Curriculum Vitae - Jeremy Astill-Brown

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Profile

Senior adviser specialising in strategy, policy, learning and organisational adaptation in complex and uncertain environments. More than 38 years' experience supporting governments, donors, international organisations and civil society organisations across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

Combines evidence-based analysis, practical experience and strategic judgement to help organisations understand changing contexts, assess options and make informed decisions. Extensive experience in conflict, security, governance, peacebuilding and institutional development, particularly in fragile and politically sensitive settings.

Known for providing trusted advice, facilitating learning and helping organisations adapt policy, strategy and programming in response to changing circumstances. Comfortable operating where information is incomplete, uncertainty is unavoidable and decisions nonetheless need to be made.

Committed to helping organisations reach practical, proportionate and evidence-based decisions which improve outcomes for the people and communities they serve.

Key Skills & Expertise

Strategic Advisory and Decision Support. Supporting senior leaders and organisations to navigate complexity, uncertainty and change through evidence-based analysis, strategic judgement and practical recommendations.

Policy and Strategy Development. Development, review and adaptation of policy, strategy and institutional responses in conflict, governance, security and development settings.

Learning, Evaluation and Organisational Adaptation. Using review, evaluation and learning processes to improve organisational performance, strengthen strategy and support informed decision-making.

Conflict, Security and Peacebuilding. Extensive experience across conflict prevention, stabilisation, peacebuilding, security sector reform, armed violence reduction and institutional development.

Political Economy and Context Analysis. Understanding how political, social and institutional dynamics shape opportunities for change and influence programme effectiveness.

International Relations and Diplomacy. Experience of working with UK, EU, AU, UN and national government institutions, including diplomatic engagement and policy influencing.

Programme Leadership and Oversight. Leadership of complex multi-partner and donor-funded programmes in fragile and politically sensitive environments.

Stakeholder Engagement and Facilitation. Building trusted relationships, facilitating dialogue and helping diverse stakeholders navigate difficult decisions and competing priorities.

Communication and Influence. Production of concise policy-facing analysis, strategic advice and high-level communications for senior decision-makers.

Regional Experience. Africa (Horn, East, Southern and West Africa), Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and Western Balkans.

Career History

Co-founder, Acacia Development Associates | July 2009 – Present

Independent Specialist in African Security and Development Issues
(See CV addendum for project work delivered.)

- *Strategic Advisory Support*: Trusted adviser to governments, donors, international organisations and implementing partners on conflict security, governance and development issues in fragile and politically sensitive environments including Ethiopia, Haiti, Jordan, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen.
- *Programme Leadership and Oversight*: Led and advised on numerous multi-donor funded programmes, including as Interim Team Leader for the Civil Society Support Programme II in Ethiopia, senior leadership for the Security and Defence Transformation Programme in South Sudan, Team Leader for the Citizen-State Engagement Programme for Sudan and Team Leader for the Zambia Accountability Programme.
- *Policy Development and Review*: Designed and reviewed security sector reform strategies (e.g., African Union, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe), democratic governance facilities (Uganda), and conflict prevention programming (Western Balkans).
- *Advocacy and Influence*: Developed and implemented tools to measure political access and influence for UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF/ISF) programmes in Africa, South Asia, and Middle East and North Africa; advising on persuasion planning and grey zone operations for the British Army.
- *Learning, Adaptation and Organisational Improvement: Supported programmes and organisations to strengthen learning, adapt strategies and improve delivery in rapidly changing contexts, including through developmental evaluation, strategic review and adaptive management approaches.*

First Secretary, Regional Conflict Adviser, UK Africa Conflict Prevention Pool | July 2006 – June 2009 (Southern Africa, Pretoria) and May 2003 – May 2006 (Horn of Africa, Ethiopia)

Secondment from Foreign and Commonwealth Office

- Provided *strategic conflict analysis and policy advice* to UK government teams (DFID, FCO, MOD) across Southern and Horn of Africa.
- *African Union Engagement*: Played a key role in helping the African Union develop and operationalise a credible pan-African Peace and Security Architecture, which became the basis for the G8 Gleneagles plan.

