The World Bank Group measures success by how well it improves living conditions in developing countries rather than how much money it commits or how many projects it supports.

The World Bank Group’s country programs drive its efforts to help poor and vulnerable people improve their well-being to realize their full potential. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporate (IFC), and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) provide an integrated package of services to the public and private sectors in service of achieving the twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner. World Bank Group contributions to high-level outcomes become evident over time, often with a long run up of improving policies, developing systems, and building capacities. Support is tailored to help client countries address the most critical challenges they face.

This inaugural Results Yearbook provides a snapshot of the most recent results delivered by countries with the World Bank Group’s support. The stories in this yearbook give life to data collected for the World Bank Group Corporate Scorecards.
The combined impacts of COVID-19, rising conflict, and climate risks are exacerbating extreme poverty, undermining growth, and jeopardizing the prospects of a resilient and inclusive future, particularly for the world’s poorest.

The World Bank Group’s crisis response has helped countries save lives and livelihoods threatened by COVID-19 while starting to build the foundation for a strong and durable recovery in a world transformed by the pandemic.

Guided by improvements in operational and organizational effectiveness, the World Bank Group continues to adapt to changing global needs, with a sharp focus on country contexts and on managing toward lasting development outcomes.
Since COVID-19 started to spread, over 160 million people have been infected. The combined impacts of COVID-19, rising conflict, and climate risks are exacerbating extreme poverty, undermining growth, and jeopardizing the prospects of a resilient and inclusive future, particularly for the world’s poorest. Since COVID-19 started to spread, over 160 million people have been infected, and the consequent social and economic fallout have been nothing short of devastating. Per capita gross domestic product suffered the sharpest slowdown in a generation, and an estimated 100 million extra people are likely to fall into extreme poverty by the end of 2021. An equivalent of 255 million jobs were lost in 2020. Due to lags in data collection, the total effect has yet to be reflected in published data across the full spectrum of well-being. Yet it is clear that the vast majority of people, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have endured setbacks across many aspects of their lives.

The World Bank Group’s crisis response has helped countries save lives and livelihoods threatened by COVID-19 while starting to build the foundation for a strong and durable recovery in a world transformed by the pandemic.
Responding to Immediate Needs

The World Bank Group mobilized with unprecedented speed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting countries to save lives and help households cope with the health and economic fallouts of the crisis.

Since March 2020, that has amounted to the deployment of over $150 billion, meeting emergency needs in over 100 countries within the first 60 days of the response. As of June 2021, this support has led to COVID-19 tests for more than 15.5 million people, over 1,000 designated labs established and equipped for COVID-19 testing across more than 45 countries, and more than 60,000 health professionals trained to prevent COVID-19, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The World Bank Group is financing the procurement and deployment of vaccines, with nearly half of resources devoted to strengthening vaccine distribution systems. At the same time, to help vulnerable people manage the economic fallout, the World Bank Group financed social safety net services, including employment and essential services, for nearly 1 billion people between April 2020 and June 2021.

1 billion people received social safety net services to cope with COVID-19 impacts

60,000+ health professionals trained to prevent COVID-19

15.5 million people received a COVID-19 test

Source: World Bank Group Corporate Scorecards FY19–21. World Bank Results between April 2020 and June 2021
Preventing COVID-19's Spread in Bhutan
The World Bank fast-tracked support to help Bhutan establish contact tracing and early warning systems and procure medical and testing supplies. All hospitals and 78 primary health centers received test kits, and personal protective equipment was distributed to 20 district health authorities. Key personnel received training in infection prevention, control protocols, and disease management. Isolation facilities were created in four national COVID-19 centers, and all hospitals prepared units to isolate suspected cases awaiting test results. With support from the World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the World Bank, Bhutan established one of the world’s most effective vaccination campaigns.

Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ethiopia
World Bank support helped strengthen Ethiopia's capacity to respond to the pandemic. The COVID-19 Emergency Response Project conducted house-to-house screenings of over 11 million households and scaled up diagnostic testing to over 20,000 tests per day by August 2020. The national capacity of confirmatory testing increased substantially, with approximately 69 labs with COVID-19 testing capacity across all regions. Toll-free call centers run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the national and subnational levels, responding to an average of 9,000 calls daily. The project is now financing vaccine acquisition and deployment.

Curbing the Economic Fallout in Colombia
In March 2020, the government imposed a national quarantine and lockdown to manage the expected health crisis. Activities in many sectors came to a halt. An estimated 67 percent of the country’s workforce (more than 15 million people) felt the economic effects, and many micro, small, and medium enterprises had to close due to financial shocks. As COVID-19 unfolded throughout 2020, at least 1.45 million people are estimated to have fallen into poverty, increasing poverty at least 3 percentage points and largely reversing the poverty reduction gains made in recent years.

The Colombian government put measures in place to manage the health crisis and limit the economic and social fallout. To support these efforts, the World Bank provided the government with needed financial support to strengthen the capacity of the health system, provide income and nutrition support to poor and vulnerable households, and maintain liquidity and access to finance for firms. In addition, the World Bank has helped the government strengthen the social registry to more effectively identify vulnerable populations and build more nimble social assistance delivery systems that can provide rapid support in response to shocks.
RESULTS

Since June 2020

2.6 million households received additional cash transfers from the government

4.5 million beneficiaries of existing programs received additional cash transfers

5.6 million minors received nutritional support at home as part of the adapted school feeding program

19,673 requests for tax devolutions worth $7.9 trillion Colombian pesos were settled

Managing the Health Crisis in Vietnam

"I highly appreciated the World Bank’s practical studies and assessments, which were close to the real situation, and advice to the government of Vietnam on important macroeconomic recommendations and measures to promptly respond, support the people, and minimize negative impacts from the epidemic.

Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam"
The World Bank developed five policy notes that were shared with the Vietnamese government to help shape its response to COVID-19, from managing the health crisis to stimulating economic recovery to taking advantage of emerging opportunities. Recommendations implemented by the government included: adopting safety nets for the most affected through tax breaks and cash transfers; speeding up the digitization process of businesses and government agencies; and removing bottlenecks for the public investment program, which led to a 40 percent increase in its disbursement rate. Vietnam was able to limit COVID-19 casualties and record a gross domestic product growth rate of 2.9 percent.

Despite shifts in priorities due to the crisis, the World Bank Group continued to support clients in delivering key services to citizens. Decades of institution strengthening—policies, systems, and capabilities—in partner countries smoothed the way for governments to continue delivering basic services, and even expand them with World Bank Group support.

The World Bank Group recognizes that education and jobs are powerful drivers of development. As the largest financier of education in the developing world, the World Bank Group helps countries increase access to education, especially for girls. In fiscal year 2021, the World Bank Group programs benefited 240 million students, of which 114 million were female. The World Bank Group also supported 27 million people with its job-focused interventions.

In some cases, however, the urgency of saving lives, protecting the poor, and supporting businesses led clients, particularly in the world’s poorest countries, to shift away from longer-term investments. For example, energy and fuel savings rely on large operations with long lead times, and expected results have been delayed.

Similarly, while IDA support helped more than 1 million farmers to adopt improved agricultural technology, the pandemic-induced slowdown in activities has delayed expected results.

Sources: World Bank Group Corporate Scorecards FY 19–21; IDA 19 Results Measurement System.
362 million people with new or improved electricity service

537 million people received essential health, nutrition, and population services

297 million beneficiaries of financial services

157 million tCO₂ eq/year GHG emissions reduction in World Bank Group operations

World Bank Group results between FY19–21
Maximizing Women's Full Potential in Egypt

If I want to buy something for the house, I go buy it. I take the decision because each woman knows her house needs.

