Kenya

About Oxford Policy Management

Our mission is to support governments in low- and middle-income countries in achieving growth, reducing poverty, and addressing disadvantage through impactful public policy reform. With over 40 years of experience, we utilise analytical and practical policy expertise to create lasting positive change.

Through our global network of offices we collaborate closely with national decision-makers to research, design, implement, and evaluate policies that drive sustainable development.

About the Kenya office

Our Kenya office, part of our international network, is dedicated to delivering impactful programmes across Kenya and Eastern Africa. By combining local and international expertise, we work in partnership with clients to foster sustainable, positive change. Since the 1980s, our focus has been on strengthening evidence-based policymaking and programming, with an emphasis on social protection and poverty alleviation.

What we offer

Diverse Sector Engagement: We provide strategic consultancy across various sectors, including governance, health, education, social protection, public finance management, climate resilience, and energy. Gender and social inclusion are prioritised across all sectors.

Long-standing Commitment: Our work in Kenya spans decades, focusing on evidence-based policymaking and sustainable development.

Social Protection Expertise: Since the early 2000s, we've offered technical assistance to the Government of Kenya, particularly in social protection.

Regional Learning Hub: Our Kenya office serves as a hub for learning, networking, and policy practice expertise, fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

Comprehensive Support: We offer technical expertise in research, programme implementation, capacity building, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), along with stakeholder engagement.

Practices

Research and Evidence

We bring extensive expertise in quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods. Our approach to data collection is guided by active stakeholder engagement, robust research designs, and a commitment to data quality. We conduct independent evaluations and MEL across various sectors, providing credible recommendations to inform policy decisions. Evidence uptake is encouraged through tailored dissemination strategies.

KEY PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS:

1. **District Health System Strengthening Initiative (DHSSi) 2019-2023:**
   - **Client:** UNICEF ESARO and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
   - **Focus:** Strengthening district health systems in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda.
   - **Impacts:** The evidence on district health planning and management effectiveness serves as a basis for informing future programming and provided guidance for scaling up, driving more efficient healthcare delivery and broader impact.

2. **Humanitarian and Health Evaluation Learning and Monitoring Somalia (HHELMS) 2023-2028:**
   - **Client:** Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).
   - **Focus:** MEL functions across FCDO-funded humanitarian and health programmes in Somalia.
   - **Expected Impact:** Interventions are aimed at strengthening monitoring frameworks, generating synthesised evidence for operational learning, and managing extensive data to enhance policy impact.

Poverty and Social Protection

Our Poverty and Social Protection team assists governments and development partners in building inclusive, effective social protection systems that are sustainable and tailored to local contexts. We work closely with local, regional, and international organisations to share evidence on what works, helping to build consensus on the importance of social protection.

For the past 15 years, in partnership with the Government of Kenya and with FCDO support, we have generated evidence to strengthen social assistance programmes in Kenya. Through evaluations, studies, and technical assistance, our work has informed decisions on the design, targeting, and monitoring of Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) and the broader National Safety Net Programme (NSNP). Key factors in the programme's success include strong government champions, deep stakeholder engagement, and a trust-based partnership that has fostered efficient, sustainable, evidence-informed decision-making.

KEY PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS:

1. **Evaluation of the Kenya Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) 2008-2024:**
   - **Client:** Government of Kenya, FCDO, supported by the World Bank.
   - **Focus:** Monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management for the Kenya Economic and Social Inclusion Programme (KSEIP).
   - **Impacts:** Studies ranging from large impact evaluations to smaller, targeted research have provided valuable evidence on the effectiveness and design of cash transfer programmes in Kenya. These evaluations and research have informed the following changes:
     - **Evidence as proof of concept:** from a pilot to a scalable programme: Impact evaluations demonstrated that cash transfers through the HSNP effectively reduced poverty and boosted local economies, providing key evidence that supported the Government's shift from food aid to cash transfers and the programme's scale-up and sustainability.
     - **Evidence for strengthening the programme design:** Pilot phase assessments and operational monitoring provided essential evidence to refine the HSNP's targeting approach, leading to a harmonised methodology that improved future programme phases and informed the design of Kenya's broader National Safety Net Programme.

- **Evidence for informing the effective implementation of cash transfers:** Operational monitoring during HSNP's second phase provided insights that led to improved coordination, communication, and a revised agency model for cash distribution, enhancing efficiency and accessibility for those receiving the transfers.

- **Evidence to inform policy direction and build global knowledge:** Our evaluations and studies on cash transfers and social protection in Kenya have significantly influenced policy discussions, leading to the evolution of Kenya's social protection policy from three to four pillars, and have also contributed to global public knowledge and academic curricula.

Governance

Our team of economists provide expertise in macroeconomics, growth diagnostics, and economic framing for country-specific development projects. Supported by an experienced research management team, we ensure that our research is relevant, credible, and impactful, promoting evidence-based decision-making.

KEY PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS:

1. **Rapid Thicker Diagnostic for Kenya (2023):**

   - **Commissioned by:** Office of the President's Cabinet Secretariat (OPCS). Government of Kenya.

   - **Focus:** Comprehensive diagnosis of Kenya's economic landscape to guide effective reform strategies.

   - **Impacts:** The identified patterns in Kenya's political, institutional, and economic landscape can guide the development of targeted reform strategies, leading to more effective governance and sustainable economic progress.

Health

We actively contribute to international debates on health systems governance, service delivery, and global health security. Our work is focused on improving health outcomes through robust research, policy engagement, and innovative programme support.

KEY PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS:

1. **Implementation Research and Innovation Support (IRIS) for Family Planning (FP) (2022-2025):**

   - **Client:** Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

   - **Focus:** Supporting research, evaluation, and learning for family planning (FP) projects.

   - **Impacts:** We have provided technical assistance in FP research design and delivery, facilitated external consultancy engagements, and disseminated knowledge to enhance understanding of scalable FP initiatives.

2. **Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Research in Kenya (2023-2024):**

   - **Focus:** Analysing the landscape of SRHR in Kenya.

   - **Expected Impact:** We are conducting research to assess public perceptions and legislative efforts on SRHR that will provide valuable insights into public perceptions and legislative efforts on SRHR, enabling more informed policy decisions and targeted advocacy

Climate Resilience and Energy

Our expertise in climate, energy, and urban policy drives the development of sustainable, resilient, and environmentally responsible solutions. Our work in this area spans research, policy, organisational reform, and MEL.

KEY PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS:

1. **Mwangaza Mashinani Pilot Project (2018-2022):**

   - **Clients:** UNICEF and Sida.

   - **Focus:** Improving energy access for vulnerable populations in Kenya through solar product subsidies.

   - **Impacts:** Enhanced household access to energy, increased children's study time, improved household security, and boosted social standing. Identified the need for better outreach in future phases.

Meet our team

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Oxford Policy Management

Our mission is to improve lives through sustainable policy change.

Find out more

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