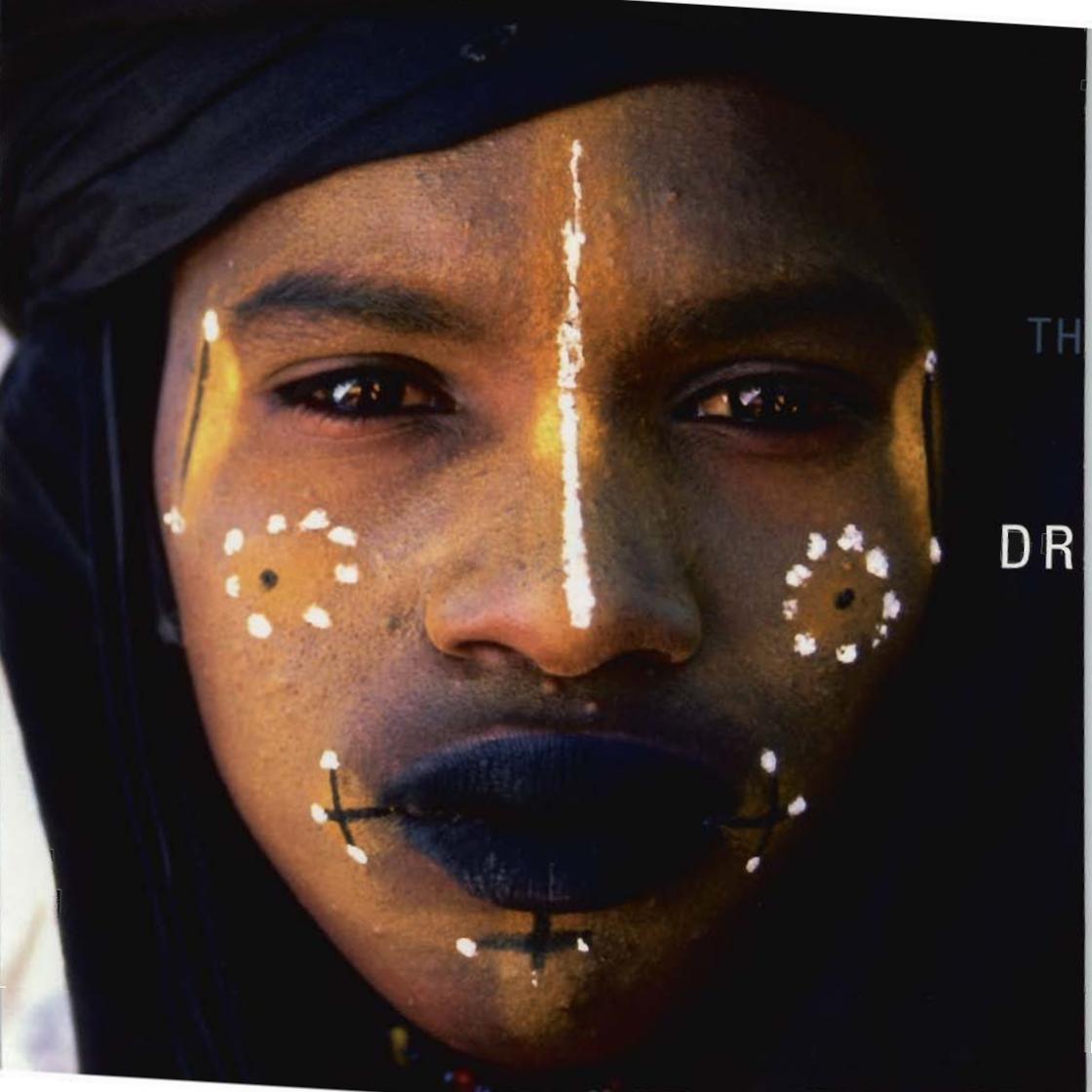


# 10

THINGS  
YOU NEVER  
KNEW ABOUT  
THE WORLD  
BANK

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DR

# WORLD BANK'S PRIORITIES HAVE CHANGED DRASTICALLY

In 1980, investment in the power sector accounted for 21 percent of Bank lending. Today, that figure is down to 5 percent. By contrast, lending for health, nutrition, education, and social protection has grown from 5 percent in 1980 to nearly 25 percent today. The Bank, which is owned by 183 member countries, is also doing development differently and is addressing other issues, like gender, community-driven development, and indigenous peoples.

