In summary

Urban policy and planning

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.

Urban policy and planning

Cities are world's economic platforms for production, innovation, and trade. Urban areas offer significant opportunities for both formal and informal employment, generating a sizeable share of jobs.

However, urbanisation is leading to serious social and environmental problems, including increasing levels of poverty, lack of resources, space constraints, pollution, and climate change. The growth and prosperity of cities critically depend on how they are managed.

Our Urban Policy and Planning team provides support to governments and development partners on critical urban issues, particularly those of service delivery, urban infrastructure, urban climate resilience, governance and institutional support, and urban social protection. Our work is cross-cutting, as we work across thematic areas, such as master planning, economic modelling, and sectors such as water, sanitation, health, and livelihoods.

Sustainable urban development in India

Our in-house team of experts is based in India, and has worked on projects in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh in the country. We collaborate with other sectoral teams, such as water, sanitation, and hygiene, climate change, monitoring and evaluation, and economic policy to address urban development issues in each of these sectors and subjects.
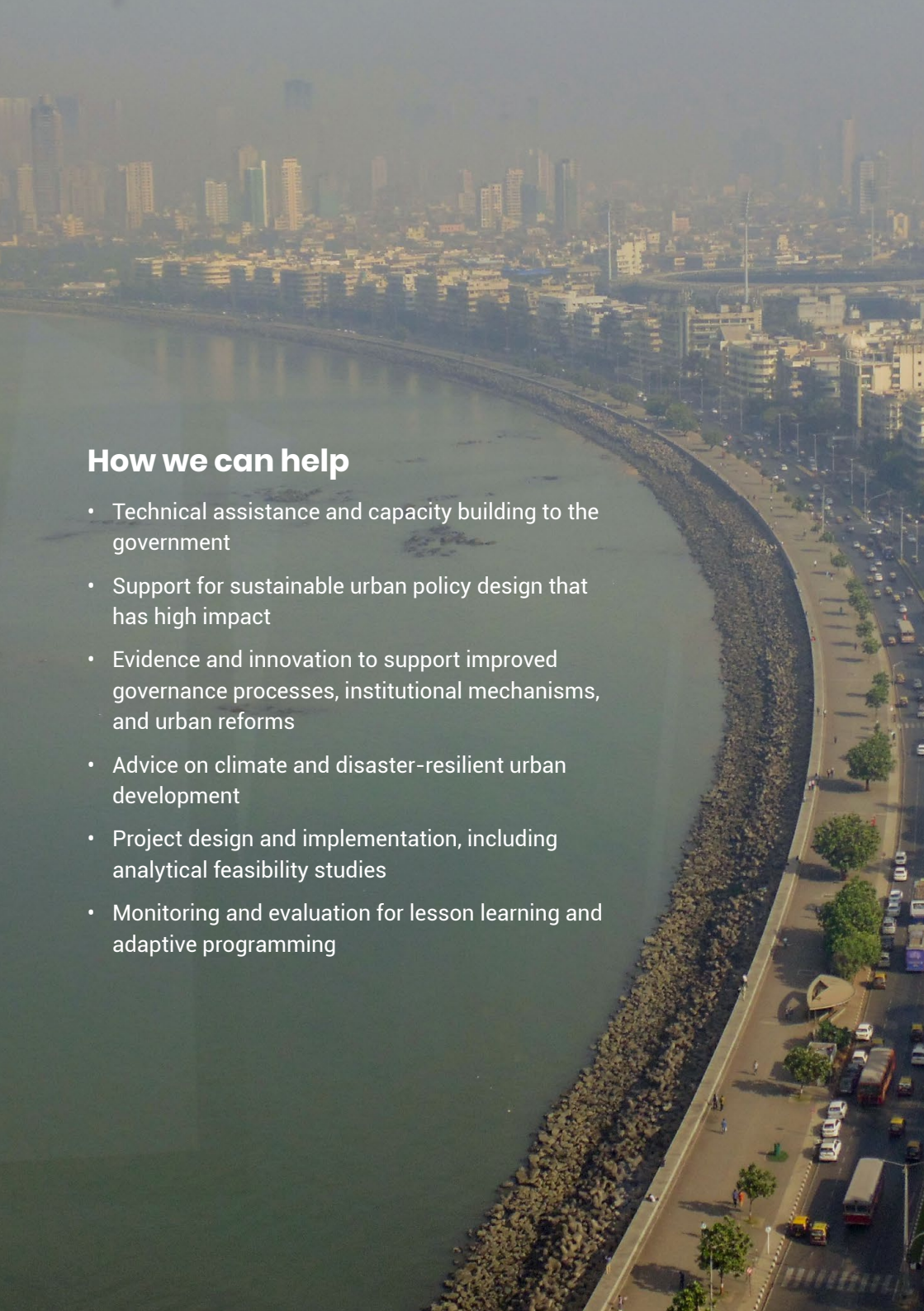
We worked with Community Systems Foundation to develop an online tool, aiming to **scale up outcome-oriented urban planning** for cities participating in the Smart Cities Mission.

In Assam, we supported the State Disaster Management Authority and local authorities in four cities to **prepare climate resilient flood management action plan**. We also designed a framework for promoting and introducing innovative market mechanisms for climate risk insurance in Guwahati.

In Lucknow and Visakhapatnam, we are developing a **behaviour communication change strategy to eradicate open defecation in these cities**. Working together with Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor Advisory, we are also researching consumer preferences for sanitation products.

We supported the World Bank to analyse methods **to expand voluntary coverage** of the Atal Pension Yojana and **improve urban social protection** in Delhi and Shimla. In Odisha, we are assessing whether the Socio-Economic Caste Census data is complete, accurate, and useable as an instrument for targeting beneficiaries for social protection schemes.

How we can help

- Technical assistance and capacity building to the government
- Support for sustainable urban policy design that has high impact
- Evidence and innovation to support improved governance processes, institutional mechanisms, and urban reforms
- Advice on climate and disaster-resilient urban development
- Project design and implementation, including analytical feasibility studies
- Monitoring and evaluation for lesson learning and adaptive programming

Our recent work across the world

Urban development

Designing a decision support tool to help climate proof urban infrastructure in Nepal

Working with the World Bank on devising sustainable cities index in Indonesia

Investigating urbanisation and spatial development within cities in Africa

Analysing socio-economic data to understand individual travel patterns in African cities

Urban social protection

Conducting a qualitative evaluation of urban livelihood cash transfers in Nairobi, Kenya

Urban sanitation

Conducting a five-country study on the problem and potential demand for faecal sludge management services in peri-urban areas, in collaboration with Loughborough University

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 urban policy and planning, please contact:
Rishika Das Roy
rishika.dasroy@opml.co.uk
For further information on OPM, visit our website **www.opml.co.uk**

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