Riham, 25 years old
Menoufiya governorate
Although Egypt is slowly beginning to reap the benefits of its economic reform program, vulnerable citizens have suffered from the reforms’ negative short-term impacts, such as price hikes. Amidst the volatile context of the last decade, women faced their own share of pressures. Across the country, mothers from the most vulnerable populations were responsible for their children’s well-being and education yet lacked the required awareness and financial resources. Mothers who depended on their husbands felt even more frustrated and disempowered since they were forced to make ends meet with the minimal amounts they were given and were often denied the right to make decisions regarding household purchases.

The Strengthening Social Safety Net Project supported Egypt’s Takaful and Karama programs in the country’s 27 governorates. Countrywide beneficiaries of the conditional (Takaful) and unconditional (Karama) cash transfer program included poor women and children, people with disabilities, widows, and orphans. Conditionalities in Takaful aim to break cycles of inter-generational poverty and promote human capital accumulation; the existing operation extended coverage to additional beneficiaries as part of a COVID-19 social protection response. The government is launching the national opportunity (Forsa) program to promote productive inclusion and create livelihoods through a series of interventions, including asset transfers and financial inclusion.
RESULTS

Since 2015

12 million people enrolled in the country’s flagship Takaful and Karama conditional and unconditional cash transfer programs

411,000 additional households covered by a conditional cash transfer program as part of a COVID-19 social protection response

Takaful and Karama cash transfer programs institutionalized as a national social safety net program with fiscal allocations earmarked annually

Lighting up Rural Communities in Bangladesh

My fuelwood usage has gone down so much. I used to buy fuelwood once every 2 months, now I buy fuelwood once every 5 months. This has helped us save money.

Ms. Shefali Ghosh
In 2012, renewable energy made up less than 1 percent of power generation. The energy sector faced an acute shortage of electricity supply, heavy reliance on natural gas, and inadequate investments in power generation and tariffs to cover costs. Urban areas with large industrial loads were prioritized for power supply, while rural areas faced frequent power cuts. Dispersed rural settlements and numerous rivers criss-crossing the country make grid electrification difficult and expensive. Off-grid renewable energy was the only near-to-medium-term option left.

The World Bank supports renewable energy options, including solar home systems, in remote rural areas where grid electricity is not yet economically viable. Programs also support solar minigrids in remote areas, solar irrigation pumps, and improved cookstoves that use half the amount of firewood needed by traditional stoves and biogas digesters. Sixty-one nongovernment partner organizations are helping to install clean energy products in rural households through microcredit schemes.
RESULTS

8,000+
shops, businesses, and households with electricity from 26 solar minigrids

1.8 million
improved cookstoves sold across the country

1.9 million
people gained access to clean energy solutions

35,000
farmers benefited from 1,130 solar irrigation pumps

7.3 million
people in remote rural areas have access to clean and renewable energy

5.4 million
people in remote rural areas gained access to electricity through solar home systems

over 60%
of beneficiaries were women for the financed projects

Since 2012

After a dip in fiscal year 2020, World Bank Group support for access to services rebounded in fiscal year 2021.

Increasing access to services—such as electricity, transport, and financial services—plays a key role in fostering inclusive growth and propelling economies forward.
Upgrading the Water Supply in Azerbaijan
AZERBAIJAN

CHALLENGES

Azerbaijan inherited an extensive water supply system built during the Soviet era. However, the condition of the water system gradually deteriorated due to a lack of investment and deferred maintenance, resulting in a substantial decrease in the quality and reliability of the water supply service. Residents in the towns affected did not have access to a safe water supply. Further, most districts did not have functioning sewerage collection services, the few available facilities were in disrepair, and utilities were technically and financially unsustainable.

SOLUTIONS

The Second National Water Supply and Sanitation Project financed investments to rehabilitate and reconstruct the whole water services cycle—including water supply and storage systems, the sewage network, and wastewater treatment in the selected districts. This unique approach sought to improve people’s lives, and to strengthen environmental protection and future operations and maintenance. To ensure sustainability, the project also focused on building utilities’ capacity in financial and technical management. In a new Hovsan Training and Innovation Center, local operational teams received on-the-job training to improve operations and maintenance, tariff collection, transparency, and accountability. The project aligned with the government’s commitment to reduce regional inequalities and provide households in rural areas with reliable basic services.

