

WELCOME TO PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS CLASS



FACILITATOR

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Context of Public Policy in Africa



- ❖ African countries share common problems but use various approaches to address them.
- ❖ Similar policy approaches can yield varied results due to unique environments where they are applied.
- ❖ Africa's unique contexts shape public policy.

Rwanda's policy (Plastic Ban) Vs Uganda's (Polythene bags/buveera ban of less than 30 microns

Country	Problem/Background	Solutions	Results
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic/ polyethene bags blocked drainages systems - Cities overwhelmed with wastes - Wastes' negative effect to the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rwanda enforced a sweeping ban on plastic bags. - Applied controls on borders and public spaces. - Adopted strong enforcement measures. - Enacted a ban in 2008 and added controls on bags -Incrementalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean streets - Strong compliance - Plastic bags are hardly seen in Kigali
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic/ polyethene bags blocked drainages systems - Cities overwhelmed with wastes - Wastes' negative effect to the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rrestrictions on polyethene bags under a certain micron. - Exemptions - Irregular and leaky enforcement - piloting restrictions on thicker bags. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enforcement varies - Some exemptions (e.g., polythene for pharmaceuticals) are allowed - Policy Execution gaps

Kenya's policy (Free Primary Education) Vs Uganda Policy on (UPE)



Country	Problem/Background	Solutions	Results
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Limited access to basic education-Cost barriers to deprived families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- National wide ban on school fees.- FPE enacted in 2003- Policy integration into public financial management system with very rapid financing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mass enrolment growth- Quality challenges- School overcrowding- High teacher workloads- Strong political stewardship of the policy.
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Limited access to basic education- Cost barriers to deprived families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Removal of fees costs but initially for only 4 children.- 1st phase of UPE from 1997 to the early 2000s, with additional children covered in subsequent expansions.- Financing challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mass enrolment growth- Low quality- Un balanced teacher: Children Ratios.- Financing challenges.- Accountability issues

Guiding questions

- ❖ Form two groups and discuss the following questions below. Choose leaders amongst yourselves who will share those insights on behalf of the group members.
- ❖ Why do you think a similar policy option may be successful in one country and fail in another?
- ❖ What role might context have played?

Reflection



- ❖ Policy analysis refers to the process of systematically evaluating different policy options in order to effectively address a public issue.
- ❖ Public policy influences all aspects of our lives.
- ❖ Public policy involves identifying society problems, evaluating potential solutions , and assessing the effectiveness of existing policies.
- ❖ It involves examining the social, economic, economic , and political implications of various alternatives.
- ❖ Policy analyst's role' is to provide policymakers with comprehensive and clear explanation of the R/S btn policies and their intended outcomes.
- ❖ Public policy analysis focuses on government actions and their impacts on society.

Context for Policy option 1 (environment)



Context	Rwanda	Uganda
Historical context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Had state-led anti littering /public order reforms since mid-2000s made similar strictness normal for citizens and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Policy backtracking and gradual measures sent mixed messages over time.
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Public value placed on cleanliness and order, conformity with rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Daily life convenience standards and market practices leaned towards perpetuation.
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strong backing and alignment across political/technical leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Variable priorities and lobbying led to inconsistent dedication.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transition support to other packaging alternatives.- Uniform enforcement on informal street traders and consumers meant no violation to beat competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Industry-specific exemptions and import leakages weakened disincentives- Substitute options more expensive for SMEs.

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Context	Rwanda	Uganda
Ecological	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- National-priority narrative of environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Environmental impact acknowledged but less uniformly as a national pride issue.
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Clear laws and massively disseminated.- Sweeping ban backed up by tight border/customs enforcement and penalties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Micron-based regulations, carve-outs and inconsistent enforcement made adherence challenging.
Technological	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support to develop local alternatives and packaging material innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scarce national capability for cost-effective alternatives kept plastic demand high.

Context for policy option 2 (Education)



Context	Kenya	Uganda
Historical context	FPE Expansion launched under tight rollout timelines and specific anti-corruption/service-delivery promises by the new government.	Earlier period of mass expansion, moving financing formulas, and decentralisation dynamics.
Cultural	Parental demand for schooling and civil society scrutiny were high, adding pressure to deliver and protect access.	Demand was high, but social expectations about top-up fees/materials remained also in some areas.
Political	Visible presidential/political ownership.	Earlier expansion had political support but fragmented across levels and over time.

