



Source: The Heller School for Social Policy and Management

Consortium Report 2023



“This is a critically important report that demonstrates in the starkest terms possible the sheer cost of not doing anything now to slow temperature rise. The world must surely see that the necessary investment needed is a vital long-term insurance against unimaginable turbulence and suffering; an investment that depends upon governments underwriting the risk so that both the private and public sectors can play their part in an effective partnership. Only by making such investment possible can we ensure a more certain course towards survival.”

– *His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales*

“Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime.”

– *Chinese Proverb*

“So often the world sits idly by, watching ethnic conflicts flare up, as if these were mere entertainment rather than human beings whose lives are being destroyed. Shouldn’t the existence of even one single refugee be a cause for alarm throughout the world?”

– *Urkhan Alakbarov*

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List of Acronyms

BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
DGM	Dedicated Grant Mechanism
EBA	Eğitim Bilişim Ağı (Turkey's Online Education System)
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
ENRM	Environmental and Natural Resource Management
ESW	Economic and Sector Work
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCPF	Foreign Carbon Partnership Facility
GRFC	Global Report on Food Crisis
HCI	Human Capital Index
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LAC	Latin America and Caribbean
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NER	Net Schooling Rates
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PMR	Partnership for Market Readiness
SAC	School Aged Children
PROP	Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization



Foreword

As the world continues on its journey towards all-encompassing development, the World Bank works consistently to support the globe's growth through tactical initiatives and knowledgeable reports. The *2023 World Bank Consortium Report* provides those concerned with the betterment of humankind a look into the fundamentals behind our efforts in both ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity.

This being my first published statement as the 14th assigned President to the World Bank, I would like to share with you my sentiments of excitement, integrity, and commitment to serving the global population through this unwavering institution and its intrepid constituents. Having had experience in positions such as President and CEO of MasterCard, my background in sustainable economic practice will help serve the economic, political, and environmental climate that the world faces today. The World Bank was built to serve the underprivileged and promote a sustainable future. We strive to end poverty and to share prosperity. How might these missions be realized? How might our institution compartmentalize these goals to fulfill their viable potential in the world?

With past-practice consideration and future priorities in mind, this report helps lay out the main proposals that we as the World Bank have decided are crucial to this year's global, developmental progress. The global population has in no doubt faced significant shock as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic; this shock only furthering detriment within our world's economic, social, and environmental sectors. The *2023 World Bank Consortium Report* aims to address three main themes of effort, both to provide post-pandemic reconstructive aid, but also as an attempt to break new records in furthering development, especially within the addressed fields.

The environment, food security, and human capital are the three main themes that have been decidedly prioritized to analyze in this year's consortium report. Supplemented by history, data, and future prospective, these topics will spark important conversation and action as a means towards a more sustainable global living standard.

The last sentiments I would like to express in my letter is that of humility and honor. While the World Bank's seal is imprinted on this page, the projects and programs highlighted in this report are only possible through the collaborative efforts of our partners and grass roots organizations. In June I will have the honor of meeting several of our past, current, and future changemakers at the 2023 Global Studies Consortium.

Sincerely,
Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank
Ajay Banga

Acknowledgements

The *World Bank 2023 Consortium Report* was prepared by a World Bank team led by Erin Speltz, Isabelle Belanger, and Claire Daley. The team is grateful for the consulting services from Dr. Anita Weiss and Joel Matheson. Their expertise directly contributed to improvements made in this report. The team also benefited from space and resources at the University of Oregon and Services for Student Athletes. The team appreciated the opportunity to produce this report in an academic environment. Finally, we would like to thank other stakeholders participating in the 2023 Global Studies Consortium. Both the donors and countries represented at this year's event provide the World Bank with opportunities for collaboration. Through our combined efforts and shared goals we are able to deepen our impacts.

The team apologizes to any individuals or organizations inadvertently omitted from this list. It is grateful for the help received from all who contributed to this Report, including those whose names may not appear here. Team members would also like to thank their families for their support throughout the preparation of this Report.

Navigating this Report

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently announced the official end to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, most corners of the world will be experiencing its affect for years to come. This report highlights how three of our five priority areas have persisted in the face of the global pandemic: food security, climate change, and human capital. While each of the World Bank’s priority areas have ongoing projects in every geographic region, this report emphasizes one or two specific regions for each priority (World Bank, 2022).

Food Security in Africa

Africa faces a myriad of development crises across its vast continent and is therefore the partner of many projects across all five priority areas. However, the food security related setbacks experienced were particularly deep on this continent.

Climate Change in Latin America & Caribbean and East Asia & Pacific

After Africa, Latin America has the largest share of environmental and natural resource projects. Furthermore, the majority of our country partners participating in the Foreign Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a \$720 million project, are situated in Latin America. The East Asia and Pacific region is highlighted in the climate change section because of a unique long-term project in China (World Bank, 2023).

Human Capital in Europe & Central Asia

Europe & Central Asia have experienced several setbacks as a result of unprecedented challenges, including the war in Ukraine and natural disasters. The conflicts in this region have created urgent opportunities to focus on resilience and human capital.

Although the substantive focus of this report is on the three priority areas outlined above, the geography portion of this report shares the World Bank’s main focus areas and strategies specific to each region.

The food security, climate change, and human capital portion of the report highlight several broad concepts including

- Overview of the priority (including definitions and history)
- Strategies
- Graphs and figures describing the priority area
- Regional projects
- Country spotlights

History: 1944 - Today



July 1944

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (now known as the World Bank) was established from the Bretton Woods Conference.

1946 - 1967

The World Bank gives its first loan to France to aid in post-war reconstruction.



1968 - 1981

The World Bank redirected goals to focus on confronting poverty. Robert McNamara coins the term “absolute poverty.”



1982 - 1994

To aid in economic transitions, especially as the Cold War came to an end, the World Bank provided additional economic support through structural adjustment loans.



1995 - Present

World Bank redirects aid to focus on conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction, and assistance with countries going through political transition.

(World Bank, 2023)

Image Sources in Chronological Order

Source: World Bank Group: History Archives

Source: World Bank Group: Explore History

Source: Biography of Robert McNamara [Keystone/Hulton Archive/Getty Images](#)

Source: World Bank Group: Explore History

Source: IeMED: MENA Post-Conflict Reconstruction Working Group



Source: The World Bank Group: 2022 Annual Report

Geography

Operations take place in more than 170 countries across six regions:

