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**About the photograph:**

*Bandra-Worli sea link under construction, Mumbai*

*Photograph by Ramnath Bhat*

## *Indian economy has turned the corner, but wider reforms needed: World Bank*

India's government has announced an ambitious development agenda supported by a three-pronged strategy – promoting fast and durable economic growth, especially in manufacturing, together with a stable macroeconomic environment; involving states as active development partners; and improving the delivery of social benefits and extending social safety to the elderly and the underprivileged.

*The World Bank's India Development Update, April 2015*, says that if this agenda is successfully implemented, it carries great promise of an acceleration in economic growth that is also inclusive and sustainable.



The report points out that India's government has begun to implement reforms to unlock the country's investment potential – to improve the business environment; liberalize FDI; boost both public and private investment in infrastructure; quickly resolve corporate disputes; simplify taxation, and lower corporate taxes. States are set to receive more resources and spending power, and the government has reiterated its resolve to implement the GST by April, 2016, a move that is widely expected to meaningfully increase India's tax to GDP ratio. New models of delivering benefits through direct transfers to bank accounts, together with the biometric identification of beneficiaries, are expected to reduce leakages.

The report adds that a favorable external environment, particularly the sharp decline in the international prices of oil, metals and food, has helped to improve the economic outlook significantly. Growth has accelerated, inflation has declined, the current account deficit has narrowed, and external reserves have increased. GDP growth (at market prices) is projected to accelerate to 7.2 percent in FY 2015, compared to 6.9 percent in the previous year and further to 7.5 percent in FY 2015-16.

- *India's new government has set an ambitious development agenda and commenced the implementation of reforms to unlock investments.*
- *A favorable external environment, particularly the sharp decline in oil and commodity prices, has helped the economy to turn the corner, and improved the economic outlook significantly.*
- *Nevertheless, the pace of reforms will need to be stepped up to bridge the yawning infrastructure gap, unlock private investments, make Indian firms globally competitive, and strengthen the balance sheets of public sector banks.*



Photo by Ramnath Bhat



### *External and domestic risks*

Nevertheless, the economic outlook is subject to both external and domestic risks, the report says. A rapid increase in oil prices is a key risk, and global growth remains constrained, particularly in several of India's trading partners.

A tightening of US monetary policy can have a disruptive impact on India's exchange rate and financial markets. While the Reserve Bank of India has built reserves to reduce India's external vulnerability, the risk remains, warranting vigilance.

On the domestic front, the report points out that boosting private investment will be crucial to bridge the yawning infrastructure deficit and support the favorable growth outlook. With India's tax-to-GDP ratio remaining stubbornly low, the country will need to explore alternative channels of long term investment, and revive PPP model of financing. Additional fiscal space can be generated by increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio, and improving tax administration and compliance.

Importantly, the outlook for new investments



## *MGNREGS – creating assets of lasting value is key to the program’s success*

The India Development Update specifically draws from a new World Bank report *Right to Work? Assessing India’s Employment Guarantee Scheme in Bihar*. Nearly ten years into its existence, the sheer scale of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which guarantees to each rural household 100 days of work per year on local public works, is impressive. With over 50 million beneficiary households, and expenditures between 0.5 and 1% of GDP, it is amongst the largest anti-poverty programs in the world. While this report studies the MGNREGS’s impact across India, it focuses on Bihar, the country’s third largest and one of its poorest states.

The program has an in-built self-targeting mechanism as it is structured in such a way that poorer households will be more willing to participate. Aside from supporting wage incomes, it can be used to create assets for

continues to be dented by the debt overhang in the corporate balance sheets, which has extended to the Public Sector Banks (PSB). The banks’ balance sheets are currently marred by high non-performing loans, low profitability, and subdued credit growth, and may not be able to support higher demand for credit in a robust turn-around of the investment cycle. While some measures have been announced to strengthen the balance sheets of PSBs and to improve their operational efficiency, the report says that more decisive measures will be needed given the magnitude of recapitalization required.

The report adds that the potential for rapid export growth in the near term remains constrained by both supply and demand conditions. On the supply side, Indian merchandise exports have not been able to keep pace with the growth in world exports. On the demand side, the global export market seems to have peaked. India will need to increase its manufacturing competitiveness significantly to carve a space for itself among the world’s large exporters. For this, the country will require an infrastructural boost to bring it at par with the world’s manufacturing hubs, in addition to the competitive supply of labor, land, finance, and skills, as well as a friendly business environment.

In sum, the report says, the pace of reforms will need to be maintained or even stepped up to meet the country’s development goals. Devolving more policy space to the states may produce enclaves of competitiveness and help garner further support for wider reforms among India’s people and political classes.





the poor that are durable and productive; for example, it can help regenerate the natural resource base, and rehabilitate roads to expand rural connectivity. A guarantee of employment can also provide crucial insurance benefits from shocks.

However, the program's performance record is mixed. Paradoxically, the scheme has worked less well in poorer states, where it is needed the most. For example in Bihar, analysis of household survey data shows the program's actual impact on rural poverty in Bihar is only about 1 percentage point against its potential of reducing poverty by at least 14 percentage points. In Bihar, more than two-thirds – about 10 percentage points – of the gap between the potential and actual impact of the scheme is due to unmet demand. Whereas in Andhra Pradesh the scheme is shown to have delivered significant positive impacts on a range of outcomes from consumption and nutrition, to quality assets and productivity improvements, particularly for the poorest.

The study highlights a number of reasons why the potential impact of MGNREGS may not be realized in practice: the supply side is

too slow to respond to the demand for work on the scheme; workers are not paid the full scheme wage; delays in wage payment; and awareness of how to demand work is limited.

The Program outcomes can be improved by enhanced public information and a more responsive supply side. A second, and complementary, direction for reforms it to ensure that the assets created are productive and support private enterprise. These spillover effects to the private labor market and agricultural productivity are essential to maximizing the benefits from the scheme, over and above its impacts as an income transfer.

Addressing these constraints would allow this major antipoverty program to come much closer to reaching its potential. 

**Download the Report:**

<http://tinyurl.com/lcrolbq>

**Read more:**

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### *The state of global poverty*



*One reason global poverty has been so intractable is that it remains largely out of sight for those who are not living it, safely somebody else's problem, says Kaushik Basu, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist of the World Bank and Professor of Economics at Cornell University*

**T**he economic geography of the world is changing. The euro zone faces the spectre of another round of stagnation; Japan has slipped into recession; and the US, despite relatively strong performance in the latter part of the year, has raised concerns worldwide with its exit from quantitative easing. Meanwhile, emerging economies have continued to perform well. India and Indonesia are growing at more than 5% per year; Malaysia at 6%; and China by more than 7%.

The scale of the global change can be seen when purchasing power parity (PPP) – a measure of the total amount of goods and services that a dollar can buy in each country – is taken into account. According to the figures for 2011, released earlier this year, India is now the world's third largest economy in terms of PPP-adjusted GDP, ahead of Germany and Japan. The data also revealed that China would overtake the US

as the world's largest economy in PPP terms sometime in 2014 – a shift that, according to our estimates, occurred on 10 October.

Despite this progress, a large proportion of people in developing countries remain desperately poor. Globally, the poverty line is defined as a daily income of \$1.25, adjusted for PPP – a line that many criticize as shockingly low. But what is truly shocking is that nearly one billion people – including more than 80% of the populations of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Liberia, and Burundi – live below it.

