



## CURRICULUM VITAE

**NAME** NIKI PALMER

**NATIONALITY** British

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### QUALIFICATIONS

Niki has 25 years of experience in international development and humanitarian assistance, much in fragile and conflict-affected settings. She specialises in collaborating with teams to apply political economy and conflict analysis across a range of challenges. Niki has a strong focus on climate action, including climate finance, early action for disasters, and implementing land and environmental rights. She is a Principal at [The Policy Practice](#) where she co-created and is a trainer on the new online course 'political economy analysis for climate action'. Her background is in the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the World Bank, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Her expertise is shaped by years of experience based in countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, as well as diverse global policy roles.

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### EDUCATION

1997 **MA Social Anthropology**, Goldsmiths College (University of London)  
1995 **BA (Hons) English Literature**, University of Liverpool

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### TRAINING

- **Political Economy Analysis in Action**, The Policy Practice, 2021.
  - **Risk, Mitigation and Control**, DFID, 2016.
  - **Value for Money**, DFID, 2015.
  - **Field Course on the Horn of Africa**, Rift Valley Institute, 2014.
  - **Truth Seeking and the Challenge of Sustainable Peace**, ICTJ – BIPRC, 2010.
  - **Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy**, UNITAR-IPI Fellowship Programme, 2008.
  - **Inside the Middle East**, Brookings, 2007.
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### COUNTRIES OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Syria, North Africa and the Middle East region, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Belize, Brazil.

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### EMPLOYMENT RECORD

Position: **Expert on early action for disasters, international crises response system.**  
Dates: Mar 2024 – Jun 2024  
Employer: *Centre for Disaster Prevention*  
Responsibilities: Conduct a political economy analysis of the constraints to taking anticipatory action for natural disasters, based on pre-financing agreements, in fragile and conflict affected locations. Develop findings and conclusions to encourage greater attention to proactive and early disaster response from the international system.

Position: **Analyst, climate, conflict and risk assessment for Pakistan**  
Dates: Jan 2024 – Apr 2024  
Employer: *FCDO Pakistan*  
Responsibilities: Undertake research on the causes and drivers of conflict in specific geographies in Pakistan. Analyse how these drivers interact with climate change impacts and hazards. Use a political economy and conflict analysis framing to depict potential pathways of change, illustrate likely risks and make recommendations on interventions to increase disaster preparedness and conflict sensitivity.

Position: **Political economy analyst, defenders of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil**  
Dates: Feb 2024 – May 2024  
Employer: *World Resources Institute / Ford Foundation*  
Responsibilities: Undertake research on the political economy factors influencing implementation of the right to environmental, indigenous and land advocacy in Brazil's Amazon. Examine cultural, economic, political and social reasons why rights are not upheld. Synthesise finding to present and conduct a workshop on potential change pathways and interventions.

Position: **Mapping UK climate finance sources for humanitarian engagement**  
Dates: Nov 2023 – Jan 2024  
Employer: *Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)*  
Responsibilities: Map and analyse UK climate finance trends and sources and engage with the policy debate around applying climate finance to humanitarian operations. Make recommendations for NRC based on funding trends.

Position: **Conflict and Political Economy Analyst, Climate Smart Agriculture, Nigeria**  
Dates: Oct 2023  
Employer: *The Policy Practice for FCDO, PROPCOM+*  
Responsibilities: Provide peer review and advice on conflict analysis and conflict sensitive programming focused on developing climate smart agriculture across Nigeria. Provide peer review and advice on political economy analysis of agricultural value chains in Nigeria.

Position: **Consultant International Expert, Syria / early recovery**  
Dates: Oct 2023 – Apr 2024  
Employer: *UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)*  
Responsibilities: Develop a methodology for conducting climate and environment smart political economy and conflict analysis within a local needs assessment framework. Based on Syria but applicable to early recovery environments. Intention is to roll out framework across the Middle East.

Position: **Co-Creator and Trainer, the Political Economy of Climate Action**  
Dates: Ongoing  
Employer: *The Policy Practice*  
Responsibilities: Create, develop, and deliver an online course on the political economy of climate action. Launched in June 2023 and delivered over seven 2-hour sessions. The second iteration ran through Nov 2023. We expect to continue to run this online course twice yearly.

Position: **Trainer and Course Designer, PEA and TWP applied to health and climate**  
Dates: Mar – Apr 2023  
Employer: *The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*  
Responsibilities: Develop and deliver a 2-day, in-person training, covering applied political economy analysis and thinking and working politically in relation to health and climate. Create tailored case studies on Ethiopia and Nigeria.

Position: **Trainer and Course Designer, PEA and TWP applied to operating in Ethiopia**  
Dates: Sept – Dec 2022  
Employer: *TripleLine Ethiopia*  
Responsibilities: Develop and deliver a 1-day, in-person training on basic concepts and methods and likely challenges to using these approaches in Ethiopia. Produce a summary report based on the main findings of the training day, with recommendations.

Position: **Trainer and Course Designer, PEA and TWP applied to energy transitions**  
Dates: Sept – Nov 2022  
Employer: *World Resources Institute (WRI)*  
Responsibilities: Design a bespoke course covering working politically in support of energy transitions in Kenya and India, with illustrative case studies from both countries. Deliver the training to WRI participants over a 3 day, in-person workshop.

