

In summary

Public sector governance



Oxford Policy
Management

**About Oxford
Policy Management's
*In summary series***

Our *In summary* publications aim to give an introduction to a key area of our expertise and the capabilities we offer in supporting governments, funders, practitioners, and partners in achieving lasting, positive change through policy reform.

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Public sector governance

Turning government policy and plans into visible and meaningful actions is challenging for every government. To successfully deliver services and enable inclusive economic growth, every government must solve the policy implementation challenge. We help governments overcome this challenge.

Working with governments, we help to build the skills, capability and systems required to turn policy into action. We engage policymakers to develop solutions that reflect their challenges. Our work is based upon a strong understanding of the practical dimensions of public service delivery, where time and skills are limited, and where systems struggle to provide the information required to inform effective decision making.

What we do

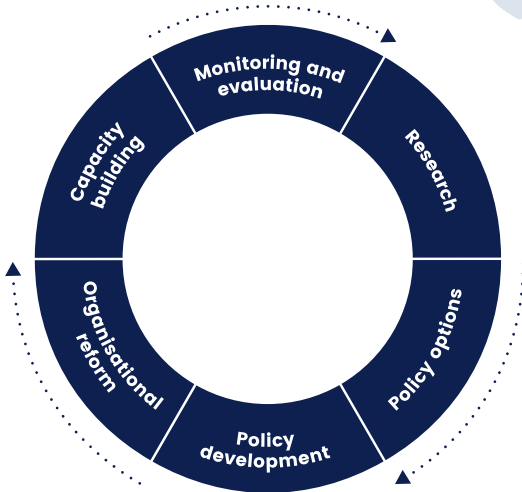
We facilitate change by working with government leaders and key reformers within and outside of government to build teams capable of solving the policy implementation challenge. We do this through:

- **Policy design:** We develop individual skills and organisational systems to enable the analysis and use of evidence in policymaking and strategic planning. Working from programme design to implementation, we support governments to identify, adapt, and deliver policy that aligns with their political reality.
- **Politics and accountability:** We support government and civil society to build a shared understanding of, and an approach to, policymaking and its implementation.
- **Policy delivery:** We ensure that policy implementation is planned and that robust evidence-based systems are in place to manage and oversee service delivery. Our team has broad experience of designing systems to drive performance within government systems, and expertise across a variety of methods, including agile and problem-driven iterative adaptation.

- **Project management:** We are experienced in managing large programmes in complex environments, that meet the needs of governments and our clients. Our team delivers through an effective adaptive management system that enables programmes to navigate the unique environments in which they work.



We work globally across the policy cycle



Above: The OPM policy cycle. Our approach is firmly rooted in the policy cycle, from researching the key drivers of a problem through to implementing the chosen policy, and monitoring and evaluating progress.



- Countries we have worked in
- OPM Offices

Map above is based on a Gall-Peters projection

Delivering impact

Leading a DFID-funded, multi-year **Action on Climate Today (ACT) programme** across five countries in South Asia. The programme enabled governments to more effectively respond to climate change, by developing resilient systems for policymaking, planning, and public investment within each country and region. Our applied political economy approach identified and leveraged opportunities for reform. Amongst the many successes, we contributed to the draft Natural Resource Management Strategy that mainstreamed climate change policy in Afghanistan, and supported the Government of Odisha, India, to establish a more effective flood early warning system, increasing the warning period from eight to 48–72 hours.

In Pakistan, we manage a DFID-funded **Sub-National Governance (SNG) programme**. Working with governments, we are helping to strengthen public management for improved service delivery in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan. Our work indirectly benefits over 140 million people through improvements in the way provincial governments turn policy into action. We will support institutional reforms and build capacities to improve the way governments carry out their functions and allocate resources linked to people's needs, better manage the governments' resources and spending through improved budget allocation, and increase transparency and accountability.



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Whilst leading the **World Bank Service Delivery Afghanistan programme**, we evaluated different approaches to establish context-appropriate service delivery in Afghanistan, through analysing the existing and potential models of service delivery to evaluate its ability to improve the following policy objectives: political stability; service delivery effectiveness, and state legitimacy.

We are working with the **Open Government Partnership** to better understand the relevance, effectiveness, impact, and efficiency of policy advocacy. We are researching the complex policy interactions related to open government reforms, focusing on beneficial ownership, open contracting, and citizen participation. Our evaluation, still in its early phase, focuses on the programme's work in Colombia, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines and Ukraine. It aims to identify the who, what, why and how of policy adoption and associated policy advocacy. The potential impact of this project on how global policy processes are formed and engage with governments is significant.

Areas of expertise

Policymaking and planning

Establishing collaborative policy design processes

Managing and designing evidence-informed policymaking and research uptake approaches

Conducting organisational reviews and change processes

Undertaking institutional assessments of central to decentralised government

Politics and democracy

Conducting participatory political economy and context assessments

Building effective coalitions for policy reform

Designing citizen feedback systems

Implementing innovative approaches to citizen-centric government

Policy delivery

Providing strategy advice and coaching to governments

Developing performance monitoring and policy delivery frameworks

Conducting training and capacity needs assessments

Supporting reform processes through problem-driven iterative adaptation (PDIA)

Programme management

Delivering effective programme management systems

Establishing adaptive management systems

Overseeing management of grants and project delivery chains

Managing innovation funds

About Oxford Policy Management

Oxford Policy Management is committed to helping low- and middle-income countries achieve growth and reduce poverty and disadvantage through public policy reform. We seek to bring about lasting positive change using analytical and practical policy expertise. Through our global network of offices, we work in partnership with national decision makers to research, design, implement, and evaluate impactful public policy. We work in all areas of social and economic policy and governance, including health, finance, education, climate change, and public sector management. We draw on our local and international sector experts to provide the very best evidence-based support.

Contact us

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