One reason global poverty has been so intractable is that it remains largely out of sight for those who are not living it, safely somebody else's problem. The fact that most participants in discussions about global poverty – the readers of this commentary included – know few, if any, people who live below the poverty line is an indication of the

extent of the world's economic segregation. If poverty were communicable, its incidence would be far lower by now.

Fortunately, a chorus of voices, not just from civil society groups, but also from international organizations, has given rise to a global movement to end poverty. There is now a growing consensus that global poverty is not just a problem of the poor. Though moral outrage is important, it is not enough when it comes to crafting policy. Policymakers need data and, equally important, the ability to analyze it.

The first task is to distinguish between what is feasible and what is not. For example, some have proposed including the provision of employment for all adults in the Millennium Development Goals' successor framework, which is to be unveiled in 2015. This is an impossible target. All economies of any reasonable size will have some unemployment. In fact, a limited amount of unemployment can help to promote development. To declare "employment" a right is to divest the word "right" of its meaning.

Next, there must be recognition that economies are complex and interconnected. Consider, for example, a government policy in which subsidies, funded with newly printed money, are handed out to residents of 1,000 villages. This will not necessarily be a boon for the economy as a whole. Injecting money might improve the living standards in the villages receiving the funds, but doing so may well drive up the cost of food throughout the country, causing residents of non-subsidized villages to fall into poverty. The macroeconomic impact of micro-interventions is an important reason why poverty has persisted, despite well-meaning interventions to combat it.

Another reason poverty endures is persistent – and, in many places, widening – inequality. The current level of global inequality is unconscionable. In 2013, the World Bank, where I am chief economist, helped bring the term "shared prosperity" into everyday discourse by declaring, for the first time, that every society should make progress towards this goal its mission. To be sure, there will always be a certain amount of inequality in the world; in fact, as with unemployment,

a limited amount is desirable as a driver of competition and growth. But the deep and pervasive inequality that exists today can only be condemned.

According to some back-of-the-envelope calculations, the wealth of the world's 50



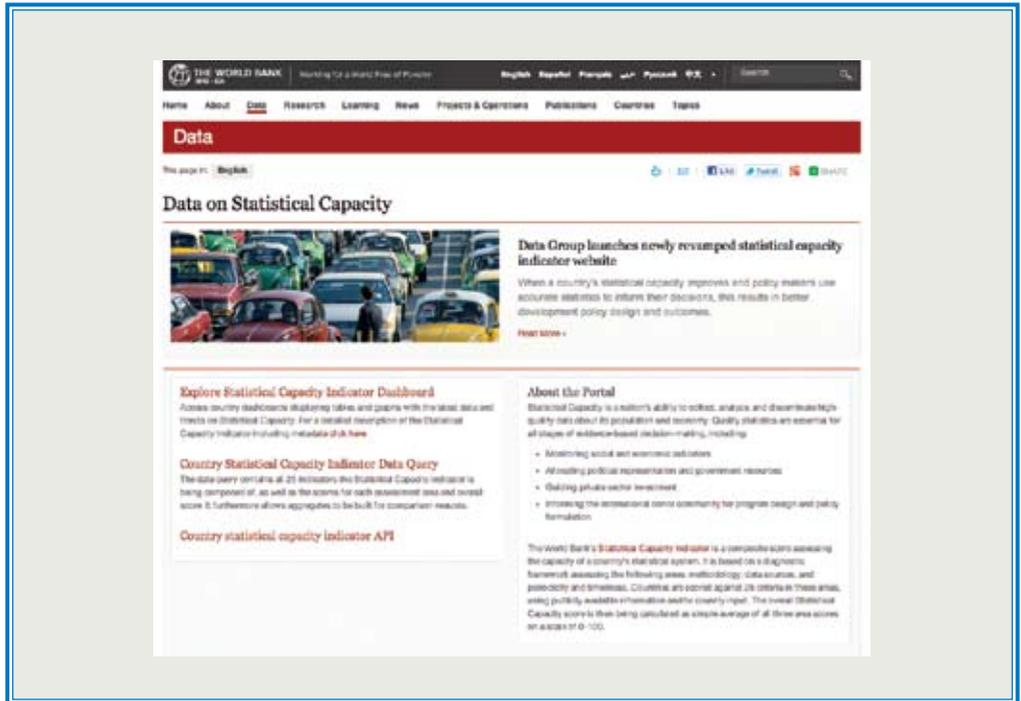
richest people totals \$1.5 trillion, equivalent to 175% of Indonesia's gross domestic product, or a little more than Japan's foreign exchange reserves. If one assumes that this wealth yields 8% per year, the annual income of the world's 50 wealthiest people is close to the total income of the poorest one billion – in other words, those living below the poverty line.

This is a collective failure. As we head into 2015, we must consider policies and interventions to curb such extreme inequality. We must do this not only out of a sense of justice, but also because, in a world afflicted with such extreme disparities, its poorest residents lose their voice, even when they have the right to vote. Extreme inequality is, ultimately, an assault on democracy. 🌐

*This article was originally published in Project Syndicate*

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# India's experience in strengthening its statistical capacity



*Statistical capacity is a nation's ability to collect, analyze, and disseminate high quality data about its population, economy, and the society as a whole*

The World Bank Group's Development Data Group (DECDG) recently launched its revamped Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI) website (<http://bbsc.worldbank.org>). The site features country dashboards with time series of data for the 25 indicators that monitor and “grade” a country's level of statistical capacity.

The set of selected indicators provides a good overview of a country's ability to adhere to international standards and methods, reflects whether a country conducts data activities in line with internationally recommended periodicity, and whether data from administrative systems are available and reliable for statistical estimation purposes.

The SCI covers all developing countries, from low income to upper middle income level.

India, a lower middle income country,

continues to score quite well with an overall SCI score of 78.9 in 2004, which has improved to 81.1 in 2014 (score from 0-100). These scores indicate that India's data collection abilities, methodologies applied and the frequency of data availability are all quite advanced.

The following interview features DECDG's Statistical Capacity and Partnership team members Barbro Hexeberg, Annette Kinitz, and Olga Shabalina.

**Q.: The Statistical Capacity Indicator monitors and grades a country's statistical capacity. Please tell us about India's performance – which indicators point to strengths and which point to areas of improvement?**

**A:** India is doing pretty well compared to the South Asia region as a whole and to the IBRD

countries. In 2014, India's overall SCI score was 81.1, whereas the average score for South Asia region was 72 and the score for IBRD countries is 73.7.

India has high scores in the Source Data and Methodology categories, an area that is a challenge for most countries. The country meets the required data collection frequency for poverty and health surveys, as well as population and agriculture census. Furthermore, India follows international methodology standards, such as the frequent updating of Consumer Price Index as well as National Accounts base year.

One area of improvement for India is the timeliness of some of its data. Some examples include health, education, and gender data and indicators.

