

Daniel Thornton

Visiting Professor of Practice, Department of Health Policy | London School of Economics

Daniel Thornton is a senior global health and international development executive with more than thirty years of experience in multilateral institutions, government, and civil society. He has played a central role in raising over \$27 billion for global health, led some of the largest international financing campaigns in public health history, and held senior advisory positions at the highest levels of the UK government and at the Institute for Government. His work spans pandemic preparedness, vaccine financing, health systems strengthening, and innovative finance for development.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Consultant, Innovative Financing | United Nations Development Programme | 2025–Present

Leading design and capitalisation strategy for an innovative multi-hundred-million-dollar UNDP financing mechanism for locally led development, including governance frameworks and investment structures.

Director (D2), Coordinated Resource Mobilisation | World Health Organization | 2024–2025

Led WHO's first Investment Round, securing over \$2 billion from member states, foundations, and private sector, increasing flexible and long term funding.

Director of Replenishments | Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance | 2019–2024

Orchestrated Gavi's 2020 replenishment (\$8.8 billion). Launched and led three COVAX Advance Market Commitment replenishments raising \$12 billion — the largest collective global vaccine financing effort in history.

Programme Director | Institute for Government | 2015 – 2018

Advised, coached, and trained government ministers; supported change management and leadership team development at several government departments

Director, Strategic Initiatives / Chief of Staff | Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance | 2009–2015

Chief of Staff to successive CEOs; co-led 2011 London Pledging Conference (\$4.3 billion). Led CEO-mandated supply chain reform improving vaccine availability across 100,000+ health facilities in lower-income countries.

Senior Roles | UK Civil Service — No. 10, HM Treasury, DCLG | 2001–2009

Private Secretary to Prime Minister Tony Blair; Senior Policy Adviser at HM Treasury; Director of Local Economic Development (team of 80, budget of £2.5 billion).

Other experience

Director of External Relations | Ark | Sept 2018 – Dec 2019

Committee Specialist | Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Commons, 1999–2001

Senior Credit Analyst | Enron Europe, 1998

Diplomat | Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1991–1997

Desk Officer, North America and International Economics | Oxford Analytica, 1990–1991

SELECTED AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Global health financing and resource mobilisation · Pandemic preparedness and health security · Multilateral institutions and global governance · Innovative finance · Vaccine policy and equitable access · Donor engagement and high-level negotiation · Public policy and government advisory

EDUCATION

MSc International History | London School of Economics and Political Science, 1992

BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics | University of Oxford (Wadham College), 1990

Languages: Maternal English | Fluent French