Public Sector Institutional Reform Evidence Guide

### Approaches to public sector institutional reform (see section 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working with political and social institutions (see section 4.1)</th>
<th>Starting with existing contexts (see section 4.2)</th>
<th>Problem- and process-driven approaches to designing PSIR (see section 4.3)</th>
<th>Donor roles and modalities (see section 4.4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strength of evidence of positive impacts on reform</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strength of evidence of neutral impacts on reform</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strength of evidence of negative impacts on reform</strong></td>
<td>None of the sources reviewed provided evidence of interventions negatively affecting institutional reform</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[MEDIUM] Sierraleone (R)</th>
<th>[MEDIUM] Multi-country (C) (H) (I) Philippines (T)</th>
<th>[MEDIUM] Multi-country (A) (B) (E) (S) Malawi (F) Philippines (T)</th>
<th>[MEDIUM] Multi-country (A) (I) (L) (O) Pakistan (J) Rwanda (K)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>[WEAK] Multi-country (D) (G)</strong></td>
<td><strong>[WEAK] Multi-country (P) (Q)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Strength of the evidence base

**[STRONG]** Mix of methods; multiple contexts; significant number of relevant studies or literature reviews.

**[MEDIUM]** Mix of methods; multiple contexts; some relevant studies or reviews.

**[WEAK]** Limited methods; isolated context; few relevant studies.

### Research descriptors

**[P&E]** Primary and Empirical  | **[S]** Secondary  
**[EXP]** Experimental  | **[SR]** Systematic Review  
**[OBS]** Observational  | **[OR]** Other Review

This table summarises the evidence discussed in the PSIR Topic Guide about the impacts of various approaches to institutional reform. It is not a comprehensive map of all evidence available; it covers a selection of evaluations, chosen because they are most often mentioned in key publications. Multi-year, multi-case research programmes with multiple findings are categorised according to their main recommendations.

**Public Sector Institutional Reform: Topic Guide; GSDRC, 2015. See gsdrc.org.**

### Key references


F *Working with the grain: An example from Sierra Leone* (Working Politically in Practice Series, Paper 1). London: ODI.