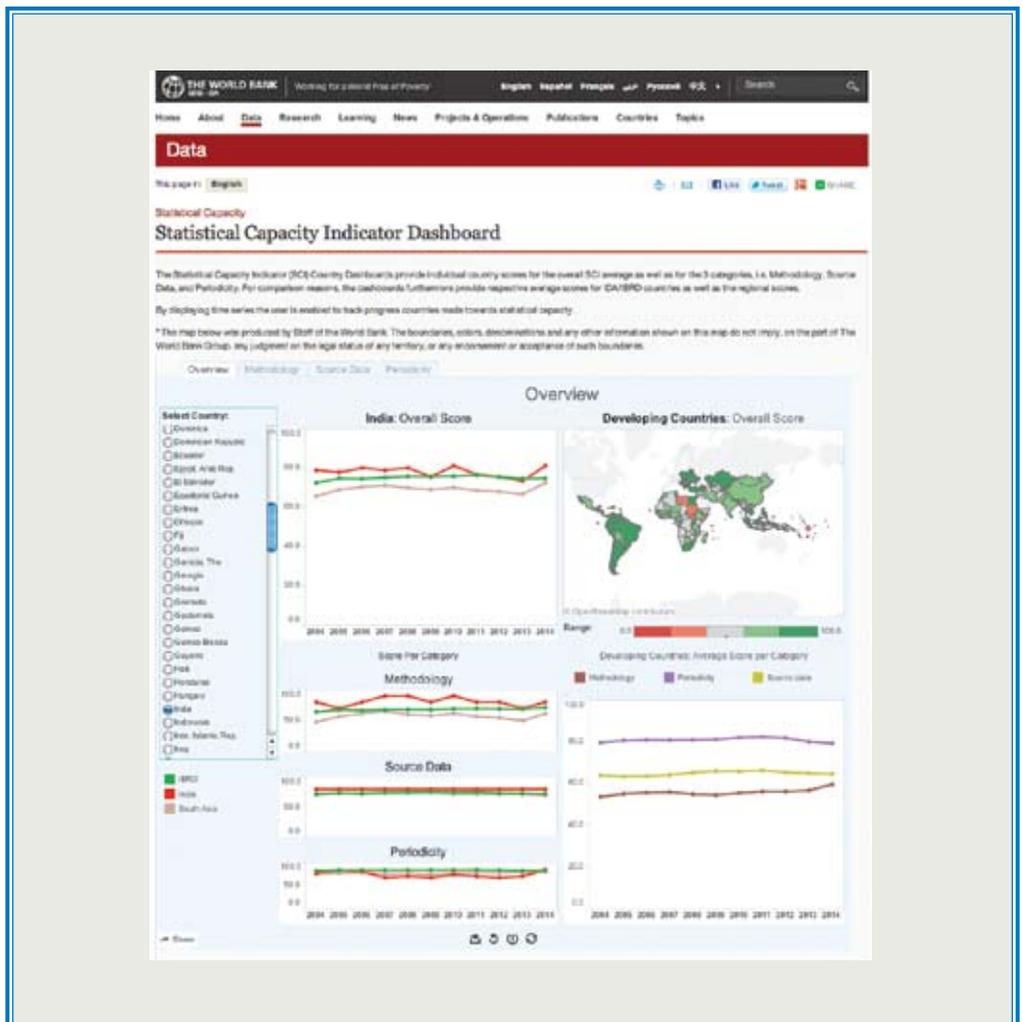
**Q: What would you consider an ideal statistical system and to what extent does India meet these criteria?**

**A:** An ideal statistical system is supposed to produce coherent, reliable, timely and

internationally comparable statistics that are crucial for the monitoring of social and economic progress of a country. Official statistics are essential tools for evidence-based policy making, enabling decision makers to formulate policies and monitor and evaluate their deliveries. In that respect, a national legal, institutional and organizational framework securing and sustaining the application of international standards and best practices for official statistics, is a prerequisite for building legitimacy and credibility in official statistics.

Having said that, I would consider a statistics law with elaborated and adopted related subordinate acts, the independence of the statistics office, secured budget, availability of staff with required expertise and continuous training possibilities, and adherence to international frameworks and standards to be some necessary features of a good statistical system.

In India, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) is the



nodal agency for planning and facilitating the integrated development of the statistical system in the country including laying down norms and standards in the field of official statistics, evolving concepts and definitions, suggesting methodologies of data collection, processing and dissemination of results. MOSPI continues to be instrumental in improving the operational efficiency and coordination of India's entire statistical system. However, it remains an ongoing challenge for all states to keep up with securing high quality, frequent data collection and dissemination.

In September 2014, the World Bank launched a live, interactive application for the India Country Partnership Strategy (<http://data.worldbank.org/news/India-Country-Partnership-Strategy-application-launch>) with a selection of Indian sub-national (state) indicators on economic and social sectors relevant to the World Bank Group's country Partnership Strategy for India for the period 2013-2017. It is a compilation of data from official national sources that highlight the development challenges the World Bank Group in partnership with the Government of India aims to address through its financing and knowledge program.

Additionally, DECDG's DataBank query tool allows to query a dataset with almost 100 subnational and sectoral indicators, collected from official government sources. Users may also download granular data, create customized queries and generate tables and reports (<http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/india-cps>).

**Q: The World Bank funded a couple of projects to improve India's statistical system and its capacity. What has been the focus of these projects?**

**A:** India has received several Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) grants in 2005-2009 for the development of a statistical master plan, the strengthening and improved data sharing and coordination among various bodies within the Indian statistical system, as well as technical assistance to improve business and household surveys.

In 2010, India received a US \$107 million Statistical Strengthening Loan. This loan was the first Bank Group-wide Development Policy Loan (DPL) in statistics with it supporting institutional and policy based reforms by the Government of India to strengthen state statistical systems within a national policy framework. This project was developed to enable India's states and union territories to attain progress towards common national standards for key statistical activities and improve the credibility, timeliness and accuracy of statistics at both central and state levels.

India has been a pioneer in the collection of statistics, including the designing and implementation of large scale surveys. Through this DPL operation, India added a new global dimension to sub-national statistical reforms. 🌐

For more information about the Statistical Capacity Indicators, visit [www.bbsc.worldbank.org](http://www.bbsc.worldbank.org) or contact Annette Kinitz at [akinitz@worldbank.org](mailto:akinitz@worldbank.org)



# ICR Update

**T**his is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Report (ICR) of a recently-closed World Bank project. The full text of the ICR is available on the Bank's website. To access this document, go to [www.worldbank.org/reference/](http://www.worldbank.org/reference/) and then opt for the Documents & Reports section.

## *Integrated Disease Surveillance Project*



### **Context**

Despite increased public health spending since the 1990s and reduction in infant and maternal mortality rates, India showed a clear sign of slowing down in achieving MDGs and the country witnessed worsening situation vis-à-vis issues related to HIV/AIDS. Overall, the health sector in India was facing several challenges including low health status of the population, low quality of health services in both public and private sectors, poor targeting of public funds to the poor, inadequate institutional arrangements and weak program management. A disease specific surveillance system was in place, but owing to its shortcomings, the government felt the need to standardize, consolidate and integrate different surveillance and control programs covering communicable and non-communicable diseases and state-specific priority diseases.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	
<b>Approval Date:</b>	8 July, 2004
<b>Closing Date:</b>	31 March, 2012
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	US\$ 92 million
<b>Bank Financing (IDA):</b>	US\$ 26.49 million
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
<b>Outcome:</b>	Moderately Satisfactory
<b>Risk to Development Outcome:</b>	Moderate
<b>Overall Bank Performance:</b>	Moderately Satisfactory
<b>Overall Borrower Performance:</b>	Moderately Satisfactory



### **Project Development Objectives**

The project objective was to improve the information available to the government health services and private health-care providers on a set of high-priority diseases and risk factors, in order to improve on-the-ground responses to such diseases and risk factors. The objectives were, however, revised during the project cycle – once at the outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in 2006 which revealed the inadequacy of capacity and laboratory investigation of the disease in the country especially in the states; and a second time during the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009 which again highlighted the inadequacy of surveillance and rapid response. The revised project objectives included support to the Government of India to enhance central level monitoring and coordination functions, improving state/district surveillance and response capacity with an emphasis on nine selected states and overcoming human resource challenges.