Africa

East Asia and Pacific

Europe and Central Asia

Latin American and Caribbean

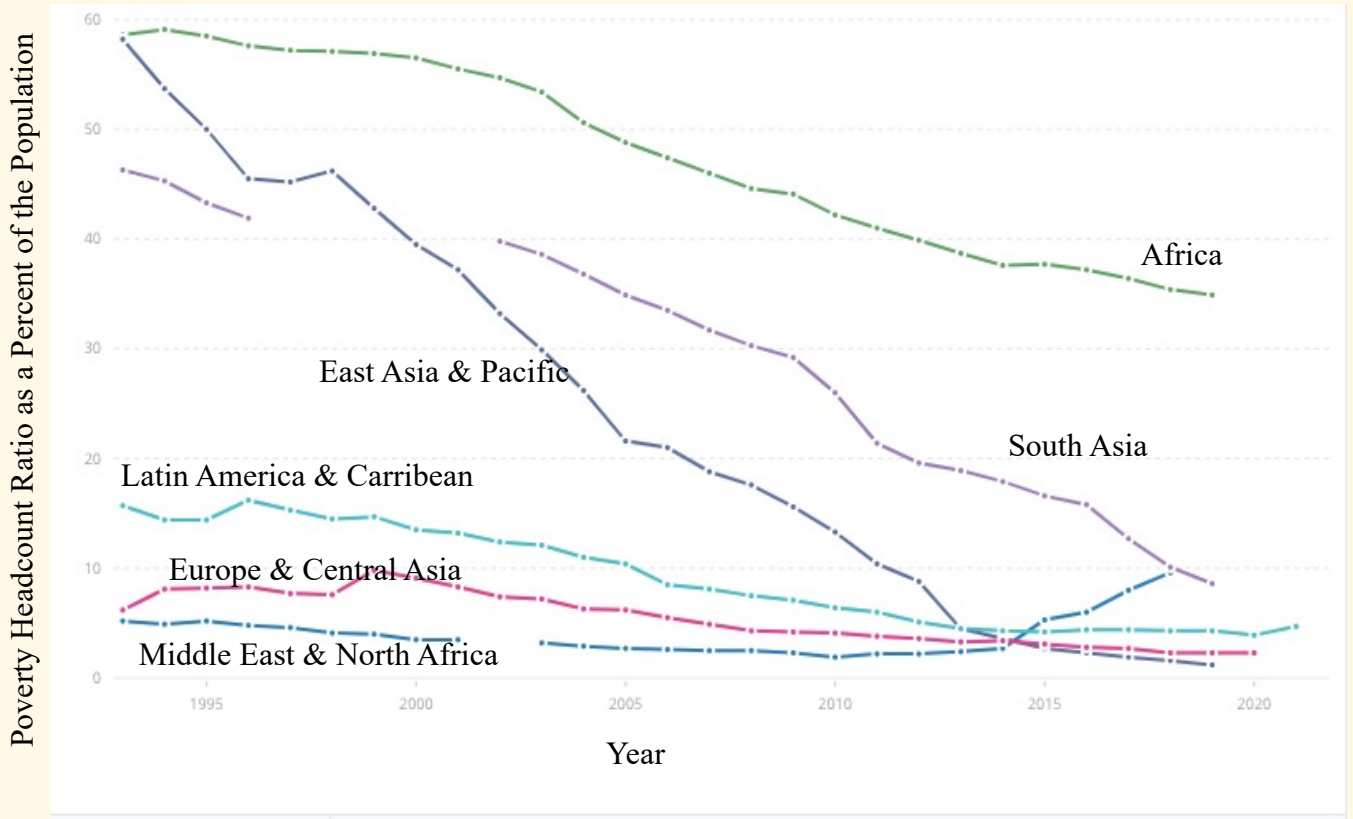
Middle East and North Africa

South Asia

To achieve development goals, the World Bank partners with diverse institutions across public and private sectors (World Bank, 2023).

Geography

Figure 1: Poverty Headcount Ratio at \$2.15 a Day by Region



Source: The World Bank Group

Figure 1 shows the poverty ratio as a percent of population by region between 1993 and 2023. Over the last 30 years, Africa has sustained the highest rates of poverty. Western Sahara, Burundi, and Somalia are the lowest income per capita countries in Africa. Middle East & North Africa had the lowest rates of poverty until 2014.

Africa

At the World Bank, we divide Africa into two parts: Eastern & Southern Africa and Western & Central Africa. Six North African countries are included with the Middle East and North Africa region.

Our priorities in Africa are centered around addressing the climate crises, food insecurity, and building resilience; protecting poor people; strengthening human capital; and creating jobs. To combat these issues, the World Bank has employed strategies that include helping countries to -

- Transition to sustainable energy sources (including methane)
- Adapt social safety net programs
- Expand agricultural production
- Reform educational programming to improve education outcomes (World Bank, 2023)



East Asia and Pacific

In 2021, the World Bank approved \$7.9 billion across 38 operations in East Asia and Pacific. The areas of focus in this region, which comprises of 32 countries is promoting private sector-led growth, build resilience and sustainability, and invest in human capital and productivity (World Bank, 2023).

Two programs used to address priorities include our Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) and the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR) Program. PROP works to manage fisheries and ocean habitats which are vital to many federated states in this region. The PMR Program helps countries to build a legal foundation and capacity for market-based instruments (World Bank, 2023).





Source: The World Bank Group: 2022 Annual Report

Europe and Central Asia

The World Bank works with the 50 countries in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) to eliminate poverty and promote shared prosperity, through boosting human capital, facilitating green transitions, enabling markets and building & strengthening institutions (World Bank, 2023).

ECA countries have faced numerous challenges including natural disasters, the pandemic, and negative affects from the war in Ukraine. The unprecedented crises concentrated in the ECA region has led to a requisite refocus on boosting resilience and protecting and strengthening the foundations of future prosperity. The World Bank uses the following strategies in the ECA region:

