



Tel: +44 (0) 7894 947187

contact@thepolicypractice.com
www.thepolicypractice.com

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: **Consultant – Political Economy of Climate Change**

Dates: May 2021 – Ongoing

Employer: *World Bank Group*

Responsibilities: Provide expert advice on the political economy of climate change across multiple teams, country offices and practices, including acting as a contributing author to a new flagship report on climate policies and associated research. Themes include climate policymaking and conflict, agriculture and various (tbd) country studies.

Position: **Senior Governance and Development Expert**

Dates: Mar 2020 – Feb 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.

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Position: **Senior International Expert - Political Economy of off-Grid Solar**
Dates: Feb – Apr 2020 and Oct – Nov 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: Dec 2019 – Jul 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: Oct – Nov 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 approaches to enhancing economic opportunities in targeted settlements.

Position: **Consultant – Political Economy of Policy Effectiveness in ECA**
Dates: Oct – Nov 2019
Employer: *World Bank – Europe and Central Asia Department (ECA)*
Responsibilities: Co-author with Verena Fritz of 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 the Productive Safety Net Programme**
Dates: May 2019 – Jun 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: Dec 2018 – Jun 2019
Employer: *World Bank – Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Global Practice*
Responsibilities: Co-author comprehensive 'how to' 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 finance.

Position: **Consultant – Vulnerability and Disaster Resilience in Ethiopia’s Lowlands**
Dates: Sept – Oct 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: 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, 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 – Apr 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**
Dates: Jul 2014 – Apr 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, Security and Justice / Acting Team Leader**
Dates: Nov 2010 – Jul 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**
Dates: Sept 2006 – Nov 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**
Dates: Aug 2005 – Sept 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: Dec 2004 – Mar 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 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

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.

Details of recent consultancies	
Name of project:	Refugee Inclusion in Ethiopia
Dates:	Mar 2020 – Feb 2021
Location:	Remote (intended to include 4 field trips to Ethiopia, cancelled due to CV-19)
Client:	UNHCR, Addis Ababa field office.
Position:	Team leader, author and provision of expert advice.
<p><i>Main project features:</i> managing a team of three protection experts (two nationals, one international) split over three locations to achieve three products; a new assessment tool for UNHCR Ethiopia, a set of four assessments carried out in refugee hosting areas of the country and an internal political economy analysis of refugee inclusion in Ethiopia. Overall, the consultancy developed an approach to thinking and working politically suited to field staff's needs and straightforward enough to be regularly used and integrated into other work processes. The resulting guidance focuses on the challenges to local inclusion of refugees by looking at service delivery and social relations in refugee receiving areas. The assessments included developing a survey and providing extensive training to enumerators and translators as well as UNHCR field staff across the country.</p>	
Name of project:	Political Economy of Off-Grid Solar in Ethiopia and Uganda
Dates:	Feb – Apr 2020, Oct – Nov 2020
Location:	Remote, with field work in Ethiopia (Uganda field work cancelled due to CV 19).
Client:	Tetra Tech, Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Fund
Position:	Research, analysis and author.
<p><i>Main project features:</i> political economy analysis applied to the off-grid solar energy sector in Ethiopia and Uganda. Both PEAs conducted with local experts and focusing on the constraints to off-grid energy expansion. Themes included political economy factors affecting regulations on solar imports, restrictions on small businesses and the availability of consumer finance, as well as the governance of the off-grid sector. For both countries social exclusion and gender were a theme, in relations to energy access. Also, conducted political economy training for all Africa Clean Energy county programme managers, discussing how and why to use political economy analysis.</p>	
Name of project:	Economic Opportunities Program for Ethiopians and Refugees
Dates:	Dec 2017 – ongoing
Location:	Remote with field trips to Ethiopia
Client:	World Bank, <i>Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice</i>
Position:	Regular analysis and programme advice
<p><i>Main project features:</i> ongoing commitment which has included developing the initial programme documents, leading the institutional, risk and political and governance analysis, developing the multi-donor trust fund documentation, designing the approach to value for money and completing regular programme evaluations required by the donor.</p>	