



## INSIDE

Rampur Hydropower Project commissioned [1-5](#)

Development Dialogue: Five point plan to clean the Ganga [6-7](#)

ICR Update: First Statistical Strengthening Project [8-9](#)

Recent Project Approvals & Signings [10-13](#)

New Additions to the Public Information Center [14-27](#)

Contact Information [28](#)

### **About the photograph:**

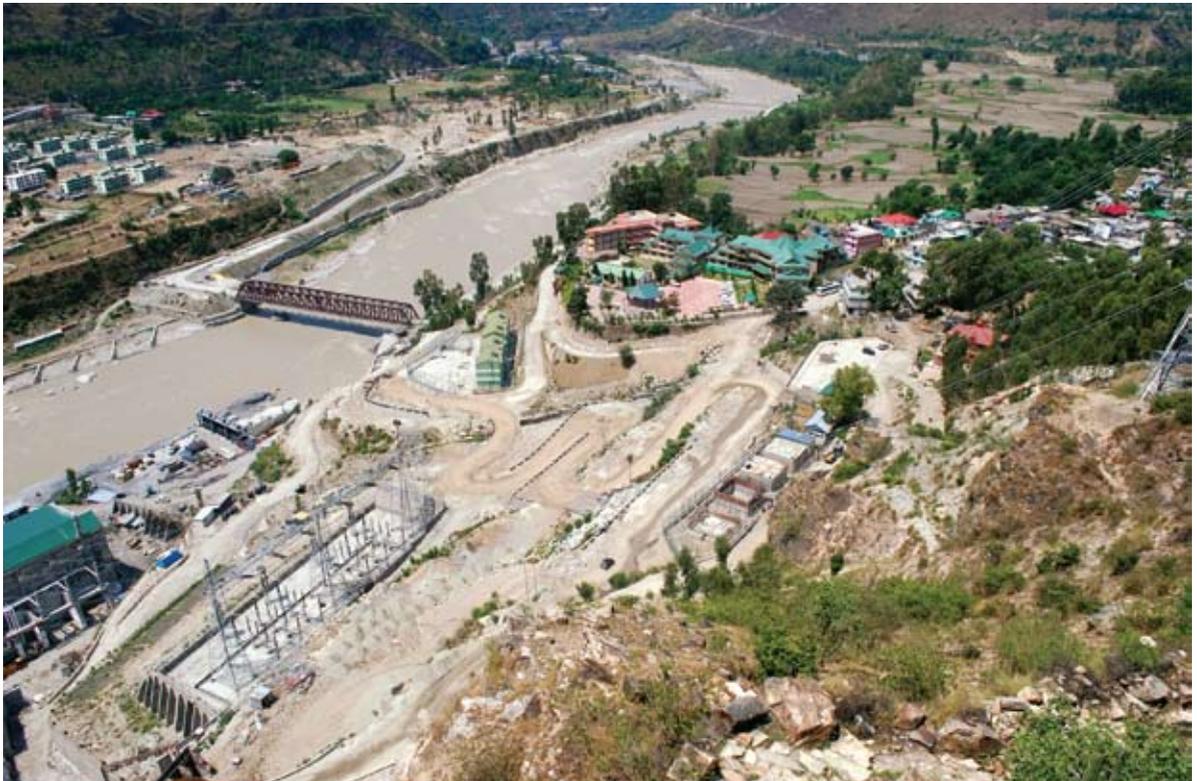
*In Himachal Pradesh, a newly completed hydropower project is showing how electricity can be generated with a minimum impact on the environment and the local people*

*Photo courtesy: World Bank*

## *A new hydro power project brings development to remote mountain villages*

**T**his month, the Rampur Hydropower Project, situated high in the upper reaches of the mountain state of Himachal Pradesh, has begun to feed into India's electricity grid, providing much-needed additional renewable power for homes, hospitals, schools and businesses.

The run-of-the-river project on the Satluj is showing that, if done right, hydropower plants can indeed generate clean electricity with a minimal impact on the environment. The project, constructed by SJVN Ltd, a public sector developer, and supported by the World Bank, will generate 412 MW of low-carbon electricity.



*The project has brought much-needed development and cash benefits to the local people*

It will also avert 1.4 million tons of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions that would have spewed into the atmosphere each year had the same amount of power been generated through conventional coal-fired plants.

### *People – we can't grow without them*

While India has long experience in developing hydropower, the Rampur Project has placed special focus on benefitting local communities and protecting the environment.

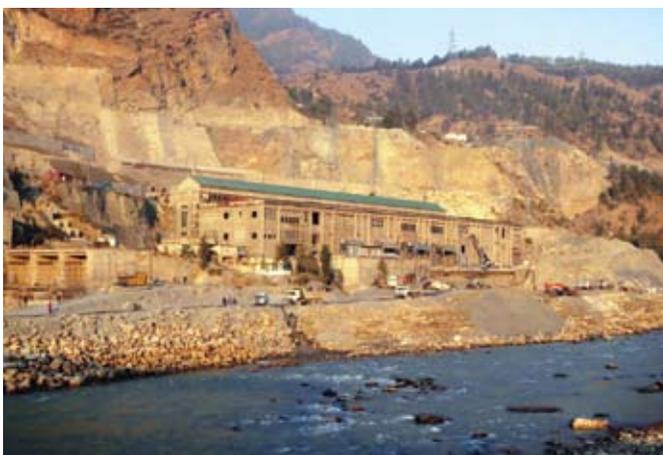
*The powerhouse on the banks of the Sutlej river*

“Making local people stakeholders in our project is most important for us,” said K.K. Gupta, who led the project on SJVN’s behalf. “We can’t survive without them, we can’t grow without them.”

**A** growing economy like India is hungry for energy. With almost 60 percent of its installed capacity being contributed by conventional thermal power plants, the country is keen to move towards low-carbon energy sources.

Fortunately, India is rich in fast-flowing rivers that cascade down from the mighty Himalayas—the vast water towers of Asia—and have huge potential for generating clean and renewable energy.

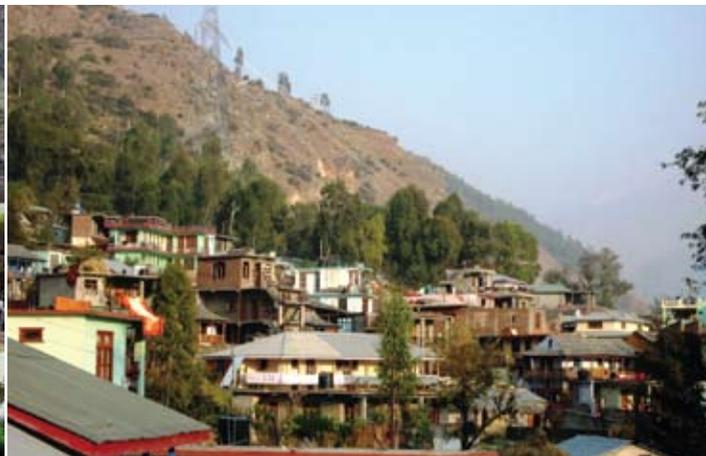
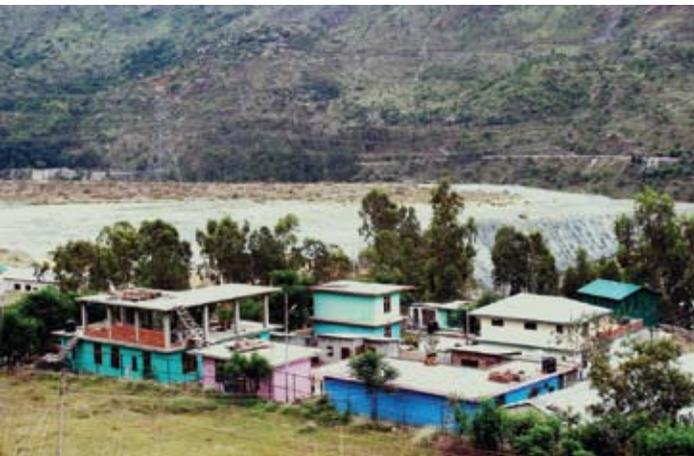
But, building hydropower projects in the fragile, geologically-young Himalayas is not easy, and only a fourth of India’s enormous hydropower potential has been harnessed so far.