“...

For the 23 years that I’ve lived here, this street didn’t have water, we were asking God for real clean water in our houses—not coming from a tank truck—so finally, when we got this water, it was a huge blessing!

Reyhan Badalova
Siyazan rural district north of Baku
Between 2008 and 2019

324,000 people received improved water supply, of which 160,000 were female

98% of the population in project area gained access to water for 24 hours a day

46,000+ households gained access to a new piped water network

43,000 new households connected to a sewerage network

Enhancing Maternal and Child Health in Niger

I used to give birth at home. In case of a problem, I had no assistance. Since the project was set up, I give birth at the clinic, because I know that if there is a problem, I will be taken care of.

Alimatou Idrissa
Birni, Niger
The fertility rate in Niger is among the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa (about seven births per woman). The weak empowerment of women and the low quality and use of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition services were among the biggest challenges. Powerful sociocultural barriers impeded the use of reproductive health services, despite their availability. In addition, poor feeding practices contributed to stunting among children under five years old, predominantly in remote and underserved communities. Gainful reproductive and child health solutions were not adequately scaled-up across districts, hindering the overall impact on sound health outcomes.

The centerpiece of the Population and Health Support Project has been the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI), an approach to problem-solving that empowers out-of-the-box thinking, experimentation, and collaboration. Each RRI focuses on a concrete objective and assembles a team of diverse stakeholders to achieve it within 100 days. RRIs are held several times a year at the health center level and bring together local government and health personnel with midwives, women leaders, and religious and traditional leaders to develop and test ways to improve the effectiveness of health activities.
Between 2018 and 2020

1.7+ million women (15–49 years of age) using modern contraceptives

403,900+ newborns monitored with growth charts and nutritional counseling

922,000+ infants immunized against measles

The World Bank Group supports countries to build sustainable food systems, ensuring the prospects of future generations.

Agricultural assets and services have increasingly benefited more people over the past four years.

Building a Stronger Rural Economy in the Philippines
CHALLENGES

The agriculture sector contributes roughly 9 percent of the country’s GDP and provides jobs to close to a quarter of working Filipinos. For years, rural dwellers suffered from low incomes and limited opportunities for gainful employment. Many are poor and uncompetitive, due to constraints brought about by insufficient production inputs, lack of farm machineries and equipment, limited access to credit, and poor access to markets. Destructive weather events are also a major concern, disproportionally affecting the poor and the most vulnerable. The COVID-19 pandemic increased unemployment, including for those living in the countryside.

SOLUTIONS

The Philippine Rural Development Project is part of the Philippines Department of Agriculture’s efforts to improve the productivity of small farmers and fisherfolk and increase their access to markets. The project provides technical and funding assistance to local government units and producer groups or organizations to improve their agriculture commodity and investment planning and prioritization. It also uses tools, such as geotagging, value chain analysis, and expanded vulnerability and suitability assessments to help guide public investments toward a modern, value chain-oriented, and climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries sector.

The new road has made our travel and transport of produce faster and safer. Before, we used to ride a boat just to go to the town center, making us vulnerable to pirates. We spent half an hour on the fishing boat, but with the new road, we reach town in just 15 minutes.

Percineflesa Perez, seaweed farmer
Barangay Talusan, Zamboanga Sibugay
RESULTS

Since 2015

372,000

farmers and fisherfolk
beneficiaries received
agricultural assets and/or
services, with 46% female
beneficiaries

$1.22 billion

estimated funding
mobilized by Provincial
Local Government Units’
investment plans from other
stakeholders and sources

81

provincial local government
units improved technical
capacity to plan and manage
subprojects for developing
the agriculture sector

33%

reduction of travel time
and 22% reduction of
transport costs as a
result of 1,000 kilometers
of farm-to-market
roads constructed or
rehabilitated

66,100

beneficiaries received technical
and funding assistance for
agri-entreprises, resulting in
an average of 113% increase in
real household income

