

# Daniella Burgi-Palomino

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## Summary

Bilingual leader with over fifteen years' experience in social justice and human rights programming across nonprofits, philanthropy, and government. Proven record in advocacy and communications strategies, coordinating coalitions and funder collaboratives, and forging collaborations with diverse stakeholders. Extensive relationships with civil society organizations, foundations, policymakers, and international organizations in the United States and Latin America. Expertise in international development, civic space, human rights, migration, U.S.-Latin America policy. Skilled in designing and managing programming focused on defending democracy, protecting human rights, and migration.

## Professional Experience

**U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Latin America & Caribbean Bureau, Washington D.C.**  
***Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) Specialist*** Oct. 2022-July 2025

- **Key Initiative Leadership:** Co-led the USAID implementation of the Biden-Harris Administration Voices initiative on civic space in Central America, organizing diplomatic actions and communications with the National Security Council and State Department. Executed at least four high-level events in Washington D.C. and the region with over 50 U.S. and Central American civil society, donor, private sector stakeholders.
- **Policy Advisor:** Advised USAID Latin America Bureau leadership and USAID offices on human rights, labor, rule of law, elections, and civic space issues, informing programming and policy decision-making. Prepared Bureau leadership for National Security Council meetings; Congressional testimony, briefings.
- **Investment Strategy:** Guided USAID funding strategies and evaluated applications in response to U.S. government requests for proposals related to technology, labor, elections, human rights, and migration.
- **Project Design & Management:** Executed strong financial and project management of civil society partners in grants totaling \$15M implemented across Latin America & the Caribbean. Contributed to the design of new USAID projects in Central America focused on civic space, independent media, and labor rights.
- **U.S. Government Coordination:** Drafted and coordinated USAID, State Department, and National Security Council briefing material, strategies, communications, and responses to public and Congressional inquiries related to democracy, human rights, elections, and governance issues in Mexico and Central America
- **External Partnerships:** Facilitated strong working relationships between USAID and civil society organizations, academia, think tanks, philanthropy, international, multilateral institutions in the U.S. and Latin America, increasing information-sharing and joint convenings on civic space and human rights.

**Latin America Working Group (LAWG)**

**Washington, D.C.**

***Co-director***

**2019-2022**

***Senior Associate, Migrant Rights and Border Issues***

**2015-2019**

- **Leadership:** Promoted to Co-director for leadership capacity, management, and strategic vision.
- **Staffing and Operations Oversight:** Shared oversight of strategic planning, office management, supervision, and retainment of Program Associates and interns. Established the first paid internship program.
- **Budget Management and Fundraising:** Co-managed a \$500k annual budget, securing multi-year resources, drafting grant proposals, and reports for donors. Guided individual donor and biannual giving strategies.
- **Communications:** Served as LAWG's spokesperson with media, academia, think tanks. Led the drafting of press releases, blogs, social media content, doubling the organization's impact in the press and social media.
- **Coalition Organizing and Coordination:** Coordinated over 60 U.S. groups, organizing joint education, advocacy, and communications strategies in support of shared goals on immigration and foreign policy.
- **Grassroots Engagement:** Organized grassroots engagement actions for over 30k LAWG network members, supervising the creation of e-alerts, toolkits, webinars, educational materials for campaigns.
- **U.S. Government and International Advocacy:** Cultivated relationships with U.S. Members of Congress and the Administration, foreign embassies, and international organizations on issues related to U.S.-Latin America policy. Drafted Congressional letters, statements, and legislation on foreign and immigration policy.
- **Research and Analysis:** Spearheaded analysis and published research reports on migration, human rights, citizen security, elections, civic space, corruption, and rule of law issues in Mexico and Central America.

**Central America and Mexico Migration Alliance (CAMMINA)****Mexico City, Mexico**

CAMMINA was an alliance between the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the AVINA Foundation.

**Coordinator**

2011-2013

- **Grantmaking Incubation and Strategic Guidance:** Established the CAMMINA office and served as the inaugural coordinator. Designed office systems and standard operating procedures for cross-border grantmaking, creating systems for grants management and pipelines. Cultivated grant prospects; conducted due diligence on new grantees, drafted grant recommendations, and provided strategic guidance to grantees.
- **Budget Oversight:** Prepared quarterly financial reports based on an over \$4M budget, and supervised consultants in the United States, Mexico, and Central America.
- **Partner Relationship-Management:** Built and strengthened partnerships between CAMMINA and governments, private sector, civil society, academia across the United States, Mexico, and Central America.
- **Assessment and Evaluation:** Prepared internal reports for Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundation and AVINA Program Officers on issues related to migration, development, human rights, and civil society. Conducted monitoring and evaluation of grants, preparing evaluation reports for foundations.

**Fulbright García Robles Fellow****Zacatecas, Mexico****Research:** *Socioeconomic Strategies and Participation of Women in Transnational Communities* 2010-2011

- Conducted extensive field research with communities, local governments, universities, and NGOs on international migration and women, resulting in a local university research publication.

**Oxfam America****Boston, MA****Program Associate,** U.S. Regional Office, Decent Work & Fair Food Program

2007-2010

- Programmatic and administrative support for a \$1.5M annual budget focused on migrant farmworkers rights.

**Fellowships & Internships****Oxfam America, Policy Fellow, 2015; Human Rights Watch (HRW), Global Advocacy Intern, 2014****Languages & Skills**

- **Languages:** Native Spanish and English speaker. Intermediate German, Beginner French, Beginner Portuguese.
- **IT:** Microsoft Office Suite, Excel, Google Suite, Adobe InDesign, Zoom, GoTo Webinar, BlueJeans, Prezi, X

**Volunteer & Leadership**

- National Coordinating Committee (Board of Directors), Peace Brigades International (PBI)-USA, Present
- Community Engagement Committee, Hispanic Employee Council of Foreign Affairs Agencies (HECFAA), 2024
- President, Meridian Hill Tenant Association, 2018-2022

**Education****Tufts University****Medford, MA**

- **Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (MALD),** Fletcher School
- **Bachelor of Arts,** International Relations & History, Latin American Studies Minor

**Certificates**

- **Artificial Intelligence and Career Empowerment,** University of Maryland, Robert H. Smith School of Business, Center for Artificial Intelligence in Business, June 2025
- **Data-Driven Decision Making,** Georgetown University, School of Continuing Studies, June 2025
- **Contract/ Agreement Officer Representative, Level 2,** Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI), 2025