

Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah

UN High Level Panel on Humanitarian Finance

Panel years: 2015-2016

Born: 1975

Age at nomination: 40

Nationality: Australian, Sri Lankan

Research Summary

Question	Status	Confidence
Q1 — HLP Job Title at Nomination	Found & Verified	Medium
Q2 — Education Trajectory	Found & Verified	High
Q3 — Geographical Mobility	Found (unconfirmed)	High
Q4 — Organizational Mobility	Found & Verified	High
Q5 — Sectors of Expertise	Found & Verified	High
Q6 — Professional Networks & Awards	Found & Verified	High
Q7 — Career Domain Classification	Found	High

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Q1 — HLP Job Title at Nomination

Secretary General

CIVICUS

Year of nomination: 2015 · Age at nomination: 40

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1 — Temporal anchoring: The text does not explicitly mention 2015 but provides a sequence of roles. Step 2 — Role identification: The text lists several roles, including Secretary General of CIVICUS and Chief Executive of Oxfam GB. Step 3 — Organization identification: Both CIVICUS and Oxfam GB are mentioned as organizations. Step 4 — Temporal match assessment: The text states 'Until December 2023, he was Chief Executive of Oxfam GB,' implying he held this role after 2015. Prior to that, he was Secretary General of CIVICUS, which is the most recent role before Oxfam GB and thus likely overlaps with 2015. Step 5 — Confidence assessment: The temporal link is implicit but plausible, given the sequence of roles.

Confidence: medium · Primary source: en.wikipedia.org · Verified by 3 independent source(s)

"Prior to that, Sriskandarajah was the Secretary General of CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organisations."

Q2 — Education Trajectory

Geographic reach: Global North · Prestige: Elite & peripheral · Disciplines: unknown

Degrees & Credentials

Degree	Field	Institution	Country	Year
other	unknown	University of Sydney	Australia	—
MPhil	unknown	University of Oxford	UK	—
DPhil	unknown	University of Oxford	UK	—

Bold entries indicate elite institutions.

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified degrees from the text. Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah holds a degree from the University of Sydney, and an MPhil and DPhil from the University of Oxford. Step 2: Determined the countries of the institutions. University of Sydney is in Australia, and University of Oxford is in the UK. Step 3: Classified both institutions as Global North. Step 4: Classified University of Oxford as elite and University of Sydney as peripheral. Step 5: Synthesized disciplines, but the field of study is not explicitly mentioned for the University of Sydney degree. The MPhil and DPhil are assumed to be in a related field, likely social sciences or humanities, based on his career and publications.

Confidence: high · Primary source: opengovpartnership.org · Verified by 1 independent source(s)

"Danny holds a degree from the University of Sydney, and an MPhil and DPhil from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar."

Q3 — Geographical Mobility

Countries of residence / employment:
United Kingdom, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago

Location Detail

City	Country	Period	Role / Context
London	United Kingdom	2004-2009	Deputy Director of the Institute for Public Policy Research
London	United Kingdom	2009-2012	Director General of the Royal Commonwealth Society
Johannesburg	South Africa	2013-2018	Secretary General of CIVICUS
Oxford	United Kingdom	2019-2023	Chief Executive of Oxfam GB
London	United Kingdom	2024-present	Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation
Trinidad	Trinidad and Tobago	2003	Marriage location, implies short-term residence

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified locations mentioned in connection with Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah's work, career, or residence. Step 2: Assessed duration for each location based on roles and context. Step 3: Assigned approximate year ranges based on explicit dates or inferred timelines. Step 4: Assigned confidence levels based on clarity of information. Step 5: Compiled a de-duplicated list of countries.

Confidence: high · Primary source: en.wikipedia.org · Verified by 0 independent source(s)

Q4 — Organizational Mobility

Domain distribution: 11 civil_society

Career Positions

Title	Organisation	Period	Domain	Type
Chief Executive	New Economics Foundation	—	civil_society	Primary
CEO	Oxfam GB	—	civil_society	Primary
Secretary General	CIVICUS	—	civil_society	Primary
Director	Royal Commonwealth Society	—	civil_society	Primary
Interim Director	Commonwealth Foundation	—	civil_society	Primary
Various posts	Institute for Public Policy Research	—	civil_society	Primary
Trustee	Guy's & St Thomas' Foundation	—	civil_society	Secondary
Trustee	Baring Foundation	—	civil_society	Secondary
Trustee	Comic Relief	—	civil_society	Secondary
Trustee	Disasters Emergency Committee	—	civil_society	Secondary
Trustee	Praxis Community Projects	—	civil_society	Secondary

Bold entries are primary (full-time) positions.