81 provincial local government units improved technical capacity to plan and manage subprojects for developing the agriculture sector

372,000 farmers and fisherfolk beneficiaries received agricultural assets and/or services, with 46% female beneficiaries

$1.22 billion estimated funding mobilized by Provincial Local Government Units’ investment plans from other stakeholders and sources

33% reduction of travel time and 22% reduction of transport costs as a result of 1,000 kilometers of farm-to-market roads constructed or rehabilitated

66,100 beneficiaries received technical and funding assistance for agri-entreprises, resulting in an average of 113% increase in real household income

Before, to vaccinate, the animals had to be put in a makeshift enclosure that did not hold up. For my 160 heads of cattle, it took me 2 to 3 days. Today, I finished vaccinating all my cattle in one morning, and I continue on my way.

Mahamat Zène, transhumant herder, Chad
CHALLENGES

Traditional pastoralist systems in the Sahel are under threat due to climate change, instability, and large-scale development projects. Transboundary animal diseases, shared rangelands and water resources, cross-border trade, market information, and pastoral risks (that include droughts and conflicts) cut across national borders and regions. The COVID-19 pandemic also affected pastoralism with closed borders and increased conflicts between farmers. Restrictions on mobility led to sharp increases in livestock prices in the cities and market closures undermining pastoralists’ livelihoods.

SOLUTIONS

The Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project works to preserve pastoral systems that provide livelihoods for over 20 million people in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. The project delivers public goods that address pastoralism challenges and opportunities, including national strategic plans developed and implemented for selected diseases, multi-actor management plans for natural resources, and critical infrastructure for animal health management. The project also provides support to strengthen local management committees and promote sustainable management practices, technologies, and innovations.

The project taught me more in under two years, than all the other projects over 40 years. In two years, the results are visible all along my breeding chain. I have been able to increase my yields, register more births, produce more milk, and sell more animals for slaughter

75-year-old herder, Gouloum Thiarène, Senegal
Between 2015 and 2020

- **5 million** hectares of pastoral areas under sustainable landscape management
- **2.2 million** people depending mainly on pastoralism in the Sahel directly benefited from World Bank support
- **20,700** people, of whom 88% are women, supported for diversification of economic activities
- **295** vaccination parks constructed and rehabilitated, improving animal health
- **211+ million** animals vaccinated
- **5 million** hectares of pastoral areas under sustainable landscape management

Productive Economies

The World Bank Group’s jobs-focused interventions benefited an even larger number of people in fiscal year 2021, helping countries maintain productive economies.

World Bank Group support is helping countries build the conditions for job-creating private investment and increasing the capacity of workers and entrepreneurs to raise their productivity and enhance access to job opportunities.

Advancing Higher Education in Costa Rica
In 2011, Costa Rica’s higher education system included five public universities, four of which were well-established and one of which was relatively new. The country had about 50 self-financed private universities and 60 other non-university higher education institutions. Physical infrastructure and human resource limitations had forced public universities to impose quotas, disproportionately constraining access to tertiary education for the poorest students. Delivering on the Costa Rican government’s national priorities for growth required addressing enrollment constraints to ensure sufficient numbers of graduates.

The Costa Rica Higher Education Improvement Project was designed to build and strengthen human capital by fostering knowledge and incorporating science, technology, and innovation into public universities’ priority areas to contribute to the construction of a more competitive, prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable Costa Rica. The project supported the design of a Performance Agreement between the Costa Rican government and each of the four participating public universities to improve access, coverage, quality, relevance, and innovation while fostering a better use of resources. The key to achieving these objectives were five-year Institutional Improvement Agreements signed between the government and each of the four public universities. A first in Costa Rica, each agreement detailed the commitments of both parties regarding use of loan funds; an attached Institutional Improvement Plan articulated the institution’s strategic objectives.

Beyond its direct investments and results, the project has promoted a culture of continuous improvement at the universities.
Between 2014 and 2019

- **20%** increase in enrollment of undergraduate and post-graduate students in the country’s four well-established public universities, amounting to 19,000 additional students.

