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WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021
Data for Better Lives

By the World Bank

The unprecedented growth of data and its ubiquity in our daily lives signal that the digital revolution is transforming the world. But despite this growth, much of the value of data remains untapped, waiting to be realized. Data collected for one particular purpose has the potential to generate economic value in applications far beyond those originally anticipated. However, many barriers stand in the way of such beneficial reuse of data, ranging from misaligned incentives and incompatible data systems to a fundamental lack of trust.

World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives will explore the tremendous potential of the changing data landscape not only to improve the lives of poor people, but also to open back doors that can harm individuals, businesses, and societies. The first part of the report assesses how better use and reuse of data can enhance the design of public policies, programs, and service delivery, as well as improve market efficiency and job creation through private sector growth. The second part of the report focuses on issues of governance, law, policy, and infrastructure that can help realize data’s potential benefits while safeguarding against harmful outcomes. By examining these opportunities and challenges, the report aims to show how data can benefit the lives of poor people in low- and middle-income countries.

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ALSO AVAILABLE IN HARDCOVER
WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021: DATA FOR BETTER LIVES
Although the global economy is emerging from the collapse triggered by the pandemic, the recovery is uneven, halting, and subdued. Global economic output is expected to expand 3.8 percent in 2021. Notwithstanding this recovery, global GDP will still be more than 5 percent below its pre-pandemic trend in 2021, and there is a material risk that setbacks in containing the pandemic or other adverse events will derail the recovery. Growth in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) is envisioned to firm to 5 percent in 2021, but EMDE output is expected to remain well below its pre-pandemic projection. The pandemic has exacerbated the risks associated with a decade-long wave of global debt accumulation. Debt levels have reached historic highs, making the global economy particularly vulnerable to financial market stress. The pandemic is likely to steepen the long-expected slowdown in potential growth over the next decade, undermining prospects for poverty reduction.

The heightened level of uncertainty around the global outlook highlights policymakers’ role in raising the likelihood of better growth outcomes while warding off worse ones. Limiting the spread of the virus, providing relief for vulnerable populations, and overcoming vaccine-related challenges are key immediate priorities. With weak fiscal positions severely constraining government support measures in many countries, an emphasis on ambitious reforms is needed to rekindle robust, sustainable, and equitable growth. Global cooperation is critical in addressing many of these challenges. In particular, the global community needs to act rapidly and forcefully to make sure the ongoing debt wave does not end with a string of debt crises in EMDEs, as was the case with earlier waves of debt accumulation.

Global Economic Prospects is a World Bank Group Flagship Report that examines global economic developments and prospects, with a special focus on emerging market and developing economies, on a semiannual basis (in January and June). The January edition includes in-depth analyses of topical policy challenges faced by these economies, while the June edition contains shorter analytical pieces.

Also Forthcoming

GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, JUNE 2021
DOING BUSINESS 2021

By the World Bank

Doing Business 2021 is the 18th in a series of annual studies investigating the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. It provides quantitative indicators covering 11 areas of the business environment in 191 economies.

Doing Business is founded on the principle that economic activity benefits from clear rules: rules that allow voluntary exchanges between economic actors, set out strong property rights, facilitate the resolution of commercial disputes, and provide contractual partners with protections against arbitrariness and abuse. Such rules are much more effective in promoting growth and development when they are efficient, transparent, and accessible to those for whom they are intended.

Doing Business captures several important dimensions of the regulatory environment affecting domestic firms. It provides quantitative indicators on regulation for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency. More than 48,000 professionals in 191 economies have assisted in providing the data that inform the Doing Business indicators.

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HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX 2020 UPDATE

Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19

By the World Bank

This report presents an update to the Human Capital Index (HCI), using the most recent health and education data available as of 2020. It documents new evidence on trends over time in the HCI, examples of success, and new analytical work on utilization of human capital, as well as a primer on the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and its potential impact on human capital.

COVID-19 is taking a tremendous toll on lives and economies. Disruptions in supply chains and the lockdowns that have been enacted to stave off contagion are putting hardship on families’ incomes. Coupled with disruptions in basic health services and school closures, these repercussions of COVID shocks are likely to have a significant impact on the human capital accumulation process in the short and in the long run. HCI 2020 data have been collected before the onset of COVID-19 and can act as a baseline to track the effects of COVID-19 on health and education outcomes, as policy makers consider how best to protect human capital from the shock of the pandemic.


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THE FIFTH GENERATION OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

5G as an Opportunity to Leapfrog Development

By Rami Amin, Niccolo Comini, Vivien Foster, Natalija Gelvanovska-Garcia, Kay Kim, Hyea Won Lee, Maria Claudia Pachon, Je Myung Ryu, and Zhijun William Zhang

The global race for 5G has seen countries riding a new wave of mobile technology. 5G is the next-generation mobile communication technology that enables a different level of performance and innovative applications vis-à-vis 4G, which is currently in use by most people in the world. With its debut in 2019, 5G became a reality in several countries, with over 100 commercial launches by the end of 2020.

For some countries, 5G services may seem to be in a distant future; for others, 5G is the initiation into the Fourth Industrial Revolution. With estimated impact of 5G on global GDP in the trillions of US dollars and global job additions in the millions in the next decade, 5G has the potential for immense impact on job creation, productivity, and competitiveness. When 5G has been fully implemented, its disruptive potential threatens to make irreversible the digital divide between early and late adopters.

