

In summary

Economic growth

**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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Shared economic growth

Economic growth is central to the reduction of poverty. According to the World Bank, more than one-third of the global population lived below the international poverty line in 1990. Today, less than 10% of the population live at or below this line, defined as US\$1.90 per day. This achievement reflects buoyant growth in low- and middle-income countries over the past 30 years.

Whilst necessary for poverty reduction, economic growth alone is not enough. Many countries have experienced rapid economic growth, without the benefits being shared beyond a narrow elite. And the climate crisis shows the dangers of pursuing growth of financial capital, at the expense of natural capital. Our approach is to support a pattern of economic growth, which is both socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.



What we offer

- In-depth diagnosis and research to inform practical choices for public policy implementation
- Support for private sector businesses to serve the bottom-of-the-pyramid market using innovative business models
- Evaluations, reviews, and verification exercises to assess whether development interventions are benefiting vulnerable people and show how their impact can be improved
- Expertise in thinking and working politically to improve the business-enabling environment for inclusive growth

We work across six areas

Access to finance

Working directly with financial institutions to pilot innovative financial products (savings, loans, and insurance) designed to benefit unserved and excluded groups

Identifying commercially viable markets through data analysis to improve financial inclusion

Assessing the effectiveness of development programmes seeking to increase financial inclusion amongst vulnerable target populations

Female economic empowerment

Promoting the empowerment of women and girls through adaptive programme implementation

Providing gender capacity to inform the design, monitoring and evaluation of other organisations' development programmes

Researching how to develop a credible evidence base

Market system development

Implementing programmes to broaden the inclusivity, impact, and sustainability of economic growth across various sectors, such as agriculture, education, healthcare, and water supply and sanitation

Helping donors and their suppliers to implement more effective market system development projects through monitoring and evaluation, and project implementation support

Transformational economic development

Delivering and disseminating research to improve our understanding of how countries make the transition from a low-productivity, low-wage economy onto a higher productivity trajectory

Diagnosing binding constraints to broad-based growth, which can be addressed by governments or external development partners

Political economy analysis

Analysing the political settlement to explain why governments adopt and implement particular public policies and practices in specific sectors

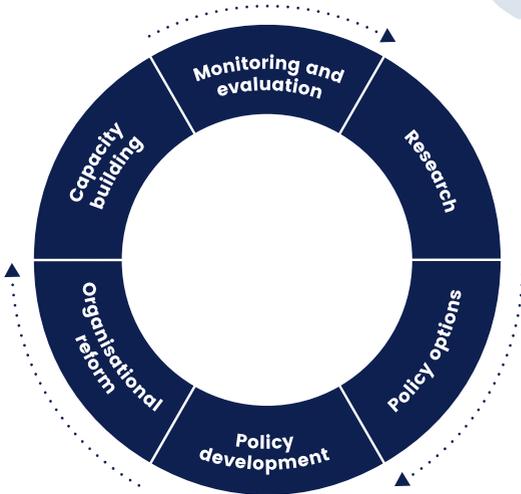
Developing reform programmes which are politically feasible and will generate positive developmental outcomes

Programme support to donors

Designing development strategies and individual projects, and providing evaluation services to improve the performance of donor programmes' before and after implementation

Providing third-party support to donors and their suppliers to improve the effectiveness of project delivery and performance, as needed

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



Monitoring and evaluation

We are implementing the Government of Australia's Department for Foreign Aid and Trade-funded **Quality and Technical Assurance Group (QTAG) programme in Papua New Guinea**, providing strategic, advisory, review, and quality assurance capability and services to support the delivery of Australia's governance and law and justice programmes in country.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo we are managing the **Decision Support Unit programme**, which supports the UK's Department for International Development (DfID) in implementing its private sector development programme in a very fragile context.