- **3x** increase in the number of accredited majors offered at the country’s four public universities, providing upgraded and more market-relevant programs to students.

- **22%** increase in number of graduates from the country’s four well-established public universities.

- 606 professors benefited from scholarships to conduct internships and master and doctoral studies.

Improving Agribusiness Productivity in Timor Leste

In sectors where the private sector has been particularly reluctant to invest, IFC has deployed concessional funds (blended finance) to help demonstrate the viability of companies, exemplified by its work with Kaebauk Investimentu No Finansa, Timor-Leste. This project is part of a holistic farming-to-financing approach that addresses financing gaps in a critically important sector. With the support of concessional funds from the IDA Private Sector Window, IFC is improving productivity in agribusiness by developing a sufficient flow of bankable agribusiness financing opportunities, which will provide more and better financial access to underserved farmers and agri-enterprises, including those owned by women.

Scaling Solar Power in Senegal

Sub-Saharan Africa continued to feature prominently in IFC’s infrastructure portfolio, as demonstrated by an investment in Kahone Solaire SA, Senegal. This joint World Bank Group Project supports Senegal’s efforts to increase private participation in the renewable energy sector. The project was developed under the World Bank Group’s Scaling Solar Program, which was designed to establish competitive procurement modalities for utility-scale solar projects in the country, enhance market competitiveness, and improve the resilience of the power system. The project consists of the design, construction, interconnection, ownership, and operation of two solar photovoltaic power plants in Senegal, the 44 megawatt peak Kahone plant, and the 35 megawatt peak Touba plant.

Supporting Green Energy
in Sierra Leone and Liberia

MIGA’s clean energy guarantees to Escotel, a company that provides electricity and logistical services for cell phone towers (telecommunication network sites or TNS), will contribute to green energy in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Escotel provides clean solar energy and battery storage capacity that reduces TNS use of diesel fuel by an average of 75 percent, at the same time reducing costs and enhancing efficiency. It is expected that Escotel will modernize 600 TNS by 2028 in Sierra Leone and in Liberia 612 TNS over the same period.

The project aligns with MIGA’s environmental and social performance standards and the World Bank Group’s environmental, health, and safety guidelines. Given Liberia and Sierra Leone’s eligibility for IDA resources, the project benefited from the support of IDA’s Private Sector Window through the MIGA Guarantee Facility. The project has strong potential to serve as a model in the region and be replicated by other telecommunications providers.

Over the longer-term, the World Bank Group helps countries deliver high-level outcomes through a tested model that improves people’s well-being in the context of country priorities, combines public and private lending, manages risks, and supports evidence-based decisions. The World Bank Group articulated its renewed ambition toward a green, resilient, and inclusive development (GRID). In fiscal year 2021, the World Bank Group demonstrated its strong commitment to helping countries address climate change with $21 billion in climate financing and 50 percent in adaptation financing, making the World Bank Group the largest multilateral development bank contributor to climate financing.

The World Bank Group also deepened its commitment to inclusion, a key element of the GRID agenda, by helping countries advance gender equality. In fiscal year 2021, World Bank Group operations benefited an increasing number of women and girls. For example, 65 percent of the beneficiaries of Health, Nutrition, and Population services and 56 percent of those who benefited from World Bank Group-supported social safety nets were female. Over 80 percent of operations in the World Bank and IDA aim to close gender gaps and track those results in their results frameworks.

The World Bank Group’s “cascade” approach to maximize finance for development leverages all sources of finance, expertise, and solutions to support outcomes. Private capital mobilization remains challenging given current market conditions. However, there have been positive signs: IFC’s private capital mobilization edged upwards in fiscal year 2021, reaching $17.1 billion, and the share of private mobilization in COVID-19 related projects increased sharply from 12 percent to 40 percent in fiscal year 2021, reflecting increased investor interest.