Accordingly, the project has paid special attention to improving the lives of people living in region’s remote mountain villages.

Displacement was minimal. The project built no new dam or reservoir, but carried water through a 15 km long tunnel drilled deep within the mountainside from an existing upstream power project to the new Rampur powerhouse.

Only 30 acres of private land was acquired. The 29 families who lost their homes were



**Top left:** *The resettlement colony at Averi*

**Right:** *The village of Bayal now has a dispensary, a post office, street lights, a new road, a bridge and irrigation channels among other facilities*

**Below:** *Workers and engineers battled odds to dig the 15 km tunnel*

given land at places of their choosing, as well as the funds to build their dwellings anew.

“Earlier we lived in mud-brick homes,” said Roop Singh from Averi village. “Now we have ‘pucca’ (concrete) homes. Earlier we lived on the outskirts. Now we are in the heart of town. And we have the additional benefit of being closer to the road.”

The project has also provided affected people with generous compensation – more than five times the usual rate – and counselled them to spend the money wisely. Many families have used the money to buy more land, plant new orchards, or invest in cars and taxis to generate new sources of income.

In a first-of-its-kind benefit-sharing practice, the project will set aside one percent of its profits to provide all affected families with an annual cash income. These families will also have the right to receive over 100 units of free electricity each month, with the option of converting this into cash if they choose to do so.

## *Bringing modern facilities to remote mountain villages*

In addition to improving the lives of affected families, the project is bringing much-needed development to the wider community. Villagers have chosen the development works they wanted and the project has funded them out of a pool of money amounting to 1.5 percent of the project cost.

Bayal, the settlement nearest the Rampur powerhouse, now has a new dispensary, a post office, street lights, irrigation channels, concrete mountain paths, a new road, and a bridge across the river.

Temples have been renovated and community halls built. “We really needed a new village hall as there is little open space in our mountains for holding weddings and other community events,” said Meenakshi Negi, the former



*The project has helped upgrade local community infrastructure like footbridge (see alongside for before and after) and footpaths (see bottom right of previous page)*



village Pradhan of Bayal. “Now we can conduct wedding ceremonies with ease.”

“The project has changed our lives,” said Biju Rao. “Earlier the road was one and a half kilometers away. Now, if a person falls ill at night, we can call for an ambulance right at our doorstep. And heavy provisions and fodder can be carried home very easily.”

With connectivity being crucial for remote mountain villages, the project has also constructed a new bus stand at Rampur town. Apart from benefitting the villages around, the bus stand will make it easier for tourists to attend the traditional local fair – a big draw for farmers, craftsmen, and performers who have long flocked to the annual event from far and wide, drawn by its renowned markets, music, fun and abundance of local color.

Outlying villages are not being left out either. A medical van has begun to do the rounds in bringing free medical care to the old and infirm, who would otherwise have spent a day in travelling to Rampur or the state capital at Shimla for treatment.

*New bus depot in Rampur town constructed by SJVNL*



## *Building future generations*

The project is also helping build new lives for future generations. Bright students as well as those from poor families are being awarded scholarships from project funds. “My family used to find it difficult to pay from my school books,” said Manish, a high school student from Dutt Nagar village. “We have no such worries now.”

Principal Krishan Negi too is pleased. “We were never able to provide our students with much. Now they have been given ‘exposure’ to the outside world, and we can provide them with a number of new facilities as well as opportunities to play games.”

## *New livelihoods*

To bring immediate benefits to the local people, village men have been given preferential employment in construction works, enabling them to earn very well by providing vehicles for project use, or by working as construction labor or drivers.

In addition, a number of young men and women have been given vocational training and on-the-job training; more than 250 youngsters are now equipped with skills to help them find better jobs.

Women have been taught to sew, enabling them to earn a living from home, and school children have been trained in computers. “Earlier, our children had to go to Rampur to learn how to use a computer,” said Negi, the former Pradhan of Bayal. “Now they can do simple things on the computer at home.”

*Construction debris was disposed in a manner such that it did not scar the mountainside or obstruct the river's natural flow*



### *Safeguarding the environment*

The project has taken equal care in protecting the fragile Himalayan environment. Construction debris was disposed of in a manner that did not scar the mountainside or obstruct the river's natural flow; it was also reused in new construction.

Disposal sites are now being planted over with trees. "In ten years' time you won't be able to tell where the debris was disposed of," said Gupta, the project director, confidently.

To ensure the river's continued flow, more than 100,000 trees have been planted in the catchment area. And, a minimum flow of water is being ensured at all times to preserve the river's delicate aquatic balance.

**Below left:**  
*Once filled the muck dumping sites are being planted with local vegetation*

### *Benefitting the state and the people*

While the electricity generated will flow into India's national grid, Himachal Pradesh, the host state, will also gain substantially. The state will receive twelve percent of the power generated free-of-cost, enabling it to meet the growing energy needs of its people.

Looking back over the decade-long journey, Gupta, the project director recounted: "The Rampur project has given us a huge sense of achievement. The new social and environmental practices are helping improve the hydropower industry's standards across India. And we, too, have learnt a great deal." 🌍



### *Five-point plan to clean the Ganga*



*Cleaning the Ganga will require high-level political will that is sustained over many years, or even decades, says Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director in India and Genevieve Connors, World Bank's Senior Water Resource Specialist.*

**T**he recent flurry of attention and elevated commitment to rejuvenation of the Ganga is most welcome. Nowhere in the world has the cleaning and conservation of a major river, lake, or bay occurred without high-level political will that is sustained over many years, often decades. This will be particularly crucial considering the staggering scale of the Ganga: a river that is 2,500km long, binds five states together along its main stem and eleven in its entire basin, and channels the domestic, industrial, and agricultural waste generated by more than 500 million people. But what else is needed to clean this iconic river and its mighty basin? Based on global experience, here are five things the government may consider in preparation of its new plans:

Preparing a basin plan, that guides investment and choices, will be an important **first** step. Apart from an obvious focus on the critically polluted stretch from Kanpur

to Varanasi, a clear plan would prioritize the pollution hot spots and the investments with the greatest impact. Cleaning is expensive and no country has attempted clean-up at India's level of GDP (gross domestic product) per capita. From 1970 to 1990, the five countries that share the Rhine spent about \$50 billion on communal and industrial waste-water treatment plants. In 2007, China vowed to spend more than \$14 billion on Lake Tai, its third-largest freshwater lake. Scarce resources must be allocated to investments with the highest returns. The government of India has already taken the important first step of adopting a river-basin approach. A consortium of seven IITs has just submitted a draft Ganga River Basin Management Plan which contains many excellent background papers.

