

# Aiding reform:

## Lessons on what works, what doesn't and why

Overseas Development Institute - London  
2nd June 2014 (1.00 pm – 5.15.pm)

Many development agencies increasingly acknowledge that aid is more likely to be effective, and less likely to do harm, when it is politically well-informed. Yet getting better informed and more sophisticated analysis on the political dimensions of development has proven easier than changing aid practices to be consistent with the insights gained. In other words, development agencies seem to find it hard to move from thinking politically to working differently. There is, therefore, growing demand for examples of what 'working differently' entails in practice. This evidence needs to show that it is feasible, given the constraints under which aid agencies operate, and that it does indeed produce better results than more traditional, politics-blind aid programming. In much of the discussion until now, the evidence base in this respect has seemed rather slim.

This seminar aims to make a contribution to this debate, by

- Presenting selected case studies where better outcomes have been achieved by thinking politically and working differently
- Discussing some of the common features of these cases as well as the specific characteristics and ways of working of different agencies
- Identifying practical ways to overcome existing obstacles to better practice in development agencies.

### Agenda

Session/ Time	Title	Speakers
12.30 - 1.00 pm	Lunch	
Session 1 1.00 - 1.40 pm Chair: Leni Wild	Setting the scene: from thinking politically to working differently	Alina Rocha Menocal, ODI Respondent: Verena Fritz, World Bank - co-author of <a href="#">Problem-Driven Political Economy Analysis: The World Bank's Experience</a>  Brief Q&A
Session 2 1.40 - 3.15 pm Chair: Leni Wild	Supporting effective reform: what works, what doesn't and why  Three case studies on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property rights and health tax reform in the Philippines</li> <li>• Forest law enforcement, governance and trade action plan</li> <li>• Natural resource management in Mongolia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Booth, ODI</li> <li>• Sue Unsworth, The Policy Practice</li> <li>• Verena Fritz, World Bank</li> </ul> Discussion: introduced by Stefan Kossoff, DFID
3.15 - 3.30 pm	Coffee break	
Session 3 3.30 - 5.00 pm Chair: Marta Foresti	Building on what works: implications for practice	A conversation with Mark Segal (DFID), David Hudson (UCL/DLP), Brian Levy (SAIS, JH), Claire Leigh (BSI), Leni Wild (ODI)
Session 4 5.00 - 5.15 pm	Concluding remarks and next steps	David Booth, ODI Sue Unsworth, The Policy Practice