The World Bank Group is committed to working with client countries over the long term to achieve meaningful development outcomes that improve people’s well-being. The stories that follow capture how World Bank Group support, sometimes over multiple decades, is helping countries build the foundations needed for a greener and more inclusive future.

Transforming the Energy Sector in Kenya
In the 1990s, Kenya suffered acute power generation capacity shortages and limited access to electricity. In 1993, approximately 11 percent of Kenyans had access to electricity, while generation stood at 776 megawatts in 1996. The limited generation, coverage, and capacity of the transmission and distribution grid affected the quality of services, led to unnecessarily high electricity losses and prevented the country from extending electricity service.

The World Bank Group has been a long-time partner to the Kenyan government in support of their efforts to transform the energy sector and ensure that all citizens have electricity access. Since the early 1990s, the World Bank Group has played a key role in identifying critical reforms, helping the government build the capacity to implement them, and coordinating the efforts of other development partners. The World Bank Group supported the Kenyan government to advance a series of key policy and regulatory reforms, including unbundling of generation from transmission and distribution and early transition to cost-reflective tariffs. In the 2000s, World Bank Group support helped the government address the supply crisis and continue to enhance the policy, institutional, and regulatory framework. This was followed by efforts in the 2010s focused on recovery, diversification, increased efficiency, and leveraging private capital. As the country increased public sector investment in geothermal exploration and development, the World Bank Group was pivotal as the first partner to support geothermal energy development, which gave confidence to other partners and eventually to the private sector to invest. The World Bank Group also played a lead role in articulating the need for the government to include off-grid renewables in the official energy mix, catalyzing private sector expansion of solar home systems. Current World Bank Group support focuses on the government’s efforts to continue scaling up access.
Through continuous support over the past decades, the World Bank has helped Kenya create a vibrant power sector. Power generation capacity now stands at 2,819 megawatts and includes a well-diversified mix with close to 90 percent of energy being generated from clean sources, mainly geothermal, hydro, and wind.

By 2018, approximately 75 percent of Kenyans had access to either on- or off-grid electricity sources, and at least $3 billion in private capital was mobilized in the power sector between 1997 and 2018.

CHALLENGES

In 2001, Pakistan had the second largest out-of-school population with an estimated 23 million children out of school. The country’s largest province of Punjab contributed nearly half of this total and was also plagued by a substantial gender gap in enrollment rates.

WORLD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Over two decades, the World Bank worked closely with the government to support a systemwide approach for education reform, built on a shared vision for increasing primary enrollment. Using a combination of instruments, the World Bank helped to strengthen institutions, supported diagnostics to guide implementation based on evidence, and provided long-term financial support. In the early 2000s, the World Bank supported the government of Punjab’s efforts to shift the education dialogue toward a comprehensive approach involving governance and finance reforms to align political leadership, finance, and the education sector behind the achievement of universal primary education. The World Bank supported analytical work that provided a deeper understanding of the challenges facing school enrollment and informed government policies and strategies. The World Bank financed four Development Policy Operations to support a series of critical policy reforms to strengthen the supply and demand sides of education, improve the delivery of education services, and enhance monitoring mechanisms. Since 2009, the World Bank has supported programs with a results-based focus. Continued impact evaluations have fed policy dialogue and allowed evidence-based decisions to expand government strategy.
Over the past two decades, overall primary school enrollment increased to 85 percent, and gender parity has almost been achieved. Girls’ enrollment stands at 84 percent, just 3 percentage points below the boys’ enrollment rate of 87 percent. These results have been achieved even while Punjab’s population grew from 74 million to 110 million.

The World Bank’s long-term engagement brought legitimacy and stability to the education agenda, helping the government to overcome institutional, financial, and sectoral challenges for the sustained increase in primary school enrollment.

Combating Childhood Stunting in Peru
For generations, children in Peru suffered among the highest rates of childhood stunting in the world. In 2000, Peru’s stunting rate stood at 31.3 percent, due to chronic child malnutrition. Among Indigenous communities in the Andes, rates of physical and cognitive stunting often reached over 50 percent. At that time, the country lacked a comprehensive national strategy to address child stunting.