### **Achievements**

A total of 188,030 health professionals including medical officers and hospital doctors, laboratory technicians, pharmacists/nurses and health workers were trained in disease surveillance and appropriate response, during the life cycle of the project. As a result, about 67 per cent of the districts (against a target of 70 per cent) were able to provide surveillance reports in a timely

and consistent manner. Around 74 per cent of responses to disease specific outbreaks were found to be adequate. In addition, about 12 diagnostic laboratories for human influenza and 3 for animal influenza were established under the project. Surveillance infrastructure was established in all states and union territories with over 95 per cent of the districts connected through an IT portal for on-line data entry and analysis, as well as videoconferencing facilities.

### **Lessons Learnt**

- **Improving efficiency and equity should be paramount concerns in a disease surveillance project:** The restructuring in 2010, prioritized 9 best performing states and their selection was based on performance indicators such as:
  - provision of trained staff dedicated to the IDSP,
  - establishment of surveillance mechanisms,
  - reporting coverage and effective outbreak response, and fulfillment of the Bank's fiduciary requirements.

However, while this was a pragmatic decision, such prioritization came at a cost of important equity considerations since infectious diseases usually reside in the lagging states that have lower capacity and which deserve more attention and help instead of less.



- **Critical importance of Tribal Development Action Plan (TDAP) implementation to ensure risk-based disease surveillance and response system:** Diseases' risks and occurrences exist unevenly among different subgroups/communities and tend to impact more seriously on the socially and economically vulnerable ones. Unfortunately, the importance of TDAP was undervalued and its implementation seriously delayed, which may have potentially reduced and delayed benefits that tribal groups could have accrued.
- **It is imperative to focus on the "preparedness" capacity for infectious disease outbreaks:** Improvements in detecting, reporting, investigating, and responding to disease outbreaks were evident under the project. However, it was also clear that same diseases reoccurred over the years and even in the same locations. This calls for a mindset change from the current response to the future preparedness and prevention among policy makers, health and veterinary professionals.
- **Importance of integrating Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) surveillance:** NCDs was a major contributor to the overall burden of diseases in India even at the time when the project was designed. It should have been treated as a core and essential public health function/activity rather than an undervalued, one-off research.
- **Project management should not be treated as an adjunct to other technical focus.** This means greater focus on the planning and investing in infrastructure and capacity building for project management. For example, advances in ICT should be harnessed for improving efficiency, quality and transparency of project management. At the design phase, delayed procurement and delayed assignment of staff and consultants were under-rated hence no ex-ante alternative was designed on how to overcome the two major challenges. Issues related to human resources, procurement and financial management were overlooked and not prioritized until their negative impacts on project implementation became evident.
- **Design and implementation tools need to be flexible to meet the needs of the clients:** The design took more than three years. During this lengthy time of preparation, more effort and foresight could have been used to design proper procurement arrangements to allow for more flexibility. 🌐

# Recent Project Approvals

## Second Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a US\$ 300 million loan for the Second Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project to improve the capacity, quality and safety of Tamil Nadu's core road network. It will strengthen the institutional capacity of the highways department through better policies, operational systems and procedures.

Over the last decade, even as the length of the national highways and the core road network in the state has increased by about 50 percent, the number of registered vehicles multiplied by 160 percent. To achieve the Government of Tamil Nadu's Vision 2023 of upgrading about 20,000 km of roads over the next 10 years, the highways department needs to more than double its implementation capacity.



To help the state fulfill its vision, the Second Tamil Nadu Road Sector project will address the accumulated investment needs by supporting upgrading of 1,175 km of the core road network through adopting contracting arrangements that encourage economies of scale and offer stronger incentives for performance, viz., Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contracts (430 km), Public Private Participation (PPP) concessions (145 km) and long-term Performance-Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC, 600 km). 

## Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project

The World Bank Board has approved a US\$ 400 million loan for the Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project to help strengthen the financial and administrative capacity of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in planning, financing and

delivering services in a financially sustainable manner. It will also pilot best practices in urban management in select cities.

The project will focus on giving results-based grants to eligible ULBs in the state; invest in urban services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, solid waste management, and urban transportation networks; and strengthen the capacity of ULBs to carry out reforms in the areas of urban finance and governance. Most of these components will be open to all ULBs who may wish to participate within an agreed framework under the project.

This is in keeping with the needs of a rapidly urbanizing state where about 35 million people reside in urban areas and account for 9.6 percent of India's urban population. 



# Recent Project Signings

## Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project

The Government of India, the Government of Punjab and the World Bank have signed a US\$ 248 million loan agreement for the Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project to help the state of Punjab improve its delivery of water and sanitation services in rural Punjab.

The project will aim for a water connection and a toilet for every rural household by 2021.



It will also include a minimum of 10 hours of water supply daily, a toilet for all those households without a toilet, sewerage systems in over 315 villages and supply safe water from surface water to over 121 villages. The project will help the government's water department to reorganize and focus on service delivery.

The loan agreement for the Project was signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Suresh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Principal Secretary, Water Supply and Sanitation, Government of Punjab on behalf of the Government of Punjab; and Michael Haney, Operations Adviser, World Bank, India on behalf of the World Bank.

The project is expected to directly benefit an estimated 8.47 million rural people in Punjab, including over 4 million female beneficiaries and 2.44 million beneficiaries belonging to the scheduled castes. It will also support the water quality affected districts in the state. 

## MSME Growth Innovation and Inclusive Finance Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a US\$ 500 million loan agreement for the MSME Growth Innovation and Inclusive Finance Project to improve access to finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) working in the manufacturing and services sector from early to growth stage, including through innovative financial products.



The project will support MSMEs through direct financing by the Small Industries Development Bank of India or SIDBI, an apex financial institution for promotion, financing and development of MSMEs in India, as also through Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) across three components. These include support to startup debt financing and risk capital as well as support to service and manufacturing sector financing models.

The loan agreement for the Project was signed by Tarun Bajaj, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Kshatrapati Shivaji, Chairman and Managing Director, SIDBI; and Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director in India, on behalf of the World Bank. 

## Partial Risk Sharing Facility for Energy Efficiency (PRSF) Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a US\$ 43 million grant and guarantee agreement towards the Partial Risk Sharing Facility for Energy Efficiency (PRSF) project, that will help enterprises and Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) mobilize commercial finance for investments in energy efficiency initiatives.

India has substantial untapped energy efficiency (EE) potential across various sectors. This pilot operation will help address various market barriers that impede energy efficient practices and financing, by providing coverage to reduce the risks perceived by commercial institutions in financing demand side EE projects. By using innovative financial instruments, the Project has the potential to leverage funds and unlock

private sector financing to over three-times of World Bank funds. It will also help build the capacity of ESCOs to structure and seek financing; and that of financial institutions to finance EE projects on a commercially-sustainable basis.

The Agreement for the Partial Risk Sharing Facility for Energy Efficiency (PRSF) Project was signed by Tarun Bajaj, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Kshatrapati Shivaji, Chairman & Managing Director, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), on behalf of SIDBI; Mohit Khatri, Deputy General Manager, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), on behalf of EESL; and Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director in India, on behalf of the World Bank.