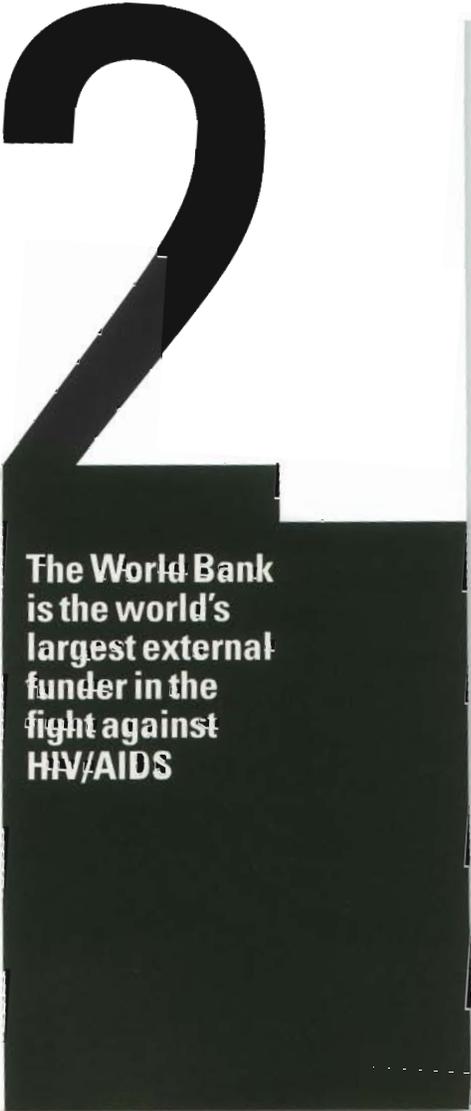




## The World Bank is the world's largest external funder of education

Since its education funding first began in 1963, the World Bank has provided over US\$30 billion in loans and credits, and it currently finances 164 projects in 82 countries. Working closely with national governments, United Nations agencies, donors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other partners, the Bank helps developing countries in their efforts to reach the Education For All (EFA) goals of achieving universal primary education for all children by 2015 and reducing the education gap between boys and girls by 2005. A good example of the Bank's lending for education is the India District Primary Education program, which supports districts where female literacy rates are below the national average. Bank funding for this project has expanded to US\$1.3 billion and is expected to finance 226 districts in 15 states in India. In Brazil, El Salvador, and Trinidad and Tobago, Bank projects champion the role of local communities in improving the quality of education by allowing them to evaluate the performance of local schools and teachers.

Each day, 15,000 more people become infected with the HIV virus, half of them between the ages of 15 and 24. HIV/AIDS is rapidly reversing many of the social and economic gains won by developing countries over the past 50 years. The World Bank—a cosponsor of UNAIDS, whose mission is to lead an expanded global response to the epidemic—has committed more than US\$1.7 billion to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS around the world, and has pledged that no country with an effective HIV/AIDS-fighting strategy in place will go without funding. In partnership with African governments, the Bank launched the Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program (MAP), which makes significant grant resources available to civil society organizations and communities that have developed some of the world's most innovative HIV/AIDS interventions. Over the past year, the MAP has provided US\$500 million to help 12 countries expand their national prevention, care, and treatment programs, and it plans to finance another US\$500 million to reach an additional 15 African countries shortly. The Bank also recently approved a US\$155 million fund to fight HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.



**The World Bank  
is the world's  
largest external  
funder in the  
fight against  
HIV/AIDS**





CURT CARNEMARK-WORLD BANK PHOTO LIBRARY

# 3

**The World Bank is the world's largest external funder of health programs**

Providing poor people with basic health and nutrition lies at the heart of reducing poverty and promoting economic growth. While important gains have been made in many countries during the last few decades, major challenges remain. Of the 11 million children who die each year in developing countries, around 70 percent die from communicable diseases (such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, measles, and HIV/AIDS) and malnutrition. The World Bank commits an average of US\$1.3 billion in new lending each year for health, nutrition, and population projects in the developing world. Bank funds are helping to combat malaria in 46 countries and tuberculosis in another 25. In Mali, a Bank-financed health project helped to establish 300 new community health centers. In China, the Bank has helped provide iodized salt to more than 90 percent of households, ensuring that millions of families will benefit from significantly fewer cases of miscarriage and stillbirths, physical deformity, and mental retardation caused by iodine deficiency.

In 1996, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) launched the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative—the first international response to provide comprehensive debt relief to the world's poorest, most indebted countries. Today, 23 countries are receiving debt relief projected to amount to US\$34 billion over time. With other forms of debt relief, the HIPC Initiative will cut the external debt in these countries by two-thirds, lowering their indebtedness to levels well below the average for developing countries overall. As part of the Initiative, HIPCs are reorienting their budgetary priorities toward key social and human development sectors. Rwanda, for example, has set targets to increase primary school enrollment and to hire teachers. Honduras is planning to deliver a basic package of primary and maternal/child health care to at least 100,000 beneficiaries in poor communities. In Cameroon, resources are being used to strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS by, among other things, expanding to promote the use of condoms by high-risk populations.

