Curriculum Vitae

NAME
Gareth Williams

NATIONALITY
Swiss - British

LANGUAGES
English: Mother tongue
French: Professional fluency
German: Good comprehension

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE
An international development specialist with more than twenty-five years of experience working on development aid policy and management. As Director of The Policy Practice, Gareth is a recognised expert on political economy and governance in developing countries and has been team leader for numerous country and sector-level political economy assessments. He has broad-ranging sectoral expertise including governance and civil society, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, public financial management, health and education, agriculture and rural development and private sector development. He is an experienced evaluator with a focus on social accountability and governance programmes, a trainer for the TPP/ODI course on Political Economy Analysis in Action, and has previously worked with the European Commission and the World Bank. Consulting clients include FCDO, Swiss Development Cooperation, the European Union, UNDP, OECD, World Bank, WHO and FAO.

COUNTRY EXPERIENCE
Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, DRC, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia

EXPERTISE
- More than twenty-five years of experience in development aid policy and management
- Recognised expert in political economy and governance analysis, including in fragile and conflict-affected states
- Broad sectoral expertise: governance, civil society, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, PFM, health, education, agriculture, private sector development
- Experienced evaluator of social accountability and governance programmes; monitoring, evaluation and learning for adaptive management
- Trainer for The Policy Practice / ODI course on Political Economy Analysis in Action
- Assignments for FCDO, Swiss Development Cooperation, the European Union, UNDP, OECD, World Bank, WHO and FAO

QUALIFICATIONS
1995-97 MPhil Development Studies, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (awarded with distinction, October 1997)
1991-94 BA Geography, Hertford College, Oxford University (First Class Honours, University prizewinner and Hertford College Scholar)

EMPLOYMENT

- **Director, The Policy Practice Ltd** (December 2011 – present). Leading The Policy Practice's portfolio of political economy, governance and adaptive management assignments for bilateral, multilateral and other development partners.
- **Principal, The Policy Practice Ltd** (July 2004 – December 2011).
- **Independent consultant** (February 2001 – July 2004).
- **Junior Expert, European Commission, Bangkok Delegation** (January 1999 – January 2001). Managed agriculture and rural development programmes.
- **Intern, World Bank, Brussels Office** (February – October 1998).
- **Administrative Trainee, European Commission, DGVIII, East and Southern Africa Directorate, Agriculture and Rural Development Unit** (October 1997 – February 1998).

SELECTED ASSIGNMENTS

Political Economy Analysis of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation (March 2025 – present)

- Team Leader. Design of analytical framework and application to Burundi and Ethiopia

Support to the British Embassy in Kyrgyzstan (March – May 2026)

- Update of country strategy

Partnership for Agile Government and Climate Engagement (PACE), Nigeria (July 2024 – present)

- Support on monitoring and evaluation, political economy analysis and learning products on health, education and social protection

Political Economy Analysis of the Coffee Sector in Burundi, Swiss Development Cooperation (January – March 2024)

- Contribution to the design of a new Swiss Development Cooperation programme

Political Economy Country Analysis of Burundi, Swiss Development Cooperation (September 2023 – February 2024)

- Country-level political economy analysis for SDC

Mid-term and annual reviews of the Programme to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL), Nigeria (January 2019 – 2024)

- Consultant supporting PERL to prepare for its mid-term review and subsequent annual reviews

Technical Advisor on political economy analysis, Propcom+ project Nigeria (June 2023 – present)

- Market systems development for Climate Smart Agriculture

Knowledge Management Consultant, USAID Jigerduu Jarandar – Engaged Communities project, Kyrgyzstan (December 2022 – September 2024)

- Leading research studies on civic space and programme impact

Political economy of demographic transition in Nigeria (February – August 2022)

- Team Leader for study on the political economy of demographic transition

Technical Advisor, Nigeria Partnership for Learning for All (PLANE) (September 2021 – present)

- Education policy analysis and political economy analysis

Results and Challenge team member, Tanzania Institutions for Inclusive Development Programme (November 2016 – 2021)

- Supporting results monitoring of the Tanzania Institutions for Inclusive Development Programme

Country-level political economy analysis on civil society engagement and social protection in Central Asia, Effective Governance for Economic Development Project (September 2021 – present)

- Consultant facilitating project-team-led PEA in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

Country-level political economy analysis on Kyrgyzstan, Support to the Jogorku Kenesh (S2JK), UK FCDO (October 2020 – June 2022)

- Consultant facilitating project-team-led country-level political economy analysis

UK/FCDO Tackling Deadly Diseases in Africa Programme (TDDAP) (November 2019 – December 2021)

- Consultant/facilitator responsible for embedding political economy analysis in country operations. Assignments in Niger and Côte d'Ivoire

Research Lead, Learning, Evidence and Advocacy Pillar, Nigeria Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) (June 2019 – present)

- Research lead for the PERL programme's Learning, Evidence and Advocacy pillar

Political Economy of the Agriculture Sector in Rwanda, Improving Market Systems for Agriculture in Rwanda (IMSAR) (December 2018 – January 2019)