Should countries that have yet to turn off 3G services be concerned? Emerging markets have unique characteristics that set them apart from frontier economies: rapid growth in mobile connectivity, nascent markets for fixed infrastructure, and a younger population. These factors are poised to increase adoption of mobile broadband and demand for better connection and services. In other words, 5G may be a powerful force that will help countries leapfrog technologies and accelerate towards meeting their Sustainable Development Goals.

If so, what are the necessary steps for developing countries to prepare for the next technological wave and to ensure equitable distribution of the gains from 5G? The potential dual nature of the impact of 5G on developing countries calls for an accurate diagnosis of its implications as well as its risks. This report explores the latest innovation in mobile technology, the tremendous opportunities that could be reaped from adopting 5G, the costs and challenges associated with 5G, effective management of its associated risks, and policy considerations for developing countries to most effectively deploy and utilize the 5G network.

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Sustainable Infrastructure series covers a wide range of policy topics relating to network infrastructure services, including energy, multimodal transportation, information and communication technologies and digital development, water and sanitation, and urban and rural infrastructure, as well as irrigation and flood management.
The rising concentration of extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa over the past quarter century can be attributed to the fact that economic growth has been slow, productivity levels and the contribution of total factor productivity to growth is still low, and growth has not been inclusive enough to put a big dent in poverty. What explains the dismal performance on labor productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa compared with the rest of the developing world? This report argues that first, physical capital is scarce, and economic activities in the region have low capital intensity relative to other regions. Second, although human capital levels were relatively similar in Sub-Saharan Africa relative to a group of East Asian Pacific countries in 1960, insufficient investment and poor outcomes led not only to relatively lower levels but also to low quality of human capital. Finally, scarce resources compounded by the inefficiencies in their allocation across productive units (with different levels of productivity) translate into low (aggregate) labor productivity.

Sub-Saharan Africa needs policies to boost productivity across all sectors of economic activity and, especially, in those sectors in which most poor people make their living. The region needs policies that improve productivity in the agriculture sector, foster rural development, and create jobs for youth who are joining the labor force.
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES IN SOUTH ASIA

By the World Bank

Contingent liabilities could have one of the costliest impacts on the budget, and they account for the bulk of so-called “hidden deficits”—that is, increases in public debt that are not explained by headline fiscal balances find that, on average, the overall fiscal balance falls by about 2 percentage points as a share of GDP and then stays below the pre-event level for an extended period.

Furthermore, debt increases by more than 15 percent of GDP during an average realization of contingent liability. It rises for roughly three years and then stabilizes at a higher level than before the realization of contingent liability.

This flagship report for South Asia will try to map the financial risks from contingent liabilities in South Asian countries and provide policy recommendations for improving management of financial risks at the level of the sovereign, state-owned enterprises.

SOUTH ASIA DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

This regional flagship series serves as a vehicle for in-depth synthesis of economic and policy analysis on key development topics for South Asia. It aims to promote dialogue and debate with all of the World Bank’s partners—from policymakers to civil society organizations, academic institutions, development practitioners, and the media—and to contribute toward building consensus among all those who care about stimulating development and eradicating poverty in South Asia.
After a half century of significant economic success, developing countries in East Asia are confronted by slowing productivity growth, increased fragility of the global trading system, and rapid changes in technology which are threatening their main engine of growth: export-oriented, labor-intensive manufacturing. Longer-term demographic shifts, climate change, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are increasing economic vulnerability.

Against this background, The Innovation Imperative in Developing East Asia examines the role of innovation in fostering future economic progress in the region. A central finding of the report is that the countries’ innovation institutions and policies are not aligned with their firms’ innovation capabilities and needs. To enable greater innovation-led growth, policies need to support technology diffusion, not just invention, and innovation in services, not just manufacturing. Efforts are also needed to strengthen key complementary factors for innovation, including firms’ managerial capacity, workers’ skills, and risk finance.
CRISES AND LABOR MARKETS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Lessons for an Inclusive Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic
By Joana Silva, Liliana Sousa, Truman Packard, and Raymond Robertson

A better policy framework for preventing, managing, and helping people recover from crises is crucial to lifting long-term growth and livelihoods in Latin America and the Caribbean. The need for this policy framework has never been more urgent as the region faces the monumental task of recovery from the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Whether specific policy responses will deliver the expected growth dividends will depend on the underlying vision of how labor markets adjust to crises and the quality of the policies enacted. This report estimates how crises change labor market flows, assesses how these changes affect people, and discusses the critical policy responses.

The key findings are threefold. First, crises have significant impacts on employment dynamics and structure in Latin America. Different labor market dynamics hide behind similar reductions in labor demand. Crises increase unemployment. This is the principal margin of adjustment despite highly informal labor markets. Across the region, the biggest employment losses are in the formal sector, driven by a reduction in job-finding rates rather than higher job-loss rates. Adjustment through reduction in hours worked does not seem to be an important factor in most countries’ formal or informal sectors. Crises have significant after-crisis effects on the structure of employment that last for several years. These effects are such that good job opportunities are gradually shrinking. In some countries the whole economy shrinks; in others informality serves as a partial buffer.

Second, crises leave scars. Some workers recover from displacement and other livelihood shocks, while others are permanently scarred. For lower-skilled workers, earnings losses are persistent. Workers with higher education suffer no impacts of the crisis on their wages and very short-lived impacts on their employment. New entrants to the labor market during a crisis face a worse career start from which it is difficult to recover. Yet crises also bring efficiency gains, as detailed in this report.