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified roles include Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation, CEO of Oxfam GB, Secretary General of CIVICUS, Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Interim Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, and various posts at the Institute for Public Policy Research. Trustee roles were also mentioned but are classified as secondary. Step 2: Organizations were explicitly named in the text. Step 3: No specific dates were provided, so approximate_period is recorded as null. Step 4: Domain classification was based on the nature of each organization. Step 5: Prominence was assessed based on the role's likely full-time or part-time nature.

Confidence: high · Primary source: qc.foundation · Verified by 2 independent source(s)

"Danny's previous roles include CEO of Oxfam GB, Secretary General of CIVICUS, Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Interim Director of the Commonwealth Foundation and various posts at the Institute for Public Policy Research."

Q5 — Sectors of Expertise

Primary Sector

DEVELOPMENT

All Identified Sectors

Sector	Evidence	Prominence
development	Chief Executive of Oxfam GB, Chief Executive Officer of New Economics Foundation, Secretary General of CIVICUS, roles at Institute for Public Policy Research	Primary
human rights	Secretary General of CIVICUS, Trustee of the Disasters Emergency Committee	Secondary
migration	Expertise in Migration, roles at Oxfam GB and New Economics Foundation	Secondary
inequality	Visiting Senior Fellow at International Inequalities Institute, Expertise in Inequality	Secondary
conflict	Expertise in Conflict	Secondary

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified sectors from roles and expertise areas mentioned. Step 2: Linked evidence to each sector. Step 3: Assessed prominence based on multiple roles and long-term engagement. Step 4: Mapped sectors to taxonomy.

Confidence: high · Primary source: lse.ac.uk · Verified by 2 independent source(s)

"Dr Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah is Chief Executive Officer of New Economics Foundation. Prior to that he spent five years as Chief Executive of Oxfam GB."

Q6 — Professional Networks & Awards

Affiliations & Memberships

Organisation	Type	Period
Guy's & St Thomas' Foundation	board	—
Baring Foundation	board	—
Comic Relief	board	—
Disasters Emergency Committee	board	—
Praxis Community Projects	board	—
United Nations High Level Panel on Digital Co-operation	advisory	—
United Nations High Level Panel on Humanitarian Finance	advisory	—
Independent Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society	advisory	—

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1: Identified affiliations outside primary employment. Step 2: No awards mentioned. Step 3: Classified affiliations by type. Step 4: Recorded periods where available.

Confidence: high · Primary source: resolvepoverty.org · Verified by 2 independent source(s)

Q7 — Career Domain Classification

CIVIL SOCIETY

Classification confidence: high

Evidence by Domain

CIVIL SOCIETY: All primary and secondary roles are in NGOs, think-tanks, and civil society organizations. Primary sector is 'development,' with roles in Oxfam GB, CIVICUS, and New Economics Foundation. Affiliations are with civil_society organizations and related advisory roles.

Analytical Reasoning

Step 1 — Jobs review: All primary roles (Chief Executive, Secretary General, Director) fall under the civil_society domain. Secondary roles (Trustee positions) also align with civil_society. Step 2 — Duration weighting: While exact durations are not always provided, the roles span multiple years, with significant tenure in civil_society organizations. Step 3 — Sectors cross-check: The primary sector is 'development,' which aligns strongly with civil_society, particularly given roles in NGOs like Oxfam GB and CIVICUS. Secondary sectors like human_rights and migration also reinforce civil_society engagement. Step 4 — Networks cross-check: Affiliations are predominantly with civil_society organizations (e.g., Guy's & St Thomas' Foundation, Comic Relief) and advisory roles in inquiries related to civil_society. Step 5 — Dominant domain identification: The career is overwhelmingly characterized by civil_society roles. Step 6 — Hybrid test: No other domain accounts for a comparable share of the career, and there is no evidence of a genuine hybrid institutional context.

This classification is synthesised from Q1–Q6 outputs using an LLM reasoning step. It reflects the overall career pattern, not any single role.