OPM India

In summary

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.

About OPM India

We have worked in India for almost two decades on assignments across the policy cycle and across different sectors. We work with governments, international donors, local agencies, and partners, helping them to develop and implement policies that reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, and reform public services.

We have extensive project experience and expertise in a broad range of policy areas, including: climate change, education, fieldwork, data collection and data management, health, livelihoods, monitoring and evaluation, public sector governance, social protection, and urban policy and planning.

Areas of expertise

Climate and natural resources

Whether exploring the most environmentally-responsible methods of using natural resources, analysing how best to budget for the effects of climate change, or investigating approaches to climate adaptation, we design, implement, and evaluate sensitive and sustainable policies.

We provide technical support to the **Government of India** and state governments for designing and delivering ambitious climate action. We manage the Technical Cooperation Facility of the Green Growth Equity Fund which aims to invest GBP 500 million into low-carbon and climate resilient solutions. Through our DFID-funded Action on Climate Today (ACT) programme we supported five states to access climate funds and develop polices and institutional capacity for climate resilient development. We provide ongoing and regular evaluation, learning and strategic support to the climate change portfolios of different donors and foundations, including the **Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office**, the **Shakti Foundation**, and the **MacArthur Foundation**.

Education, skills and livelihood

Our Education portfolio has a proven track record of work across the policy cycle. We have focused on evaluations, large scale data collection, design and roll-out of monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and policy advisory. In recent years, we have diversified to implementing programmes and are working on education systems, education finance, metrics and learning assessment, non-state actors, and early childhood development.

Skills development and livelihoods is a multidimensional, cross-cutting work stream, located within the education portfolio. Over the last three years, we have implemented projects spanning research, policy advisory, strategy development and monitoring and evaluation, in India and several other countries.
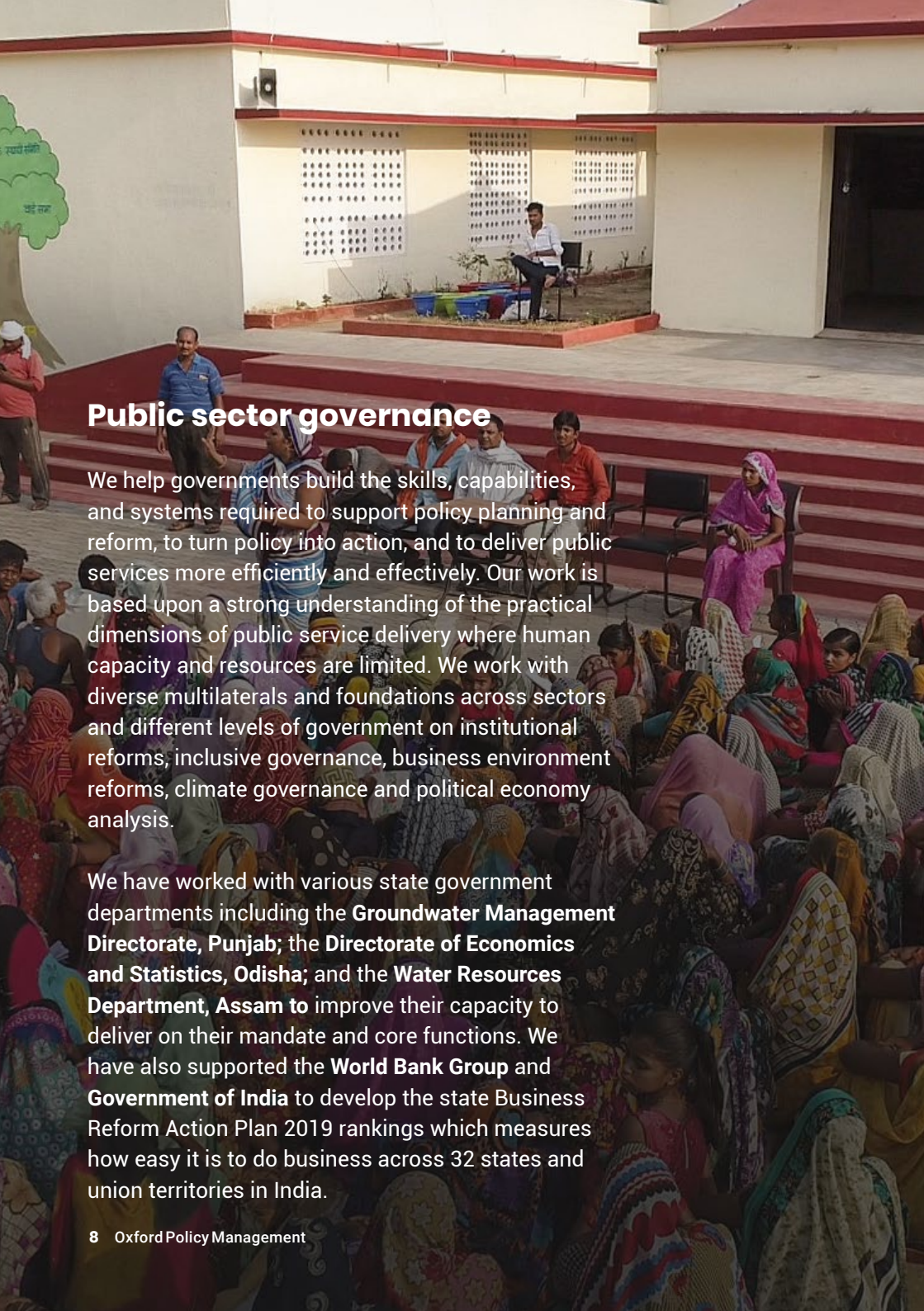
Health and nutrition

We work with global teams to harness diverse technical expertise and provide rigorous and context-specific evidence, design, and implementation support to the health and nutrition policies and programmes. We have supported our partners to design and implement health and nutrition interventions. We also help to develop and implement strategies to improve local systems and capacity, including finances, governance, leadership, supply chains, information systems, and service delivery designs. Our studies and evidence-based strategy for state capabilities, political economies, power and gender have led to fresh thinking in health and nutrition programmes.

We have partnered with leading funders, implementers, research agencies, and governments. For the Bihar Technical Support Programme, we have supported the **Government of Bihar** and the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** with studies on diverse aspects of health systems and programme delivery. We are working with the **World Bank** to develop their human resources for health (HRH) strategy to escalate tuberculosis elimination efforts in India. We are evaluating **Children's Investment and Fund Foundation** supported interventions to improve pregnancy care and nutrition to achieve better pregnancy outcomes.

Monitoring and evaluation

We carry out a wide range of evaluations and programme reviews, and have expertise in developing complex impact evaluation designs, both experimental and quasi-experimental, applying mixed-methods research, by using primary data through household, community, and service delivery surveys. We also have vast experience in conducting concurrent monitoring of large-scale multi-year programmes.

Presently we are evaluating two interventions in Rajasthan, supported by the **Children's Investment Fund Foundation**, aiming to improve the weight of newborns and reduce wasting among children under the age of three. Our evaluation includes assessment of impact, cost effectiveness, and sustainability for both interventions.For the **Government of Jharkhand**, we are supporting their JOHAR project by providing concurrent monitoring and evaluation services. This assignment enables data-driven decision making and effective delivery in one of India's largest agri-business programmes.
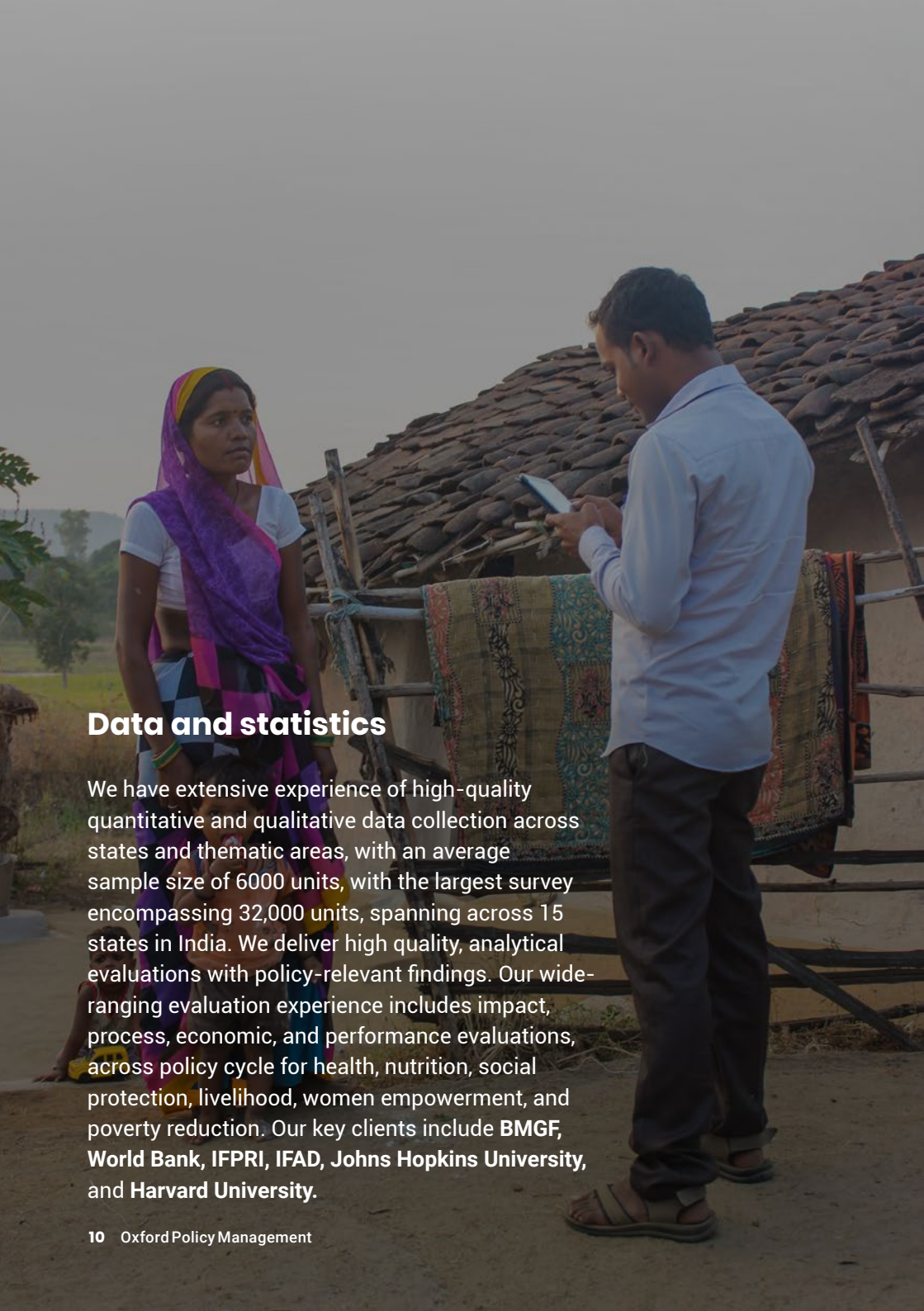
Public sector governance

We help governments build the skills, capabilities, and systems required to support policy planning and reform, to turn policy into action, and to deliver public services more efficiently and effectively. Our work is based upon a strong understanding of the practical dimensions of public service delivery where human capacity and resources are limited. We work with diverse multilaterals and foundations across sectors and different levels of government on institutional reforms, inclusive governance, business environment reforms, climate governance and political economy analysis.

We have worked with various state government departments including the **Groundwater Management Directorate, Punjab;** the **Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Odisha;** and the **Water Resources Department, Assam to** improve their capacity to deliver on their mandate and core functions. We have also supported the **World Bank Group** and **Government of India** to develop the state Business Reform Action Plan 2019 rankings which measures how easy it is to do business across 32 states and union territories in India.

Social protection

We support governments in developing policies informed by an understanding of poverty and inequality dynamics, designing efficient, sustainable and localised social protection systems. We conduct welfare measurement analyses, design programmes to improve identification and registration of beneficiaries, offer implementation support, and evaluate programmes to inform future social protection strategies.

We have developed a multi-state body of work around building inclusive social protection systems in India for the **World Bank, UNICEF, the Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office**, and the **Children's Investment Fund Foundation**. We were contracted by the **World Bank** to conduct a process evaluation of the PMJAY across Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Our mixed methods approach generated important information on targeting errors and population awareness of the scheme, and provided operational recommendations on improving delivery.

Data and statistics

We have extensive experience of high-quality quantitative and qualitative data collection across states and thematic areas, with an average sample size of 6000 units, with the largest survey encompassing 32,000 units, spanning across 15 states in India. We deliver high quality, analytical evaluations with policy-relevant findings. Our wide-ranging evaluation experience includes impact, process, economic, and performance evaluations, across policy cycle for health, nutrition, social protection, livelihood, women empowerment, and poverty reduction. Our key clients include **BMGF, World Bank, IFPRI, IFAD, Johns Hopkins University,** and **Harvard University.**

Urban policy and planning

We help governments and development partners address issues of service delivery, urban climate resilience, governance and institutional support, and urban social protection. We support high-impact and sustainable programme design, help to improve governance processes and urban reforms, and offer advice on climate- and disaster-resilient urban development.

Over the years, we have worked with a number of clients including **BMGF, World Bank**, and **AfD** on wide ranging themes include urban sanitation, behaviour change, flood management, Smart Cities, and urban social protection. Most recently, we are setting up an Urban Living Lab in Panaji, Goa – the first of its kind in India – with our partners Tandem Research and The Energy and Resources Institute. This initiative is supported by the **Royal Danish Embassy**.

We have also conducted studies spanning both rural and urban WASH, majorly covering monitoring and evaluation of sanitation-focused behaviour change and communication as well as in understanding government capacities in delivering water and sanitation programmes in different states.

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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