This study finds that both the structure of product markets and the conditions in local labor markets matter for the severity of crisis-induced employment and earnings losses across localities and sectors. Workers in more protected sectors that enjoy rents are sheltered from adjustment, while workers in localities with more informality cope better. This suggests the need for integrated responses at the worker, sector, and locality levels.

Third, this study considers how the region’s policy frameworks can more effectively respond to crises—mitigating scarring, speeding adjustment, and promoting long-term growth. It proposes a three-pronged strategy, including (i) creating a more stable macroeconomic environment at the aggregate level to smooth the impacts of crises, including “automatic stabilizers” such as countercyclical, publicly financed income support that is lacking in Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) increasing the capacity of social protection and labor policies to provide income support and prepare workers for change through reemployment assistance; and (iii) tackling structural issues, including addressing product market competition, contestability issues, and the spatial dimension behind poor labor market adjustment.
WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2021

By the World Bank

*Women, Business and the Law 2021* analyzes laws and regulations affecting women’s economic inclusion in 190 economies. The Women, Business and the Law Index, composed of eight indicators structured around women’s interactions with the law as they begin, progress through, and their careers, aligns different areas of the law with the economic decisions women make at various stages of their lives. These indicators are Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension.

This year’s report updates all indicators as of October 1, 2020, and builds evidence around the linkages between legal gender equality and women’s economic inclusion. By examining the economic decisions women make as they go through different stages of their working lives and the pace of reforms over the past year, *Women, Business and the Law 2021* makes an important contribution to research and policy discussions about the state of women’s economic opportunities and empowerment. While celebrating the progress made, the data and analysis emphasize the work still to be done to ensure economic empowerment for all.

CHANGING WEALTH OF NATIONS 2020

**From Accounting to Managing Wealth**

By the World Bank

Wealth, measured comprehensively to include all assets (produced, human, and natural capital) underpins national income, and sustained growth over the long term requires investment in this broad portfolio of assets.

*Changing Wealth of Nations 2020* firmly establishes wealth as a measure of sustainability and key component of country analytics by (i) expanding the coverage and improving the quality of all assets, notably natural capital, and (ii) demonstrating how wealth accounts can be applied in analytics to areas of major policy concern like climate change and natural resource policy reform.
SERVICES-LED DEVELOPMENT

In the Service of Jobs and Productivity?

By Gaurav Nayyar, Mary Hallward-Driemeier, and Elwyn Davies

Throughout history, industrialization has been synonymous with development. However, the trend of premature deindustrialization and the spread of automation technologies associated with Industry 4.0 has raised concerns that the development model based on export-led manufacturing seen in East Asia will be harder for hitherto less industrialized countries to replicate in the future.

Can services-led development be an alternative? Contrary to conventional wisdom, the features of manufacturing that were considered uniquely conducive for productivity growth—such as international trade, scale economies, intersectoral linkages, and innovation—are increasingly shared by the services sector. But services are not monolithic. The twin gains of productivity growth and large-scale job creation for relatively low-skilled workers are less likely to come together in any given services subsector. The promise of services-led development in the future will be strengthened to the extent that technological change reduces the trade-off between productivity and jobs, and growth opportunities in services with potential for high productivity do not depend on a manufacturing base.

Considering technological change and linkages between sectors while differentiating across types of services, this book assesses the scope of a services-driven development model and policy directions that maximize its potential.

PLACE, PRODUCTIVITY, AND PROSPERITY

Revisiting Spatially-Targeted Policies for Regional Development

By Somik Lall, William Maloney, and Arti Grover

The spatial dimension of productivity and inclusive growth has moved to center stage. While the geographic concentration of economic activity has boosted productivity, growing disparities between prospering places and those left behind have polarized countries, while rapid urbanization has often led to dysfunctional cities. In response, governments have put forward a variety of spatial policies that include special economic zones, business incentives, transport corridors, revival of lagging areas, and development of new urban centers.

Place, Productivity, and Prosperity develops a framework for thinking through such spatially-targeted policies and assessing their social value, while presenting new evidence on key empirical issues. It highlights the constraints imposed by path dependence and coordination failures in reorienting the spatial economy, as well as the role of complementary policies, including market institutions, in enhancing the benefits and managing the downside risks with spatially-targeted interventions. The framework is applied to evaluate several popular spatial interventions.
GLOBAL PRODUCTIVITY

Trends, Drivers, and Policies

Edited by Alistair Dieppe

The COVID-19 pandemic struck the global economy after a decade that featured a broad-based slowdown in productivity growth. *Global Productivity: Trends, Drivers, and Policies* presents the first comprehensive analysis of the evolution and drivers of productivity growth, examines the effects of COVID-19 on productivity, and discusses a wide-range of policies needed to rekindle productivity growth.

The book also provides a far-reaching data set of multiple measures of productivity for 164 advanced economies and emerging market and developing economies and introduces a new sectoral database of productivity.

GLOBAL WAVES OF DEBT

Causes and Consequences

By M. Ayhan Kose, Peter Nagle, Franziska Ohnsorge, and Naotaka Sugawara

The global economy has experienced four waves of rapid debt accumulation over the past 50 years. The first three debt waves ended with financial crises in many emerging market and developing economies. During the current wave, which started in 2010, the increase in debt in these economies has already been larger, faster, and broader-based than in the previous three waves. Current low interest rates mitigate some of the risks associated with high debt.