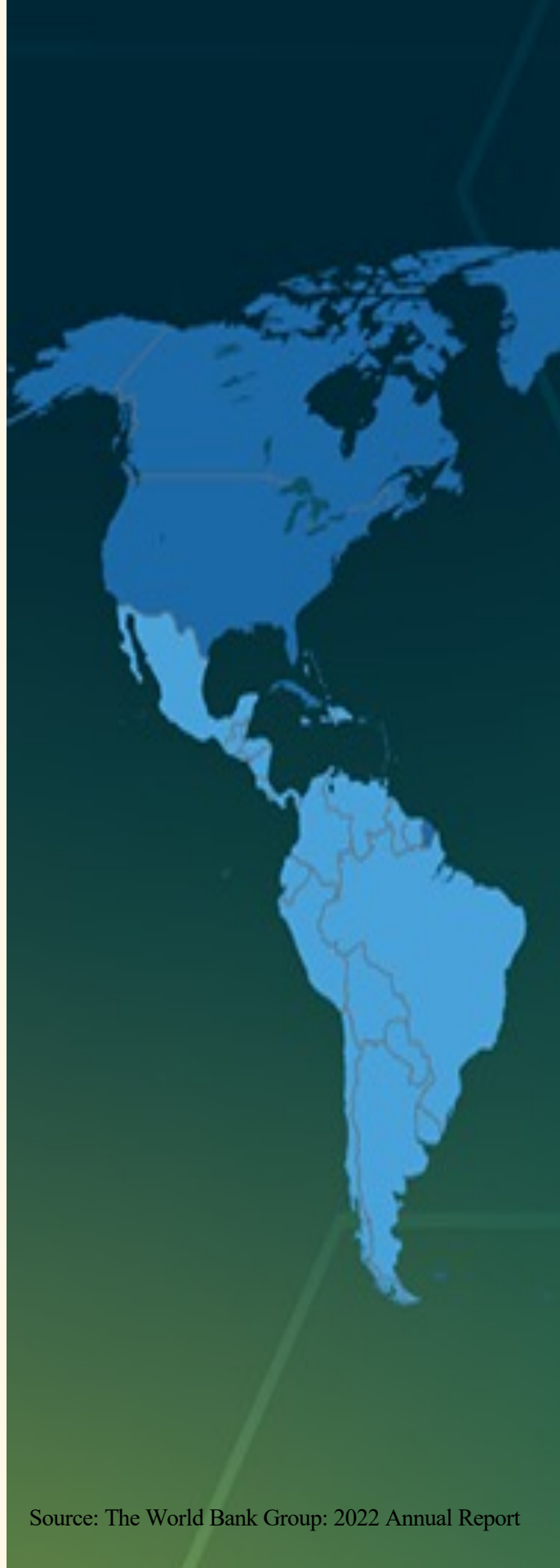
- Protect Human Capital from the impacts of recent crises & reverse its long-term erosion
- Maintain momentum on the transition to eco-friendly practices and strengthen energy security & resilience
 - Support private sector crisis response, enable new markets in support of green transition, productivity growth and greater inclusion
 - Support public sector crisis response, strengthen the effectiveness, accountability and modernization of institutions to improve service delivery (World Bank, 2023)

Latin America and Caribbean

Poverty rates have increased by 2.5 percentage points since the pandemic in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) which is why the primary focus in this region is to reverse the negative affects of COVID-19. Furthermore, climate change has resulted in an increase of natural disasters throughout the region, leaving millions of people displaced (World Bank, 2023).

To combat these challenges, the World Bank has employed the following strategies:

- Promoting inclusive growth by helping countries improve productivity, creating jobs, and promoting digital transformation
- Investing in human capital by expanding access to health care
- Fostering a green and sustainable recovery by building resilient infrastructure
- Supporting countries' development goals by providing advisory services, technical assistance, and analyses (World Bank, 2023)





Source: The World Bank Group: 2022 Annual Report

Middle East and North Africa

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is plagued with political instability and conflict. The World Bank has enacted a two-prong approach when addressing the concerns in MENA. The first prong involves addressing immediate concerns related to health care, social and economic issues, and COVID-19. The second approach involves adopting structural reforms, strengthening human capital, supporting economic transformation, advancing gender equity, addressing fragility, and enabling eco-friendly practices. We group these strategies into four pillars: (World Bank, 2023)

- 1) Renewing the social contract
- 2) Expanding regional cooperation
- 3) Strengthening resilience to climate and refugee shocks
- 4) Promoting recovery and reconstruction in conflict-affected countries



South Asia

The World Bank's region of South Asia includes the countries; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The region's countries suffer from fragile economies due to various interrelated factors. The bank chooses to attend to the most urgent needs which have recently been surrounding:

- Human capital
- Economic resilience
- Environmental sustainability
- Regional integration

In 2022, the bank approved \$9 billion in supporting numerous projects within the region, all of which was distributed according to each of the aforementioned needs. Since 2020, the bank has supported the region with more than \$31 billion (World Bank, 2023).

To address human capital concerns, the World Bank is promoting more accessible healthcare, high quality education, and gender equality. In India specifically, \$125 million is being put towards a project to grow and upgrade the country's social welfare sector (World Bank, 2023).

The World Bank helps promote economic resilience through supporting the privately-led sector, educating on debt and investment, encouraging market interaction, and implementing digital transformations. In Nepal, the bank is lending \$150 million to a project which encourages these ideals (World Bank, 2023).

South Asia is proving to be vulnerable to the effects of climate change through natural causes such as rising sea levels, inconsistent rainfall, and high temperatures. For example, the bank is putting \$120 million towards a project to improve irrigation and flood management to serve crops and fisheries and ultimately decrease food insecurity (World Bank, 2023).

Project Cycle

The World Bank’s Development Policy centers around helping governments take on a leadership role in implementing development strategies, rather than having other donors drive the development agenda.