The project consists of a partial risk sharing facility of US\$ 37 million -- funded from a Global Environment Facility (GEF) contribution of US\$ 12 million backstopped by a Clean Technology Fund (CTF) contingent guarantee of US\$ 25 million -- and a technical assistance and capacity building component of US\$ 6 million funded from GEF. The PRSF project is a landmark project as it is the first guarantee operation of the World Bank in India without a financial counter-guarantee provided by the government. 🌐



**T**his is a select listing of recent World Bank publications, working papers, operational documents and other information resources that are now available at the New Delhi Office Public Information Center. Policy Research Working Papers, Project Appraisal Documents, Project Information Documents and other reports can be downloaded in pdf format from 'Documents and Reports' at [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

Publications may be consulted and copies of unpriced items obtained from:

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## India Publications

### Advancing cervical cancer prevention in India



By S. Krishnan, E. Madsen,  
D. Porterfield, J. Poehlman  
and et.al.

**Available: On-line**  
**English, 4 Pages**  
Published: April 2015  
Report No.: 95707

In 2010, nearly 74,000  
new cases of cervical  
cancer were diagnosed

among Indian women. This number is estimated to increase to as high as 225,000 cases by 2025. Cervical cancer is also the leading cause of cancer deaths in India, as most cases are not detected until they are in an advanced stage. In addition to the cost in lives, cervical cancer can have a significant social and economic impact on families and their communities, as it primarily affects women during their most productive years. Recognizing the challenge of cervical cancer, in 2013 the World Bank conducted a review of research studies on cervical cancer prevention and examined the implementation experiences of cervical cancer screening programs in India. A recently published report summarizes the current state of knowledge and practice, and offers recommendations for strengthening India's programmatic and policy responses to cervical cancer.

### From cash to digital transfers in India: The story so far

By Shweta S. Banerjee

**Available: On-line**  
**English, 68 Pages**  
Published: April 2015  
Report No.: 95211

India has ambitious goals to deliver electronic welfare payments, banking services, and digital local government services to each of its 638,000 villages. The road is fraught with challenges as about 60 percent

of the country's 1.2 billion live in rural areas and many lack connectivity and infrastructure. Moreover, at the policy level, digitizing India's annual 72 billion dollars subsidy machine is a massive task organized across ministries, departments, and 29 state governments. Since 2006, a few state governments have been experimenting with electronic cash transfers via bank accounts, delivered through bank agents. By 2013, the federal government had selected some of the largest cash transfers to shift to an electronic system, and the process is gaining momentum this year with a renewed effort by the newly elected national government.

## South Asia Publications

### South Asia Economic Focus, Spring 2015: Making the Most of Cheap Oil



Available: On-line  
English, 68 Pages  
Published: April 2015  
Report No.:

*The South Asia Economic Focus* is a biannual economic update presenting recent economic developments and a near term economic outlook for

South Asia. It includes a Focus section presenting more in-depth analysis of an economic topic of relevance for stability, growth and prosperity in the region as well as country briefs covering Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It concludes with a data section providing key economic indicators for South Asia "at a glance". Overall, it aims at providing important background information and timely analysis of key indicators and economic and financial developments of relevance to World Bank Group operations and interaction with counterparts in the region, particularly during annual and spring meeting.

## India: Policy Research Working Papers

### WPS 7222

#### What explains the stagnation of female labor force participation in urban India?

By Stephan Klasen and Janneke Pieters

Female labor force participation rates in urban India between 1987 and 2011 are surprisingly low and have stagnated since the late 1980s. Despite rising growth, fertility decline, and rising wages and education levels, married women's labor force participation hovered around 18 percent. Analysis of five large cross-sectional micro surveys shows that a combination of supply and demand effects have contributed to this stagnation. The main supply side factors are rising household incomes

and husband's education as well as the falling selectivity of highly educated women. On the demand side, the sectors that draw in female workers have expanded least, so that changes in the sectoral structure of employment alone would have actually led to declining participation rates.

### WPS 7221

#### The misallocation of land and other factors of production in India

By Gilles Duranton, Syed Ejaz Ghani, Arti Grover Goswami and William Robert Kerr

This paper quantifies the misallocation of manufacturing output and factors of production between establishments across Indian districts during 1989-2010. It first distills a number of stylized facts about misallocation in India, and demonstrates the validity of misallocation metrics by connecting them to regulatory changes in India that affected real property. With this background, the study next quantifies the implications and determinants of factor and output misallocation. Although more-productive establishments in India tend to produce more output, factors of production are grossly misallocated. A better allocation of output and factors of production is associated with greater output per worker. Misallocation of land plays a particularly important role in these challenges.

### WPS 7219

#### Advanced-country policies and emerging-market currencies: The impact of U.S. tapering on India's Rupee

By Yuki Ikeda, Denis Medvedev and Martin G. Rama

The global financial crisis and its aftermath have triggered extraordinary policy responses in advanced countries. The impacts of these policy responses—from asset price bubbles to currency depreciations—have often been felt in the developing world. As tapering talk evolves into actual withdrawal of quantitative easing in the United States, and as the Euro Zone launches its own quantitative easing program, there are good reasons to be concerned about the financial stability of emerging economies. India's experience with U.S. tapering offers insights into what to expect.

This paper estimates the contribution of external and domestic factors to short-term fluctuations in the value of the Indian rupee between 2004 and 2014, using a rich dynamic model that controls for a large number of exchange rate determinants. The paper finds that a global surprise factor, more than domestic vulnerabilities, was the main driver of the large rupee depreciation in summer 2013. With the surprise factor gone, further normalization of U.S. monetary policy is unlikely to have significant effects on the rupee exchange rate.

## WPS 7212

### **Economic implications of a potential free trade agreement between India and the United States**

By Emiko Fukase and William J. Martin

This paper explores the economic implications of a potential free trade agreement between India and the United States.

A series of simulations is conducted assuming 100 percent ad valorem equivalent tariff cuts for goods and 50 percent cuts for services. The overall impacts are likely to be positive for the United States and India. While gains from trade creation are offset by trade diversion on the import side, both countries appear to gain from improved access on the export side.

The United States is likely to gain largely through terms of trade improvements for its goods and services, as initial protection in India is particularly high. India would experience an expansion of exports and output, especially in textiles and apparel.

As the United States and India are negotiating other free trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and India's agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the paper also explores how the effects of an India-United States free trade agreement are affected by prior free trade agreements.

## WPS 7206

### **Informal tradables and the employment growth of Indian manufacturing**

By Syed Ejaz Ghani, William Robert Kerr and Alex Segura

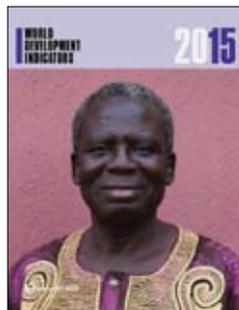
India's manufacturing growth from 1989 to 2010 displays two intriguing properties: 1) a substantial fraction of absolute and net employment growth is concentrated in informal tradable industries, and 2) much of this growth is connected to the development of one-person establishments.

This paper investigates the causes and determinants of these growth patterns. The rapid urbanization of the informal sector plays the strongest role, while there is some evidence for subcontracting by the formal sector and a "push" entrepreneurship story.

The paper also finds modest connections of this growth to rising female labor force participation. The connection between the presence of informal manufacturing and local productivity levels is strong, and varies across urban and rural areas in ways that bolster urbanization and subcontracting hypotheses.

## Other Publications

### **World Development Indicators 2015**



By World Bank  
English; 164 pages  
Published: April 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0440-3  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0441-0

World Development Indicators 2015 provides a compilation of relevant, high-quality, and

internationally comparable statistics about global development and the fight against poverty.