However, emerging market and developing economies are also confronted by weak growth prospects, mounting vulnerabilities, and elevated global risks. A menu of debt policy options is available to reduce the likelihood that the current debt wave will end in crisis and, if crises do take place, alleviate their impact.
GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS
An Investment Perspective

By Christine Zhenwei Qiang, Yan Liu, and Victor Steenbergen

This report investigates the role of foreign direct investment (FDI) in helping developing countries participate in global value chains (GVCs). It combines the perspectives and strategies from three types of players: multinational corporations (MNC), domestic firms and governments. It aims to provide practical guidance for developing countries to develop strategies that use FDI to strengthen GVC participation and upgrading.

The report has six main chapters:

1. FDI and GVCs. Assesses the trade-investment nexus and analyzes the effect of FDI on countries’ GVC participation and upgrading at the country level.
2. MNCs shape GVC development. Highlights MNCs’ contribution to the economy and how their business strategies shape the evolution of GVCs.
3. Domestic firm perspectives on GVC participation. Looks at the various paths domestic firms can take to internationalize their production and trade.
4. Investment policy and promotion. What is in a government’s toolbox?
5. Integrating countries into GVCs. Draws on a range of case studies to illustrate how governments can develop coherent strategies and policy packages to integrate their countries into GVCs.
6. FDI and GVCs in the wake of COVID-19. Reflects the impact of COVID-19 on FDI and GVCs, the response from multinationals and suppliers, and the implications for GVC reconfiguration.

A DECADE AFTER THE GLOBAL RECESSION
Lessons and Challenges for Emerging and Developing Economies

Edited by M. Ayhan Kose and Franziska Ohnsorge

Most emerging market and developing economies weathered the 2009 global recession relatively well, in part by using the sizable fiscal and monetary policy ammunition accumulated during prior years of strong growth. However, their growth prospects have weakened since then, and many now have less policy space.

This study provides the first comprehensive stocktaking of the past decade from the perspective of emerging market and developing economies. Many of these economies have now become more vulnerable to economic shocks. The study discusses lessons from the global recession and policy options for these economies to strengthen growth and prepare for the possibility of another global downturn.
PRIMER ON LARGE-SCALE ASSESSMENTS OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

By Marguerite Clarke and Diego Luna-Bazaldua

Over the last 10 years, an increasing number of countries around the world have carried out national large-scale assessment studies or participated in international large-scale assessments for the first time. All of these activities have allowed policy makers and other stakeholders to get a better sense of the status of their education systems and, in some cases, to better monitor learning trends over time. Countries have also used the information produced by these large-scale assessments to make more informed decisions about how to improve their education systems.

This increase in large-scale assessment activity has been accompanied by increased requests from countries for guidance and answers to critical questions on the design, implementation, and use of data from large-scale assessments. This primer was written in response. The nine chapters of the primer have been structured to answer the most common questions posed by those working on large-scale assessments or interested in making informed decisions about their design and implementation.

SERVICE DELIVERY INDICATORS

Insights into the Quality of Health and Education in Ten African Countries

By Roberta Gatti, Kathryn Andrews, Ruben Connor, Jigyasa Sharma, Andres Yi-Chang, and Ciro Avitabile

The World Bank’s Service Delivery Indicators (SDI) surveys aim to measure the quality of services where the service meets the citizens: in schools and health facilities. Have teachers mastered the subject matter they are teaching, and can doctors accurately diagnose and treat key health conditions? Are schools and health facilities stocked with the needed equipment, supplies, and infrastructure to optimize learning and clinical-care outcomes? Are schools and health facilities equipped to provide services during a pandemic?

For the past 10 years, the World Bank’s SDI surveys have collected nationally representative data across Sub-Saharan Africa to help identify areas of resilience and constraint in service delivery, shedding light on how service delivery may foster or stunt human capital accumulation. The evidence from SDI surveys offers important insights into how countries can build back better in the wake of the massive disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.
**WHAT'S COOKING**

Digital Transformation of the Agrifood System

By Kateryna G. Schroeder, Julian A. Lampietti, and Ghada Elabed

The digital revolution is key to building an agriculture and food system that is efficient, environmentally sustainable, and equitable and can help deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.

Digital technologies promise to transform the agrifood system in unprecedented ways, by bringing down transaction costs and addressing pervasive information asymmetries. Unlike past technological revolutions in agriculture that began on farms, the digital agriculture revolution is being sparked at multiple points along the agrifood value chain. The change is driven by the ability to collect, use, and analyze massive amounts of machine-readable data about practically every aspect of the value chain and by the emergence of digital platforms disrupting business models in the agrifood system.

This report investigates how digital technologies can accelerate the transformation of the agrifood system, including by increasing efficiency on the farm; improving farmers’ access to output, input, and financial markets; improving quality control and traceability; and increasing efficiency in the design and delivery of agricultural policies.

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**TAX THEORY APPLIED TO THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

A Proposal for a Digital Data Tax and a Global Internet Tax Agency

By Cristian Oliver Lucas-Mas and Raul Felix Junquera-Varela

This book aims at analyzing and understanding the tax-disruptive aspects of the new digital business models as a first step toward determining the need for new tax measures to address the tax challenges of the digitalization of the economy. Currently, the digital debate focuses on direct taxation and the creation of new taxing rights from the tax claims of market jurisdictions on income obtained by foreign digital suppliers conducting business therein without any physical presence.

