

Yarri Kamara

Country of residence: Burkina Faso

Bilingual policy consultant and researcher enthusiastic about effective policy design and implementation

Fields of technical expertise: cultural economy, policy analysis

Key strengths: strong transversal skills, excellent capacity for research, analysis and summary, solid writing skills in English and in French, international experience in developed and developing countries

Education			
Institution	Date from – Date to	Degree(s) or Diploma(s) obtained:	
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Netherlands	Sep 2017 – Jan 2018	Evidence-based Policy Research Methods PhD-level diploma course on quantitative and qualitative policy research methods. Course project on “The effect of percent-for-art policies on the visual arts sector”	
Institut d’Etudes politiques de Paris (Sciences Po Paris), France	Oct 2003 – Jun 2005	Masters in Development Studies (with cum laude honours)	
University of Virginia, USA (Attended as a Jefferson Scholar)	Aug 1998 – May 2002	Bachelor of Arts in Economics (with High Distinction). <i>Thesis: Trade liberalization and de-industrialization – evidence from Ghana</i> Bachelor of Arts in French Language Studies	
Oxford University, United Kingdom	July 2000	Summer exchange programme at University College – read international economics	
Other training:	Advanced Excel for statistics and surveys, March 2015 Certificate course, International Training Centre of the ILO: “Enterprise Development through Value Chains and Business Service Markets”, March – December 2009		
Present position:	Independent researcher and consultant		
Language skills: (1 = excellent, 5 = basic)			
Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English	1	1	1
French	1	1	1
Italian	1	2	3
Spanish	2	4	5
Krio (Sierra Leone)	1	3	3
COUNTRY EXPERIENCE	Long term experience: Burkina Faso, France. Short term experience: Cote d’Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Ghana, Liberia, Zimbabwe (Also resided in non-professional contexts in Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Djibouti, USA, Italy, and Germany)		

EXPERIENCE MOST RELEVANT TO ASSIGNMENT	
2018	Consultant – policy analyst, IFCD, UNESCO. Analysis of implications of implementing recommendations from a global evaluation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, and proposal of alternative options. Analysis to be presented to the Intergovernmental Committee in December 2018
2014 - 2017	Expert and Coordinator of Panel of Experts, International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), UNESCO. Appointed for a four-year term to assess around 20 projects proposals each year submitted to the IFCD for funding. Served as Coordinator of the Panel of Experts for the final two years. The Fund aims to support initiatives to strengthen existing or foster new cultural industries in developing countries.
2017	Consultant researcher, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa. Mapping study of the current status of cultural statistics in 13 Eastern African countries and development of a concept note to build capacities for the generation of reliable and regular culture sector indicators in the region.

2016	Consultant – creative economy expert, UK Department for International Development (DFID) / DAI Europe, UK. Scoping mission under DFID’s Business Environment Reform Facility to undertake rapid diagnosis of the business and policy environment of the creative economy in Kenya and identify opportunities for business environment reform intervention.
2015	Consultant researcher, Arterial Network/UNESCO. Drafted a chapter on the overview of urban features and urbanization for a study on urban regeneration in sub-Saharan Africa to serve as input for the Global Report on the role of culture and heritage in sustainable urban development.
2014 - 2016	Arterial Network’s Cultural Policy Task Group member. Arterial Network is a pan-African cultural organisation previously headquartered in Cape Town. The policy task group is worked on developing an African Arts and Cultural Index, among other projects.
2014	Invited participant in the African Creative Economy Conference, Rabat, Morocco – 13-15 November 2014. Information and networking event for African creative economy stakeholders. Keynote speakers included UNESCO, the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, Cape Town Design NPC and notable African artists and creative entrepreneurs. Topics covered the inclusion of culture in the post-2015 agenda, the latest Creative Economy Report and current challenges faced by specific creative sectors.
2013	Consultant researcher, UNESCO. Researched and prepared an article on the challenges for African women entrepreneurs in the performing arts and fashion sectors for the UNESCO publication “Gender Equality, Heritage and Creativity” (see publications). Presented research at side-event presided by the Director-General of UNESCO at the March 2016 Commission on the Status of Women at the UN Headquarters in New York.
2012	Selected participant in the training workshop for the UNESCO Pool of Experts on the implementation in Africa of the Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Oct 2012, Cape Town, South Africa
2007	Invited expert to the “ First Experts Meeting on International Cooperation ” under the framework of the Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, organised by UNESCO and the Spanish Development Agency. July 2007, Madrid, Spain.
2005	Consultant editor. Editing of articles in English for the publication <i>Trends in Audiovisual Markets: regional perspectives from the South</i> (30,000 words)
Sep 2004 – July 2005	Consultant project manager for UNESCO (intern for 3 months and maternity replacement for 7 months) – Division of Arts and Cultural Enterprise, UNESCO HQ, Paris, France Managed a US\$1 million project <i>Artists in Development</i> aimed at capacity-building for cultural enterprises (crafts and design, music, cinema, visual arts) in developing countries. Created a resource website for project participants (www.unesco.org/culture/artistsindevelopment) and animated knowledge group on cultural enterprises.
May – Sep 2004	Consultant researcher for UNESCO. Researched and prepared a guide on cultural enterprises in developing countries “Keys to Successful Cultural Enterprise Development in Developing Countries”. This paper served as a background paper to UNESCO’s Artists in Development project and was used as a discussion paper at the UNESCO Senior Expert Symposium on Cultural Industries held in Jodhpur, India in February 2005. The paper has since been re-posted on several websites including the European Union’s ACP/Cultures Economy of Culture resource page.