- *Policy Integration*: Promoted and achieved a single African peace and security policy framework across diverse British Government departments.
- Designed a systematic policy approach to *security sector reform* with the African Union and across the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Second Secretary, Political Officer & DFID Representative, British Embassy, Luanda, Angola | September 1999 – February 2003
Joint FCO/DFID posting

- Supported the Angolan *peace process*, working with civil society to enlarge space for dialogue and political change.
- Managed DFID *humanitarian and development programmes*, re-focussing the Luanda Urban Poverty Programme to develop practical models for wider replication.

Second Secretary, Human Rights & Development, Human Rights Policy Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office | January 1997 – August 1999

- Translated UK government manifesto commitments (ethical dimension in foreign policy, White Paper on International Development) into *practical foreign and development policy*, including on gender and complex emergencies within the UN team.

Previous Third Secretary Foreign and Commonwealth Office postings in Uganda and Ethiopia | January 1990 – December 1996

Selected Publications & Papers

- "South Sudan's Slide into Conflict: Revisiting the Past and Reassessing Partnerships," Chatham House, 2014.
- "Mozambique: Balancing Development, Politics and Security" (with Markus Weimer), Chatham House, 2010.
- "Norms and Principles of External Engagement to Strengthen Africa's Conflict Resolution Capabilities," Chapter in "Africa's Peacemaker? Lessons from South African Conflict Mediation," Fanele, 2009.
- "Piracy, Maritime Operations, State-building and Partnerships." Presented at Joint Mission Preparation for UK command of EU anti-piracy taskforce, Op ATALANTA, Royal Navy, 2010.
- "Peacekeeping in the Horn of Africa." Presented at Sub Regional Consultation on Peace and Security Challenges in the Horn of Africa, Inter Africa Group, 2009.

Education

- Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School for Boys, Salisbury | September 1978 – July 1985

Languages

- French (Spoken)
- Portuguese (Spoken)

Addendum: Jeremy Astill-Brown – Consultancy projects

Africa	Middle East/North Africa	Asia	Global and Rest of World

Programme delivery: On going

Middle East (Itad) *On going*	Advisory team member for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team working in support of the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) – now Integrated Security Fund (ISF) Middle East and North Africa programme. Specialising in security sector reform and political access and influence.
Overseas Territories (Itad) *On going*	Core team member for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team working in support of the FCDO's Overseas Territories programme. Specialising in security and political access and influence.
Sudan (British Council) *On going*	Strategic Adviser to the UK-funded Sudan Strategy Unit providing timely, context specific analysis and advice designed to mitigate the effects of the current conflict in Sudan. Specialising in horizon scanning, scenario planning and programme-policy alignment.
The Gambia (Horizons) *On going*	Facilitated lessons process for a healthcare facility based in The Gambia but supported by UK medical personnel.

Programme delivery: completed

Uganda (COWI)	Design of a multi-donor facility to support democratic governance in Uganda.
South Sudan (ASI)	Long term DFID funded work as the Government of South Sudan Strategic Security Adviser, helping to build a National Security Architecture which is transparent and accountable and appropriate to the new country's needs.
Africa (SU SJG)	Call down contract as an Africa Political/Diplomatic Security Sector Reform Adviser for the UK Stabilisation Unit Security and Justice Group. (Now ended.)
Africa (COWI)	Call down contract as an Africa Peace and Security Institutions Adviser for the DANIDA Africa Peace Programme II.
Global (SU SJG)	Call down contract as a Senior Security and Justice Adviser to the UK Stabilisation Unit Security and Justice Group.
South Sudan (ASI)	Deputy Team Leader and National Security Architecture Component Leader on UK-funded Security and Defence Transformation Programme (SDTP)
Syria (ASI)	Interim Team Leader and Strategic Adviser (based in Turkey) in the inception period of the Danish, Dutch, UK and US funded Access to Justice and Community Security (AJACS) programme.
Sudan (British Council)	Team Leader on the UK funded Citizen-State Engagement Programme for Sudan (CSEPS)