Interestingly enough, this digital clash of national interests is not between developed and developing countries, but instead, between developed economies that invested in technological innovation and developed economies that neglected the internet as a game-changer technology that could overcome the physical limitations of trade and taxation. Now, after decades and billions invested by the former (countries of residence of digital companies), the latter (market jurisdictions) want to join in the investment return at any (noneconomic) cost, even if that requires dismantling the world tax order.
IMPACT EVALUATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Theory, Methods, and Practice

By Paul Glewwe and Petra Todd

Impact evaluations are studies that attempt to measure the causal impact of a project, program, or policy on one or more outcomes of interest. This book provides a comprehensive exposition of how to conduct impact evaluations.

Part I provides an overview of impact evaluations and comprises five chapters that are accessible to readers who have few or none of the technical (statistical and econometric) skills that are needed to conduct impact evaluations. Parts II and III make use of statistical and econometric methods and are at a level similar to a graduate-student course but written to make them accessible to the ambitious reader whose skills are not at that level. Chapters 11 and 12 present regression methods, including difference-in-differences estimation. Matching methods are described in Chapter 13, after which regression discontinuity methods are covered in Chapter 14. Instrumental variable methods, including the estimation of local average treatment effects, are discussed in detail in Chapter 15. Chapters 16 and 17 cover more advanced topics: quantile treatment effects and control function methods, respectively. Part IV then considers more practical issues when conducting impact evaluations, including designing questionnaires (Chapter 18), data collection methods and survey management (Chapters 19 and 20), and disseminating results to policymakers (Chapter 21). Finally, Part V addresses two topics in impact evaluation: qualitative methods for conducting impact evaluations (Chapter 22) and cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis (Chapter 23).

ASSET RECOVERY HANDBOOK

A Guide for Practitioners, Second Edition

By Jean-Pierre Brun, Anastasia Sotiropoulou, Larissa Gray, Clive Scott, and Kevin M. Stephenson

The Asset Recovery Handbook: A Guide for Practitioners was first published in 2011 by the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, a joint initiative of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime and the World Bank focused on encouraging and facilitating a more systematic and timely return of stolen assets. Designed as a how-to manual, the handbook guides practitioners as they grapple with the strategic, organizational, investigative, and legal challenges of recovering assets that have been stolen by corrupt leaders and hidden abroad.

It provides common approaches for recovering stolen assets located in foreign jurisdictions, identifies the challenges that practitioners are likely to encounter, and introduces good practices. By consolidating into a single framework the information dispersed across various professional backgrounds, the handbook has enhanced the effectiveness of practitioners working in a team environment.
MINI GRIDS FOR HALF A BILLION PEOPLE

Market Outlook and Handbook

By the World Bank

The objective of *Mini Grids for Half A Billion People* is to present road-tested options and examples from the frontier of mini grid development in each of the topics presented in this book, which decision makers can modify and implement to scale up mini grid deployment.

By acknowledging different national-level approaches to mini grids and providing context-specific considerations for implementation, it provides an adaptive approach to helping countries achieve their electrification targets.

THE STATE OF ECONOMIC INCLUSION REPORT 2021

The Potential to Scale


*The State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021* sheds light on one of the most intractable challenges faced by development policy makers and practitioners: transforming the economic lives of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people. Economic inclusion programs are a bundle of coordinated, multidimensional interventions that support individuals, households, and communities so they can raise their incomes and build their assets. Programs targeting the extreme poor and vulnerable groups are now under way in 75 countries.

This report presents data and evidence from 219 of these programs, which are reaching more than 90 million beneficiaries. Governments now lead the scale-up of economic inclusion interventions, often building on preexisting national programs such as safety nets, livelihoods and jobs, and financial inclusion, and 93 percent of the total beneficiaries are covered by government programs.
With digital transformation accelerating, can everyone, everywhere, benefit? A first step is to recognize how the underlying dynamics—and economic impacts—differ across types of digital technologies. New evidence reveals that Europe, given its current performance with digital technologies, faces a dilemma if the continent wants to achieve its triple objective of competitiveness, inclusion, and convergence. The technologies help European firms using them become more competitive. However, the technologies in which European firms’ performance is strongest (e.g., smart robotics) are also those that concentrate activities in larger firms and leading regions. Conversely, European firms have lower rates of both creation and take-up for those technologies with the greatest potential opportunities for smaller firms and lagging regions (e.g., platforms or cloud computing). The COVID-19 pandemic is reinforcing the urgency of addressing this dilemma.

Europe 4.0: Addressing the Digital Dilemma builds on two previous World Bank reports—Golden Growth and Growing United—that focused on Europe’s convergence machine and new sources of stress facing the continent. This latest volume provides a framework for, evidence on, and recommendations regarding how to attain a dynamic and inclusive digital economy. Europe 4.0 is possible—and Europe should take the chance.

**FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA**

**Rethinking the Role of Markets**

By Gaëlle Balineau, Arthur Bauer, Martin Kessler, and Nicole Madariaga

Rapid population growth, poorly planned urbanization, and evolving agricultural production and distribution practices are changing foodways in African cities and creating challenges: Africans are increasingly facing hunger, undernutrition, and malnutrition. Yet change also creates new opportunities. The food economy currently is the main source of jobs on the continent, promising more employment in the near future in farming, food processing, and food product distribution.

This volume is an in-depth analysis of food system shortcomings in three West African cities: Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire; Rabat, Morocco; and Niamey, Niger. Using the lens of geographical economics and sociology, the authors draw on quantitative and qualitative field surveys and case studies to offer insightful analyses of political institutions. They show the importance of “hard” physical infrastructure, such as transport, storage, and wholesale and retail market facilities. They also describe the “soft” infrastructure of institutions that facilitate trade, such as interpersonal trust, market information systems, and business climates. The authors find that the vague mandates and limited capacities of national trade and agriculture ministries, regional and urban authorities, neighborhood councils, and market cooperatives often hamper policy interventions.
SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR STABILITY, EQUITY, AND PROSPERITY IN AFRICA

By the World Bank

While many African countries are catching up to higher-income countries, some are falling behind despite their best efforts and those of the development community. Since their independence, a number of African countries have faced state-building and governance challenges, sometimes in the context of widespread political turbulence, civil conflict, military rule, and state failure. This has resulted in unevenness of national state capacities (asymmetrical state capabilities that vary across sector scale of government and over time), weakened political settlements and ineffective civil society. The 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic could exacerbate these challenges and lead to the emergence of new ones owing to the socioeconomic effects of containment measures.

This report lays the foundations for the World Bank to fully integrate a social-contract lens in its development policy toolkit in Sub-Saharan Africa. Its contribution consists mostly of a conceptual and empirical framework, mapping knowledge gaps, and presenting examples for the application of a social-contract lens in the region. Next steps in broadening the applicability of the social-contract lens to policy design and implementation are to systematize social-contract analysis at the country level (or subnational or sectoral levels as relevant) and to extend the framework to include currently missing elements.

THE PROSPECTS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Seizing Opportunities in Global Value Chains

By the World Bank

Industrialization drove the sustained growth in jobs and productivity that marked the developmental take-off of most developed economies. Yet with emerging global trends in technology and international trade, many have argued that the prospects of manufacturing in Sub-Saharan Africa may be limited. There are strong claims that economies in the region have experienced “premature deindustrialization” that may have reduced the viability of policies and strategies to promote manufacturing as a driver of sustainable growth.

This report comprehensively reassesses the prospects that industrialization will play a critical role in Sub-Saharan African countries’ development and shows that manufacturing represents a viable path to structural transformation through integration into global value chains. While countries are relatively well-integrated into global value chains, there is a need for strengthening linkages by increasing value-added to current exports and strategizing to upgrade into high-value-added industries. Because of rising wages, productivity growth will be critical to promoting competitiveness for sustained job creation in manufacturing and structural transformation.
THE FALLOUT OF WAR
The Regional Consequences of the Conflict in Syria
By the World Bank

The people of the Mashreq have seen more than their share of deaths, economic losses, and instability over the past decade. As the decade-long conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic created new challenges and worsened the existing ones, economic activity declined, labor markets deteriorated, and poverty increased. These trends would have overwhelmed even the most advanced economies in the world.

The Fallout of War: The Regional Consequences of the Conflict in Syria identifies the impact of the Syrian conflict on economic and social outcomes in Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. It combines a large number of data sources, statistical approaches, and a suite of economic models to isolate the specific impact of the Syrian conflict from that of global and regional factors, and it explicitly analyzes the mechanisms through which such an impact is manifested.

DIVERSE PATHS
The Dynamic Evolution of Social Protection in Asia Pacific
By Philip B. O’Keefe, Puja Vasudeva Dutta, Harry Moroz, and Robert Palacios

Over the past two decades, social protection systems in much of developing Asia Pacific have been fundamentally transformed. As a result of factors including rising country income levels, increased exposure to macroeconomic and climatic shocks, demographic and structural change, and changing expectations of the state from citizens, social protection systems in many parts of Asia Pacific have been expanding in terms of range of programs, level of public spending, and coverage of population.

But the building of robust and inclusive social protection systems remains incomplete and in subregions of Asia Pacific is at best nascent. This report charts the transformation of social protection systems in the East Asia and Pacific region and much of South Asia in the areas of social assistance, social insurance, employment programs, and delivery systems. It highlights the major diversity of social protection systems across the region and the remaining challenges of consolidating, expanding, and in some cases, building them. It also suggests directions for deepening social protection reforms that reflect the diversity of country situations.
INVESTMENT PIONEERS IN SOUTH ASIA

The Payoff of Knowing Your Neighbors

Edited by Sanjay Kathuria

South Asia is one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. Yet intraregional trade and investment is very low, suggesting that regional spillovers from individual-country growth are muted. Much has been written about the low levels of intraregional trade in South Asia. Much less has been written about intraregional investment. Direct investment flows are important because multinational firms coordinating production along global value chains have become a dominant force driving both trade and investment flows. These flows are valued as a direct source of external capital and foreign exchange, as well as for the technology and knowledge spillovers they bring. Investment flows also tend to be more stable interactions than trade transactions, since they involve a deeper commitment (financial and otherwise) to engagement.

This report is framed within the same context as its predecessor, A Glass Half Full: The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia, namely, the suboptimal level of economic engagement within South Asia. It focuses on intraregional investment, from an outward-investment perspective, using a unifying framework of international engagement strategies (trade, investment, and other nonequity modes like licensing).

