation of a Transparency International chapter for BiH. Involved in long-term planning, training and funding for the continued development of BiH's third sector.

Supervisor: Zineta Rasavac (zinetar@yahoo.com) - Phone 00387 (0) 33 667 272

**Democracy Center Program Manager**

02/00 – 08/00

**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)***Fra Andela Zvizdovica 1 Tower A, Sarajevo, BiH**40 hours/week*

As the Democracy Center Program Manager, I was responsible for overall management including financial and programming matters for nine Democracy Centers in BiH. I developed training programs to build the capacity of the local directors and strengthen the center network across the country. Based on evaluations completed while serving as an intern, I carried out an exit-strategy designed to leave behind a network of independent Democracy Centers capable of contributing to the development of civil society in BiH.

Supervisor: Zineta Rasavac (zinetar@yahoo.com) - Phone 00387 (0) 33 667 272

**Election Observer****Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

04/00 &amp; 10/04

*Fra Andela Zvizdovica 1 Tower A, Sarajevo, BiH**40 hours/week during a one week deployment*

I monitored both the Municipal (04/2000) and National elections (10/2000) in the town of Capljina in the Herzegovina region of BiH. I was responsible for assuring that international election standards were maintained in the voting center through observation and instruction and bringing attention to abnormalities in the voting process by concise reporting.

**Democratization Assistant (Internship)**

10/99-2/00

**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

*Fra Andela Zvizdovica 1 Tower A, Sarajevo, BiH*

*40 hours/week*

I evaluated OSCE's Democracy Center Program consisting of 9 centers located throughout BiH. I assisted with center programming in coordination with center directors and sought out alternate funding sources in anticipation of eventual independence from OSCE. I initiated an exit-strategy for the eventual handover of the centers to the local directors. In periods of absence of my supervisors, I took over the responsibilities of Civil Society Coordinator for BiH.

Supervisor: Florence Duvieusart (florenceduvieuart@hotmail.com) – Phone +41 22 7335755

**Research Assistant (Internship)**

Summer 1999

**Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)**

*1800 K. St., NW, Washington D.C., 2006*

*40 hours/week*

Provided research and analysis for the continued improvement of Eastern Europe's economic and political infrastructure.

Supervisor: Trey Bradley – Phone 202-887-0200

**Management Consultant**

1997 - 1998

**Universal Scheduling Company**

*One Bala Plaza, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004*

*40 hours/week*

I was part of a team of consultants which worked on-site to improve working processes and procedures. During my tenure with the company I worked in the Colombia Hospital in San Antonio with Respiratory Assistants, and in factories which produced duct tape and adhesive bandages (Tyco Inc), and door locks and handles (Weiser Lock). I implemented and oversaw various production enhancing methods, such as CIP's and Pareto analysis, that increased accountability, staff efficiency and production. While working at Weiser Lock, located in Tucson, Arizona my work enhanced inventory accountability by 63% and increased production by 13%.

Supervisor: Tom Stanish - Phone 800-888-8872

## **Research Analyst**

Summer 1997

### **Made in Mexico Inc.**

*702 Ash Street, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92101  
10 hours/week*

I was responsible for researching suitable companies for inclusion in shelter corporations or sub-contracting possibilities in the NAFTA- related maquiladora industry.

Supervisor: Mary Beth Viruete (619) 702-3456

## **English Teacher/Business Development Consultant**

1996-1997

### **Pfizer Inc.,**

*101 El Bosque Norte, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile  
15 hours/week*

I aided in creating new advertising designed for the Chilean pharmaceutical market. Coached and prepared management on presentations and proposals.

Supervisor: Juan Mora - Phone - 005627762020

## **English Teacher**

1993 -1997

- Impact English, *Santiago, Chile*
- Caton School of English and Spanish, *Granada, Spain*
- Interstudiovaggi, *London, England*
- Soukroma Obchodni Akademi, *Otrokovice, Czech Republic*

Responsible for the organization and implementation of English language programs suited to the needs of students ranging from adolescents to high-level managers of Fortune 500 companies.

## **Photography**

Experienced in a variety of areas but mainly focusing on street, Latin dance and travel photography. Have made photo contributions to publications from UNHCR, USAID/OFDA and Risk Red

Exhibitions include:

- Two installations chronicling West Papuan Refugees displaced in Papua New Guinea
  - Crown Plaza Hotel, Port Moresby, PNG. 03/07 & 04/08
- Glimpse of the Caribbean – Travel photography of the Caribbean Islands.
  - Kultarni Centar, Gorazde, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 05/03

Website: [www.robfriedmanphotography.com](http://www.robfriedmanphotography.com)

## Education

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**Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University**      Graduated  
Master of Arts of International Relations  
Concentrations: - Intercultural Communication and Negotiation  
- Eastern Europe.

**University of California at San Diego**      Graduated  
Bachelor of Science - Economics  
Bachelor of Arts - Visual Arts

## Skills and Other

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**Languages:**      **English** – Mother Tongue  
                         **Spanish** – Advanced working knowledge  
                         **Serbo-Croatian** – Advanced working knowledge

**Computer:**      Adobe Photoshop CS6

**Publications:**      Political Risk Analyses of: Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and  
                         Greece. CSIS - Of Growth and Future: the Case of Poland

**Personal pursuits:**      Latin Dance, Photography, Trekking and Travel