**Second**, measurement will be critical. One cannot manage what one does not know. The paucity of credible and reliable water

quality data on the Ganga must be rectified. The global experience shows that we need good data, including, for example, on the share of point source versus non-point source pollution and on the share of the pollution-load generated by cities versus industries. The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, for example, has prioritized measurement and assessment, and constituted several expert groups to advise it in this regard. In the Ganga, real-time water quality monitoring would provide a baseline from which to measure improvements and inject transparency in reporting.

**Third, getting the institutions right.** Leadership, autonomy, and professional management are needed. The global experience shows that, as an implementation task, river-cleaning should be de-linked from line ministries charged with policymaking and regulation and given, instead, to smaller, professionally managed river basin organizations. Cities need to be strengthened as ultimately they will be the custodians of the assets being created: sewerage networks, treatment plants, riverfront development schemes, and solid waste management systems. Many cities in the Ganga basin are particularly weak, with limited financial powers, weak revenue generation, and poorly managed utilities. In addition to current strategies, such as the piloting of 10-year Design Build Operate contracts to improve sustainability, one way forward is to partner a Ganga rejuvenation program with a smart cities program, and to pick a few iconic cities in which to pilot reforms, cluster investments, and show results.



**Fourth, engaging and mobilizing all stakeholders.** The Ganga's constituents are its inhabitants, its champions, its religious leaders, its elected representatives, and all the people who value it as a cleaner river. People must be part of development and every successful clean-up program has tapped this crucial resource. This is worth investing in. In Australia, the Murray Darling Basin Authority estimates that almost 20% of its annual resources have been committed to this kind of work. Regular reporting on goals and on progress, reaching out to youth and schools, encouraging participation in water quality testing and social audits, and promoting behavior change are all examples of how far reaching this can be. Riverfront development—including ghats, parks, and other public spaces—is also critical, bringing people closer to water and increasing their affiliation and respect for its cleanliness and flow.

**Fifth, rejuvenation requires equal attention to quality and quantity.** The old adage that “the solution to pollution is dilution” is partly true. In 2013, the visible improvement in water quality in Allahabad during the Maha Kumbh Mela was, in part, the result of additional releases from the barrage upstream. This begs a basin-scale plan in which inter-sectoral trade-offs is analyzed and water is allocated according to greatest need and societal values. Today, 90% of the water in the basin is used for irrigation at some of the lowest productivity levels in the world. Much could be achieved by improving agricultural efficiency and reallocating water to higher value uses, including river health. This is particularly important for a large and complex water system that is highly seasonal with 90% of rainfall generated in three months and with a long lean season of slow run-off and marginal glacier melt.

Since 2011, the World Bank has been providing financial and technical assistance to the government of India through the National Ganga River Basin Project. The recent groundswell of support for rejuvenation of this great river and the global experience fill us with hope that a rejuvenated Ganga program can achieve real results. 🌐

*This article was originally published in the Mint newspaper on 19 June 2014.*

# ICR Update

This 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.

## First Statistical Strengthening Project

Policy Area

1

Coordination and Leadership of the National Statistical System

Policy Area

2

Increasing Support from the Center to the States

Policy Area

3

Strengthening Capacity and Performance of the State Statistical Systems

Policy Area

4

Improving Coverage, Quality, Timeliness and Credibility of Statistics Generated by states

### Context

India has been a pioneer in the collection and use of statistics for national development and has one of the largest and most extensive statistics systems in the world. Post liberalization of the economy in 1991, there was a shift from a centralized planning model to a more liberal and decentralized model of development with greater private sector involvement. These changes and reforms required enhanced statistical data to support effective policy and decision making at all levels. The Government recognized the need for a more responsive and transparent statistical system.

### Project Development Objectives

The objective of the Statistical Strengthening Loan was to support a national policy to reform the institutional structure and to improve the operational efficiency of the state statistical systems.

### First Statistical Strengthening Project

Approval Date:	1 June, 2010
Closing Date:	30 June, 2011
Total Project Cost:	US\$M 135
Bank Financing:	US\$M 107
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India
Outcome:	Moderately Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Moderate
Overall Bank Performance:	Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory

The Loan supported a nation-wide scheme called the India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP), with the following four main policy areas:

- Strengthening the institutions of leadership and coordination of the national statistical system.
- Improving and increasing the support to the statistical systems of states and union territories.
- Strengthening the capacity and performance of the statistical systems.
- Improving the coverage, quality, timeliness and credibility of statistics generated.

### **Achievements**

The assessment of capacity and needs of states and union territories was completed in 10 states against a target of 76 and was in progress in five states. In addition, draft rules under the Collection of Statistics Act were formulated. About 13 manuals were finalized and posted on the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MOSPI) website.

While progress across the board was markedly slower than originally envisaged, and, therefore, many of the process indicators were only partially met (even well into 2011), tangible progress was witnessed in all four policy areas. The Government of India also committed

resources and supported the institutions to maintain the reforms such as appointing the Chief Statistician to lead the process or reviving the Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO). The development of the National Strategic Statistical Plan (NSSP), and the agreed timetable for its revision in 2012, also signals the Government's continued commitment to reforms.

The slippages in achieving targets were largely from bottlenecks in capacity and the ability to transfer knowledge to states and union territories.

In the long run, with additional capacity building and knowledge transfer, ISSP framework can help improve collection of key statistical indicators as well as improve the overall statistical capacity at the state level.

### **Way ahead**

The Indian Statistical Strengthening Project was envisaged to be implemented in stages in order to meet its targets through the 12th Plan period. With the pre-implementation activities acquiring adequate pace, the implementation process is expected to gain greater momentum.

It is, therefore, necessary to not only continue but also to sustain the schemes to achieve all its designated objectives in full measure. 🌐



# Recent Project Approvals

## Mizoram State Roads II – Regional Transport Connectivity Project



The World Bank Board of Executive Director's has approved a US\$107 million credit for the Mizoram State Roads II – Regional Transport Connectivity Project to improve transport connectivity for the landlocked state of Mizoram and to help open up the potential for regional trade among neighboring countries. The project will enhance Mizoram and other northeastern states' road links with Bangladesh, as well as with Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

The link to Bangladesh will facilitate greater bilateral trade and access to the Port of Chittagong – the nearest shipping port for the northeastern region of India. The link to the border with Myanmar will facilitate

connectivity to Myanmar and the rest of East Asia and beyond. The impacts on trade and employment will be felt at two levels, intra-state and between Mizoram and neighboring states and countries, namely Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The project will fund 91 km of roads that are design-ready. Another 330 km of road works may be considered for a follow-on project or additional financing when the designs are ready. The current project will fund detailed studies and designs for these roads (330 km) mostly in the North-South corridor. Many of these roads, to be taken up in the next phase, will be greenfield projects. 🌐



# Recent Project Signings

## Third Elementary Education (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan III)



The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a US\$1.006 billion (US\$1006.20 million) credit agreement to improve education outcomes of elementary school children (covering Grades 1 to 8) in India.

With more than 95 percent children now having access to schools, the thrust areas for SSA III will be on improving education quality to enhance learning outcomes, strengthen monitoring and evaluation to improve teacher accountability, and continue to enhance access and retention for disadvantaged children. 🌐

## Second Inclusive Green Growth and Sustainable Development DPL in Himachal Pradesh

The Government of India, the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP), and the World Bank have signed a US\$100 million development policy loan (DPL) agreement to help Himachal Pradesh (HP), a mountain state richly endowed with natural resources, move towards a more environmentally sustainable model of economic growth.

This operation is the second DPL aimed at helping the state manage its natural resources across its key engines of growth – energy, industry and tourism – in a manner

that ensures that growth is inclusive and sustainable in Himachal Pradesh. It will help HP bring in better policies and practices to guide the development of sustainable hydropower; adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change; empower local communities to conserve their watersheds better; promote cleaner methods of industrial production; promote environmentally sustainable tourism; and integrate GIS in decision making.

