



## CURRICULUM VITAE

**NAME** NIKI PALMER

**NATIONALITY** British

### COUNTRIES OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal, Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine, Egypt, North Africa and the Middle East regional, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Belize, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan.

### EXPERTISE

Based in Washington DC, Niki has over 20 years of experience in international development and humanitarian assistance. Her recent work has focused on the political economy of climate change and integrating political economy and governance perspectives with work on refugees. Niki is a Principal at [The Policy Practice](#) and an independent consultant with a background in the UK's Department for International Development, the World Bank, the UN Development Programme and the UN High Commission for Refugees. Niki is committed to working across sectors, aiming to bring together diverse perspectives, ideas, and concerns from different disciplines to help teams address constraints to progress. Her expertise has been shaped by years of field experience in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East as well as diverse policy and programme roles that have included comprehensive experience in conflict-affected and high-risk locations.

### 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:** Consultant – Trainer, The Political Economy of Energy Transitions  
**Dates:** Sept – Nov 2022  
**Employer:** *World Resources Institute (WRI)*  
**Responsibilities:** With a small team from The Policy Practice, design a bespoke training course for WRI covering the political economy of energy transitions in Africa and India and thinking and working politically in support of these transitions. Deliver the training to WRI participants over a 3 day, in-person workshop.

**Position:** Consultant – Review of the financing Window for Hosts and Refugees (WHR)  
**Dates:** June – August 2022  
**Employer:** *World Bank Group*  
**Responsibilities:** Conduct a rapid assessment of the challenges and successes of the Bank's primary financing mechanism aimed at the socio-economic development of hosts and refugees in eligible countries. Based on interviews and desk research complete and agree a final report detailing constraints to the WHR, recommendations and potential next steps for the Bank ahead of IDA20 funding. Coordinate closely with the World Development Report (WDR) team, to feed into the preparation for the upcoming WDR on refugees and migrants.

Position: **Consultant – Review of Political Economy, Risk and Conflict Analysis**  
Dates: April – August 2022  
Employer: *World Bank Group*  
Responsibilities: Lead two in-depth case studies on the use and application of political economy analyses by World Bank country teams in Ethiopia and Lebanon. Contribute to a wider internal review across the bank aimed at enhancing political economy, risk, and conflict considerations in fragile, violence and conflict affected contexts.

Position: **Consultant – PEA and TWP Internal Assessment**  
Dates: March – May 2022  
Employer: *World Resources Institute (WRI)*  
Responsibilities: Lead an internal review of the knowledge and application of political economy analysis and approaches to thinking and working politically across WRI, focusing on country offices and global teams. Create a survey to provide quantitative analysis and undertake qualitative interviews. Present findings and recommendations to WRI leadership.

Position: **Consultant – Climate Informed Political Economy Analysis and Training**  
Dates: Nov 2021 – Oct 2022  
Employer: *Mott MacDonald*  
Responsibilities: Support teams working on Africa regional programmes and the Nepal country team to develop their PEA and TWP knowledge and application. Undertake political economy research on climate adaptation and infrastructure development in rural Nepal and develop training materials for the Nepal team. Produce a report on political economy aspects of climate change policy in several countries in Africa, including Kenya, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. Present brief training sessions to teams working on new programme proposals and designing projects.

Position: **Short Term Consultant – Political Economy of Climate Change**  
Dates: May 2021 – April 2022  
Employer: *World Bank Group*  
Responsibilities: Provide ‘call-down’ advice on the political economy of climate change across multiple teams, country offices and practices. Produce short case studies synthesising examples of political economy in climate policy making.

Position: **Senior Governance and Development Expert, Ethiopia**  
Dates: March 2020 – February 2021  
Employer: *United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)*  
Responsibilities: Lead a split site team of refugee protection experts to produce a new assessment tool for UNHCR and conduct an internal political economy analysis of refugee inclusion in Ethiopia. Combine refugee protection, governance, area-based development and political economy approaches to create a new direction for UNHCR in Ethiopia.

Position: **Senior International Expert - Political Economy of off-Grid Solar, Ethiopia & Uganda**  
Dates: February – April 2020 and October – November 2020  
Employer: *Tetra Tech, Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Fund (ACE TAF)*  
Responsibilities: Political economy analysis of national and local constraints to off-grid, stand-alone solar systems in Ethiopia and Uganda, working closely with local teams of energy experts. Training on political economy for energy programme managers across Africa.

Position: **Consultant – Political Economy of Domestic Climate Change Governance**  
Dates: December 2019 – July 2020  
Employer: *World Resources Institute (WRI)*  
Responsibilities: Co-author of a [working paper](#) aimed at climate change advocates, taking a political economy lens and applying it to domestic climate change governance.

The guide aims to inspire greater attention to contextual realities and the domestic constraints and enablers of climate action.

