



CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME WILFRED K. MWAMBA

NATIONALITY Zambian

LANGUAGES English (fluent), French (intermediate)

EXPERTISE

Senior development leader with 24+ years of experience driving policy reform, institutional strengthening, and governance transformation across Africa, including Zambia, Nigeria, and the DRC. Expert in leading senior-level, multi-disciplinary teams and navigating complex political environments to deliver adaptive, locally led reforms that create lasting institutional change.

- Proven leadership at the highest levels, leading and managing diverse, multi-country teams for both UK (FCDO/DFID) and US Government (USAID) programs.
- Strong executive experience, overseeing large-scale donor-funded programs (up to £160M portfolios) and securing strategic funding growth (USAID Local Impact: \$19M → \$27.5M).
- Deep expertise in decentralization and governance reform, including policy design, political economy analysis (PEA), and adaptive programming (PDIA).
- Track record of shaping high-impact policies, including leading Zambia's Decentralization Policy revision (2023) and playing a pivotal role in preventing a DRC opposition election boycott in 2018.
- Executive Leadership & Team Management (Multi-Country, Multi-Sectoral)
Thinking & Working Politically (TWP) & Political Economy Analysis (PEA)
Decentralization, Public Sector Reform & Fiscal Governance (including public investment planning and local revenue mobilisation)
- Policy Alignment & Institutional Reform in Collaboration with Ministries of Finance
Strategic Oversight of Large-Scale, Multi-Million Dollar Programs (£160M+, \$27.5M)
Crisis Response, Conflict Sensitivity & Political Transitions
Policy Advisory, Stakeholder Engagement & Government Relations
Citizen Engagement & Democratic Accountability (500K+ reached)

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master in Business Administration-International Public Service, Birmingham University, UK, 2009
- Bachelor of Divinity, Theology, Pontificia Universitas Urbaniana, St. Dominic's Major Seminary, 1999

EMPLOYMENT / SELECTED ASSIGNMENTS

Chief of Party (COP), Local Impact, Lusaka, Zambia (Sept 2021-present).

- Led a cross-functional team of 16 senior experts and 50+ staff, overseeing governance, operations, and stakeholder engagement across 34 districts.

- Drove project performance, leading USAID to expand the Local Impact budget from \$19M to \$27.5M and extend it by 18 months.
- Directed technical assistance for Zambia's tangible decentralization reform, overseeing the devolution of 8 government functions and associated finances, impacting 35,000 civil servants.
- Strengthened policy responsiveness, increasing citizen-government engagement from 50% to 58% and scaling citizen-prioritized projects (40 in 2021 → 725 in 2024).
- Strengthened local revenue generation, facilitating a 68% increase in local tax and fees collection across partner local authorities.
- Supported efforts to improve fiscal policy coherence and public investment planning at local level, contributing to more transparent and sustainable resource allocation through Integrated Development Plans.

Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), Local Impact, Lusaka, Zambia (April 2021- Sept 2022).

- Facilitated Zambia's Decentralization Policy (2023) revision, guiding the devolution of functions and finances to local government.
- Led a comprehensive diagnostic, developing fit-for-purpose capacity-building plans for 34 local authorities.
- Strengthened local governance capacity, improving financial management & performance in 67% of local authorities.
- Drove multi-stakeholder coordination, ensuring policy alignment between USAID, GRZ, and other cooperating partners.
- Worked with GRZ counterparts to strengthen links between fiscal decentralization and service delivery planning, with a focus on managing investment risks and improving budget execution.

Head, Political, Governance and Human Development Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Lusaka, Zambia (March 2020 – March 2021).

- Led a cross-functional, multi-sectoral team, managing a £25M governance and social protection portfolio across governance, health, and economic policy.
- Led UK's strategic engagement in Zambia's 2021 elections, providing support for democratic processes and electoral integrity.
- Directed the UK's COVID-19 response, overseeing interventions in health, social cash transfers, and economic stabilization.
- Provided strategic oversight of cross-sector governance initiatives, including early-stage discussions on climate-linked public investment planning and resilience financing

Senior Governance Adviser (Team Leader), UK Department for International Development (DFID now FCDO), Kinshasa, DRC (November 2016 – March 2020).

- Led a multi-disciplinary team managing £98M in governance, peace, and stability programs.
- Negotiated a politically sensitive agreement averting an opposition boycott of the 2018 DRC elections after a two-year delay.
- Directed the UK's £18M election support strategy, strengthening civic participation and election integrity.
- Designed politically smart governance interventions, advancing public financial management and service delivery reforms.

Governance Adviser, UK Department for international Development (DFID) – Abuja, Nigeria (August 2011 – November 2016).

- Designed & implemented the £100M PERL program, DFID's flagship governance initiative focused on decentralization and accountability across 10 Nigerian state.

- Managed a £160M governance portfolio, driving fiscal decentralization and state-level public financial management reform.

Earlier Roles (1999–2011)

- **Governance Adviser**, DFID Zambia (2011–2016): Led UK-funded anti-corruption, election integrity, and public sector reform programs.
- **Senior Programme Officer** – Health & Governance, DFID Zambia (2007–2011): Managed a £57M portfolio, driving governance-focused health sector reforms.
- **Grants Scheme Manager**, British High Commission, Zambia (2004–2006): Administered a £200K grants scheme supporting governance and development initiatives.
- **Community Developer**, Zambia Open Community Schools (1999–2003): Built 17 community schools and launched a microfinance fund for low-income families.