GLACIERS OF THE HIMALAYAS

Assessing the Impact of Climate Change and Black Carbon

By Mani Muthukumara

Melting glaciers, loss of seasonal snow, and precipitation changes pose significant risks to the stability of water resources in the South Asia region. Glaciers help to moderate river flows in the region’s major rivers by providing a source of meltwater in hot, dry years and storing water during colder, wetter years. The dependence on glaciers and snow makes these rivers particularly vulnerable to climate change. In addition to threats from global climate change, black carbon produced and circulated within the region is both increasing the absorption of solar radiation by the glaciers through decreasing the glacier surface’s reflectance and raising air temperatures, which also increases melt. In these ways, black carbon is becoming a significant factor in the retreat of some Himalayan glaciers.

The purpose of this study is to identify causes of potential changes to the glacier and snow dynamics in the Himalaya, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush mountain ranges, present scenarios of possible glacier and snow changes under different climate change and black carbon scenarios, and determine implications for water resources within the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra basins.
COVID-19 started as a health emergency, but it is rapidly evolving into an employment crisis. There is still uncertainty as to how severe the economic impact of the pandemic will be. As things go, however, the drag on the region’s employment could last longer than the epidemic itself. Beyond the immediate impacts on the level of employment, the crisis is deepening and accelerating the transformation of jobs, bringing the future closer. *Going Viral: COVID-19 and the Accelerated Transformation of Jobs in Latin America and the Caribbean* focuses on recent trends in the economies of the region that have been significantly changing the labor market: premature deindustrialization, the servicification of the economy, and the changing skill requirements of jobs as automation advances.

The findings of this report have important implications for economic policy. Some of these implications are related to the productivity challenges that Latin America and the Caribbean was already facing after the end of the “Golden Decade” in 2013. Other policy implications see their relevance enhanced by the COVID-19 crisis. As sectors are affected in different ways, as new technologies are developed and adopted, and as working remotely becomes more common, governments need to respond in ways that support a smooth transformation of jobs—one that is socially acceptable and that contributes to productivity growth, including investing in the human capital of the workforce.

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**THE FUTURE OF WORK IN AFRICA (FRENCH EDITION)**

Harnessing the Potential of Digital Technologies for All

Edited by Jieun Choi, Mark A. Dutz, and Zainab Usman

*The Future of Work in Africa* focuses on the key themes of creating productive jobs and addressing the needs of those left behind. It highlights how global trends, especially the adoption of digital technologies, may change the nature of work in Sub-Saharan Africa by creating new opportunities and challenges. It argues that, contrary to global fears of worker displacement by new technologies, African countries can develop an inclusive future of work, with opportunities for lower-skilled workers. Harnessing these opportunities is, however, contingent on implementing policies and making productive investments in four main areas.

These are enabling inclusive digital technologies; building human capital for a young, rapidly growing, and largely low-skilled labor force; increasing the productivity of informal workers and enterprises; and extending social protection coverage to mitigate the risks associated with disruptions to labor markets.
THE SKILLS BALANCING ACT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (FRENCH EDITION)

Investing in Skills for Productivity, Inclusivity, and Adaptability

By Omar Arias, David K. Evans, and Indhira Santos

Sub-Saharan Africa has the youngest population of any region of the world, and that growing working-age population represents a major opportunity to reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity. But the region’s workforce is the least skilled in the world, constraining economic prospects. Despite economic growth, declining poverty, and investments in skills-building, too many students in too many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are not acquiring the foundational skills they need to thrive and prosper in an increasingly competitive global economy.

This report examines the balancing act that individuals and countries face in making productive investments in both a wide range of skills—cognitive, socioemotional, and technical—and a wide range of groups—young children through working adults—so that Sub-Saharan Africa will thrive.

THE URBAN RAIL DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK (SPANISH EDITION)

Edited by Daniel Pulido, Georges Darido, Ramon Munoz-Raskin, and Joanna Moody

Cities across the globe are looking to develop affordable, environmentally friendly, and socially responsible transportation solutions that can meet the accessibility needs of expanding metropolitan populations and support future economic and urban development. When appropriately planned and properly implemented as part of a larger public transportation network, urban rail systems can provide rapid mobility and vital access to city centers from surrounding districts. High-performing urban rail services, when carefully approached as development projects, can help enhance quality of life by giving citizens access to employment opportunities, essential services, urban amenities, and neighboring communities.

The purpose of this Handbook is to synthesize and present knowledge to inform the planning, implementation, and operations of urban rail projects with a view toward:

- Emphasizing the need for early studies and project planning;
- Making projects more sustainable (economically, socially, and environmentally);
- Improving socioeconomic returns and access to opportunities for users;
- Maximizing the value of private participation, where appropriate; and
- Building capacity within project-implementing and -managing institutions.
AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION IN DEVELOPING EAST ASIA
Productivity, Safety, and Sustainability

By the World Bank

Innovation in agriculture has been critical to developing East Asia’s economic transformation. The focus on productivity has come at a cost to environmental sustainability, however. This report examines the potential that a new generation of agricultural innovation holds for addressing these challenges and outlines an agenda for public action.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

MANAGING FOR LEARNING
Measuring and Strengthening Education Management in Latin America and the Caribbean

By Melissa Adelman and Renata Lemos

How can countries make sustainable gains in student learning at scale? This is a pressing question for Latin America and the Caribbean—and the developing world more broadly—as countries seek to build human capital to drive sustainable growth.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT

THE PRIVATE SECTOR AMID CONFLICT
The Case of Libya

By Aminur Rahman and Michele Di Maio

Using original survey data, this book analyzes the impact of prolonged conflict on Libya’s private sector and the implications for the postconflict recovery. The analysis and the results presented offer suggestions for policy actions to address private sector constraints both amid conflict and in the postconflict era.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

ENVIRONMENT

BUILDING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WILDLIFE SYSTEMS FOR ONE HEALTH IN EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

By the World Bank

This report reviews the animal health and wildlife systems in the East Asia and Pacific region, closing the critical gaps for improved animal health and production and reduced risks of zoonotic and emerging infectious diseases.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE

REDUCING EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE RISKS FROM WILDLIFE
Building Foundations for One Health in Asia and Pacific

By the World Bank

The report discusses how to better prevent and reduce the risk of emerging infectious diseases originating from wildlife, and it provides recommendations to help build systems for reducing pandemic risks and other public health threats at the human-animal-ecosystem interfaces.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

EDUCATION

BUILDING THE RIGHT SKILLS FOR HUMAN CAPITAL
Education, Skills, and Productivity in the Kyrgyz Republic

By Dingyong Hou, Karina Acevedo, Joost de Laat, and Jennica Larrison

Most jobs in the Kyrgyz Republic require use of reading, writing, numeracy, and information and communications technology skills, and those who are higher skilled earn higher wages. However, skill levels among the workforce are consistently low in absolute terms, across sociodemographic groups, and relative to countries that have implemented Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies surveys.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

INTEGRATING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA
From Global Evidence to National Action

By Renu Warnasuriya, Shobhana Sosale, and Sangeeta Dey

Well-designed early childhood care and education (ECCE) systems for children ages 0–5 years old can bring significant advantages to national economies. Drawing on global evidence, this study seeks to provide the building blocks for developing effective and efficient ECCE in Sri Lanka.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND POPULATION

WHEN WE’RE SIXTY-FOUR
Opportunities and Challenges for Public Policies in a Population-Aging Context in Latin America

By Rafael Rofman and Ignacio Apella

This book discusses the effects of demographic change and the demands that it will place on institutions and public policies. It considers not only the fiscal effects that population aging could have on pensions, health, or long-term care systems, but also the impacts on future economic growth.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS & INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE

MACROECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

BREAKING OUT OF FRAGILITY
A Country Economic Memorandum for Diversification and Growth in Iraq
By the World Bank
The most recent Country Economic Memorandum for Iraq highlights what Iraq can do to sustain future growth, dives deep into its political economy, and explores why Iraq has not yet managed to achieve high levels of diversified growth alongside peace, stability, and a better standard of living for its people.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

POVERTY REDUCTION

MOROCCO’S JOBS LANDSCAPE
Identifying Constraints to an Inclusive Labor Market
By Gladys Lopez-Acevedo, Gordon Betcherman, and Vasco Molini
This report breaks new ground on issues crucial for Morocco’s development. It analyzes the pace and sources of growth, regional patterns of structural transformation, drivers of formalization, and inclusion of subgroups of the working-age population in the labor market.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

SOCIAL PROTECTIONS AND LABOR

TONNOMA’S STORY
Women’s Work and Empowerment in Burkina Faso
By Rebekka Grun, Irene Jilson, Florence Kantiona, Gilberte Kedot, Nathalie Ouangraoua, and Moudjiabath Daouda-Koudjo
This story is based on actual events and experiences of numerous women and directly draws on the results of qualitative research on the factors impeding women’s ability to work in Burkina Faso. It offers readers a glimpse into the daily lives of women in rural areas that want to work.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

ALSO AVAILABLE IN FRENCH

TRANSPORT

BLUE ROUTES FOR A NEW ERA
Developing Inland Waterways Transportation in China
By Bernard Aritua, Lu Cheng, Richard van Liere, and Harrie de Leijer
How can countries revive inland waterway transportation? A study of how and why China improved its inland waterways for transportation can be informative for other countries, providing relevant insights and valuable lessons.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

CONNECTING THE DOTS
People, Jobs and Social Services in Urban Ghana
By Fatima Arroyo-Arroyo
This report analyzes constraints on accessing jobs and social services in three Ghanaian cities (Accra, Kumasi, and Tamale), with a strong focus on specific challenges encountered by vulnerable people. The report outlines practical interventions for achieving more inclusive and sustainable access.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

CONNECTING TO THRIVE
Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia
Edited by Charles Kunaka and Matías Herrera Dappe
This book assess the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement; analyzes how freight flows, wages, employment, and income are likely to change in Bangladesh and India once the agreement is adopted; and provides suggestions on enhancing the impact of regional connectivity on rural areas and women.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

GREEN ROADS FOR WATER
Roads for Water Management and Climate Resilience
By Fatima Arroyo-Arroyo and Kulwinder Rao
These guidelines outline how to integrate water management and climate-change adaptation in the design, construction, and maintenance of roads. It describes how the negative impact of roads on the surrounding landscape can be turned around and how roads can become instruments of beneficial water management and increased climate resilience.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN URBAN BUS SYSTEMS
An Analytical Framework
By Alejandro Hoyos Guerrero and Abel Lopez Dodero
This analytical framework seeks to support public transport practitioners and government authorities in the process of identifying appropriate technical solutions to improve urban mobility and, specifically, in the process of proposing arrangements for private sector participation in urban bus projects.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS
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