Country Assistance Strategy

The World Bank’s Process begins with poverty reduction and country assistance strategies. In low-income countries, the World Bank utilizes the poverty reduction strategy to boost development through consulting local groups and organizations within the country and creating an analysis of poverty within the country in combination with its economic situation. From this process, the government determines its own priorities for development assistance and produces a list of outlined goals for reducing poverty over a 3-5 year period. Once receiving these priorities, the Bank develops a blueprint for its work that aligns with the country’s own strategy and goals. The Bank’s Country Assistance Strategy is formulated with the government and other stakeholders such as bilateral donors, local NGOs, or International NGOs.



Identification

The Identification phase begins with teams from the World Bank collaborating with the aid-receiving country government to identify projects that can be funded in alignment with the development objectives outlined in the Country Assistance Strategy. The World Bank team then creates a project concept note that includes the project’s basic elements, the objective, the risks associated with implementing the project, alternative scenarios to carrying out the project, and a timeline for the project approval process.

Source: World Bank Document: “Task Team Leader Toolkit. Investment Project Financing: The Project Cycle”

Project Cycle

Preparation

The aid-receiving country in partnership with the World Bank is responsible for driving the preparation phase, with the World Bank offering analytical support and advice when requested. During this stage, the economic, environmental, technical, institutional, and financial issues of the project will be assessed. There will also be a review of any alternative methods that could be utilized for reaching the same goals. The main focus of the Bank in the preparation process is to help ensure that the proposed projects involving financing are sustainable and environmentally coherent.

Appraisal

During this stage, World Bank staff spend around three to four weeks in the aid-receiving country to review their work completed during the previous stages. They create project appraisal documents for the Bank management team and Financial management team to review the financial and sustainability aspects upon return.

Negotiations and Board Approval

Upon evaluation of the proposed project, the World Bank and the aid-receiving nation come to an agreement regarding the loan terms and conditions. The project appraisal document, the memorandum of the president, legal documents, and other relevant papers are then submitted to the Bank's Board of Directors for their approval. These documents are also forwarded to the borrowing government for their final approval, which may lead to a council of ministers or the country's legislature needing to ratify them. Once both parties approve, the loan agreement is signed by their representatives. The loan or credit becomes effective, and disbursement is possible once the relevant requirements are met.

Implementation and Supervision

After the loan has been approved, the government of the aid-receiving nation prepares specifications and evaluates financial bids with the help of the Bank for the amount of goods and services going into the project. The borrowing country essentially implements the project while the Bank takes the role of supervising its implementation. Throughout this process, the Bank reviews this procedure to make sure the proper guidelines are being followed, and funds will be disbursed if they have.

Completion and Evaluation

After a project has been completed, the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group conducts an evaluation to compare the outcome of the project with its original objectives. In this evaluation, the Bank looks over the project completion report and prepares a separate report. The reports are then both submitted to the executive directors of the project and the aid-receiving country.

Goals

End Extreme Poverty

Reduce the share of the global population that lives in extreme poverty to 3%

Increasing the incomes of the poorest 40% of people in every country

Promote Shared Prosperity

Integrity

Doing what is right while remaining honest, ethical, and responsible

Impact

Help clients solve their greatest development challenges

Respect

Caring for our people, clients, partners, and planet

Teamwork

Working together to achieve our goals

Innovation

Learning and adapting to improve our ways

The World Bank has 5 core values that are intentionally incorporated across all facets of our work.

Values

Best Practices

For every initiative the World Bank is involved, our teams are intentional about using best practices at every stage – from the conception of ideas to final implementation steps – to ensure we are upholding our values. It would be unfeasible to provide an exhaustive list that identifies every best practice for each project because we believe in adapting and customizing our best practices to meet the needs of every one of our partners around the world. This page provides three of our most common practices incorporated into our projects.

Utilize procurement approaches that emphasize choice, quality, and value for public spending, while enabling adaptation to country contexts.

Incorporate market research, needs analysis, and project-specific risks, including environmental and social issues.

Support countries to develop procurement strategies and plans that meet their needs and ensure successful implementation.



Source: The World Bank: Understanding Poverty: Agriculture and Food

Food Security



Source: World Economic Forum: “Food Systems Need to be More Sustainable. Engaging Local Stakeholders Can Help”

Overview of Food Security

In compliance with our main goals of ending extreme poverty and spreading shared prosperity, food insecurity is one of the main antagonists of human suffering that we as the World Bank are determined to improve. Food security is a basic human right unfortunately foreign to millions of people worldwide. This trend of food insecurity is not a recent development, tracing back to before the World Bank was established. The fatal issue is resilient in nature and is witnessed as a result of a myriad of reasons such as agricultural hardship, ill-managed government, and food price inflation (World Bank, 2023).