Sub-Saharan Africa (British Council)	Call down contract as Regional Governance Adviser for BC programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa
Zambia (British Council)	Interim Team Leader for the Zambia Accountability Programme (ZAP)
Horn of Africa (British Council)	Strategic Adviser on the Awareness Raising Component (Component 4) of the EU-funded Better Migration Management (BMM) programme.
Zimbabwe (British Council)	Team Leader for the British Council funded Zimbabwe Response Mechanism (ZRM).
Somalia (British Council)	Strategic Adviser on the EU-funded Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programme.
North Africa (Itad)	Learning and Influencing Adviser for a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team working in support of the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).
Ethiopia (British Council)	Strategic adviser to the UK-funded Civil Society Support Programme II (CSSP2) helping it to adapt to a changing political and security context.
Slovakia (Intrac)	Delivery of a distance learning package on adaptive management in a post COVID-19 context for CSOs in receipt of SlovakAid funds through Ambrela.
East Africa (Itad)	Advisory team member for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team working in support of the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) East Africa.
South Asia (Itad)	Lead technical adviser for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team working in support of the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) for South Asia.
Jordan (Itad)	Development and implementation of tools to measure political access and influence for UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) supported programmes.
Global (Intrac)	Development and delivery of a commercially available learning package on adaptive management for CSOs, donors and project implementors.
Somalia (Itad)	Planning support to the development of UK funded security sector reform programmes in Somalia, with an emphasis on the sustainable promotion of behaviour change developed through improved access and influence.
Somalia (Tetra Tech)	Learning Adviser for the UK funded Somalia Security and Justice Programme (SSJP), introducing a learning culture and learning tools to enhance the delivery and effect of the programme with and through local partners.
Ethiopia (British Council)	Interim Team Leader for the multi-donor funded Civil Society Support Programme II (CSSP2) during a period of transition for both the programme and Ethiopia. Supporting a strategic review of programme purpose and methodology in the context of Coronavirus, considerable political tension in Ethiopia and regional insecurity.
UK (QinetiQ)	Subject matter (influence; monitoring, evaluation and learning) expert on a team developing concepts related to influence and grey zone operations for the British Army.

Tanzania (KPMG)	Lead political economy adviser for the Accountability in Tanzania II (ACT2) programme refresh designed to align programme with new UK priorities.
Somalia (Itad)	Learning lead for the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) team on the UNOPS implemented Somalia Security and Justice Programme II.
Myanmar (DAI)	Strategic Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Adviser for the UK funded Economic Response Facility (ERF), responsible for devising and implementing a politically astute MEL framework which captures ERF supported change including through political access and insight.
UK (QinetiQ)	Subject matter (influence; monitoring, evaluation and learning) expert on a team developing concepts related to persuasion planning approaches for the British Army.
South Asia (Itad)	Core team member for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team working in support of the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) South Asia and Indo-Pacific programme. Specialist in political access and influence, and evaluating programmes for strategic effect.
Haiti (Ark)	Strategic Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Adviser for Global Affairs Canada funded support programme to the Haiti National Police.
Ethiopia (ASI)	Strategic Adviser to UK supported DDR programmes, responsible for proposing adaptation to programme interventions which take account of the sub-regional, national and regional context.
Global (Calian)	Subject Matter Expert (Actor Role: Deputy Head of Mission) for Ex ASSEGAI 25 and 26 – pre-deployment training for UK military Overseas Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT).
Somaliland (ASI) On going	Team Leader for a four-month task to support the drafting of a National Security Strategy (NSS) for Somaliland which helps to convene, coordinate and cohere security sector agencies behind a single shared vision.
Global (CAI)	Support to the Mid-Term Review of Christian Aid Ireland's (CAI) Irish Aid funded Ireland Civil Society Programme (ICSP) in Central America, Colombia, Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territories, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.
Sub-Saharan Africa (Itad)	Core team member for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team working in support of the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) – Now Integrated Security Fund (ISF) - Africa programme. Specialising in stabilisation, security sector reform and political access and influence.