## Speakers, respondents and chairs

Alina Rocha Menocal	<p>Originally from Mexico, Alina is a Research Fellow in the Politics and Governance Programme with particular expertise on the challenges of democratisation, linkages between democracy and development, and state-society relation and state-building. At ODI, Alina has been involved in a series of projects and assignments that seek to bridge the gap between research and policy in thinking about governance issues from a political economy perspective, and what this might imply for donor practice. Alina has built a considerable body of publications on many of these issues, including most recently a paper and a blog on what it might take for international development actors to think politically and work differently, which she will be discussing today.</p>
Brian Levy	<p>Brian Levy is a Senior Adjunct Professor at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, USA, and also the Academic Director of the new Graduate School for Development Policy and Practice at the University of Cape Town. He worked at the World Bank from 1989-2012, most recently as Adviser, Governance in the World Bank's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Vice Presidency. He has authored, co-authored and co-edited numerous books and articles on the interactions between public institutions, the private sector and development in Africa, East Asia, and elsewhere, including <i>Governance Reform: Bridging Monitoring and Action</i> (World Bank, 2007), <i>Building State Capacity in Africa</i> (World Bank Institute, 2004), and <i>Regulations, Institutions and Commitment</i> (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996). Levy's new book, <i>Working with the Grain: Integrating Governance and Growth in Development Strategies</i> will be published by Oxford University Press in August, 2014.</p> <p>Levy worked in the World Bank's Africa Vice Presidency from 1991 to 2003 on the challenges of strengthening the institutional underpinnings of African development, including four years as leader of for the Africa Public Sector Reform and Capacity Building Unit. Between 2007 and 2010 he was head of the secretariat responsible for the design and implementation of the World Bank Group's governance and anti-corruption strategy. He was a member of the core team which produced the World Bank's 1997 World Development Report, <i>The State in a Changing World</i>. Prior to joining the Bank he was assistant professor in development economics at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. He graduated from UCT in economics (honours) in 1976, and completed his Ph.D in economics at Harvard University in 1983.</p>
Claire Leigh	<p>Claire joined ODI in 2011 as <i>Head of International Partnerships within the Budget Strengthening Initiative</i>. In this role Claire leads ODI's support to the g7+ Group of Fragile States. Between 2009 and 2011 she worked for Tony Blair's Africa Governance Initiative, providing advice to the Presidents of Liberia and Rwanda.</p> <p>Prior to AGI, Claire was a Senior Policy Advisor in Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Strategy Unit, where she advised Number 10 on international and development policy. She has also previously worked for the British Foreign Office, for UNICEF in New York and as a strategy consultant at Deloitte Consulting.</p> <p>Outside work Claire is involved in a range of voluntary organisations and charities.</p> <p>Claire has an MPhil in Politics and International Relations from Oxford University and a BA in History from Cambridge University.</p>
David Booth	<p>David Booth is a Research Fellow in Politics and Governance at ODI, London. During 2007-12, he was Director of Africa Power and Politics, a consortium research programme on African governance and development, and currently he leads a project on Developmental Regimes in Africa funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<a href="http://www.institutions-africa.org/page/initiating-developmental-regimes">http://www.institutions-africa.org/page/initiating-developmental-regimes</a>). His latest publication is <i>Governance for Development in Africa: Solving Collective Action Problems</i>, with Diana Cammack, Zed Books 2013.</p>
David Hudson	<p>Dr David Hudson is a <i>Senior Lecturer in Political Economy</i>. His principal research interests lie broadly in the political economy of development. More specifically he is interested in public engagement with global poverty, the international political economy of development finance, network analysis, and the politics of development.</p> <p>David joined the Department of Political Science in June 2005. Prior to joining UCL he was an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Birmingham (2004-05). The University of Birmingham was also where he completed his doctorate in political science (2000-04).</p>