By 2006, fighting child stunting had become a key issue in the national election, and it remained a political priority under four successive governments. Over nearly two decades, the World Bank supported Peru’s efforts to combat child stunting, which focused on extending the health systems to poor communities, providing health insurance to poor women and children, and improving maternal care and early childhood development, along with a conditional cash transfer program. From 2000 to 2016, the World Bank contributed to these efforts through a combination of lending and non-lending support that included technical assistance, support for policy dialogue, and analytical work. The World Bank, along with other partners, conducted diagnostic studies, demonstrating that a multisectoral approach was required to complement existing poverty alleviation and food assistance programs. Reducing chronic malnutrition had to be addressed with complementary services to affect behavior and increase access to food as well as health, water, and sanitation services. World Bank-supported diagnostics informed the design of a result-based operation that supported a shift in direction, from a focus on hunger toward a more comprehensive and integrated public health approach. Initiatives to generate demand were supported by—Juntos—conditional cash transfer and health insurance programs, while supply-side initiatives were supported by health sector reform projects that aimed to build the health and nutrition delivery system and strengthen results-based budgeting for social sectors at the regional and district levels through the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
These efforts have helped to improve health outcomes and reduce child stunting across the country. By 2018 Peru had managed to cut their child stunting rate by more than half to 12.3 percent, with more than 377,000 children saved from being stunted since 2007. Although urban-rural differences in child stunting still exist, the decline in the rural rate of stunting has been remarkable, falling from over 47 percent in 2006 to 26.5 percent in 2016.

While continued efforts are still needed, these improvements are enabling children to live healthier and more productive lives.

Managing for Outcomes

Guided by improvements in operational and organizational effectiveness, the World Bank Group continues to adapt to changing global needs, with a sharp focus on country contexts and on managing toward lasting development outcomes.

Rising trends in independent assessment of outcomes in World Bank Group country programs, IDA operations, IBRD operations, and IFC investment and advisory services show the results of years of effort to improve the quality and relevance of services for clients. MIGA results remain near peak levels.

Importantly, the quality of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in IDA and IBRD operations reached its highest point ever, closing in on the corporate target and still climbing. Collecting and using evidence to better implement operations is central to the outcome orientation agenda and is a likely contributor to improving development outcomes.

Despite COVID-19 related challenges, the World Bank Group was able to manage the portfolio well, even as it expanded faster than ever before while facing severe limitations on staff and restrictions on travel. The IDA and World Bank portfolio continued to meet targets on corporate priorities, including on climate finance, closing gender gaps, and the Jobs and Economic Transformation agenda. Client assessments of World Bank responsiveness and collaboration with other donors continued to climb. And the disbursement ratio and proactivity remained near target levels even with record portfolios to administer. Given the unusual circumstances, several indicators lagged: severe disruptions and uncertainty hampered private capital mobilization, and travel restrictions limited the amount of time spent on the ground in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

Independent Evaluations Show that the World Bank Continues to Improve Development Outcomes

**Satisfactory Outcomes of Country Partnership Frameworks**

**Satisfactory Outcomes of World Bank Operations** (Share of Operations)

IEG Ratings of IFC Investment and Advisory Services Have Improved

IFC Investments and Advisory Services
(As Rated by IEG, 3-Year Rolling Cohort)

Percent

Investment Services project ratings are by evaluation calendar year
and Advisory Services project ratings are by evaluation fiscal year

MIGA Sustains IEG Ratings at a High Level

MIGA’s Development Outcome ratings of satisfactory or better remain near peak levels.

MIGA continues to focus on underwriting quality, monitoring, and sustaining high environmental and social standards.

MIGA’s ex ante development impact framework is enhancing project selection; ex post evaluations are strengthening feedback loops.

The World Bank Group continues to work with countries toward long-term development outcomes that matter.
This Results Yearbook summarizes 2021 results reported in the World Bank Group Corporate Scorecards. For more information, visit https://scorecard.worldbank.org.


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