Source: BCG: Food Systems and Food Security

What is food security?

Based on the 1996 World Food Summit, food security is defined when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. In accordance with this definition there are four imperative elements that realize food security: (World Bank, 2023)

Physical availability of food Food availability addresses the “supply side” of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade .

Economic and physical access to food An adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not in itself guarantee household level food security. Concerns about insufficient food access have resulted in a greater policy focus on incomes, expenditure, markets and prices in achieving food security objectives.

Food utilization Utilization is commonly understood as the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. Sufficient energy and nutrient intake by individuals are the result of good care and feeding practices, food preparation, diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food. Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals.

Stability of the other three dimensions over time Even if your food intake is adequate today, you are still considered to be food insecure if you have inadequate access to food on a periodic basis, risking a deterioration of your nutritional status. Adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices) may have an impact on your food security status (World Bank 2023).

Conflict and Food Security

Just as humans adapt and evolve, constantly discovering new technology and configuring new efficiencies, so are the hardships that face them. Food security, an issue that has plagued human civilization for centuries, continues to find new ways to prove fatal for thousands of individuals a day. As of May 2023, we've compiled a brief update on the most recent initiatives that we as the World Bank have been prioritizing towards an end to food insecurity. Food insecurity is most prevalent in developing regions such as parts of Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia. Each region has specific projects funded by the World Bank to decrease malnutrition and promote sustainable food production.

The 2023 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) reveals that 258 million people in 58 countries or territories faced crisis or worse levels of severe food insecurity in 2022. In seven countries (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen), some affected populations faced Catastrophic levels of food insecurity, which indicates the threat of famine and extremely critical levels of malnutrition in several areas of the countries, marking the most countries facing such extreme levels of food and nutrition insecurity in the report's history. The number of people experiencing crisis or worse severe food insecurity is the highest on record since the GRFC started reporting these data in 2017, with 2022 marking the fourth consecutive year of increases in the number of acutely food-insecure people (World Bank 2023).

The 2023 GRFC finds that the root causes of food crises are intersecting, with conflicts, national and global economic shocks, and weather extremes acting as interrelated, mutually determinant actors of severe food insecurity and hunger. Of these primary causes, conflict and insecurity remain the most important, with the GRFC indicating that, by the end of 2022, there were an estimated 53.2 million internally displaced people, mainly displaced by conflict, in 25 food-crisis countries. This is an increase from 2021 levels, when there were an estimated 45 million internally displaced people in 24 food-crisis countries (World Bank 2023).

In addition to conflict and insecurity, the 2023 GRFC highlights that global economic risks and shocks have increased food insecurity and compounded preexisting economic vulnerabilities. For example, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated COVID-19-induced socioeconomic conditions in many countries and limited the contributions of Russia and Ukraine to global production and trade of fuel, fertilizers, and other food commodities. The war has also limited global food trade, particularly in the Black Sea region, and increased global food prices and price volatility (World Bank 2023).



Source: TH: “More Evidence of India’s Food Insecurity”

Strategies

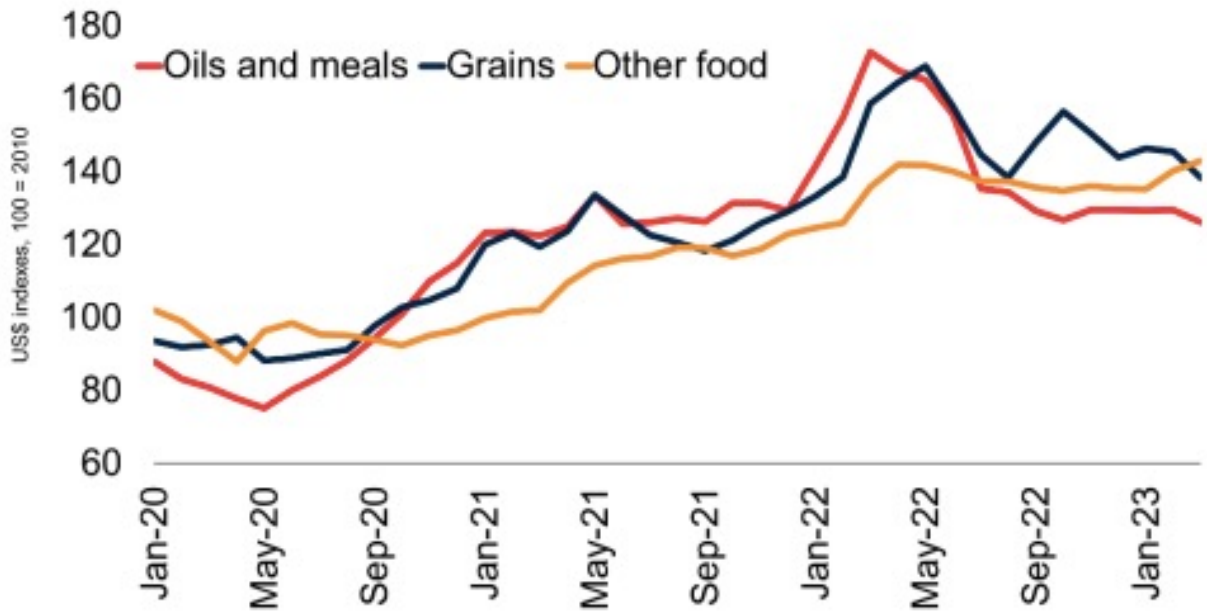
The World Bank believes the most effective method to address the persistent threat of food insecurity is through collaborative efforts with other leaders of the development field. In response to the extant threat facing our global community, on February 8th, 2023, we issued a joint statement with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Trade Organization (WTO) calling for action. Issues pertaining to food security were heightened by the global pandemic. Together, we have identified three strategies we will implement to address the worsening food and nutrition crisis (World Bank, 2023).

Rescue hunger hotspots We call on governments and donors to support country-level efforts to address the needs in hotspots, share information and strengthen crisis preparedness .

Facilitate trade, improve the functioning of markets, and enhance the role of the private sector Countries should minimize trade distortions, strengthen the provision of public goods, and enable the private sector to contribute meaningfully to improved food security outcomes. We repeat our urgent call for countries to (i) avoid policies such as export restrictions, which can impede access to food for poor consumers in low-income food-importing countries; (ii) support trade facilitation measures, to improve availability of food and fertilizer, (iii) support trade finance initiatives in a transparent and in non-discriminatory manner; and (iv) adhere to the commitments made at the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference.

Reform and repurpose harmful subsidies with careful targeting and efficiency Countries should reform and repurpose general universal subsidies towards temporary, better targeted programs for global food security and sustainable food systems, considering the key aspects of (i) efficiency, (ii) cost and fiscal sustainability, (iii) flexibility, (iv) administrative complexity, (v) equity, and (vi) strengthened resilience and sustainability (World Bank, 2023).

Figure 2: Agricultural Price Index



Source: World Bank Commodity Markets Outlook: April 2023.

Although data has demonstrated that commodity prices are projected to be 23% lower in the year 2023 than 2022, the food and fertilizer price index remains higher than before the Covid-19 pandemic. As seen in Figure 2, inflation affects multiple facets of global agriculture. This is an unsustainable pattern for populations reliant on their domestic agriculture for their diet and/or welfare. Information from the latest month between January 2023 and April 2023 for which food price inflation data are available shows high inflation in almost all low- and middle-income countries, with inflation greater than 5 percent in 64.7% of low-income countries, 83.7% of lower-middle-income countries, and 89% of upper-middle-income countries with many experiencing double-digit inflation. In addition, 81.8% of high-income countries are experiencing high food price inflation. Inflation does not discriminate based on region and is only exacerbated by other global crises, such as war and weather (World Bank, 2023).

War involves many unintended consequences that often infect more than the directly impacted area, in the year 2023 this reflects the action of Russia's invasion into Ukraine. Global trade and the flexibility of imports and exports have fallen under anxious scrutiny since the invasion in 2022. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, trade-related policies imposed by countries have surged. The global food crisis has been partially made worse by the growing number of food trade restrictions put in place by countries with a goal of increasing domestic supply and reducing prices. As of March 13, 2023, 22 countries have implemented 28 food export bans, and ten have implemented 14 export-limiting measures. The bank recommends that local governments should balance short-term urgent interventions with longer-term resilience efforts as they respond to the crisis (World Bank, 2023).

Region and Project Highlights

“Food price increases are having devastating effects on the poorest and most vulnerable. To inform and stabilize markets, it is critical that countries make clear statements now of future output increases in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Countries should make concerted efforts to increase the supply of energy and fertilizer, help farmers increase plantings and crop yields, and remove policies that block exports and imports, divert food to biofuel, or encourage unnecessary storage.”