Leni Wild	<p>Leni Wild is a <i>Research Fellow in the Politics and Governance Programme at ODI</i> with a particular interest in governance and service delivery; aid, accountability and democracy promotion; and support to fragile states and post-conflict countries. This is underpinned by strong skills in political economy analysis and knowledge of aid effectiveness. She has conducted fieldwork in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, South Sudan) and parts of Asia (China, Nepal).</p> <p>She was previously a Research Fellow in the international team at the Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr) and Research Officer at Education Action, an NGO working in post-conflict countries, where she managed programmes in Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone and Gaza.</p>
Mark Segal	<p>Mark Segal has worked on conflict resolution issues since 1996. He is currently <i>Head of Profession for Conflict at the UK's Department for International Development (DFID)</i>, responsible for thought leadership and development of DFID's cadre of 30 Conflict Advisors. His previous career includes a period on secondment with the European External Action Service, five years in DFID's Conflict Policy Team and a similar period as conflict advisor in DFID Nepal. Mark co-led the development of DFID's state-building and peacebuilding policy and helped develop the UK's Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS). He has worked on numerous country contexts, more recently including Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and South Sudan.</p>
Marta Foresti	<p>Marta Foresti <i>leads ODI's work on politics, governance and institutional reform</i>. Her interests include the political economy of development - with a focus on public goods and service delivery, justice and rights - as well as conflict and fragility. She has an interest in applied social research methodologies and policy evaluation in particular. She has over fifteen years of research, evaluation, policy and management experience. Before joining ODI in 2006, Marta gained practical policy experience, including as a senior policy advisor in the Department of Development Policy of the Italian Treasury and as head of the Learning and Impact Assessment team at Save the Children UK and at Amnesty International. She has extensive country experience in West Africa, South and South East Asia, as well as in several European countries, including Italy, the UK and Central and Eastern Europe.</p>
Stefan Kossoff	<p><i>Head of Profession for Governance at DFID</i></p>
Sue Unsworth	<p>Sue Unsworth worked for many years for the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), including as Regional Director for Asia and Chief Governance Adviser. She was one of the main initiators of DFID's "Drivers of Change" programme, has been a Research Associate at the Institute of Development Studies, and has worked with a wide range of donors to help them apply political economy analysis to development practice. She is a <i>Principal at The Policy Practice, and a member of ODI's Board</i>.</p>
Verena Fritz	<p>Verena Fritz is a <i>Senior Public Sector Specialist with the World Bank's Africa region/Global Governance Practice</i>, and one of the three editors of the volume on <i>Problem-Driven Political Economy Analysis: the World Bank's Experience</i>. For five years, she co-led the World Bank's Community of Practice on Political Economy. Her areas of expertise include political economy analysis, public sector reforms, and state-building processes. She has undertaken analytic, advisory and operational work mainly in East Asia, Europa and Central Asia, and currently in Africa. Verena holds a PhD in Political Science from the European University Institute in Florence and has published a number of articles, working papers and books on her areas of interest, including <i>Making Public Sector Reforms Work -- Political and Economic Contexts, Incentives, and Strategies</i> (with Simone Bunse, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper no. 6174, 2012), <i>Problem-Driven Political Economy Analysis: A Good Practice Framework</i> (with Brian Levy and Kai Kaiser, World Bank, 2009) and <i>Understanding State-Building from a Political Economy Perspective</i> (with Alina Rocha Menocal, ODI, 2007).</p>

## Suggested reading

Booth, D. (2014) *Aiding institutional reform in developing countries: Lessons from the Philippines on what works, what doesn't, and why*. London and San Francisco: ODI and The Asia Foundation

Booth, D. and Unsworth, S. (Forthcoming) *Politically smart, locally led development*. London: ODI

Fritz, V., Levy, B. and Ort, R. (2014) *Problem-Driven Political Economy Analysis: the World Bank's Experience*. Washington DC: The World Bank

Rocha Menocal, A. (2014) *Getting real about politics: from thinking politically to working differently*. London: ODI

Unsworth, S. (Forthcoming) *Thinking and working politically to tackle illegal logging: the making of the FLEGT Action Plan*

## Participants

Alex Duncan	<i>The Policy Practice</i>
Alex Finlasyson	<i>Pyoe Pin Project</i>
Alice Poole	<i>GHK Consulting Ltd</i>
Aoife McCullough	<i>The IDL Group</i>
Brendan Halloran	<i>The Asia Foundation</i>
Bryn Welham	<i>Overseas Development Institute</i>
Clare Cummings	<i>Overseas Development Institute</i>
Craig Matheison	<i>The IDL Group</i>
David Hulme	<i>University of Manchester</i>
E.A. Brett	<i>London School of Economics</i>
Gideon Rabinowitz	<i>Overseas Development Institute</i>
Harry Jones	<i>Overseas Development Institute</i>
Heather Marquette	<i>University of Birmingham &amp; GSDRC</i>
Hilton Root	<i>King's College London</i>
Joe Wales	<i>Overseas Development Institute</i>
Jonathan Tanner	<i>Africa Governance Initiative</i>
Niheer Dasandi	<i>University College London</i>
Pablo Yangaus	<i>University of Manchester</i>
Renee Kantelberg	<i>State Accountability Voice Initiative</i>
Rosie Pinnington	<i>Peace Direct</i>
Sarah Hunt	<i>Irish Aid</i>
Simon Gill	<i>Overseas Development Institute</i>
Taylor Brown	<i>The IDL Group</i>
Terry Green	<i>The IDL Group</i>
Vanessa Herringshaw	<i>The Asia Foundation</i>
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