Efforts to achieve these goals were initiated under DPL I. DPL II will help the government ensure its effective implementation and completion. 🌐



### Uttarakhand Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Project (Additional Financing)

The Government of India, the Government of Uttarakhand and the World Bank have signed an agreement for a US\$ 24 million additional credit for the on-going Uttarakhand Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project



to help restore Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) schemes that were damaged following the severe floods and landslides that took place in Uttarakhand in June 2013.

The additional financing will reconstruct and restore RWSS schemes that were partially damaged. The closing date for the ongoing project will now be extended by 18 months from June 16, 2014 to December 31, 2015.

It will finance the reconstruction and restoration of an estimated 2,622 damaged Single Village Schemes and 579 Multi Village Schemes; 3,338 Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs), 3,328 soak pits and 41,770 meters of drains. This will help restore RWSS services for over a million rural people. As of December 31, 2013, the ongoing project has benefitted nearly 1.22 million people in about 7,000 rural habitations in 13 districts. 

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### Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Program (Jalswarajya-II)

The Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra and the World Bank have signed a US\$165 million credit agreement to help Maharashtra achieve its vision of ensuring safe drinking water and improved



sanitation services for rural communities at an affordable cost and in an environmentally safe manner. Jalswarajya-II will help improve the quality of water and sanitation services in about 40 peri-urban villages and increase access to safe drinking water in about 580 water-stressed and water quality-affected villages, covering about one million people in 12 selected districts. In addition, the entire rural population in the state is expected to benefit from efforts to improve the capacity of its various RWSS institutions.

The World Bank's earlier Jalswarajya-I Project (2003-2009) benefitted 6.7 million people with improved water services, and about 61% of the gram panchayats in the project area have become Open Defecation Free (ODF). 



### **Accelerating Universal Access to Early and Effective Tuberculosis Care Project**

**T**he Government of India and the World Bank have signed a US\$100 million credit agreement to support India's efforts at achieving universal access to quality diagnosis and treatment for people suffering from tuberculosis (TB).

The project is the third in a series of projects supporting the Government of India's

Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP). It will support India's National Strategic Plan for TB Control by reaching more TB patients with earlier and more effective care in the public and private sectors; scaling-up and improving diagnosis and treatment for multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB; and helping integrate public sector TB services with the government's primary health care system. 🌐

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### **Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development II Project**

**T**he Government of India, the Government of Uttarakhand and the World Bank have signed a US\$ 121.20 million credit agreement to support Uttarakhand's efforts to build sustainable watershed treatment models to improve agricultural productivity in rain fed areas of the state.



A major focus of the project will be on catchment area treatment of about 219,000 ha of non-arable land, ranging in elevation from 700 m to 2,700 m above sea level. This is expected to rejuvenate the natural resource base by significantly reducing soil erosion and runoff loss of rainwater, improve ground water recharge, and reduce sediment load in the rivers flowing through Uttarakhand. The project will finance construction of water harvesting structures and small irrigation systems on 40,000 ha of arable land developed at the gram panchayat (local body) level.

Some of the key components of the project include mobilizing the gram panchayats to develop agriculture and other income generating activities; construct and rehabilitate, among others, check dams, ponds, irrigation channels and tanks, and roof water harvesting structures; develop agribusinesses in high-value crops; and strengthen the institutional capacity to monitor and evaluate the project. 🌐

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### **Bihar Integrated Social Protection Strengthening Project**

**T**he Government of India, the Government of Bihar and the World Bank have signed a US\$ 84 million credit agreement to deliver better quality, timely and effective social protection (SP) programs for the poor and vulnerable people in Bihar.

This project will improve the capacity of the State Society for Ultra-Poor and Social Welfare (SSUPSW) and the Bihar Rural Development Society (BRDS) – the program implementation arms of the departments

of social welfare and rural development respectively, at the state, district and block levels. It will strengthen the delivery of MGNREGS, Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Social Pensions and programs for care and rehabilitation of older persons, persons with disabilities and widows; standardize procedures and tools for effective management of the benefits process; create a Bihar State Resident Registry (BSRR) to track beneficiaries of selected social protection schemes; and strengthen financial management. 🌐

**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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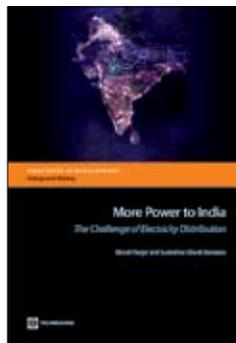
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## India Publications

### More Power to India: The Challenge of Distribution



By Sheoli Pargal and  
Sudeshna Ghosh Banerjee  
**Available: On-line**  
Directions in Development –  
Energy in Mining  
**English**; 255 pages  
Published June, 2014  
by World Bank  
Report No. 88906

This report is a review of  
the Indian power sector

across key areas of access, utility performance, and financial sustainability. The study has identified electricity distribution to the end consumer as the weak link in the sector. The report recommends freeing utilities and regulators from external interference, increasing accountability, and enhancing competition in the sector in order to move it to a higher level of service delivery.

### Promoting renewable energy through auctions: The case of India



By Ashish Khana and  
Luiz Barroso  
**Available: On-line**  
**English**; 8 pages  
Published 13 June,  
2014 by World Bank  
Report No. 88698

This knowledge note singles out auctions as an important mechanism that has been implemented in a growing number of countries in recent decades. It features a case study of auctions designed to promote the generation of electricity from renewable sources in India. Under the National Solar Mission, auctions have been implemented with good results in a variety of settings. Lessons include the importance of clear ideas about key goals and objectives, and about areas where sacrifices can be made. Experience in several states has also underlined the importance of regulatory stability.

## Accelerating agricultural productivity growth

By Agriculture, Irrigation and Natural Resource Sustainable Development, South Asia

Available: On-line

English; 266 pages

Published 17 June, 2014 by World Bank  
Report No. 88093

In the past 50 years, Indian agriculture has undergone a major transformation, from dependence on food aid to becoming a consistent net food exporter. The gradual reforms in the agricultural sector (following the broader macro-reforms of the early 1990s) spurred some unprecedented innovations and changes in the food sector driven by private investment. These impressive achievements must now be viewed in light of the policy and investment imperatives that lie ahead. Agricultural growth has improved in recent years (averaging about 3.5 percent since 2004-05), but at a long-term trend rate of growth of 3 percent, agriculture has underperformed relative to its potential. The pockets of post-reform dynamism that have emerged evidently have not reached a sufficiently large scale to influence the sector's performance. This relationship between longer-term strategic issues and contemporary concerns, such as water resource management and food prices, are highlighted in this study through the prism of productivity, but they too require further analysis to fully address the underlying issues.

## Urbanization, gender, and business creation in the informal sector in India

By Ejaz Ghani, Ravi Kanbur and Stephen D.O'Connell

Available: On-line

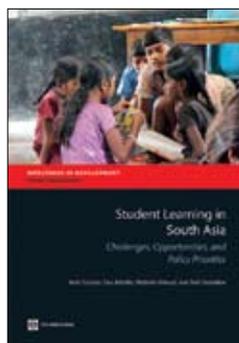
English; 6 pages

Published April, 2014 by World Bank  
Report No. 87096

This economic premise examines the intersection of four important development themes: urbanization, agglomeration, gender, and informality. Although urbanization has continued at a rapid pace, formalization appears to have stalled. Women comprise an increasing share of the informal sector in many countries, but are increasingly underrepresented in the formal sector relative to their presence in the informal sector. Firm-level evidence suggests informal enterprise creation, particularly by women, has important connections to urbanization. Female-specific market access, especially to inputs, is a key factor for women-owned enterprise creation in the informal sector. Given the persistence of the informal sector, and given the importance of women-owned enterprise creation for jobs and gender equity, more policy measures focused on enhancing access to inputs for female-owned enterprises are important to maximize women's contributions to India's economic growth.