The report reviews global progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provides key indicators related to poverty.

### **The Little Data Book on Financial Inclusion 2015**

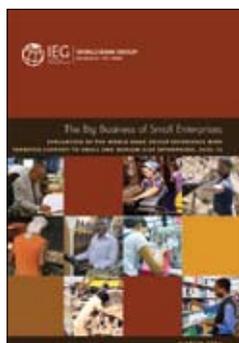


World Bank  
English; 176 pages  
Published: April 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0552-3  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0553-0

The Little Data Book on Financial Inclusion 2015 is a pocket edition of World Development Indicators 2015. It is intended as a quick reference for users of the World

Development Indicators database, book, and mobile app. The database covers more than 1,200 indicators and spans more than 50 years. The 214 country tables present the latest available data for World Bank member countries and other economies with populations of more than 30,000. The 14 summary tables cover regional and income group aggregates.

### **The Big Business of Small Enterprises: Evaluation of the World Bank Group Experience with Targeted Support to Small and Medium-Size Enterprises, 2006-12**



By World Bank  
English; 258 pages  
Published: February 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0376-5  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0377-2

The Impact Evaluation Group (IEG) found that financial sector development can have

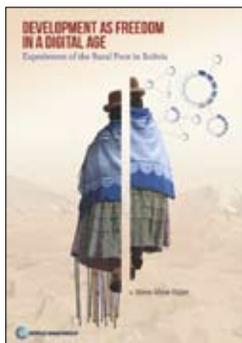
both a pro-growth and pro-poor impact by alleviating SMEs' financing constraints, enabling new entry of firms and entrepreneurs and better resource allocation. Layered on top of this are targeted forms of assistance; these interventions may build on a foundation of more systemic reforms, may come in tandem with them, or may in fact be a means to build systemic reforms from the bottom up.

Any credible justification of targeted support to SMEs must be focused on establishing well-functioning markets and institutions, not simply providing a temporary supply of benefits to a small group of firms during a project's lifespan. Thus, targeted interventions need to leverage resources to produce broader benefits for institutions and markets.

To make targeted support for SMEs more effective, the World Bank Group needs to do several things: clarify its approach to targeted support to SMEs; enhance the support's relevance and additionality; institute a tailored research agenda; strengthen guidance and quality control for such support; reform MIGA's Small Investment Program.

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#### **Development as Freedom in a Digital Age: Experiences from the Rural Poor in Bolivia**



By Björn Sören Gigler  
**English**; 496 pages  
 Published: April 2015  
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0420-5  
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0421-2

Under what conditions can new technologies enhance the well-being of poor communities? The study designs an alternative

evaluation framework (AEF) that applies Amartya Sen's capability approach to the study of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in order to place people's well-being, rather than technology, at the center of the study. The AEF develops an impact chain that examines the mechanisms by which access to, and meaningful use of, ICTs can enhance people's "informational capabilities and improve people's human and social capabilities.

Evaluating the impact of ICTs in terms of capabilities thus reveals no direct relationship between improved access to, and use of, ICTs and enhanced well-being.

The study concludes that intermediaries are bound to play a central, even fundamental, role in this process. They help poor communities to enact and appropriate ICTs to their local socio-cultural context so that their use becomes meaningful for people's daily lives, enhances their informational capabilities, and ultimately improves their human and social abilities.

#### **Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition (Volume 1): Essential Surgery**



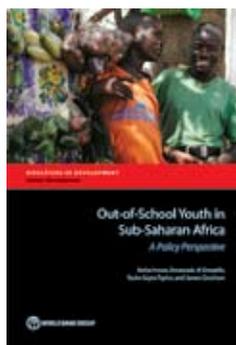
By Haile T. Debas, Peter Donkor, Atul Gawande, Dean T. Jamison, Margaret E. Kruk and Charles N. Mock  
**English**; 442 pages  
 Published: March 2015  
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0346-8  
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0367-3

*Essential Surgery* demonstrates surgery's contribution to global public health. Data on the surgical burden of congenital anomalies, disease, disability, and trauma are presented, along with health and economic analyses of procedures, platforms, and packages to improve care in settings with severe budget limitations.

It highlights the challenges and successes found in implementing surgical care strategies within low-and middle-income countries. Practitioners and researchers demonstrate that even small hospitals can deliver effective basic surgical services, and health care delivery structures already in place can be leveraged to provide affordable and quality surgical care.

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#### **Out-of-School Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Policy Perspective**



By Keiko Inoue, Emanuela di Gropello, Yesim Sayin Taylor and James Gresham  
**English**; 160 pages  
 Published: March 2015  
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0505-9  
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0506-6

The economic and social prospects are daunting for the 89 million out-of-school youth who comprise nearly half of all youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. Within the next decade, when this cohort becomes the core of the labor market, an estimated 40 million more youth will drop out, and will face an uncertain future with limited work and life skills.

This report provides a diagnostic analysis of the state of out-of-school youth in Sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on the 12- to 24-year-old cohort.

This report also examines the decision path youth take as they progress through the education system and the factors that explain youth's school and work choices. It finds that individual and household characteristics, social norms, and characteristics of the school system all matter in understanding why youth drop out and remain out of school.

## The World Bank Legal Review, Volume 6: Improving Delivery in Development – The Role of Voice, Social Contract, and Accountability



By Jan Wouters, Alberto Ninio, Teresa Doherty and Hassane Cisse

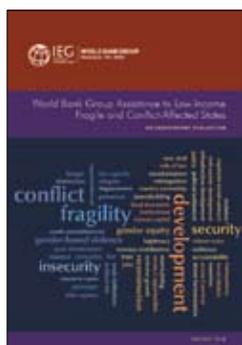
English; 592 Pages  
Published: March 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0378-9  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0379-6

*The World Bank Legal Review* examines delivery challenges through the lens of three concepts that are

critical to better development outcomes: voice, social contract, and accountability.

The volume turns a spotlight on the nature of this interlocking trio, revealing that their consistent integration into both the design and the implementation of development efforts is indispensable if successful outcomes are to result.

## World Bank Group Assistance to Low-Income Fragile and Conflict-Affected States: An Independent Evaluation



By World Bank  
English; 224 Pages  
Published: February 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0218-8  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0219-5

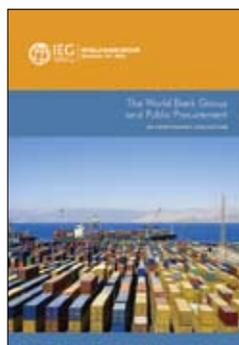
This evaluation assesses the relevance and effectiveness of World Bank Group country strategies and assistance programs to Fragile and conflict-

affected states (FCS).

The evaluation focuses on International Development Association (IDA)-only countries, which are deemed to have certain characteristics such as very low average income and no access to private finance, making them eligible for special finance tools and programs.

As the benchmark for measuring results, Bank Group performance is evaluated in 33 fragile and conflict-affected states against that of 31 IDA-only countries that have never been on the FCS list. Six new country case studies; analyses of Bank Group portfolios; human resources and budget data; secondary analysis of IEG evaluations; background studies including those on aid flows, gender, private sector development, and jobs; and surveys of Bank Group staffs and stakeholders are also included in the evaluation.

## The World Bank Group and Public Procurement: An Independent Evaluation



By World Bank  
English; 76 pages  
Published: March 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0123-5  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0124-2

This evaluation assesses the effectiveness of the World Bank Group response in addressing the short-term impacts of

the food price crisis and in enhancing the resilience of countries to future shocks.