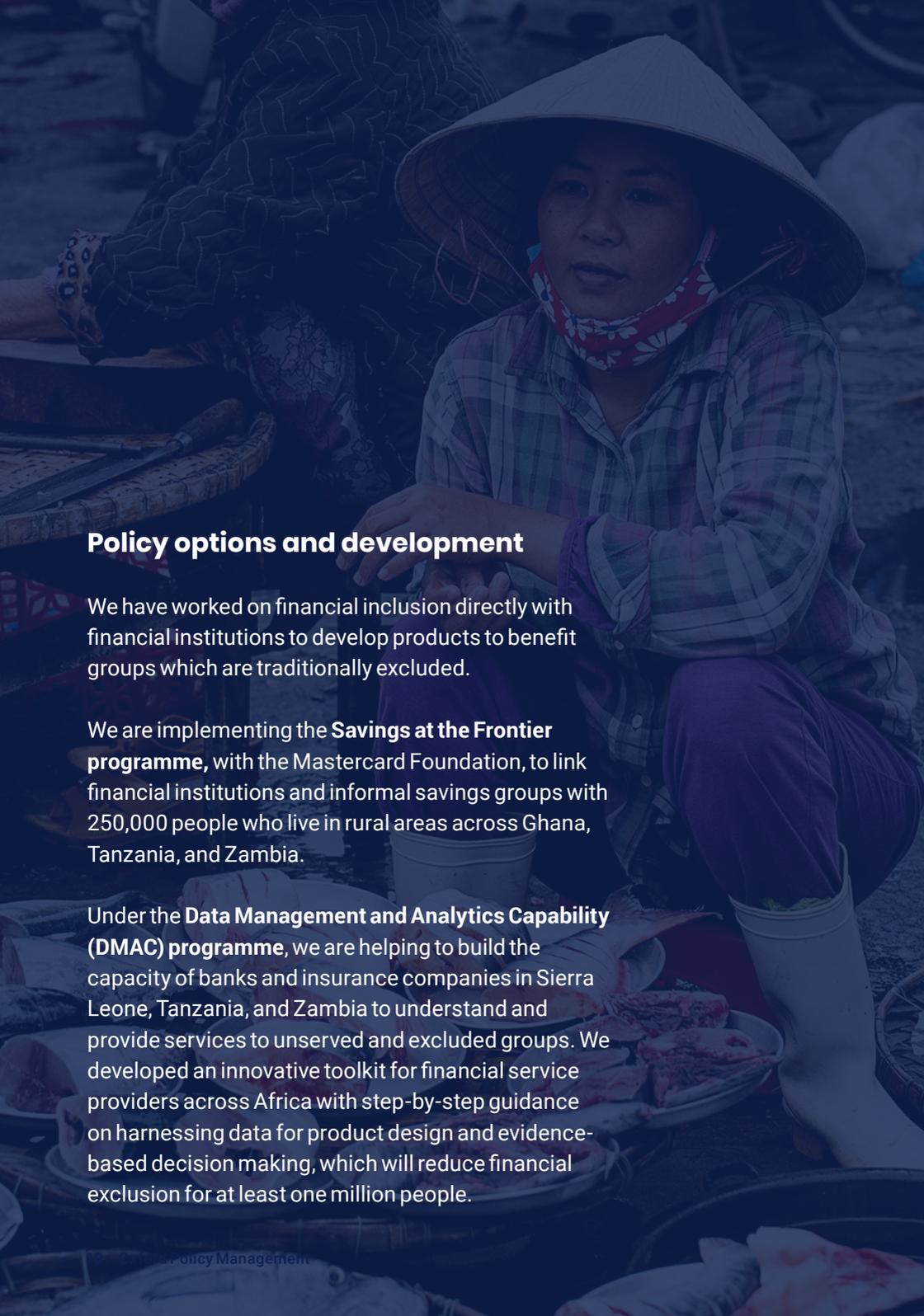
We evaluated the World Bank's flagship financial inclusion **Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) programme**. Our review influenced several critical changes to the programme's core strategy.

Research

We are implementing the DfID-funded **Economic Development & Institutions (EDI) programme**, that provides evidence and insights into practical actions that can be taken to produce institutional changes, which will in turn improve a country's economic development and growth.

Through the **Enhancing Diagnostics programme**, we are supporting DfID country offices across Asia and Africa to identify the binding constraints to economic development and possible intervention points where a donor programme could effectively act on these constraints.





Policy options and development

We have worked on financial inclusion directly with financial institutions to develop products to benefit groups which are traditionally excluded.

We are implementing the **Savings at the Frontier programme**, with the Mastercard Foundation, to link financial institutions and informal savings groups with 250,000 people who live in rural areas across Ghana, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Under the **Data Management and Analytics Capability (DMAC) programme**, we are helping to build the capacity of banks and insurance companies in Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia to understand and provide services to unserved and excluded groups. We developed an innovative toolkit for financial service providers across Africa with step-by-step guidance on harnessing data for product design and evidence-based decision making, which will reduce financial exclusion for at least one million people.

Organisational reform (in natural resources sector)

Working with the Ford Foundation in Indonesia, we are researching state and corporate capture in natural resource governance; particularly how civil society experiences and perceives natural resource capture and how it impacts their governance reform work.

Our experience in Nigeria in the **Facility for Oil Sector Transformation (FOSTER) programme** helped to increase the transparency and accountability within the extractive sectors. To date, £650 million of oil and gas revenue has been identified, with the potential to be redirected to social and economic sectors, directly benefitting Nigeria's citizens.

Programme design and delivery

We are working with the **Work and Opportunities for Women programme**, aiming to empower 300,000 women in global value chains. We provide access to rapid technical assistance and expert analysis, for guidance and know-how to address woman's economic empowerment at different stages of programming.

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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For further information about OPM, visit our website www.opml.co.uk

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 **Oxford Policy Management**

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