## South Asia Publications

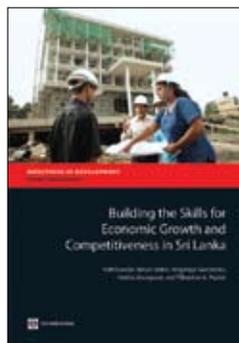
### Student Learning in South Asia: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Priorities



By Halil Dunder, Tara Beteille, Michelle Riboud and Anil Deolalikar  
Price: \$44.95, English,  
Directions in Development –  
Human Development  
Paperback; 418 pages  
Published May 22, 2014  
by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0160-0  
SKU: 210160

For the past decade, most South Asian countries have aimed to achieve universal access to elementary education. These investments have led to more children being retained in school but have not translated into commensurate improvements in learning outcomes. In *Student Learning in South Asia: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Priorities*, the authors comprehensively analyze the performance of South Asian educational systems in terms of student learning.

### Building the Skills for Economic Growth and Competitiveness in Sri Lanka

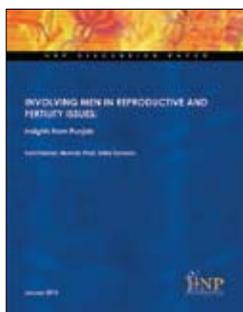


By Halil Dunder, Benoît Millot, Yevgeniya Savchenko, Harsha Aturupane and Tilkaratne A. Piyasiri  
Price: \$34.95, English;  
Directions in Development:  
Directions in Development –  
Human Development  
Paperback; 234 pages  
Published May 29, 2014  
by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0158-7,

SKU: 210158

Sri Lanka has made strong progress in economic growth and poverty reduction. Economic growth and structural changes in the economy, however, make skills development imperative as Sri Lanka implements its plan—the *Mahinda Chintana*—to become a regional hub in strategic economic areas. Yet, skills shortages and mismatches are widespread, and firms with undereducated employees and a shortage of skilled labor are less productive. In *Building the Skills for Economic Growth and Competitiveness in Sri Lanka*, the authors propose an effective skills development system to help diversify the country's economy, improve its labor productivity and competitiveness, offer the country the flexibility to compete effectively in the global economy, and further reduce poverty in the country.

## Involving men in reproductive and fertility issues: Insights from Punjab



By Iram Kamran, Mumraiz Khan and Zeba Tasneem

Available: On-line

English; 62 pages

Published 2014 by

World Bank

Working Paper no: 85062

Drawing on three sources, a 2013 qualitative study in four districts of Punjab

province; a targeted analysis of the baseline and end line surveys of the Family Advancement for Life and Health (FALAH 2007-2012) project; and the Pakistan Demographic Health Survey (PDHS) of 1990-1991 and of 2006-2007, this study explores Pakistani (especially Punjabi) couples' dynamics during their decision processes on fertility intentions and practices, along with community perceptions of male-focused interventions as well as men's suggestions for future intervention strategies. It finds that men in Punjab seem now more concerned about their fertility intentions and practices due to the financial challenges of raising large families. This concern has not only increased spousal communication about family size and contraceptive use but has also encouraged Punjabi men to practice family planning.

## India: Policy Research Working Papers

### WPS 6850

#### Fiscal policy as an instrument of investment and growth

By Kaushik Basu

This paper investigates the role of fiscal guarantees in promoting infrastructure investment. Infrastructure is a critical driver of economic growth, but infrastructure entails significant up-front costs that yield benefits after a time lag. Investors hesitate to put their money down on private infrastructure ventures because of the long lag and governments do not give guarantees for reasons of fiscal prudence.

The paper argues that governments and large investment guarantee agencies can in many situations give suitably-calibrated guarantees to private projects by exploiting the fact that a guarantee on one project can reduce the risk of another one failing. The paper works out the architecture of such guarantees, which can be fiscally prudent and yet boost investment, especially in infrastructure, and thereby promote growth.

### WPS 6931

#### Does involvement of local NGOs enhance public service delivery? Cautionary evidence from a Malaria-prevention evaluation in India

By Ashis Das, Jed Friedman and Eeshani Kandpal

Using data from an experimental supportive intervention to India's malaria control program, this paper studies the impact of leveraging local non-state capacity to promote mosquito net usage and recommended fever care-seeking patterns. The supportive activities were conducted simultaneously by three nongovernmental organizations in two endemic districts in the state of Odisha.

The study finds that the program impact varied significantly by location. Examining three potential sources of this variation (differential population characteristics, differential health worker characteristics, and differential implementer characteristics), the analysis provides evidence that both population and non-governmental organization characteristics significantly affected the success of the program.

### WPS 6919

#### Regional diversity and inclusive growth in Indian cities

By Ejaz Ghani, William R. Kerr and Ishani Tewari

This paper examines the employment growth of Indian districts from 2000 to 2010 in the manufacturing and services sectors. Specialization and diversity metrics that combine industries in both sectors are calculated and related to subsequent job growth. The analysis finds robust and consistent evidence that the diversity of industries in the district across the two sectors links to subsequent job growth. Somewhat surprisingly, this link finds its strongest expression outside typical stories about the role of diversity. For example, the growth is strongest in rural areas of districts and in districts with low population density. Diversity correlates with disproportionately higher employment growth in the informal sector and plays a role in generating employment in the district's smaller industries. These findings point toward the "inclusive" nature of diversity-driven growth.

### WPS 6901

#### Strengthening Malaria service delivery through supportive supervision and community mobilization in an endemic Indian setting: An evaluation of nested delivery models

By Ashis Das, Jed Friedman, Eeshani Kandpal, GNV Ramana, R K Das Gupta, Madan M Pradhan and Ramesh Govindaraj

This paper tests the effectiveness of two service delivery models designed to promote recommended

behaviors, including prompt treatment seeking for febrile illness, in Odisha. The tested modules include supportive supervision of community health workers and community mobilization promoting appropriate health seeking. Program effects were identified through a randomized cluster trial comprising 120 villages from two purposively chosen malaria-endemic districts. Significant improvements were measured in the reported utilization of bed nets in both intervention arms vis-à-vis the control. Although overall rates of treatment seeking were equal across the study arms, treatment seeking from community health workers was higher.

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### WPS 6883

#### **What a difference a state makes: Health reform in Andhra Pradesh**

By Sofi Bergkvist, Adam Wagstaff, Anuradha Katyal, Prabal V. Singh and et.al.

This paper analyzes Andhra Pradesh's Aarogyasri scheme, which covers against the costs of around 900 high-cost procedures delivered in secondary and tertiary hospitals. Using a new household survey, the authors find that 80 percent of families are eligible, equal to about 68 million people, and 85 percent of these families know they are covered; only one-quarter, however, know that the benefit package is limited.

