

# In summary

## Public finance



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 finance

**Strong public financial management (PFM) systems underpin inclusive state institutions that generate trust, promote innovation, and enable societies to flourish. Capable, transparent, and accountable institutions that use effective systems for managing public funds are more likely to deliver public services, promoting long-term poverty reduction, and economic growth.**

The fundamental role PFM plays in translating governments' ambitions into outcomes for ordinary people has featured prominently in development debates over the past three decades. Yet experience has demonstrated that implementing reform is far from straightforward. How are some more successful in implementing reforms than others? How can PFM reforms be designed to suit contextual realities of individual countries? How can reforms be designed to build capacity and promote sustainable improvements?

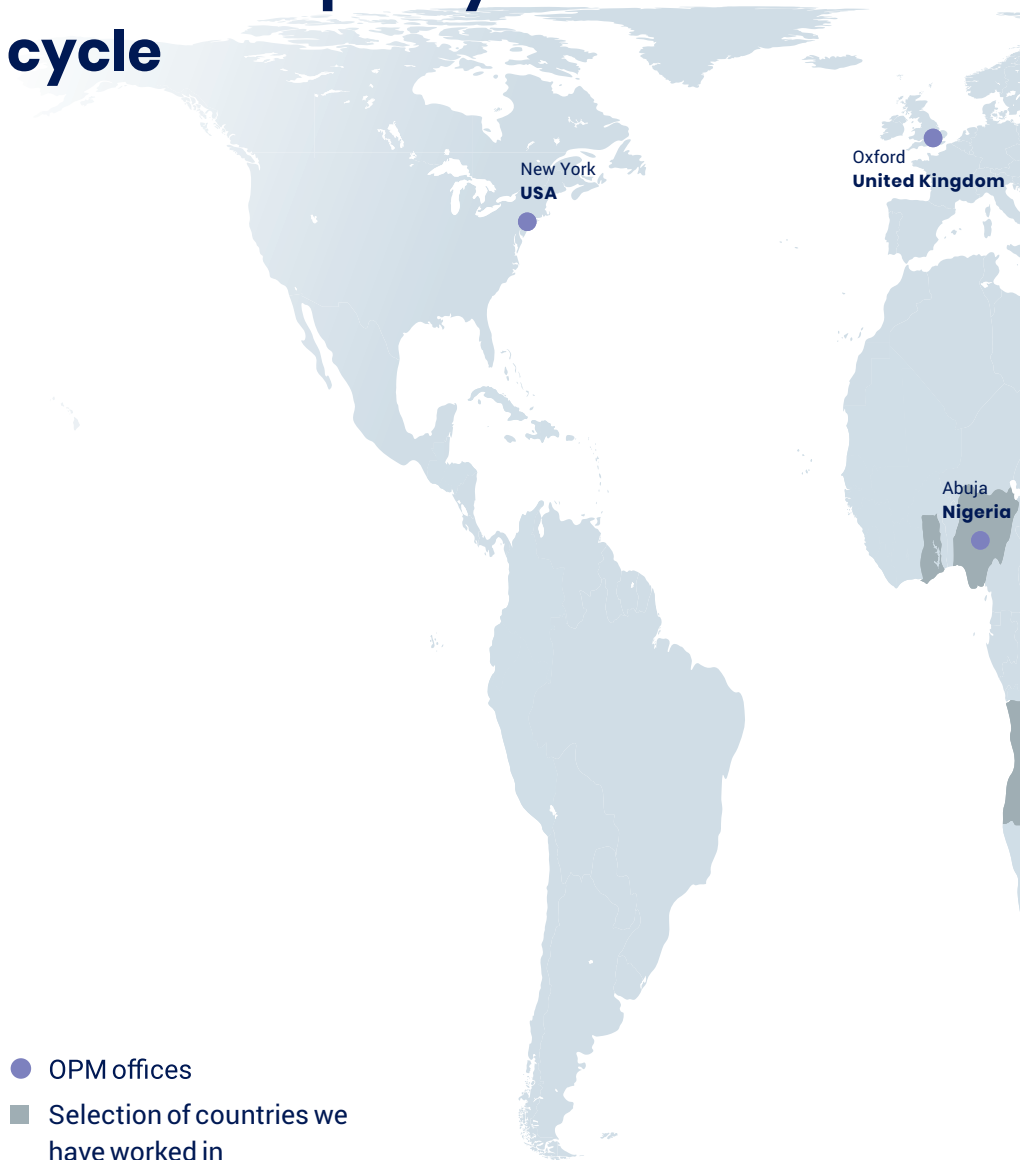


# How we can help

Our Public Finance portfolio was established in 1997 and has a strong track record in delivering meaningful results for a broad range of clients. With portfolio staff based in our offices around the world, we provide support across the policy cycle and in a variety of sectors. Adopting a problem-driven approach, we work on assignments ranging from macrofiscal analysis and strengthened budgetary frameworks to public expenditure analysis, budget transparency, and value for money assessments.



