

Carla Vitantonio



Feminist, author, humanitarian professional. I believe that a better world is only possible if a radical shift in power shares takes place, and to foster this change I focus on: promoting partnership in humanitarian and development settings, supporting strategy planning and implementation, accompanying organizational change management, and mentoring young humanitarian professionals.

In the past 10 years, I have been working with governmental and non-governmental organizations in North Korea, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Cuba. I have a solid experience in crisis management and I believe in the art of political negotiation and in inclusive processes. I practice feminist leadership.

I wrote two books: *Pyongyang Blues* and *Myanmar Swing*, both with ADD editore. I speak about humanitarian assistance, and the impact that patriarchy and postcolonialism have on aid professionals and programs.

In 2022 I was awarded the Honor of Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia by the President of the Republic of Italy for my work as a humanitarian and as an author.

Education

Sept 2010 - **Second level academic MA program in Diplomacy and International Politics**
Dec 2011 Almamater Studiorum, Bologna

Sept 1997- **MSC in Communication Sciences** Final quotation 110/110
Oct 2002 Università degli Studi di Padova

Sept 1999 - **Acting certificate**
July 2000 Teatro stabile del Veneto "Carlo Goldoni", Venezia

Employment History

Sept 2022- **Policy Leader Fellow, School of Transnational Governance, European University**
present **Institute, Florence**

Developing a research project (podcast) on aid and colonialism: collecting and sharing a set of good practices from realities rooted in countries receiving aid, that could inform and advice on how to de-structure colonial practices within the aid sector; mentoring MA students, supporting faculty through talks, workshops and lectures on topics related to crisis management, feminist leadership, disability equity and inclusion, decolonizing practices, partnership.

July 2019 - **Country Representative, CARE Canada, Cuba**
2022 *Operational sectors: Climate justice, Women Economic empowerment, Food security and nutrition, Disaster Risk Reduction, WASH and Health.*

Representing the organization with national and international stakeholders; Revising and implementing Country Presence; Strengthening the Nexus between humanitarian and development portfolio; Fundraising; Supporting partnership development; Managing Human Resources, Logistic and Financial aspects of the mission, Ensuring the security of the program; Crisis management; Coordinating regional and international activities within LAC, and CARE International network; Supporting advocacy on LGBTQI+ topics within CARE International.

Sept 2018 - **Country Director, Humanity & Inclusion (Handicap International), Cuba**

July 2019 *Operational sectors: Public Health, Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, Livelihood, Support to Civil Society, Disability-Gender - Age.*

Representing the organization; Developing and implementing a new strategy with regional synergies in the Caribe; Managing Human Resources, Logistic and Financial aspects of the

mission; Ensuring the security of the program; Coordinating regional activities; Fundraising; Ensuring the rollout at country level of the new Disability-Gender-Age policy of HI Federation.

Sept 2016 – Regional Director, Handicap International Federation, Myanmar and Thailand

Aug 2018 *Operational sectors: Protection, Health and Rehabilitation, Forced displacement, Emergency preparedness, Humanitarian Mine Action, Inclusion*

Representing the organization with national and international stakeholders, in humanitarian and development contexts; Chairing the Victims Assistance National Working Group; Developing and implementing the first multi-country strategy; Ensuring the security of the program; Coordinating regional activities; Crisis Management; Fundraising; Participating into the steering committee of the Gender-Age-Disability policy for HI Federation; Developing partnerships within Burmese, Thai and Ethnic minorities' territories; Support to the development of the IASC guidelines on gender based violence and disability.

Aug 2014 – Country Director, Handicap International Federation, North Korea (DPRK)

Aug 2016 *Operational sectors: Protection, Health and Rehabilitation, Inclusion, Education, Disaster Risk Reduction*

Representing Handicap International in the country and within the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), implementing the Country Strategy, managing HR, Logistic and Financial aspects of the mission, ensuring the security of the program; crisis management; directly managing operations in Inclusive Education, launching inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction as new operational area in the country, Fundraising. Developing partnerships in DPRK and China.

Dec 2013 - Project coordinator: Handicap International Federation, North Korea

July 2014 *Operational sectors: Disability and Inclusive Education*

Managing the project cycle in two sectors (Education for children with sensory impairments and Support to Quasi-Civil Society Organization for People with Disabilities). Implementing foreseen activities with local partner. Monitoring and follow up of activities and related budget. Writing and provision of reports. Proposal writing and submission to potential donor. Acting Country Director upon need.

2013 (Apr - Sept) - Program Manager, Italian Development Cooperation Office, North Korea

Operational sectors: Health and Rehabilitation, Food Security, WASH

Representing IDC with local institutions and in the interagency coordination mechanism. Managing staff. Participating in the monitoring of the projects funded by the Italian Government in Health, Food Security and WASH (UNICEF, FAO, WHO). Project management. Implementing quick-impact emergency projects. Writing and providing reports to the Italian Embassy in Seoul. Organizing diplomatic missions.

Mar 2012 - Consultant, Italian Development Cooperation Office, North Korea (DPRK)

Mar 2013 *Operational sectors: Education*

Organizing and implementing the educational project developed in agreement with Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies. Teaching. Supporting the organization of cultural events.

Other working experience

2021- Present **Consultant, VLIR/Vrije Universiteit, Belgium**

Decolonizing DGD, Academic research on Belgian Aid and decolonization

2013 (Mar) Consultant, Handicap International Federation, North Korea

Writing and editing of the first part of the Country Strategy, including: Socio-Economic overview, humanitarian situation, stakeholder analysis, sectorial thematic analysis. The process was conducted using both research on data and interviews to the main actors.

Feb 2006 - July 2011 **Consultant: Asl di Casalecchio, Comune di Castello di Serravalle, Arci Nuova Associazione, Comune di Padova, Italy**

Operational sectors: inclusion, gender, migration, culture

Conceiving, organizing and directing workshops and courses for migrant citizens (adults and children) and vulnerable children. All courses employed a methodology based on the help of arts in processes of integration, and were organized in cooperation with a professional team of psychologists and social workers. Team leader. Writing and providing reports. Financial/administrative accounting.

Jan 2005 - **Junior Manager, Arci Nuova Associazione Padova, Italy**

Mar 2007 *Operational Sectors: Inclusion, Education, Migration*

Representing Arci in the European Social Forum and in national coordination mechanisms. Organizing and promoting cultural events including national workshops, international meetings and conferences focused on human rights and climate change. Project management. Fundraising, Advocacy, Communication. Tutoring of help-desk officers. Editing of the on line magazine. Supervising and coordinating teams.

Dec 2004 - **Desk Officer, Fairtrade Italia, Padova**

Jan 2005 *Operational Sectors: Fair Trade, Inclusion, Education*

Advocacy. Co-editing of magazines and newsletters. Interpreter and mediator with Latin America (Portuguese and Spanish). Fundraising. Conceiving and developing national campaigns on Food Security and Fair Trade. Teaching in high schools and universities seminars on Fair Trade and Global Economy. Coordinating with partners and donors.

2002 (June - Dec) **Editor, Ubulibri, Milano**

Writing, Editing, Publishing. Coordinating. Press office assistant. Organizing public events and conferences.

Honors

2022 **Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia**

Awarded by the President of the Republic of Italy. Reasons: work in the humanitarian sector, and activity as an author.

Other Qualifications

2020 **Foundational skills of Emotional Intelligence**, 30 hours Daniel Goleman's Academy

2017 **Conflict Management**, focus training 16 hours, Civil Society Academy, Yangon, Myanmar

2016 **Inclusive education**, 64 hours certificate, Distance learning, University of Cape Town

2015 and 2016 **Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction**, 20 hours, Handicap International, Brussels
Inclusive DRR, management of a DRR project, various aspects related to school and community based DRR.

2015 **Human Resources Management in international context**, 40 hours, MDF Vietnam
Strategic HRM, recruiting and performance management, staff motivation and engagement, change management, Ethics and HRM

2015 **Gender in development**, 30 hours, Handicap International Laos
Theory and practical tools on how to introduce gender in HI operations and teams.

2014 **FDP (training for country directors)**, 40 hours, Handicap International, Lyon
Mission management (HR, crisis management, logistics, finance, professional negotiation).

Sept 2009 - **1st year Dramatic Mime Certificate**

July 2010 International School of Corporeal Mime, London

I authorise the use of my personal data in compliance with art.13 GDPR 679/16

Attributes and skills

<i>Languages</i>	Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (good), Portuguese (fluent), Korean (beginner), International Sign Language (beginner).
<i>Computer</i>	Microsoft Office, Open Office, Accounting software (Navision, SigPro), Audio and radio editing with open-source programs (Audacity).

Publications

Books:

Myanmar Swing, (patriarchy, colonialism and LGBTQ activism in Burma between 2016 and 2018), Add Editore, 2021

Pyongyang Blues (humanitarian aid and human rights in North Korea between 2012 and 2016), Add Editore, 2019

Articles and papers:

The relationship between language and neo-colonialism in the aid industry, The Humanitarian Leader, Deakin University, Australia, Oct. 2022

A lo Cubano (about the events of July 2021 in Cuba), La lettura del Corriere della Sera, August 1st, 2021

Opening doors in the DPRK (applying the humanitarian principles in North Korea), Humanitarian Leadership Academy, June 2021

Handicap International Myanmar and Thailand, Operational Strategy 2018-2020, available upon request.

Handicap International in DPRK, 2014-2016 Activities' report, 2016, available upon request.

Quarterly publications on www.societcity.com (Sociology-Social movements) since 2011;

O mundo não tem pressa, in “partire”, Milano, Vallardi Editore, 2010;

Il commercio Equo rende più dolce il Costa Rica, Roma, in *Carta*, Jan, 2005.

Others

I am a volunteer for Fair Trade of Women Leaders, I currently support the annual monitoring and make myself available for translations and other activities related to feminist leadership.

I have several experiences as anchorwoman, program producer and editor. My podcast *Pyongyang blues* was mentioned among the 35 best podcast in Italy in 2020.

I am an experienced professional theatre performer, storyteller, and theatre teacher. I worked in Europe, South Korea and Burma. My artistic portfolio is available upon request.

References:

Ana Calvo, Deputy Director of Operations and Technical Resources, Handicap International Federation: anacalvo23@hotmail.com

Simran Singh, Vice President, Global Programs, CARE Canada: Simran.singh@care.ca

Jessie Thomson, Head of Delegation, IFCR, Greece: jessie.thomson@ifrc.org