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Context	Kenya	Uganda
Economic	Large initial budget allocations and donor alignment meant the rapid funding matched the shock of new enrolments.	Lagging education budgets often meant funding could not keep up with enrolment growth (capitation grants were strained).
Ecological	Harsh agro-ecological zones posed challenges but were responded to through differentiated support.	Persistent access gaps in hard-to-reach rural and conflict-affected areas.
Legal	Clear legal abolition of fees with school-level accountability rules and audit requirements	Earlier had clear UPE guidelines but also allowed for local discretion in costs; debates over 'hidden' costs re-emerged.
Technological	Early data management systems and mapping facilitated tracked progress	Had patchy EMIS use and slow/weak feedback loops, hampering prompt resource allocation.

Continental, regional, and national dynamics



- ❖ Dynamics are the “moving forces”
- ❖ Dynamics in public policy capture the array of forces, factors and processes at play in policy design, implementation and evaluation in a particular context (Putera et al., 2023).

(a) Continental dynamics

- ❖ African Continent is influenced by continental aspirations and frameworks -African Union’s Agenda 2063 & AfCFTA (inclusive growth, sustainable development, and continental integration – Pan-Africanism).
- ❖ Set governance, democracy, trade, and peace norms and standards that national policies may adopt or reference.
- ❖ Challenges like weak institutional capacity, lack of political will and uneven commitment among member states (Wapmuk, 2021).

How AU Influences Public Policy



- ❖ Provides/sets Continental norms and standards on governance, democracy, peace, and security.
- ❖ Can influence national priorities through peer pressure and monitoring mechanisms (e.g., African Peer Review Mechanism).
- ❖ It sets continental vision and provides frameworks that member states can align their policies with.
 - (i) AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.
 - (i) African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007) (ensure that AU member states adhere to democratic principles, rule of law, human rights, and good governance).

Discussion Questions

1. How realistic is Agenda 2063 in light of current governance challenges in Africa?
2. Discuss the main impediments to implementing AU-wide agreements at national levels?

Regional Dynamics



- ❖ Africa has 8 various official Regional Economic Communities (RECs) (e.g.,
 - EAC – mostly East African countries
 - ECOWAS – mostly West African countries
 - SADC – mostly Southern African countries
 - COMESA – Eastern and southern African states
 - UMA/AMU – Arab Maghreb Union – North Africa
 - ECCAS – Central Africa
 - IGAD – Horn of Africa
- ❖ RECs are supposed to be the “building blocks” of continental integration.
- ❖ Impact cross-border trade, movement of people, and collective security.
- ❖ These dynamics create collective bargaining power, regional integration, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

How do they Shapes Public Policy?



- ❖ Policy harmonization (e.g., customs union and common external tariffs in EAC).
- ❖ Provide platforms for collective bargaining with external partners.
- ❖ Conflict resolution and peacekeeping (e.g., ECOWAS involvement in Liberia and Sierra Leone).
- **Weaknesses:** overlapping memberships, uneven political will, resource constraints.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do some RECs perform better than others?
2. How does overlapping membership (e.g., one country belonging to multiple RECs) weaken integration?

National Dynamics



- ❖ National dynamics are the most proximate determinants of policy outcomes.

What shapes these dynamics?

- ❖ Historical legacies .
- ❖ Political factors
- ❖ Economic capacity
- ❖ Institutional capacity
- ❖ Cultural norms

Key issues

- ❖ National dynamics determine how continental and regional commitments are interpreted, contextualized and localized (Hyden, 2017).
- ❖ National dynamics are why similar policies or strategies can generate different results in different countries.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do some countries succeed in implementing environmental or education reforms while others fail or struggle?
2. What is more important in ensuring success in public policy – leadership commitment or institutional capacity?

Exogenous influences (international bodies, donors)

- ❖ Exogenous influences are sources of pressure for change or factors from outside a country that influence the shaping, selection, and implementation of public policies in that country (Eriksen, 2007).
- ❖ For example, roles and impact of international bodies, foreign governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, and transnational corporations. (Dolowitz & Marsh, 2000).
- ❖ Actors, institutions and economic forces operating beyond the state can shape public policies inside its territory" (Bernstein & Cashore, 2000).
- ❖ Policy-making spaces" are opportunities for "transfer of ideas and knowledge across sectors and settings (Jones et al., 2017).
- ❖ There are three distinct types of foreign influence:
 - (a) Voluntary agreements
 - (b) Policy interventions (involving rewards or sanctions)
 - (c) Institution interventions, which target the political institutions of the target country (Aidt et al., 2020).

How do exogenous influences affect public policy?



International bodies

(a) World Bank and IMF – Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)

- ❖ SAPs reoriented politics and economies through privatization, trade liberalization, and cuts in public expenditure and multiparty systems (Ghana, Zambia, and Uganda).
- ❖ The reforms stabilized macroeconomics, though they also undermined public service sectors like health and education (Pfeiffer & Chapman, 2010).

(b) United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): aligned their visions with SDGs (Hulme, 2016) .

