



# Summary Report of the Public Sector Governance Reform Evaluation

*In 2008, DFID took the lead to commission a joint evaluation of donor support to public sector governance reform within the OECD DAC Network on Governance and brought a number of donors including Ireland together. The main objective of the evaluation was to enable donors and partner countries to learn lessons about what to support and how best to do so.*

*Oxford Policy Management Ltd was contracted by DFID, on behalf of the OECD DAC, to carry out the evaluation of donor support to PSGR over the ten years 2001-2010. The Management Group contracted Professor Mark Turner, an independent consultant, to write the synthesis report, based on OPM's work, the comments of the Management Group and based on Professor Turners' personal reflections on the material. The following is a summary of the main findings of the evaluation.*

At a conference in London in 2008, a number of donors, including Ireland, expressed frustration with the results of their support to public service governance reforms. With some exceptions, many of these reforms were not working well. It was subsequently agreed to commission a joint evaluation of donor supported reforms in this area.

The main objective of the evaluation was to enable donors and partner countries to learn lessons about what to support and how best to do so. It tried to answer some difficult questions about public sector governance – what factors contribute to or constrain successful reforms and why? How can we better understand the environment which has such an influence on the outcomes of these reforms? What should we do differently in the future?

This report summarises the outcome of the evaluation, following a long process of analysis, synthesis and findings into what is a complex area. It provides some valuable insights that should make us more aware of the pitfalls and help us approach public sector governance reform in a different way.

The report concludes with a number of recommendations, none of which are completely new but offer reminders of what we might consider in order to get better results in this area. These include the need for political economy analysis when undertaking reforms, adopting a long term perspective and focusing the reforms on improving service delivery.