
KIMBER HADDIX MCKAY



SENIOR ADVISOR, INNOVATION AND BEST PRACTICE ADARA DEVELOPMENT

Kimber Haddix McKay is a Senior Advisor, Innovation and Best Practice at Adara Development, an international development organisation made up of a series of non-profit companies and trust, spanning many countries.

Adara Development was established in 1998, and is focussed on improving health and education for women, children and communities living in poverty. They are experts in maternal, newborn and child health, and remote community development. Adara reaches tens of thousands of people living in poverty each year. Adara also conducts detailed research to ensure projects are evidence-based, and share the knowledge they have gained locally, nationally and globally in the hope of making a greater impact.

Kimber joined Adara close to its inception in the late 1990s. Her training is in medical and demographic anthropology, as well as evolutionary anthropology. She had been living and conducting research in Humla, Nepal since 1995 when she crossed paths with Audette Exel, the founder of the Adara Group, in Kathmandu. They brainstormed ideas for Adara's work in Humla on a month-long walk through Northern Humla in 1998. This led to the development of the research pillar of Adara's work, as she went on to conduct many studies on social, behavioural and health changes associated with Adara's projects, and to make policy and programmatic recommendations based on their results.

Before working with Adara, Kimber had worked on issues associated with population patterns and demographic change, and on maternal/child health in Honduras, Nepal and Kenya. After PhD training at the University of California, Davis and post-doctoral training at the University of California, Berkeley, she was a research fellow at the Population Council in Nairobi, Kenya. She was also a research affiliate at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu.

Dr. McKay is jointly appointed to Public Health and Anthropology as a Professor at the University of Montana, Missoula, and she oversees innovation and best practice in both Nepal and Uganda for Adara.