(c) African Union (AU):

- ❖ The AU's Agenda 2063 has seeped into countries' national plans (Wapmuk, 2021).

Donor agencies



(a) Donor agencies

- ❖ Health Policy (HIV/AIDS Response): In Uganda, HIV/AIDS policies were influenced by donor support from PEPFAR and the Global Fund (Shiffman, 2008).
- ❖ Education Policy: Uganda's (UPE) program, initiated in 1997, received significant support from the World Bank and UNICEF
- ❖ Donor-driven agricultural reforms in Mozambique and Malawi promoted liberalization and fertilizer subsidies (Whitfield & Fraser, 2010).

Overall Impact on Policy Success or Failure

- ❖ Positive when: external assistance matches domestic needs and capacity, reinforces local ownership and accountability.
- ❖ Negative when: donor or international models are culture-blind, institutionally-irrelevant, or socio-economically-inappropriate, leading to policies that are good on paper but not in practice.

Contextual influences of public policy

Context	How it impacts on policy	Implications for success/failure	Reference (s)
Political	Politics, government, vested interests, and accountability drive focus and implementation.	Policy support without substance won't work; policy that has the political will and money will.	Jiang & Xu, 2015; Lemos, 2016; Shen, 2024.
Economic	Money, incentives, and market architecture determine what is possible and what is not.	Inadequate budget kills; adequate budget enables.	Music, 2021; Ho et al., 2021
Socio-cultural	Culture, traditions, and social conventions influence community acceptance and behaviour	Culturally compatible policies gain traction; if not, they meet resistance.	de Campos Neto et al. (2024), Grelle & Hofmann (2024).
Technological	Availability and uptake of technology influence implementation and monitoring.	Technology saves time; no technology increases costs and creates lag.	Yuliani et al., 2024), Pradhan, 2025).

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Context	How it impacts on policy	Implications for success or failure	Reference (s)
Ecology/ environment	Climate, geography and natural resource endowments determine practicable solutions.	Ecological unsustainability result in inadaptation and environmental degradation.	Rouzaneh & Savari, (2024), Schipper, (2020), Ginty (2021). Rahman & Hickey (2019). Matisoff (2008).
Legal	Transparent, consistent, enforceable rules and the rule of law facilitate policy-making based on rules.	Robust legal architecture promotes adherence; the opposite, leads to circumvention.	Rudinger et al (2018), Ostermann (2019)

The influence of legacy systems

- ❖ Legacy system in public policy can be described as the past institutional arrangements and practices which tend to inhibit the development of the future public policies in a patterned process known as path dependence.
- ❖ Path dependency is an appealing concept for understanding public policy that denotes that policies, once established, can be difficult to change or reform.
- ❖ Previously enacted policies serves as an initial condition that limits overhaul by present decision-makers.
- ❖ Inherited commitments and associated rules, in terms of laws, organization, and budgets, are accepted by incoming politicians in government (Rose, 1990).
- ❖ Policy legacies shape and influence ideas which are also used in policy decision-making (Beland, 2005).
- ❖ Legacy systems contribute to the complex administrative spaces and logics that direct the behaviour of organizations as well as in contemporary policy processes (Hathaway (2021)).

Diverse influences



Type of legacy system	How it influences policy	Example in Africa	Its impact on Policy success/failure
Historical	Histories produce path dependencies, limiting what is possible and what priorities are considered.	Colonial-era bureaucracies in Uganda are determining administrative districts.	Can offer stability and institutional memory (success), or limit reform through bureaucratic inertia (failure).
Geographical	The physical environment influences infrastructure, service provision and even the feasibility of certain policies.	Uganda and Malawi are landlocked, meaning transport and access are problems in some areas.	Spatial or geographical factors can help or hinder policies.
Legal	Different systems of laws create differences in regulation, enforcement, and legislation.	The common law of the ex-British vs. the civil law of the ex-French colonies.	Well-defined rules provide clarity for policy (success), but old or rigid laws are difficult to change (failure).

Public policy & development nexus

- ❖ Public policy is the sum total of government action, from signals of intent to the final outcomes.
- ❖ Or It also refers to “the actions of government and the intentions that determine those actions.
- ❖ PPDN is a concept that explores the relationship between implemented public policies and the resulting socio-economic development outcomes.
- ❖ Emphasis is on how policy decisions can influence and shape the development trajectory of a society.
- ❖ Well-crafted public policies can positively lead to economic growth (UNDP, 2009; Ghimire, 2024).

Impacts of the Nexus on Public Policy

- ❖ Policy Priorities setting
- ❖ Resource Allocation and Implementation
- ❖ Policy Evaluation and Adaptation
- ❖ Shaping Institutional and Governance Reforms
- ❖ International Development Influence

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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME