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CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME NIKI PALMER

NATIONALITY British

EXPERTISE

Based in Washington DC and the UK, Niki has over 18 years of experience in international development. Particularly skilled at applied political economy and conflict analysis, her most recent work includes a focus on refugees and migration, natural resource governance and climate change, and the reform of state owned enterprises. She brings a unique perspective gained from a combination of extensive field experience in Africa, Asia and MENA, and headquarters-based policy development. Niki has worked for the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as a Senior Governance and Conflict Adviser in Afghanistan, the occupied Palestinian territory and Ethiopia. She has also worked at the World Bank and the UN Development Programme. Niki has managed multi-disciplinary and split site teams in a number of locations and led the design, management and evaluation of high value and high-risk programmes. Risk mitigation has been a focus alongside developing flexible or adaptive programmes able to adjust to change.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

1997 **MA Social Anthropology**, Goldsmiths College (University of London), UK
1995 **BA (Hons) English Literature**, University of Liverpool, UK

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

From 2019 **Associate, The Policy Practice Ltd**

Position: Short Term Consultant (STC)

Dates: Dec 2018 – Feb 2019

Employer: World Bank – Governance Group

Responsibilities: Authored guidance for the Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Global Practice on the Political Economy of Reforming State Owned Enterprises, to be published as part of an integrated diagnostic tool for the delivery of SOE projects.

Position: Short Term Consultant (STC)

Dates: Sept – Oct 2018

Employer: World Bank – Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group

Responsibilities: Wrote chapter on the governance and political economy of Ethiopia's lowlands for a study on vulnerability. Themes include Ethiopia's political system, federalism, customary and hybrid systems, pastoralism, multi-ethnic relations and the relationship between vulnerability and governance.

Position: **Short Term Consultant (STC)**
Dates: from Oct 2017 (ongoing)
Employer: *World Bank – Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice*
Responsibilities: Provision of high quality technical and programme advice on sustainable economic opportunities for Ethiopians and refugees, including stakeholder analysis, political economy and institutional assessments, conflict analysis, risk appraisals, an integrated technical assessment and donor liaison and reporting on a new multi-donor trust fund.

Position: **Senior Governance and Conflict Adviser**
Dates: May 2017 – Apr 2018
Employer: *UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, North Africa Joint Unit*
Responsibilities: Authored and presented a strategic case for UK funding for climate adaptation in North Africa. Researched the relationship between climate change, environmental degradation and stability in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Libya. Followed this with analysis of funding options. Prior to focusing on climate, authored a wider strategy paper on governance challenges in North Africa, presented to senior management and created, with teams in post and Whitehall, a work-plan for follow-up actions.

Position: **Senior Governance Adviser / Deputy Head Governance**
Dates: Jul 2014 – Apr 2017
Employer: *DFID Ethiopia*
Responsibilities: Senior Adviser to DFID's largest aid programme. Led a team of 5 staff based in two locations and deputised for the wider team of 12. Functioned as head of strategy and programming for Ethiopia's Somali Regional State and was directly accountable for over £80 million in social sector and relief programming. Conducted multiple evaluations, streamlined programming and closed poorly performing elements. Led review of crisis risk reduction, resilience and humanitarian, from a political economy perspective. Transformed risk management across the Embassy and led a conflict appraisal focused on development in lowland Ethiopia. Founding member of a senior strategy team for the overall country programme, reporting to the head of office.

Position: **Rule of Law, Security and Justice Advisor/ Acting Team Leader**
Dates: Nov 2010 – Jul 2014
Employer: UNDP headquarters, Bureau of Development Policy
Responsibilities: On secondment from DFID at Senior Adviser level. Acting Team Leader on RoL, security and justice and managed relationship with UN colleagues, including on peacekeeping, political affairs and humanitarian. Managed publication of UN knowledge products, supported country-based colleagues, managed the global programme on the rule of law, led on Arab states, as well as undertaking missions to Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan, El Salvador and Belize. Represented UNDP on organised crime, drugs and the environment.

Position: **Conflict Adviser**
Dates: Sept 2006 – Nov 2010
Employer: *DFID Jerusalem (covering Gaza, West Bank and East Jerusalem)*
Responsibilities: Led on Palestinian security sector governance, accountability and human rights. Worked closely with the humanitarian lead. Founded and chaired the security sector coordination group bringing together donors with the Palestinian Authority. Led a team of police and military advisers responsible for training Palestinian security personnel. Authored the UK's state-building policy for Palestinian territories. Led cross-government conflict analysis and reporting for the Foreign Secretary and Development Ministers.

Position: **Conflict Adviser**
Dates: Aug 2005 – Sept 2006
Employer: *DFID Afghanistan*

Responsibilities: Managed a team of five development advisers based in five different Afghan provinces, undertaking regular travel to these locations in the north and south of the country. Responsible for over £5 million in UK grant making on conflict prevention. Led on developing strategic conflict analysis and facilitating dialogue between the military, donors and local Afghan communities. Developed a fund to support Afghan contextual analysis, including of tribal relations in the south. Led on civil military relations and provincial reconstruction.

Position: **Humanitarian Adviser**

Dates: Dec 2004 – Mar 2005

Employer: *Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) Sri Lanka*

Responsibilities: Following the 2004 tsunami ran workshops on conflict sensitivity, assessed support requirements to locations in Sri Lanka's conflict-affected north and eastern regions and liaised with donors.

Position: **Political Economy Specialist**

Dates: 2002 – 2005

Employer: *Berghof Foundation for Conflict Transformation Sri Lanka*

Responsibilities: Provided comparative international expertise to inform negotiations between the actors to Sri Lanka's civil conflict. Subjects included negotiation, federalism, security sector reform, peacebuilding, transitional justice and truth-seeking and reconstruction. Collaborated on and ran workshops aimed at managing trauma and integrating female ex-combatants. Managed small-grants to local peace-building initiatives. Led on the political economy of aid to the peace process, undertaking research, liaising with donors and authoring a paper.

Position: **Researcher / Anthropologist**

Dates: 2001 - 2002

Employer: *UN Special Rapporteur for Violence Against Women (based in Sri Lanka)*

Responsibilities: Lead researcher for the UN Special Rapporteur Radhika Coomaraswamy. Conducted research on gender specific violence in Chechnya. Also conducted ethnographic research on the impact of social suffering in Sri Lanka with anthropologists based at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, a Sri Lankan NGO.

PUBLICATIONS

Palmer, N, Rose, J, **The Political Economy of Reforming State Owned Enterprises**, World Bank guidance, upcoming.

Brooks, J, Palmer, N, Melim-McCleod, C (2014), **Guidance Note on Assessing the Rule of Law Using Institutional and Context Analysis**, UNDP.

Palmer, N (2005), **Defining a Different War Economy: the Case of Sri Lanka**, Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management.

Coordinated and contributed to:

Nunan, F, (2016), **Topic Guide: Governance of Natural Resources**, DFID.

Parsons, J, Kutateladze, B (2014), **Why, What and How to Measure? A User's Guide to Measuring Rule of Law, Justice and Security Programmes**, UNDP.

Various (2012), **Security Sector Reform Integrated Technical Guidance Notes**, UN Department of Peacekeeping.

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