Position: **Analyst on the Financing Window for Hosts and Refugees (WHR)**  
Dates: June – September 2022  
Employer: *World Bank Group*  
Responsibilities: Conduct a rapid assessment of the challenges and successes of the Bank's primary financing mechanism for the socio-economic development of hosts and refugees in eligible countries. Based on interviews and desk research complete and agree a final report recommending potential next steps for the Bank.

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

- Position: **Lead researcher, Internal Assessment of Politically Smart Working at WRI**  
 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, including country offices and global teams. Create a survey to provide quantitative analysis and undertake qualitative interviews. Present findings and recommendations to WRI leadership.
- Position: **Adviser and Analyst on Climate Adaptation and Local Governance, Nepal**  
 Dates: Nov 2021 – Dec 2022  
 Employer: *Mott MacDonald*  
 Responsibilities: Undertake political economy research on local climate adaptation and infrastructure development in Karnali Province. Produce an internal report on political economy constraints and opportunities, and a synthesis report for public circulation. Present findings; develop and deliver training for Nepal team.
- Position: **Analyst on Political Economy Constraints to Climate Policy in Africa**  
 Dates: Nov 2021 – Aug 2022  
 Employer: *Mott MacDonald*  
 Responsibilities: Undertake and present research developing the knowledge of Africa-focused personnel on the overarching climate risks, policy responses and relevant political economy factors impacting climate action in Africa. Focus on Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria and regional policy across the continent, facilitating internal discussion and responses.
- Position: **Adviser, 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 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 split-site team to produce a new assessment tool and conduct an internal political economy analysis of refugee inclusion in Ethiopia. Combine refugee protection, governance, area-based development, and political economy approaches.
- Position: **Senior International Expert, Political Economy of Solar, Ethiopia & Uganda**  
 Dates: February – April 2020 and October – November 2020  
 Employer: *Tetra Tech, Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Fund (ACE TAF)*  
 Responsibilities: National and local constraints to off-grid, stand-alone solar systems in Ethiopia and Uganda, working closely with local teams of energy experts.

Conduct training on political economy for energy programme managers across Africa.

Position: **Co-Author, Political Economy of Domestic Climate Change Governance**  
Dates: December 2019 – July 2020  
Employer: *World Resources Institute (WRI)*  
Responsibilities: Co-author [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: **Analyst on 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: Compile global lessons and experience on enabling economic opportunities for refugees and hosts, applied to the Ugandan context. Include 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: **Lead Author Political Economy of Policy Effectiveness in East and Central Asia**  
Dates: October – November 2019  
Employer: *World Bank – Europe and Central Asia Department (ECA)*  
Responsibilities: Lead author 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: **Author of Political Economy Analysis of Ethiopia's Safety Net**  
Dates: May 2019 – June 2020  
Employer: *World Bank – Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice*  
Responsibilities: Manage a team to provide extensive political economy analysis of Ethiopia's safety net, to influence the design of the fifth phase of program funding. Include national and sub-national analysis of targeting, scalability, governance, and graduation. Undertake field research in Tigray, Afar and Oromia.

Position: **Lead Author on Political Economy Analysis for Reforming SOEs**  
Dates: December 2018 – June 2019  
Employer: *World Bank – Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Global Practice*  
Responsibilities: Produce comprehensive ‘how to’ internal guidance on the Political Economy of Reforming State-Owned Enterprises, including corporate governance, markets and finance.

Position: **Author on Vulnerability and Disaster Resilience in Ethiopia’s Lowlands**  
Dates: September – October 2018  
Employer: *World Bank – Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group*  
Responsibilities: Research and write chapter on the governance and political economy of Ethiopia’s border areas in a Bank [publication](#) on vulnerability in Ethiopia’s lowlands. Include Ethiopia’s political system, its impact on pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods and factors related to food security, managing shocks and enabling resilience.

Position: **Adviser on Economic Opportunities for Ethiopians and Refugees**  
Dates: October 2017 – January 2020  
Employer: *World Bank – Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice*  
Responsibilities: Provide technical and programming 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.

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**  
Dates: July 2014 – April 2017  
Employer: *DFID Ethiopia*  
Responsibilities: Senior Adviser to DFID’s largest aid programme at this time. Manage a split-site team and deputise for the wider team. 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: Manage publication of UN knowledge products, support country-based colleagues, manage global programme on the rule of law, lead on contexts undergoing political transitions and conduct missions to Egypt, Tunisia, 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 the Arab Israel conflict, managing a team of police and military advisers responsible for Palestinian sector governance. Co-author the UK's state-building policy for Palestine and produce joint government conflict analysis.

Position: **Conflict Adviser Afghanistan**  
Dates: August 2005 – September 2006  
Employer: *DFID Afghanistan*  
Responsibilities: Manage UK Development Advisers across Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Responsible for UK grant making on conflict prevention. Lead on civil military relations and provincial reconstruction.

Position: **Humanitarian Adviser Sri Lanka**  
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 Sri Lanka**  
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 actors in Sri Lanka's civil conflict.

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## 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.

Managed 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.