
Capabilities

Political analysis; Policy execution;

Government systems reform; Innovation for governance

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.

version code: IS17-002v1

Public sector governance

Every government struggles with the challenge of turning policies into tangible actions visible to citizens (the system of policy execution). This is especially true in low- and middle-income countries. Failure of policy execution prevents governments from achieving social and economic growth.

The Public Sector Governance portfolio works with governments to build the skills, capabilities, and systems required to turn policy into action. We work with governments to develop solutions that reflect the challenges they face. Our work is based upon a strong understanding of the practical dimensions of public service delivery where human capacity and resources are limited, and where government systems struggle to provide relevant and timely information to inform effective decision making. To facilitate change, we work with reformers in and outside government to understand and address the internal and external constraints that limit a government's ability to succeed.



We provide the following services

We deploy our significant experience across disciplines to support sector programmes to enable positive change in government.

Political analysis: we work from programme design to implementation utilising a range of political analysis and political economy tools to enable programmes to adapt to changing political conditions. Our approach helps programmes to operate flexibly and deliver value for money.

Policy execution advice: our team has broad experience designing systems to drive performance with government, including delivery units, policy units, and performance management systems.

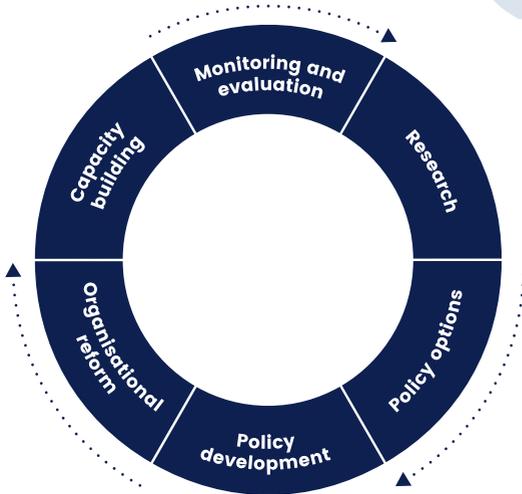
Innovation for governance: we develop operational methods and governance arrangements that increase the capacity of the public sector to deal with emergent and established problems by cross-checking other disciplines and exploring the utility of new technology such as mobile phone applications, big data analytics, and block chains.



Government systems reform: we provide targeted technical assistance for institutional and organisational development. Each assignment will reflect the circumstances of the organisation, and we engage with staff to identify areas where change is needed. We aim to ensure a good alignment between mandate and strategy, structure and functions, business systems and processes, and the culture that shapes how people work.

Project management: We have extensive experience in managing different programmes in complex environments to meet governments' needs.

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.



Above: Map shows a selection of countries we have worked in and our office locations.

Map above is based on a Gall-Peters projection



Delivering impactful results

We developed and implemented the applied political economy and capacity building approach for DFID's multi-year **Action on Climate Today (ACT)** programme across five countries in south Asia. The programme aims to improve resilience by directly incorporating climate change considerations into policy, planning, and investment environments within each country. Adopting an applied political economy approach, we are helping to identify and leverage opportunities for reform, focusing on interventions that can be adapted to national contexts whilst being scalable across the region as a whole.

We analysed different approaches to establish context-appropriate **service delivery in Afghanistan**, by analysing change to the existing and potential models of service delivery by assessing their ability to improve policy objectives of political stability, service delivery effectiveness, and state legitimacy.





We supported the delivery of a modernisation programme building a more **effective public sector management in St Helena**, addressing critical areas, such as public financial management, policy and planning, and human resource development. We introduced a comprehensive strategic planning and performance management system, piloted greater use of statistical evidence in the planning process, and improved the government's capacity to deliver public services and encourage further economic development.

Areas we work in

Political analysis

Political economy analysis

Adaptive programming design

Policy execution

Strategy advice and coaching

Performance monitoring frameworks

Systems design for delivery

Policy implementation reviews and support

Government systems reform

Institutional redesign

Organisational assessments

Training needs assessments

Innovation for governance

Design and operationalisation of innovative tools for citizen-centric governance

Citizen feedback systems

Government performance monitoring systems assessment and development

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

If you would like to discuss our work on public sector governance, please contact **Ben French**
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For further information on OPM, visit our website www.opml.co.uk



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**Oxford Policy
Management**

This publication is printed to meet ISO 14001 environmental standards, on FSC-accredited paper sourced from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.

Oxford Policy Management Limited
Registered in England: 3122495
Registered office: Clarendon House,
Level 3, 52 Cornmarket Street,
Oxford, OX1 3HJ, United Kingdom