The study finds that, contrary to the rules of the program, patients incur quite large out-of-pocket payments during inpatient episodes thought to be covered by Aarogyasri. In the absence of data and program design features that would allow for a rigorous impact evaluation, a comparison is made between Andhra Pradesh and neighboring Maharashtra over an eight-year period spanning the scheme's introduction. During this period, Maharashtra did not introduce any at-scale health initiative that was not also introduced in Andhra Pradesh. The paper finds that Andhra Pradesh recorded faster growth than Maharashtra (even after adjusting for confounders) in inpatient admissions per capita (for all income groups) and in surgery admissions (among the poor only), slower growth in out-of-pocket payments for inpatient care (in total and per admission, but only among the better off), and slower growth in transport and outpatient out-of-pocket costs. The paper argues that these results are consistent with Aarogyasri having the intended effects, but also with minor health initiatives in Andhra Pradesh (especially the ambulance program) playing a role.

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### WPS 6841

#### **Women's empowerment and socio-economic outcomes: Impacts of the Andhra Pradesh rural poverty reduction program**

By G. Prennushi and A. Gupta

The paper explores whether one of the largest programs in the world for women's empowerment and rural livelihoods, the Indira Kranti Patham in Andhra Pradesh, has had an impact on the economic and social wellbeing of households that participate in the program. The analysis uses panel data for 4,250 households from two rounds of a survey conducted in 2004 and 2008 in five districts.

There are two major impacts. First, the Indira Kranti Patham program increased participants' access to loans, which allowed them to accumulate some assets (livestock and durables for the poorest and nonfarm assets for the poor), invest in education, and increase total expenditures (for the poorest and poor). Women who participated in the program had more freedom to go places and were less afraid to disagree with their husbands; the women participated more in village meetings and their children were slightly more likely to attend school. Consistent with the emphasis of the program on the poor, the impacts were stronger across the board for the poorest and poor participants and were more pronounced for long-term Scheduled Tribe participants. No significant differences are found between participants and nonparticipants in some maternal and child health indicators.

Second, program participants were significantly more likely to benefit from various targeted government programs, most important the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, but also midday meals in schools, hostels, and housing programs. This was an important way in which the program contributed to the improved wellbeing of program participants.

## Other Publications

### World Development Indicators 2014

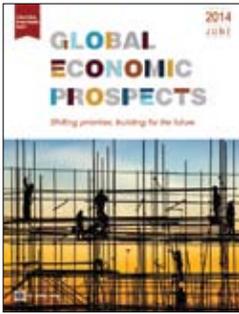


By World Bank  
**Price:** \$25.00  
World Development Indicators  
**English;** Paperback;  
136 pages  
Published May 9, 2014  
by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0163-1  
SKU: 210163

World Development Indicators 2014 provides a compilation of relevant, high-quality, and internationally comparable statistics about global development and the fight against poverty.

Six themes are used to organize indicators – world view, people, environment, economy, states and markets, and global links. As in past editions, World view reviews global progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provides key indicators related to poverty.

## Global Economic Prospects 2014: Shifting Priorities, Building for the Future



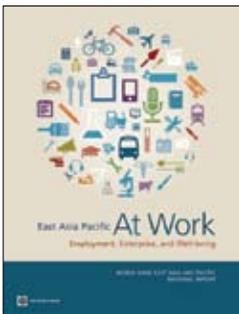
By World Bank  
Available: On-line  
English; 332 pages  
Published June, 2014  
by World Bank

Recovery in high-income countries is gaining momentum, despite first quarter weakness in the United States. Developed

economies are expected to grow by 1.9 percent in 2014, accelerating to 2.4 percent in 2015 and 2.5 percent in 2016. The Euro Area is on target to grow by 1.1 percent this year, while the United States economy, which contracted in the first quarter due to severe weather, is expected to grow by 2.1 percent this year (down from the previous forecast of 2.8 percent).

The global economy is expected to pick up speed as the year progresses and is projected to expand by 2.8 percent this year, strengthening to 3.4 and 3.5 percent in 2015 and 2016, respectively. High-income economies will contribute about half of global growth in 2015 and 2016, compared with less than 40 percent in 2013.

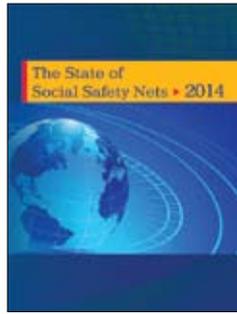
## East Asia Pacific at Work: Employment, Enterprise, and Well-being



By World Bank  
Price: \$29.95  
World Bank East Asia and Pacific Regional Report  
English; Paperback;  
332 pages  
Published May 7, 2014  
by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0004-7  
SKU: 210004

*East Asia Pacific At Work* argues that governments in the region will have to actively help markets sustain the well-being that people can expect from work. The appropriate policy responses to these challenges are to ensure macroeconomic stability and a regulatory framework that encourages the vitality and growth of, in particular, small- and medium-size enterprises, where most people in the region work. The countries that are still mostly agrarian will need to focus more on raising agricultural productivity, a vital but often overlooked step in the process of structural transformation. In urbanizing countries, effective urban planning becomes critical, and better management and functioning of land markets, transportation infrastructure, and delivery of services will loosen constraints on the demand for labor and human capital.

## The State of Social Safety Nets 2014



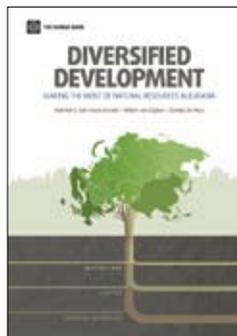
Available: On-line  
English; Paperback;  
124 pages  
Published May 2014  
by World Bank

*The State of Social Safety Nets 2014* begins a series that will monitor and report on social safety nets in developing countries. This

first report in the series provides key social safety nets statistics and explains trends using information from 146 countries, including detailed household survey data from 69 countries in the World Bank's Atlas of Social Protection: Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) database.

This report reviews important policy and practical developments in social safety net programs and highlights emerging innovations. While the primary focus is on developing and emerging countries, it also includes some references to high-income settings.

## Diversified Development: Making the Most of Natural Resources in Eurasia



By Indermit S. Gill, Ivailo Izvorski, Willem van Eeghen and Donato De Rosa  
Price: \$45.00, English  
Europe and Central Asia  
Flagship  
Paperback; 398 pages  
Published February 26, 2014 by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0119-8  
SKU: 210119

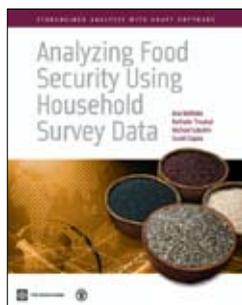
Eurasian economies have in many ways become less diversified during the past two decades. At the same time, people are much better off today than they were in the 1990s: poverty has been cut in half, incomes have increased fivefold, and education and health have improved noticeably since the tumultuous days following the collapse of communism. Eurasia's economies have become more efficient: they are more integrated with the global economy and more productive at home. The region has also become better at converting natural wealth into productive capital; since the mid-2000s, it has built more in assets than the mineral wealth it has used up.

According to this report, most countries in Eurasia have yet to learn the main lesson from the experience of resource rich countries in other parts of the world. What distinguishes success from failure are the institutions to manage volatility, ensure high-quality education, and

provide a competition regime that levels the playing field for enterprises.

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### Analyzing Food Security Using Household Survey Data: Streamlined Analysis with ADePT Software

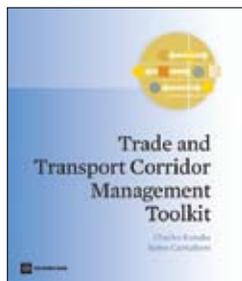


Edited by Ana Moltedo, Nathalie Troubat, Michael Lokshin and Zurab Sajaia  
Price: \$29.95  
English; Paperback; 264 pages  
Published April 22, 2014 by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0133-4  
SKU: 210133

The stand-alone software, ADePT-Food Security Module (available for free downloading), was developed to produce food security indicators from food consumption data collected in household surveys. These indicators, derived at the national and subnational levels, include the consumption of calories and macronutrients, the availability of micronutrients and amino acids, the distribution of calories and the proportion of people undernourished. The book focuses on the theory, methodology, and analysis of these indicators.

