

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

Our Public Sector Governance (PSG) team helps governments build the skills, capabilities, and systems required to support policy planning, reform and to turn policy into action. Based in New Delhi, our team of experts works with diverse public institutions, multilaterals and foundations located nationally and globally, combining cutting-edge research with the latest governance approaches.

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 across sectors and different levels of government to enhance technical, managerial and administrative abilities and to improve the performance of governments to deliver public services more efficiently and effectively.

What we offer

Institutional reform: we support government bodies to identify the right people, at the right place, doing the right job at the right time. We enable organisations and the individuals within them to deliver their mandate. We work with specific government institutions to identify, adapt and deliver policy that is aligned with their political reality.

Inclusive governance: we build systems and processes to facilitate better access of citizens and communities to government services. It starts with identifying which communities, for what services, face which challenges and proposing suggestions to make governance more responsive and accountable. In doing so, we enable improved trust in government institutions.

Business environment reforms: we work at the interface of public and private sector development to support economic activity through appropriate regulation, protecting property rights, and creation of a competitive and enabling investment environment. We do this by leveraging the access to finance, assessing the ease of doing business, regulatory analysis and relevant capacity development.

What we offer

Climate governance: we work with governments and other stakeholders to research, design, and deliver approaches and sustainable, equitable and inclusive policies for climate change adaptation and resilience. Based on our in-depth analytical research, we work with governments to mainstream climate change adaptation in cross-sector, national and provincial planning including budget reforms. We assess the costs of climate impacts, support integration of climate finance into national or state budgets and provide advice on the most effective ways of using these budgets.

Political economy analysis (PEA): we design and deliver politically informed approaches to contextualise governance for better development outcomes. We engage with the formal and informal rules and norms, incentives and value alignments that enable or constrain effective implementation of policies.



Our experience

Institutional reforms

We work with various state government departments to improve their capacity to deliver on their mandate and core functions. We have worked with the Groundwater Management Directorate, Government of Punjab, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Odisha, and the Water Resources Department, Government of Assam. For each of these departments, we identified institutional gaps that limit service delivery and provided practical and actionable recommendations to address them. Our strategies are drafted collaboratively and are cognisant of the contextual realities. Our advice has contributed to improving organisational models and structures, accountability chains, staff motivation and skills, and driven budgetary reforms.

Our experience

Business environment reforms

We supported the World Bank Group and Government of India to develop the state Business Reform Action Plan 2019 rankings. This ranking was developed through an extensive data collection and analysis exercise that covered more than 7,000 business firms across 32 states and union territories in India and gathered private sector feedback on key business environment reforms that have been undertaken by state governments. The results were released by the Finance Minister, and being based on user feedback, this is arguably India's first ranking that accurately attempts to measure how easy it is to do business in each of the states.



Our experience

Political economy analysis

We are a learning partner for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Bihar Technical Support Programme which aims to strengthen the health system at the state, district, facility, and community levels. We conducted a context assessment which probed the socio-political legacy of the state and showed how the interdependencies and constraints at the institutional, organisational and individual levels influence the performance of the health system. Our political economy approach focuses on the informal values, norms, incentives and relationships that often determine the outcome of technical assistance and change management initiatives.



Our experience

Climate governance

Through our DFID-funded Action on Climate Today (ACT) programme we provided technical assistance for mainstreaming climate change into the policies and strategies of five countries in South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and India. In India we worked in Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Odisha. ACT contributed to development of policy options, decision-making tools, and improved systems and capacity to access climate change funds. It mobilised more than US\$1.5 billion for climate change action; supported implementation of 30 climate-proofed policies, programmes, budgets; enhanced institutional capacity of 86 regional, national governmental, civil society, and academic institutions across sectors, and led to adoption of nearly 100 system enhancements, policy options, decision support systems and budgeting tools by governments and other partners. We are also providing technical assistance to the Green Growth Equity Facility which will contribute to private sector investments in 'green' infrastructure.

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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