# 4

**The World Bank  
strongly supports  
debt relief**





HAROLD CASTRO, CI

# 5

**The World Bank  
is one of the largest  
international  
funders of  
biodiversity  
projects**

Since 1988, the Bank has become one of the largest international funders of biodiversity projects. Biodiversity conservation is a high priority for the World Bank because even though biodiversity loss is a global concern, the greatest costs are felt by rural people in developing countries—who are most dependent on it for food, shelter, medicine, income, employment, and cultural identity. Last year, the Bank joined Conservation International and the Global Environment Facility in launching a fund that will contribute to better protect developing countries' biodiversity hotspots—highly threatened regions where 60 percent of all terrestrial species' diversity is found on only 1.4 percent of the planet's total surface area. Concern for the environment is an intrinsic part of the Bank's poverty reduction mission. In addition to environmental assessments and safeguard policies, a new environment strategy is focusing on climate change, forests, water resources, and biodiversity. Currently, the Bank's portfolio of projects with clear environmental objectives is US\$ 16 billion.

During the past five years, the World Bank has joined a large array of partners in the global fight against poverty: with the World Wildlife Fund to protect forests, and with the public and private sectors to launch the Prototype Carbon Fund to help reduce the effects of global warming. The Bank is also partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to sponsor the renowned Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund on solar power; and with donors and multilateral financial institutions through the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP) to improve the capacity of microfinance institutions to deliver financial services to the poorest people. A partnership to eradicate river blindness successfully protected 30 million people and allowed them to return to millions of acres of previously fallow land. This approach, which involved the private and public sectors, is now being replicated to fight against Guinea worm.

# 6

**The World  
Bank works in  
partnership  
more than ever  
before**





# 7

**The World Bank is a leader in the fight against corruption worldwide**

Corruption is a roadblock to development; it taxes poor people by diverting public resources from those who need them most. Since 1996, the Bank has launched more than 600 anticorruption programs and governance initiatives in almost 100 client countries. Initiatives range from training judges to organizing workshops and teaching investigative reporting to journalists. Nearly one-quarter of new projects now include public expenditure and financial reform components. Even more important, the Bank's commitment to eliminating corruption has helped inspire a truly global response to the problem. The Bank is also committed to ensuring that Bank-financed projects are free from corruption. Over the last two years, it has set up stringent procurement and anticorruption guidelines and an anonymous hotline for corruption complaints. As of July 2001, the Bank had declared 72 firms and individuals ineligible to be awarded Bank-financed contracts.

Nearly 70 percent of projects approved by the Bank during the past fiscal year involved the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and all of the Bank's country assistance strategies benefited from NGO consultations. We now have staff working in 70 Bank offices around the world who liaise with civil society. In South Asia, the Bank is consulting with civil society on gender strategies; in Eastern Europe on post-conflict assistance, the environment, and governance; in Latin America on social safety nets, employment, and the social impacts of reform. A good example of civil society participation in Bank projects is in East Timor, where a Community Empowerment and Local Governance Project supports democratically elected village councils of equal numbers of men and women in repairing roads and water supplies, restarting economic activities, and providing direct assistance to those most in need.

# 8

**Civil society  
plays an ever  
larger role in  
the Bank's  
work**





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# 9

## **The World Bank helps countries emerging from conflict**

The Bank currently works in 35 conflict-affected countries supporting international efforts to break cycles of conflict and assist war-torn populations to resume peaceful development. The Bank's work addresses a range of needs common to post-conflict situations such as jump-starting the economy, investment in war-affected regions, and repair of war-damaged infrastructure, as well as targeted programs for ex-combatants and vulnerable groups such as widows and children. The Bank has also financed programs to address the issue of land mines, which block reconstruction and development in many post-conflict countries. Examples of the wide-ranging and innovative projects supported by the Bank in this field of work include: a mental health project in Bosnia to address the psycho-social effects of violent conflict; education initiatives for Afghan refugees in Pakistan; rehabilitation of street children in the Democratic Republic of Congo; local development activities in southern Serbia; and training for new government employees in East Timor.

Conversations with 60,000 poor people in 60 countries as well as our day-to-day work have taught us that poverty is about more than inadequate income or even low human development. It is also about lack of voice, lack of representation. It is about vulnerability to abuse and to corruption. It is about violence against women and fear of crime. It is about lack of fundamental freedom of action, choice, and opportunity. We believe that people who live in poverty should not be treated as a liability, but rather as a creative asset that will contribute more than anyone else to the eradication of poverty. Poor people do not want charity, they want a chance, and community-based development programs in many cases can provide such an opportunity. Today the Bank has over \$1.5 billion in commitments for community-driven development projects. In Indonesia, more than 2,000 villages and community groups are developing their own proposals to receive local funding, while in Benin, women are working together to protect the forests and make them sources of income rather than sources of fuel.

# 10

**The World Bank is  
listening to the voices  
of poor people**





**The World Bank**

**1818 H Street, NW**

**Washington, DC 20433 USA**

Telephone: 202.473.1000

Facsimile: 202.477.6391

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

E-mail: [feedback@worldbank.org](mailto:feedback@worldbank.org)



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