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### Trade and Transport Corridor Management Toolkit



By Charles Kunaka and Robin Carruthers  
Price: \$34.95  
English; Paperback; 410 pages  
Published May 7, 2014 by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0143-3  
SKU: 210143

This *Toolkit* synthesizes the experiences of the World Bank and other development agencies in assessing, designing, implementing, and evaluating the impact of trade and transport corridor projects.

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### The Little Data Book 2014



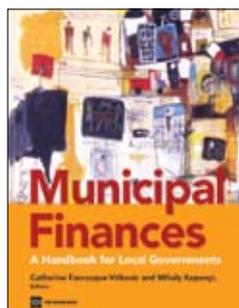
By World Bank  
Price: \$19.95  
World Development Indicators  
English; Paperback; 246 pages  
Published May 7, 2014 by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0165-5  
SKU: 210165

The Little Data Book 2014 is a pocket edition of World Development Indicators 2014. 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.

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### Municipal Finances: A Handbook for Local Governments



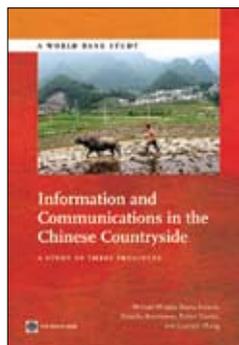
Edited by Catherine D. Farvacque-Vitkovic and Mihaly Kopanyi  
Price: \$34.95  
English; Paperback; 528 pages  
Published June 13, 2014 by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-0-8213-9830-2  
SKU: 19830

The Municipal Finance Handbook is about municipal finances to help local government practitioners, particularly staff of medium and large cities, in improving strategic management.

The book gives examples with numeric illustrations, summary comparative tables, and cases on what has worked and what has not.

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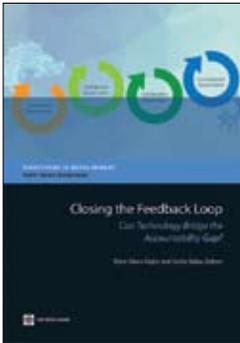
### Information and Communications in the Chinese Countryside: A Study of Three Provinces



By Michael Minges, Kaoru Kimura, Natasha Beschorner, Robert Davies and Guanqing Zhang  
Price: \$29.95, English; World Bank Studies  
Paperback; 96 pages  
Published May 6, 2014 by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0204-1  
SKU: 210204

*Information and Communications in the Chinese Countryside: A Study of Three Provinces* considers the impact from investments in rural ICT in selected provinces, and what can be learned from these experiences. It identifies the key drivers of demand for ICT services from the perspective of the rural population, and highlights some innovative approaches taken to use ICT for agricultural productivity enhancement. A notable feature of the report is an assessment of the role of public libraries whose network extends from major metropolitan centers all the way to the village level.

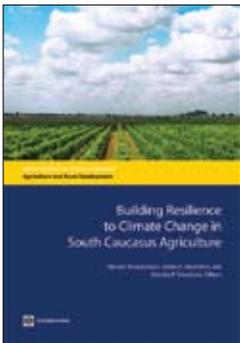
### Closing the Feedback Loop: Can Technology Bridge the Accountability Gap?



Edited by Björn-Sören and Savita Bailur  
**Price:** \$39.95  
Directions in Development – Public Sector Governance  
**English;** Paperback;  
328 pages  
Published May 22, 2014  
by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0191-4  
SKU: 210191

The book showcases methods for community and crisis mapping across the globe, provides example of citizen-feedback mechanisms, and analyzes the World Bank's experiences in ICT-enabled citizen engagement. Introducing the Loch Ness model the study shows how technologies contribute to shrinking the gap, why the gap remains open in many cases, and what can be done to help close it.

### Building Resilience to Climate Change in South Caucasus Agriculture

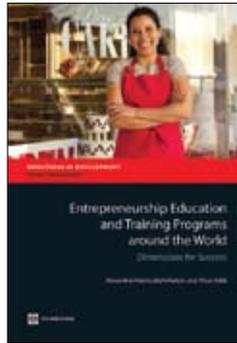


Edited by Nicolas Ahouissoussi, James E. Neumann and Jitendra P. Srivastava  
**Price:** \$35.00  
Directions in Development – Agriculture and Rural Development  
**English;** Paperback;  
164 pages  
Published May 6, 2014  
by World Bank

ISBN: 978-1-4648-0214-0  
SKU: 210214

Undertaken in collaboration with policymakers, farmers, and civil society organizations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, the analysis in the book demonstrates that investments in irrigation infrastructure and on-farm technologies have great potential to raise agricultural productivity and improve the climate resilience of the sector. Demand-side agricultural water management will have high short-term payoffs, and these payoffs are complementary to the success of long-term irrigation, drainage, and other infrastructure investments. Strengthening the disaster risk management strategies beyond agricultural measures is also needed, to help mitigate household exposure to extreme events, especially for the poorest individuals, who are the most vulnerable.

### Entrepreneurship Education and Training Programs around the World: Dimensions for Success

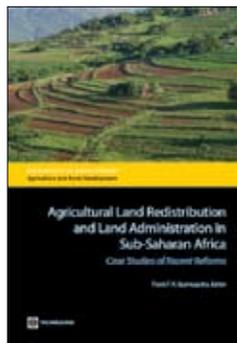


By Alexandria Valerio, Brent Parton and Alicia Robb  
**Price:** \$35.00  
Directions in Development – Human Development  
**English;** Paperback;  
284 pages  
Published May 6, 2014  
by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0202-7  
SKU: 210202

The study finds that EET today consists of a heterogeneous mix of programs that can be broken into two groups: entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurship training. These programs target a range of participants, from secondary and post-secondary education students to potential and practicing entrepreneurs.

The study finds that a focus on skills and business practices, though unlikely to transform an enterprise in the near term, may accrue benefits to entrepreneurs over time.

### Finland as a Knowledge Economy 2.0: Lessons on Policies and Governance



Edited by Kimmo Halme, Ilari Lindy, Kalle A. Piirainen, Vesa Salminen and Justine White  
**Price:** \$29.95, **English;**  
Directions in Development – Information and Communication Technologies  
Paperback; 182 pages  
Published April 21, 2014  
by World Bank  
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0194-5

SKU: 210194

In spite of its remoteness, relative scarcity of natural resources, smallness of the home market and recent history characterized by wars and social cleavages, Finland transformed itself from an agriculture-based economy in the 1950's into one of the leading innovation-driven, knowledge-based economies and high-tech producers in the twenty-first century.

Finland Knowledge Economy 2.0 presents some of the key policies, elements, initiatives and decisions behind Finland's path into the Knowledge Economy of today.

### **The Missing Link in Sanitation Service Delivery: A Review of Fecal Sludge Management in 12 Cities**

Available: on-line

Publish: April 2014, Pages: 8

Globally, the great majority of urban dwellers, especially poor people, rely on non-sewered sanitation systems. These generate a mix of solid and liquid wastes generally termed “fecal sludge.” For many cities in developing countries, inadequate fecal sludge management generates significant negative public health and environmental risks.

