

## USAID Documents now available in our Online Library

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) invested significantly in developing approaches, guidelines and tools to enable teams to work in ways that were more attuned to local realities (also known as "thinking and working politically", TWP). We have created this [additional section of The Policy Practice online library](#) to make accessible the most helpful USAID materials we have collected over the years or which have been shared with us by the [Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice](#) (TWP CoP) and the [TWP CoP Washington DC Group](#). These documents and blogs used to be open access but are sadly no longer available since USAID was abolished.

Visit our online library [here](#).

If you have other USAID documents you think should be added here, please email us at [contact@thepolicypractice.com](mailto:contact@thepolicypractice.com).



Working Paper 4

April 2025

## Understanding Yemen's economy: The need for a political economy perspective

Richard Barltrop



## New Working Paper on 'Understanding Yemen's Economy'

This working paper, authored by TPP Associate and visiting senior fellow at the LSE Middle East Centre [Richard Barltrop](#), explores how the prevailing picture of Yemen's economy is incomplete and misleading. Economic estimates ignore between half and two-thirds of the country. Analyses overlook Yemen's relative strengths in infrastructure, agriculture and remittances, and overestimate the importance of oil and gas. This inaccurate picture of Yemen's economy, which ignores the political context, has significant consequences. It contributes to an international misapprehension, whereby the country's economy is seen primarily in terms of precarity and

humanitarian emergency, with capabilities and resilience under-recognised.

The paper makes four recommendations to the international community:

1. Take a political economy perspective, combining analysis of Yemen's economy with an understanding of the actual political and governance situation in the country.
2. Move away from unexamined assumptions and clichés about Yemen, and instead find and use new sources of data.
3. Draw on more accurate understandings of Yemen's economy to contribute to peace efforts.
4. Use these fuller understandings to rebalance assistance to Yemen, with a shift from humanitarian towards development and peace-supporting aid.

Read the full paper [here](#).



## Register for our next Political Economy Analysis in Action training course starting 1 September

Our next [Political Economy Analysis in Action online training course](#) will run from 1 September to 12 December 2025. It will equip participants to identify the challenges arising from political economy features of the contexts in which they work, and to draw well-grounded conclusions for policy, strategy, or programme design and implementation. [Register here](#) before 13 June to benefit from our early bird discount.

Please email [training@thepolicypractice.com](mailto:training@thepolicypractice.com) for further details or if you are interested in a course or mentoring tailored to your organisation's needs.



## Public Institutions: critical enablers for addressing climate change

### Consultation on Climate Change and Institutions Paper

We have included in our [online political economy library](#) a new working paper by governance and climate experts **Verena Fritz** and **Rachel Ort** (World Bank). The paper makes the case for the role of effective public institutions in tackling climate change, and outlines four key ways public institutions must operate differently. This will require calibrated support for institutional development, considering each country's specific needs, priorities, and starting points.

Verena and Rachel welcome comments on the paper which can be sent to their email addresses by 20 June 2025.



### New Associates join The Policy Practice

We are pleased to announce that we have three new Associates joining our team.

**Catherine Dom** has over 25 years' experience in Africa and South-East Asia, specialising in public sector resource management and policy development. She has worked extensively on service delivery in decentralised and federal systems, including in fragile states. Her recent work focuses on Mali and Ethiopia, following years in DRC and South Sudan. Catherine brings strong experience in multi-country evaluations and village-level change research. With The Policy Practice, she has led [political economy studies on service delivery in Ethiopia](#).

**Wilfred Mwamba** is a senior development leader with 24+ years of experience driving policy reform, institutional strengthening, and governance transformation across Africa, including

Zambia, Nigeria, and the DRC. He is a leading practitioner of “Thinking and Working Politically” approaches and has led senior-level, multi-disciplinary teams and navigated complex political environments to deliver adaptive, locally led reforms that create lasting institutional change. The Policy Practice collaborated closely with Wilf when he designed and oversaw politically-informed public sector reform programmes in Nigeria funded by the UK.

**Cheickna Yaranangoré** is a political scientist and democracy activist from Burkina Faso. As the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy’s Country Representative for Burkina Faso, he works to strengthen democracy with a focus on training young people and women as well as political dialogue. His research covers analysis of governance, public policy, social cohesion, sociopolitical violence and security crises. He collaborated with TPP Director **Laure-Hélène Piron** on a conflict analysis of Burkina Faso



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