FULL PROFESSIONAL RECORD	
2013 – presently	Independent consultant and researcher (part-time from 2013-2018, full-time 2018 – presently)
2009 –2013 and 2006	Senior Programme Manager, Initiatives Conseil International, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso ICI is a development consultancy firm working with clients such as the World Bank, the European Union, AFD, UN agencies and NGOs in West Africa and other parts of Africa. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted tender proposals in a wide range of thematic fields • Supervised consultants, monitored the execution of contracts, provided of necessary logistical and intellectual support, undertook quality control of deliverables, fostered client relations and prospected new clients • Undertook short term consultancies primarily in the field of private sector development. Examples of assignments relevant to the Expert Facility include:

	<p><u>Skill: Policy analysis/data analysis. Client: Chamber of Commerce, Burkina Faso.</u> “Assessment of 11 editions of the annual Government-Private sector dialogue”. Assessed the government’s track record in addressing concerns raised by the private sector through annual public-private sector dialogue. Created a database of concerns raised and measures taken to develop performance indicators.</p> <p><u>Skill: Sector diagnostics. Client: World Bank, Burkina Faso.</u> “Rapid Innovation Action Learning exercise”. Undertook a rapid diagnostic of the innovation climate and policies related to innovation (education, research, trade and industrial development, telecommunications, etc) and prepared a background document for a mission of international experts. Participated in the experts’ mission – meetings with ministry cabinets, private sector representatives, and educational and training establishments.</p> <p><u>Skill: Surveys. Client: World Bank, USA.</u> “Rural Investment Climate Survey” in Burkina Faso. Survey covering 800 households and 560 enterprises. Adapted standard World Bank questionnaire to local context. Undertook pre-test of questionnaires. Trained data collection team and ensured quality of data collected with team leader. Recruited and supervised survey team of 19 and organised survey logistics.</p> <p><u>Skill: Policy analysis. Client: Agence Française de Développement, France.</u> Research study “Capturing the Demographic Dividend? Demography at the Centre of Development Trajectories in WAEMU countries, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania and Nigeria”. Provided overall assistance to the study coordinator, and undertook task of national consultant for Burkina Faso, Ghana and Guinea-Bissau. Reviewed national policies in the field of national development, population, health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation and urban planning to analyze the integration of demographic variables. Supervised the work of 8 other national consultants.</p> <p><u>Skill: Needs assessment. Client: Chamber of Commerce, Burkina Faso.</u> “Assessment of opportunities for the construction of infrastructure by the Chamber of Commerce in the regions” Analyzed needs for infrastructure in support of economic activity in the 13 regions of Burkina Faso.</p> <p><u>Skill: Capacity-building. Client: Danish Fellowship Centre.</u> Coordinated a 10-day entrepreneurship course for agro-entrepreneurs from Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger (<i>Bâtir des entreprises agricoles performantes en Afrique aujourd’hui</i>). Developed curriculum and selected and supervised course teachers and guest speakers. Also coached entrepreneurs in developing business plans as part of course assignment.</p>
2007 – 2009	Enterprise Support Manager, Tree Aid, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Supported development of microenterprises based on non timber forest products in Burkina Faso, Mali and Ghana.
2004 –2005	Consultant researcher/project officer, UNESCO – Division of Arts and Cultural Enterprise, Paris, France. See “Experience most relevant to assignment” section above.

MAIN PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS	
Kamara, Yarri Busingye. 2016. “ Review of ‘Developing Cultural Industries: Learning from the Palimpsest of Practice’ by Christiaan de Beukalaer ”, <i>Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society</i> , 46:3, 134-135	
Kamara, Yarri. 2014. “Challenges for African women entrepreneurs in the performing arts and designer fashion sectors” in Gender Equality, Heritage and Creativity , UNESCO, Paris, France.	
Kamara Yarri. 2004. Keys to Successful Cultural Enterprise Development in Developing Countries , UNESCO. Unpublished paper posted on UNESCO website and several other websites.	
Kamara, Yarri. 2012. “ L’Occitane au Burkina Faso ”: <i>More than just business with shea producers</i> . UNDP	
Kamara, Yarri. 2012. Inova: A home-grown mobile money service in West Africa . UNDP	
Kamara Yarri. 2011. Existing and Potential Forest Finance Mechanisms for Smallholders and Community Forestry in West Africa , FAO.	
Guengant, Jean-Pierre, Kamara, Y. 2011. Comment bénéficier du dividende démographique ? La démographie au centre des trajectoires de développement , AFD A Savoir N°9 Septembre 2011.	

OTHER ACTIVITIES
Literary translation (French to English, Italian to English)
Writer: essays and opinion pieces
Hobby: dance