- Team Leader for political economy analysis

Technical Director, Learning, Evidence and Advocacy Pillar, Nigeria Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) (April 2016 – November 2018)

- Technical Director for the Learning, Evidence and Advocacy Pillar of PERL, a large public-sector reform and accountable governance programme

Technical Director and Advisor, Ikiraro cy'iterambere Programme Rwanda (2015-2019)

- Contextual and sectoral analysis for the Rwandan civil society support programme

Political Economy Analysis for World Bank Nigeria: State Fiscal Management and Accountability (July – October 2017)

- Political economy analysis on state fiscal management and accountability in Nigeria

Trainer for Swiss Development Cooperation on applied political economy analysis (2016 – 2018)

- Harare course (September 2016), Tunis course (November 2017), Bern workshop (September 2018)

Political Economy Analysis of trade policy in Mozambique, DFID Southern Africa Regional Trade Programme design team (March – October 2015)

- Member of design team and led political economy analysis of trade policy

Political Economy and Institutional Assessment for a large agribusiness project in Kogi State, Nigeria, World Bank (June – September 2014)

- Political economy and institutional assessment

Study on the effects of corruption on private sector development in Sierra Leone, DFID (October 2013 – February 2014)

- Study on the effects of corruption on private sector development

Political economy of the Niger Delta, DFID MADE Programme (November 2013)

- Study of the political economy of the Niger Delta

Donor Approaches to Risk in Fragile and Conflict Affected States, DFID and OECD/INCAF (January – May 2013)

- Team Leader. Country case studies in DRC, South Sudan, Somalia and Nepal

Pilot training courses for European Commission on Political Economy Analysis in Action (2013)

- Design and delivery of the first course in March 2013

Political Economy of Monitoring and Evaluation in Nigeria, DFID Nigeria / PDF (November 2012)

- Study on the political economy of monitoring and evaluation

Political Economy of Education in Democratic Republic of Congo, DFID DRC (July – September 2012)

- Literature review on the political economy of education in DRC

Political Economy of Public Financial Management in Democratic Republic of Congo, World Bank (June – July 2012)

- Team Leader for World Bank study

Rwanda Country Governance Assessment, DFID Rwanda (March 2012)

- Country governance assessment for DFID Rwanda

SELECTED REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Williams, G. (2025) *Nine Lessons from Issue Based Programming,* Policy and Practice Brief 18, January 2025.

Williams, G. (2022) *Thinking and Working Politically on Health Systems Resilience: Learning from the experience of Cameroon, Nepal and South Africa during COVID-19,* TWP Community.

Williams, G. and Owen, O. (2020) *FCDO governance programming in Nigeria: What difference has thinking and working politically made in practice?* Policy Practice Working Paper.

Williams, G., Meckaskey, J. and McKenzie, A. (2020) *The Political Economy of Pandemic Preparedness in Africa,* Policy Practice Policy Brief.

Williams, G., Owen, O., Duncan, A., Kingsmill, W. and Paterson, A. (2019) *DFID governance programming in Nigeria: What difference has thinking and working politically made in practice?* Development Policy Review, 37: O33-O49.

McCulloch, N., Barnett, A., Duncan, A., Kingsmill, W., Kydd, J., Owen, O. and Williams, G. (2017) *The evolving role of political economy analysis in development practice,* Policy Practice Brief 11.

Williams, G. (2016) *Programme Completion Review, State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI),* Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Project for the State Level Programmes (IMEP).

Williams, G. and Brown, T. (2012) *International Drivers of Corruption,* OECD.

Duncan, A. and Williams, G. (2012) *Making Development Assistance More Effective Through Using Political-economy Analysis: What Has Been Done and What Have We Learned?* Development Policy Review, 30(2).

Williams, G. (2011) *Mid-Term Review 2011 – State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI),* The Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Project for the State Level Programmes (IMEP).

Williams, G. (2011) *The Political Economy of Disaster Risk Reduction,* Annex to the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Barnett, A., Williams, G. and Khakee, A. (2009) *Evaluation of SDC's Research Related Activities,* Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Williams, G., Duncan, A., Landell-Mills, P. and Unsworth, S. (2009) *Politics and Growth,* Development Policy Review, 27(1): 5-31.

Williams, G. *What makes a good governance indicator?* Policy Practice Brief 6.

Williams, G. *Carrying out a Joint Governance Assessment - Lessons from Rwanda,* Policy Practice Brief 5.

Williams, G. *Politics and Growth,* Policy Practice Brief 4.

Williams, G. *The political economy of reform: The case of Nigeria 2003-2007,* Policy Practice Brief 3.

Williams, G. *Making the New Political Economy Perspective more operationally relevant for development agencies,* Policy Practice Brief 2.

Williams, G. *Tackling the Political Barriers to Development: The New Political Economy Perspective,* Policy Practice Brief 1.

Williams, G. *Nigeria - Strengthening incentives for economic growth: The political economy of reform.*

Williams, G. and Hay, R. *Fiscal space and sustainability from the perspective of the health sector.*

Williams, G. *Government and sub-national growth. Uneven growth within low-income countries: does it matter, and can governments do anything effective?*

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