- Position: **Consultant – Economic Opportunities for Hosts and Refugees in Uganda**  
Dates: October – November 2019 and April 2021  
Employer: *World Bank – Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice*  
Responsibilities: Compilation of global lessons and experience on enabling economic opportunities for refugees and hosts, applied to the Ugandan context. Includes strategies to enhance resilience to shocks, build assets and address obstacles to success. Draft concept note and risk matrix for a new WBG programme piloting several approaches to enhancing economic opportunities in targeted settlements.
- Position: **Consultant – Political Economy of Policy Effectiveness in East and Central Asia**  
Dates: October – November 2019  
Employer: *World Bank – Europe and Central Asia Department (ECA)*  
Responsibilities: Co-author with Verena Fritz a chapter in the WBG [publication](#) on building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions in ECA, exploring underlying political economy drivers of state capture, transparency, and accountability.
- Position: **Consultant – Political Economy of Ethiopia’s Productive Safety Net Programme**  
Dates: May 2019 – June 2020  
Employer: *World Bank – Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice*  
Responsibilities: Manage a team to provide political economy analysis of Ethiopia’s safety net, for the design of the fifth phase of programme funding. Includes national and sub-national analysis of targeting, scalability, governance and graduation.
- Position: **Consultant – Political Economy Analysis for Reforming SOEs**  
Dates: December 2018 – June 2019  
Employer: *World Bank – Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Global Practice*  
Responsibilities: Co-author comprehensive ‘how to’ internal guidance on the Political Economy of Reforming State-Owned Enterprises, published as part of an integrated diagnostic tool for the delivery of SOE projects. Part of a new approach for the World Bank, bringing together expertise to better serve reform priorities, including on corporate governance, markets and financ
- Position: **Consultant – Vulnerability and Disaster Resilience in Ethiopia’s Lowlands**  
Dates: September – October 2018  
Employer: *World Bank – Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group*  
Responsibilities: Author of a chapter on the governance and political economy of Ethiopia’s border areas in a WBG [publication](#) on vulnerability in Ethiopia’s lowlands. Themes include Ethiopia’s political system and its impact on pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods and factors related to food security, managing shocks and enabling resilience.
- Position: **Consultant – Economic Opportunities for Ethiopians and Refugees**  
Dates: October 2017 – January 2020  
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, risk appraisals and an integrated technical assessment. Donor liaison and advice to the WBG on a new multi-donor trust fund, including drafting programme documents. Continue to complete risk assessments and programme monitoring when required.

- Position: **Senior Governance and Conflict Adviser – Governance and Climate Risk**
- Dates: May 2017 – April 2018
- Employer: *Foreign and Commonwealth Office, North Africa Joint Unit*
- Responsibilities: Develop a strategic case for UK funding to climate adaptation in North Africa focused on the relationship between climate change, environmental degradation and stability in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Libya. Conduct funding options analysis on climate risk management and climate adaptation work in the region. Author strategy on risks to governance in North Africa and agree work-plan for follow-up actions at posts and Whitehall.
- Position: **Senior Governance Adviser / Deputy Head Governance and Security, Ethiopia**
- Dates: July 2014 – April 2017
- Employer: *DFID Ethiopia*
- Responsibilities: Senior Adviser to DFID's largest aid programme at this time. Manage team of 5 based in two locations and deputise for the wider team of 12. Head of strategy and programming for Ethiopia's Somali Regional State and directly accountable for over £80 million in social sector and disaster relief programming. Conduct evaluations, streamline programming and close poorly performing elements. Produce analysis on disaster risk reduction, Embassy-wide risks, and lowland vulnerabilities.
- Position: **Policy Adviser Rule of Law (RoL), Security and Justice / Acting Team Leader**
- Dates: November 2010 – July 2014
- Employer: *UNDP headquarters, Bureau of Development Policy*
- Responsibilities: On secondment from DFID. Act as Team Leader on RoL, security and justice and manage relationships with UN colleagues, including on peacekeeping, political and humanitarian affairs. Manage publication of UN knowledge products, support country-based colleagues, manage the global programme on the rule of law, lead on Arab states, and conduct missions to Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan, El Salvador and Belize. Represent UNDP on organised crime, drugs and the environment.
- Position: **Conflict Adviser Middle East Peace Process**
- Dates: September 2006 – November 2010
- Employer: *DFID Jerusalem (covering Gaza, West Bank and East Jerusalem)*
- Responsibilities: Lead on Palestinian security sector governance, accountability and human rights. Founder and co-chair of the security sector coordination group. Head a team of police and military advisers responsible for training Palestinian security personnel. Author the UK's state-building policy for Palestinian territories. Lead cross-government conflict analysis and reporting for the Foreign Secretary and Development Minister.
- Position: **Conflict Adviser Afghanistan**
- Dates: August 2005 – September 2006
- Employer: *DFID Afghanistan*
- Responsibilities: Manage five development advisers based in different Afghan provinces. Responsible for over £5 million in UK grant making on conflict prevention. Lead on civil military relations and provincial reconstruction.
- Position: **Humanitarian Adviser**
- Dates: December 2004 – March 2005
- Employer: *Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) Sri Lanka*
- Responsibilities: Following the 2004 tsunami run workshops on conflict sensitivity and provide assessments of needs in Sri Lanka's conflict-affected north and eastern regions to civil society and donors.

Position: **Political Economy Specialist**  
Dates: *Berghof Foundation for Conflict Transformation Sri Lanka*  
Employer: 2002 – 2005  
Responsibilities: Provide comparative international expertise on subjects including federalism and transitional justice to all the actors in Sri Lanka's civil conflict.

Position: **Researcher / Anthropologist**  
Dates: 2001 - 2002  
Employer: *UN Special Rapporteur for Violence Against Women (based in Sri Lanka)*  
Lead research on gender specific violence in Chechnya and the impact of social suffering in Sri Lanka.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Palmer, N, (2021) 'International development must be politically smart to deliver climate goals', The Policy Practice, [blog post](#)

Worker, J, Palmer, N, (2021) A Guide to Assessing the Political Economy of Domestic Climate Governance, World Resources Institute.

Palmer, N, Fritz, V, (2020) Drivers and Enablers of Policy Effectiveness in ECA, chapter in Building Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions in Europe and Central Asia, World Bank.

Palmer, N, Rose, J, (2019) The Political Economy of Reforming State Owned Enterprises, World Bank (internal).

Palmer, N (2019), Regional Governance, chapter in Poverty and Vulnerability in the Ethiopian Lowlands: Building a More Resilient Future, World Bank.

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.