Research, Evaluations and Reviews: Completed

Guinea Bissau (FCO)	Review of UK security sector reform in Guinea Bissau, including analysis of the current situation and proposals for UK action to improve both the situation in the country and international responses to it.
Southern Africa (DFID)	Analysis and proposals for incorporating peace and security into the revised Regional Plan for Southern Africa.

Mozambique (Chatham House)	Work to help research and prepare a strategic study into security and development issues in Mozambique in order to help inform decisions by international development partners.
Zimbabwe (DFID)	Review of the British Government's Security and Justice Sector Reform strategy for Zimbabwe.
African Union (FCO)	A review of the African Union Panel of the Wise to consider (i) how it might be made fully effective; and (ii) how donor support to it might be improved.
African Union (SU SJG)	Mission to explore the opportunities for continued UK support to the development and implementation of the African Union Security Sector Reform Policy Framework.
Kenya (SU SJG)	Study into the cross-border security threats to Kenya for UK Government organisations working in Kenya.
Ghana (COWI)	Review of the Kofi Annan International Peace-keeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) for the Nordic partners to the Joint Funding Agreement.
Somaliland (SU SJG)	Scoping work for the establishment of a security sector development programme in Somaliland.
Sierra Leone (SU SJG)	Preparation of proposals for the future of the International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT)
Southern Africa (SU SJG)	Subject matter expert on a team reviewing the British Peace Support Team (BPST) – South Africa
East Africa (SU SJG)	Subject matter expert on a team reviewing the British Peace Support Team (BPST) – East Africa
EU/Africa (ADE)	Facilitator and subject matter expert for a consultative seminar as part of the EU evaluation of the Africa Peace Facility (APF)
Western Balkans (SU CST)	Team leader for a review of HMG conflict prevention programming in the Western Balkans.
Ghana (Tana)	Review of Danish support to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)
West Africa (SU SJG)	Subject matter expert on a team reviewing British military training activity in West Africa
Somalia (SU SJG)	Subject matter expert on a team reviewing British support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)
Somalia (SU SJG)	Expert adviser to a Ministry of National Security planning team preparing a national consultative conference on internal security delivery.
Jordan/Syria (ASI)	Lead consultant analysing the stabilisation needs (political; military/security; humanitarian) of the Berm areas on the joint border.
Sierra Leone (Crown Agents)	Preparation of strategic policy recommendations to the British Government about how to support security and development objectives in Sierra Leone.
Ethiopia (First Call Partners)	Country context expert on a British Council commissioned "deep dive" into learning from the UK-funded Civil Society Support Programme I (CSSP1)

Yemen (Itad)	Political access and influence case studies for UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Yemen programme.
Somalia (Itad)	Subject matter expert for HMG-funded evaluation of the UK Security Sector Reform Programme (2017-2021)
Global (Intrac)	Co-lead of a developmental evaluation for Christian Aid Ireland (CAI) of their Irish Aid funded Programme Grant II (PG2) in Central America, Colombia, Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territories, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.
Global (Talisman)	Lead evaluator supporting on a learning-informed 'reflective design' process for the future shape of the PAX Netherlands Protection of Civilians programme
Kenya (Chemonics)	Subject Matter Expert (Political Access and Influence) on an evaluation of UK engagement in support of the 2022 elections in Kenya, including on support to the security sector.
Africa (Itad)	Strategic Lessons Review of the UK funded Africa Peace Support Operations (APSO) programme.
Global (Intrac)	Evaluation of British Council implemented peace building programmes against the Theory of Change and in the context of changing UK (and global) priorities.
Tanzania (Irish Aid)	Political Economy Analysis (PEA) to inform strategic planning process following violent elections in October 2025.