# We work globally across the policy cycle





Map above is based on a Gall-Peters projection

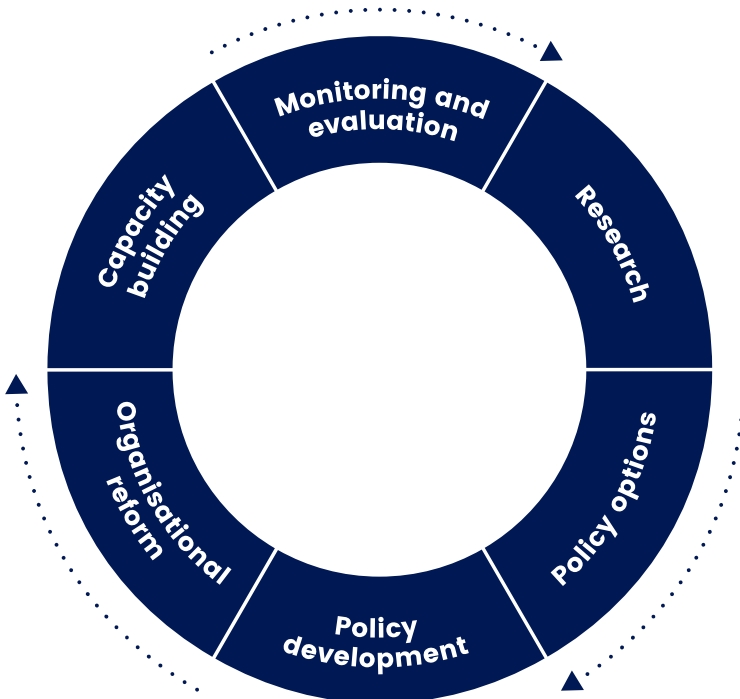


## Research

We have delivered a number of research projects on PFM in recent years. For example, we carried out a study for UNICEF to analyse how equity concerns are currently addressed in the PFM systems of **Thailand** and the **Philippines**, with the aim of identifying good practices and lessons that can strengthen the role of public finance in promoting greater equity in service delivery.

## Policy options

Our analytical skills enable us to develop tools and provide advice to inform policy decisions on complex issues. In **Angola**, we are working with Aberdeen Economics, Aberdeen University, and the Angolan Government to develop a suite of macroeconomic models and fiscal frameworks to help improve the development of fiscal policy options in line with maintaining macroeconomic stability.





## Policy development

We have a long history of helping our clients to develop policy and reforms options appropriate to the local context and level of capacity. In **Pakistan**, we have supported the development, approval, and implementation of PFM reform strategies for the federal government and several provincial governments, while piloting needs-based budgeting and budget transparency reforms at provincial level.

## Capacity building

We have many years of experience in providing training and support to clients in a variety of different contexts. For example, we are providing training and technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in **Myanmar** to improve planning and budgeting systems and processes in line with recent PFM reforms. These include a more output-oriented presentation of the budget, demonstrating a better link to strategic plans, to ensure a more equitable delivery of social assistance services to those who need them.

## Organisational reform

The core of our expertise lies in supporting governments to improve PFM systems and processes in a sustainable manner. For instance, we have been providing long term technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories**, with a particular focus on strengthening tax administration and modernising the system of programme budgeting.

## Monitoring and evaluation

We are familiar with a wide range of diagnostic methods to monitor and assess the allocation, efficiency, and effectiveness of public spending. We have, for instance, conducted a number of public expenditure reviews for a variety of clients that attempt to assess the extent to which public spending is in line with stated priorities. Most recently, we have conducted 'child-focused' expenditure reviews in various sectors in **Indonesia, Vietnam, Kenya, Tanzania, Mongolia, and India**.



# Delivering meaningful results for our clients

In **Pakistan**, we are supporting the development and implementation of PFM reform strategies for the Federal Government of Pakistan, as well as the provincial governments of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In **Myanmar**, we supported the increase and better delivery of budgets for social assistance, funded by UNICEF.

In **Palestine**, we successfully piloted reforms to improve healthcare spending efficiency as part of a DFID-funded governance programme.

In **Pakistan**, we supported the preparation of citizen's budgets in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Core areas of expertise

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PFM reform strategies

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Revenue policy and administration

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Citizens' budgets

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Budget analysis

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Public expenditure reviews

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Value for Money analysis

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Fiscal space analysis

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Public expenditure tracking

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Fiduciary risk assessments

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Macroeconomic modelling

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Macrofiscal frameworks

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Medium term budget frameworks

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Budget strategy papers

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Programme budgeting

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Transparency assessments

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Sector financing frameworks

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Evaluation of budget support programmes

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Evaluation of PFM reform programmes

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Training and capacity building

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Bespoke research

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## Issues that we address

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PFM reforms at national and sub-national levels

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Fiscal decentralisation

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Enabling service delivery through public finance

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Public finance diagnostics

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Strategic planning

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Budget preparation

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Budget execution

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Budget monitoring, reporting, and transparency

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Revenue management

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Capacity building and organisational development

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## Clients we have provided services for

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UK Department for International Development

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European Union

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UNICEF

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World Bank

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DANIDA

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Swiss Development Cooperation

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Private foundations

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Independent research institutes

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Individual country governments

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Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

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## 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 finance, please contact:

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For further information about OPM, visit our website [www.opml.co.uk](http://www.opml.co.uk)



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