The Global Food Crisis Response Program (GFRP) mainly targeted low-income countries, and provided detailed policy advice to governments and its own staff on how to respond to the crisis.

The Bank also scaled up lending for agriculture and social protection to support the building of medium-term resilience to future food price shocks. The International Finance Corporation responded by sharply increasing access to liquidity for agribusinesses and agricultural traders in the short and medium term, as well as new programs to improve incentives for agricultural market participants.

## HIV Epidemics in the European Region: Vulnerability and Response



By Lucy Platt, Emma Jolley, Vivian Hope, Alisher Latypov, Peter Vickerman, and et.al.

English; 366 pages  
Published: February 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0388-8  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0389-5

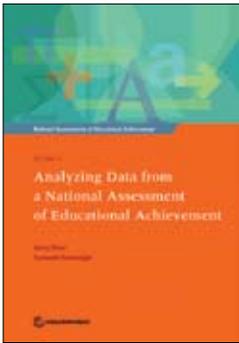
The book provides a systematic review of the evidence on HIV

vulnerability and response in all 53 countries of the World Health Organization's (WHO's) European Region, stretching from Iceland to the borders of China.

The report focuses on key populations most at risk of HIV infection: people who inject drugs, sex workers, and men who have sex with men. It confirms that these populations are disproportionately affected by the growing HIV epidemic in Europe.

The report calls for policy makers and HIV program implementers to target the right policies and programs to maximize the health and social impacts of Europe's HIV responses and get higher returns on HIV-related investments.

**National Assessments of Educational Achievement, Volume 4: Analyzing Data from a National Assessment of Educational Achievement**



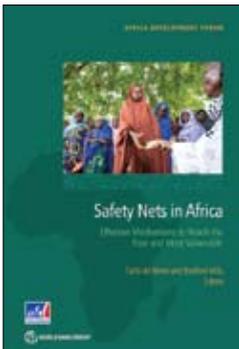
Edited By Gerry Shiel and Fernando Cartwright  
English; 296 pages  
Published: February 2015  
ISBN: 978-0-8213-9583-7  
e-ISBN: 978-0-8213-9584-4

This volume comprises two parts and provides step-by-step details on how to analyze data collected in a national assessment.

Part I provides a general introduction to statistical analyses normally carried out in large-scale assessments, measuring central tendency and dispersion of student scores and relationships between variables.

Part II describes IATA (Item and Test Analysis) software, which uses classical test and item response theories to establish scales on which to report student scores. Steps in the analysis of pilot and final test administrations are described in detail.

**Safety Nets in Africa: Effective Mechanisms to Reach the Poor and Most Vulnerable**



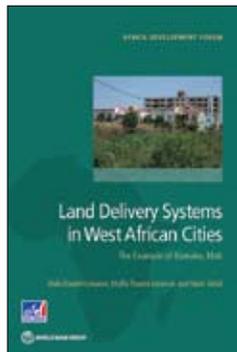
Edited by Carlo Del Ninno and Bradford Mills  
English; 300 Pages  
Published: January 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0435-9  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0436-6

The need for safety nets in Sub-Saharan Africa is vast. In addition to being the world's poorest region,

Sub-Saharan Africa is also one of the most unequal. In this context, redistribution must be seen as a legitimate way to fight poverty and ensure shared prosperity – and all the more so in countries where growth is driven by extractive industries that are not labor-intensive and often employ very few poor people. Given that most African countries face difficult decisions about how to allocate limited resources among a number of social programs, evidence is important. Do Safety Net programs actually benefit the poorest people?

This book demonstrates with empirical evidence that it is possible to reach the poorest and most vulnerable people with safety net programs, and provides lessons for the effective use of targeting methods to achieve this outcome in the region.

**Land Delivery Systems in West African Cities: The Example of Bamako, Mali**



By Alain Durand-Lasserve, Maÿlis Durand-Lasserve and Harris Selod  
English; 130 pages  
Published: April 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0433-5  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0434-2

Urban and peri-urban land markets in rapidly expanding West African

cities operate within and across different coexisting tenure regimes and involve complex procedures to obtain or make land available for housing.

Because a structured framework lacks for the analysis of such systems, this book proposes a systemic approach and applies it to Bamako and its surrounding areas. The framework revolves around the description of land delivery channels: starting from the status of tenure when the land is first placed in circulation for residential use, it identifies the processes whereby tenure can be improved, the types of transactions that take place along the way, and interactions between land delivery channels.

**Expanding Opportunities for the Next Generation: Early Childhood Development in the Middle East and North Africa**



Edited by Safaa El-Kogali and Caroline Krafft  
English; 340 Pages  
Published: January 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0323-9  
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0324-6

This book assesses the state of early childhood development (ECD) in MENA from before birth

through age five, examining multiple dimensions of early development including health, nutrition, socio-emotional development, early learning, and early work.

The book begins with a discussion on the importance of ECD as a critical foundation for later development, and also as a stage of life when inequality and social exclusion begin. ECD in MENA is set in a global context, and then countries within MENA are compared, with chapters on ECD in Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

## India Project Documents

### Second Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project

Date 09 April 2015  
 Project ID P143751  
 Report No. E4647 (Environmental Assessment – 17 Vol.)

PIDC22387 (Project Information Document – Concept Stage)

### National Waterways Development Project

Date 07 April 2015  
 Project ID P148775  
 Report No. PIDC 23127 (Project Information Document- Concept Stage)  
 ISDSC 12582 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

### HP Higher Education Reforms Project

Date 03 March 2015  
 Project ID P150394  
 Report No. ISDSC8772 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Concept Stage)  
 PIDC7049 (Project Information Document – Concept Stage)

### Second Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Rural Roads Project

Date 31 March 2015  
 Project ID P124639  
 Report No. 95370, 95365, 95035, 95050, 94790 (Procurement Plans)

### Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project

Date 02 March 2015  
 Project ID P150520  
 Report No. 94691 (Procurement Plan)  
 ISDSA1167 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Appraisal Stage)  
 E4725 (Environmental Assessment – 4 Vol.)  
 PIDA19567 (Project Information Document – Appraisal Stage)  
 PAD1174 (Project Appraisal Document)

### Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project

Date 30 March 2015  
 Project ID P130544  
 Report No. PIDA500 (Project Information Document – Appraisal Stage)

### UP Core Road Network Development Program

Date 26 February 2015  
 Project ID P147864  
 Report No. ISDSA12241 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Appraisal Stage)  
 PIDA21905 (Project Information Document – Appraisal Stage)

### National Agricultural Higher Education Project

Date 17 March 2015  
 Project ID P151072  
 Report No. PIDC10068 (Project Information Document – Concept Stage)  
 ISDSC9849 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

### Partial Risk Sharing Facility for Energy Efficiency (PRSF) Project

Date 25 February 2015  
 Project ID P128921  
 Report No. PAD980 (Project Appraisal Document)

### Technical Education Quality Improvement Project III

Date 16 March 2015  
 Project ID P154523  
 Report No. ISDSC12155 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Concept Stage)  
 PIDC22387 (Project Information Document – Concept Stage)

### Second National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project

Date 18 February 2015  
 Project ID P144726  
 Report No. E4556 (Environmental Assessment – 2 Vol.)

### Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project

Date 06 March 2015  
 Project ID P150395  
 Report No. PAD1096 (Project Appraisal Document)

### Telangana Rural Inclusive Growth Project

Date 03 February 2015  
 Project ID P143608  
 Report No. 94150 (Procurement Plan)

## MSME Growth Innovation and Inclusive Finance Project

Date 02 February 2015  
Project ID P151544  
Report No. PAD1211 (Project Appraisal Document)

## North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project

Date 01 February 2015  
Project ID P127974  
Report No. E4742 (Environmental Assessment – 6 Vol.)

### From the Blogworld

#### Global Citizen Earth Day: Rallying for People and the Planet

By Dani Clark



On April 18 close to 300,000 people united under a warm sun on the National Mall in Washington, DC, for Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day, a momentous day-long mix of advocacy and entertainment, urging citizen action to help end extreme poverty by 2030 and stop climate change.

Musical acts alternated possession of the stage with a diverse cadre of global leaders making

policy commitments and calling citizens to action throughout the eight-hour event. Superstars like Mary J. Blige, Usher, and the band No Doubt roused the massive crowd which spilled out on green grass around the iconic Washington Monument. More than 2 million people tuned into the live webcast on YouTube.

“2015 is the time for global action. You have the power, your generation can change, your generation can make a difference,” UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told the crowd, sharing the stage at the end of the event with World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

The call to be a “global citizen”—and the power of citizens to influence governments in a year of important decisions for people and the planet—peppered the testimonies of artists and leaders alike.

Speakers repeatedly urged participants and those watching online to join the movement and download the Global Citizen Earth Day app which includes tools and suggestions for taking action. “Awareness is fine, but we want you to take action,” said Hugh Evans, founder of the Global Poverty Project. 

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/idd27ac>

#### Achieving Universal Financial Access by 2020: What the private sector, governments and multilaterals must do

By Nina Vucenik

What needs to happen for everyone in the world to have access to a transaction account by 2020? And, more importantly, why does it matter?

This was the issue the president of the World Bank Group, UN Secretary-General, UN Secretary-General’s Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, private and public sector leaders discussed at an event, Universal Financial Access 2020, during the 2015 World Bank Group-IMF Spring Meetings.

Some 700 million people worldwide gained access to an account between 2011 and 2014, but 2 billion still remain outside the formal financial system. The Universal Financial Access goal envisions that all adults will have access to a transaction account by



2020 to store money, pay bills, and send and receive payments. Such access can help people better manage risks and escape poverty. 

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/qhs3jxh>

## India, China and our growth forecasts

By Kaushik Basu



Last month, the World Bank and IMF both put out predictions that, this year, India would overtake China in terms of GDP growth rate. This caused a flutter and was widely reported around the world. How robust is this prediction and what does it really mean? First, this is not as monumental a milestone as some commentators made it out to be. China has had one of the most remarkable growth runs witnessed in human history, having exceeded an annual growth of 9% from 1980 to now.

Four decades ago its per capita income was

close to India's, but now it is four times as large as India's. None of all this is going to change in a hurry. With this caveat in mind, it is a year in which India deserves to feel good. It is expected to top the World Bank's chart of growth rates in major nations of the world. This has never happened before. Before 1990, India did occasionally grow faster than China, mainly because China's growth gyrated wildly during the pre-Deng Xiaoping period. It was, for instance, minus 27% in 1961, when Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward resulted in the world's biggest famine, and it was 17% and 19% in 1969 and 1970, respectively – a relief in the wake of the Cultural Revolution. Fluctuations of this magnitude would be intolerable to India's polity.

Since 1980, China has grown rapidly without interruption. Since 1990, its growth has continuously surpassed India's. Hence, the World Bank's forecast of India growing faster than China this year is a once in a quarter century occasion. The resulting high expectations for India lie not in the GDP growth crossover (which is not as significant as some make it out to be), but in the dynamics underlying the country's aggregate numbers. 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/n5vmvo6>

## The future of food: What chefs can bring to the table

By Donna Barne



How can everyone, everywhere, get enough nutritious food? A famous chef, the president of the World Bank Group, a mushroom farmer from Zimbabwe, and a proponent of "social gastronomy" explored ways to end hunger and meet food challenges at an event, Future of Food, ahead of the 2015 World Bank Group-IMF Spring Meetings.

About 800 million people go to bed hungry every night. By 2050, there will be 9 billion people in the

world to feed. Agricultural productivity will have to improve, said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim.

So how can chefs like David Chang, the founder of Momofuku restaurant, help?

One way is to tap their talents to "redefine edibility," said Chang. About one-third of all food – an estimated 1.3 billion tons a year – is thrown away. Much of the wasted food could have been used. Other potential foods are waiting to be discovered, he said.

"Probably the best way to reduce hunger in the world is being more resourceful, much more frugal about it," said Chang. "I just think that's the issue at hand, and as a chef, we try to make delicious food out of things that aren't normally delicious using techniques like fermentation."

Knowledge and awareness are key, he added. "The more you respect the process of how food is grown and prepared, the less you will waste ... At the end of the day you have to care about food, and the more you care about it, the more delicious it is." 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/l4mye88>

### WPS 7255

The Global Findex Database 2014: Measuring financial inclusion around the world

By Asli Demirguc-Kunt, Leora Klapper, Dorothe Singer and Peter Van Oudheusden

### WPS 7240

Global experiences with special economic zones:

Focus on China and Africa

By Zhihua Zeng

### WPS 7239

Asset price effects of peer benchmarking: Evidence from a natural experiment

By Sushant Acharya and Alvaro Enrique Pedraza Morales

### WPS 7238

Parental human capital and effective school

management: Evidence from Gambia

By Moussa P. Blimpo, David Evans and Nathalie Lahire

### WPS 7237

Measuring inequality from top to bottom

By Tania Valeria Diaz Bazan

### WPS 7236

Missing girls in the south Caucasus countries: Trends, possible causes, and policy options

By Monica Das Gupta

### WPS 7235

Weather insurance savings accounts

By Daniel Kevin Stein and Jeremy Tobacman

### WPS 7234

Labor productivity and employment gaps in Sub-Saharan Africa

By Ellen B. McCullough

### WPS 7232

Tax evasion through trade intermediation: Evidence from Chinese exporters

By Xuepeng Liu, Huimin Shi and Michael Joseph Ferrantino

### WPS 7233

Information, knowledge and behavior: Evaluating alternative methods of delivering school information to parents

By Pedro Cerdan-Infantes and Deon P. Filmer

### WPS 7231

Does input tariff reduction impact firms' exports in the presence of import tariff exemption regimes?

By Maurizio Bussolo and Marcio Jose Vargas Da Cruz

### WPS 7230

The non-effect of violence on education: Evidence from the "war on drugs" in Mexico

Fernanda Márquez-Padilla, Francisco Pérez-Arce and Carlos Rodríguez Castelan

### WPS 7229

Labor market regulations and outcomes in Sweden: A comparative analysis of recent trends

By Hulya Ulku and Silvia Muzi

### WPS 7228

The curious case of Brazil's closedness to trade

By Otaviano Canuto Dos Santos Filho, Cornelius

Fleischhaker and Philip Schellekens

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## Public Information Center

The Hindustan Times House (Press Block)  
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg  
New Delhi - 110 001, India

Tel: +91-11-4294 7000, Ext. 753  
Contact: Sunita Malhotra

## Media Inquiries

The World Bank  
70, Lodi Estate  
New Delhi - 110 003

Contact: Sudip Mozumder  
Email: [mediaindia@worldbank.org](mailto:mediaindia@worldbank.org)  
Tel: +91-11-4147 9220

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