This study outlines a preliminary assessment of these issues and the major constraints that need to be overcome to improve fecal sludge management. The study covers 12 cities representing various regions, sizes, types, and levels of service delivery.

### **Structuring Private-Sector Participation (PSP) Contracts for Small Scale Water Projects: Water and Sanitation Program: Toolkit**

Creating sustainable services through domestic private sector participation

By Victoria Rigby Delmon  
May 2014

The purpose of this new toolkit, *Structuring Private-Sector Participation (PSP) Contracts for Small Scale Water Projects*, is to provide guidance to water authorities who intend to contract private operators, and sector professionals assisting such authorities, on how to structure a contract and bidding documents for the private sector.

## **India Project Documents**

### **Efficient & Sustainable City Bus Services**

Date 09 June 2014  
Project ID P132418  
Report No. ISDSA8724 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Appraisal Stage)  
ISDSC1453 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Concept Stage)  
E4577 (Environmental Assessment)  
PIDC660 (Project Information Document)

### **Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project**

Date 08 June 2014  
Project ID P083187  
Report No. 88541(Procurement Plan 4 Vol.)

### **Greening the Energy Mix in DVC**

Date 05 June 2014  
Project ID P147818  
Report No. ISDSC8329 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Concept Stage)  
PIDC5647 (Project Information Document- Concept Stage)

### **Karnataka Panchayat Strengthening II**

Date 30 May 2014  
Project ID P150288  
Report No. PIDC6568 (Project Information Document- Concept Stage)

### **Citizen-Centric Service Delivery Reform**

Date 15 May 2014  
Project ID P150308  
Report No. ISDSC6659 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Concept Stage)

### **Karnataka Multisectoral Nutrition Pilot Project**

Date 14 May 2014  
Project ID P149811  
Report No. 88680 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

### **Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project**

Date 07 May 2014  
Project ID P146653  
Report No. 87959(Procurement Plan)

### **Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change Project**

Date 30 April 2014  
Project ID P132623  
Report No. E4470 (Environmental Assessment)

### **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project - II**

Date 22 April 2014  
Project ID P131765  
Report No. 87667 (Board Summary)

### Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project

Date 22 April 2014  
Project ID P150520  
Report No. PID5926 (Project Information Document)

### Third Elementary Education Project (SSA-III)

Date 22 April 2014  
Project ID P144447  
Report No. PAD743 (Project Appraisal Document)

### Second Development Policy Loan to Promote Inclusive Green Growth and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh Program

Date 21 April 2014  
Project ID P143032  
Report No. 87083 (Program Document)

### Second Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project

Date 16 April 2014  
Project ID P102331  
Report No. 87731 (Procurement Plan)

### Partial Risk Sharing Facility for Energy Efficiency Project

Date 15 April 2014  
Project ID P128921  
Report No. E4558 (Environmental Assessment, 2 Vol.)

### Second Mizoram State Roads Regional Transport Connectivity Project

Date 03 April 2014  
Project ID P145778  
Report No. 83244 (Project Appraisal Document)

### Technology Centre Systems Program Project

Date 02 April 2014  
Project ID P145502  
Report No. 82484 (Project Appraisal Document)

## Event

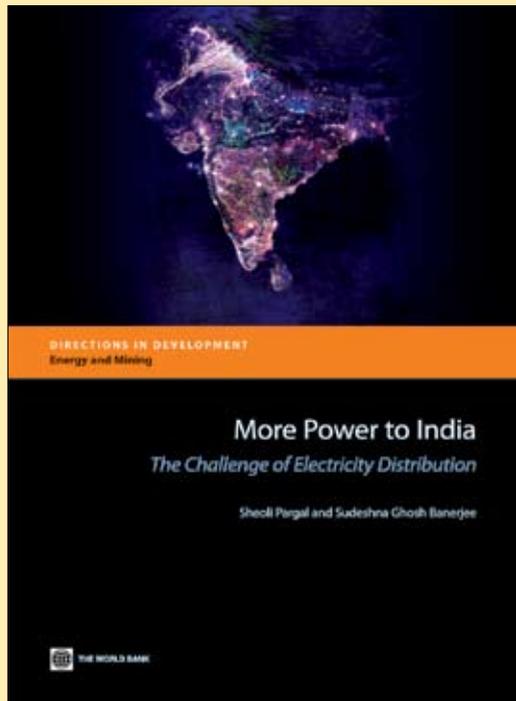
### Report Launch

**More Power to India: The Challenge of Electricity Distribution**

24 June, 2014 • New Delhi

**M**ore Power to India: The Challenge of Electricity Distribution was recently launched in New Delhi. It's a review of the power sector's performance over the past two decades. Sheoli Pargal and Sudeshna Ghosh Banerjee, the report's co-authors, presented the report's findings to a group of India's power experts in New Delhi.

They pointed out that while the country has made huge strides in generation and transmission, the distribution segment – where power reaches the final consumer and revenues are generated – has incurred mounting losses and is affecting the entire value chain. 



## From the Blogworld

### Putting more women to work in South Asia

By Shobha Shetty



**C**ontradictory trends in female labor force participation in South Asia continue to pose a puzzle for policymakers. On the one hand, Bangladesh's ready-made garment industry, one of the mainstays of the national economy, has a high female labor participation rate of 85 percent. On the other hand, the female labor force participation rates continue to fall in India in spite of recent high economic growth. During my recent visit to Dhaka, I was once again reminded about the enormous challenges of tackling these issues.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/S9o2ce>

### Between 1960 and 2012, the world average fertility rate halved to 2.5 births per woman

By Emi Suzuki



**T**here were more than 7 billion people on earth in 2013. While this is the highest number ever, the population growth rate has been steadily declining, in part due to declining fertility rates.

In 1960, women worldwide had an average of 5 children. The rate has since halved, and in 2012, women had an average of 2.5 children across all regions.

While the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is declining worldwide, different regions and countries have varying degrees of change. In 1960, women in South Asia had 6 children on average. Today, that is less than half at 2.59. Sub-Saharan Africa has had a slower decline in fertility rates than other regions. A woman in this area of the world had an average of 5 children in 2012. This is the highest TFR in the world.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/llocj45>

### Development Challenges for Participatory Public Delivery of Underground Water in Rural India

By Abhilaksh Likhi



**I**ndia's rapidly industrializing economy and urbanizing society pose a daunting challenge towards augmenting the limited supply of water resources. No wonder that conflicts over competing uses and users of water, especially in rural areas, are growing by the day. Agriculture, that uses eighty percent of the water resources with low efficiency, is a case in point. Falling water table due to deep drilling and groundwater contamination through discharge of untreated effluents is a serious problem.

Therefore, in context of the climate change effects that continue to upset weather patterns, efficient underground water management is extremely critical for 200 million hectares of rainfed areas. This, in fact, constitutes 62% of the geographical area of the country with the largest concentration of rural poverty spanning several agro ecological regions.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1iPVZej>

### WPS 6932

Radio's impact on preferences for patronage benefits  
By Philip Keefer and Stuti Khemani

### WPS 6931

Does involvement of local NGOs enhance public service delivery? Cautionary evidence from a Malaria-prevention evaluation in India  
By Ashis Das, Jed Friedman and Eeshani Kandpal

### WPS 6930

Comparative advantage, international trade, and fertility  
By Quy-Toan Do, Andrei Levchenko and Claudio Raddatz

### WPS 6929

Assessing energy price induced improvements in efficiency of capital in OECD manufacturing industries  
By Jevgenijs Steinbuks and Karsten Neuhoff

### WPS 6928

Confronting the food-energy-environment trilemma: Global land use in the long run  
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