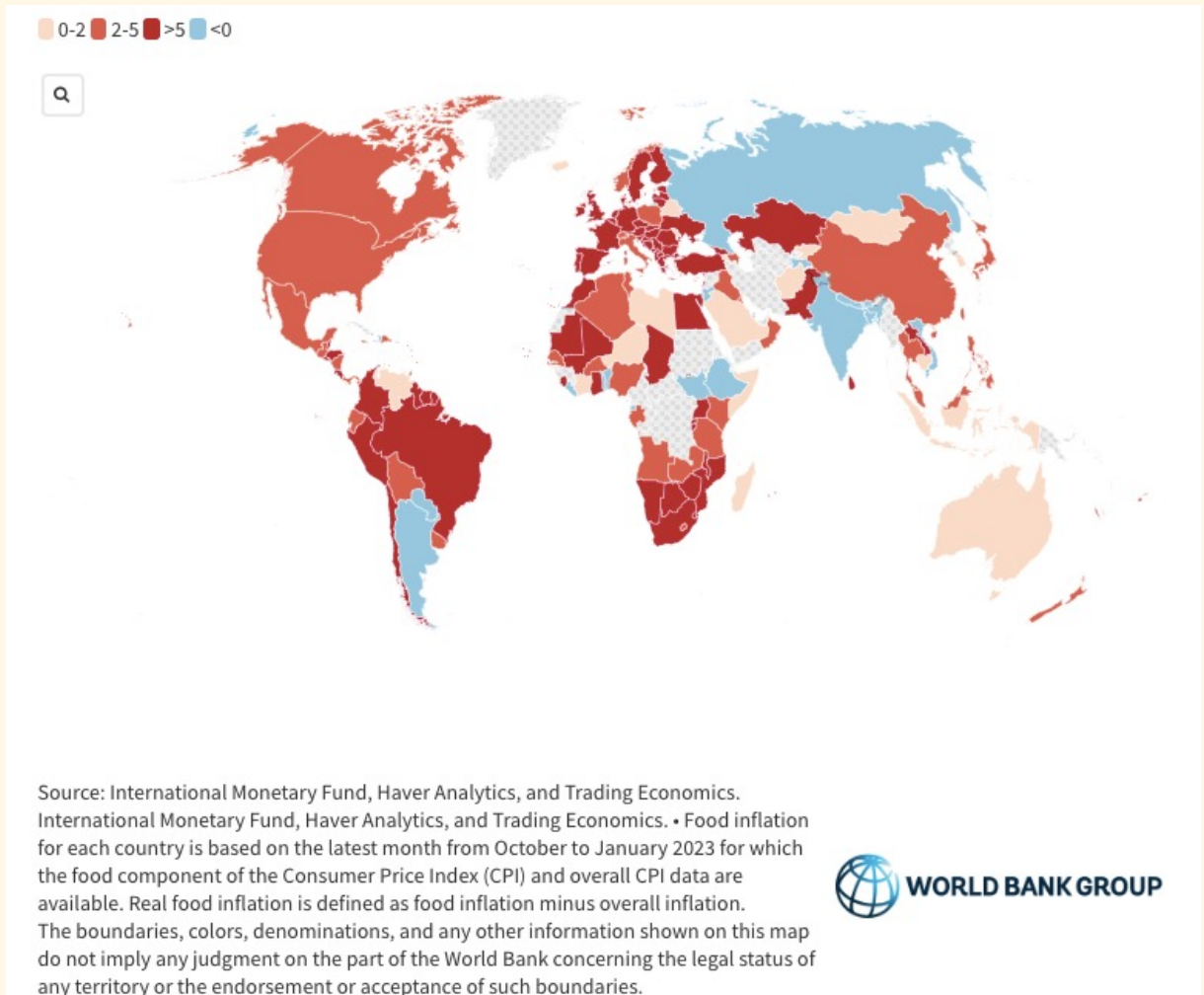
David Malpass,
2019 – 2023 World Bank Group President



Source: The World Bank: Who We Are: David Malpass

In response, the World Bank announced that they would be creating a fund of \$30 billion over a period of 15 months to support food security through forms such as agriculture, nutrition, social protection, water and irrigation. This 30 billion dollars will benefit both short and long-term food insecurity prevention goals through our four themes: (i) support producers and consumers, (ii) facilitate increased trade in food and trade inputs, (iii) support vulnerable households, and (iv) invest in sustainable food and nutrition security (World Bank 2023). As of May of 2023, over \$12 billion has been allocated towards food security related projects (World Bank, 2023).

Figure 3: Real Food Inflation Heat Map



As seen in Figure 3, food prices continue to increase disproportionately across regions, reflecting a greater sense of urgency in certain countries more than others.

Food Security in Africa

The food security crisis was disproportionately exacerbated in Africa after the onslaught of the pandemic. As a result, more than half of food security funding was allocated to projects and programs in Africa. This page includes a sample of these projects (World Bank, 2023).

West Africa [\$766 million] West Africa Food Systems Resilience Program is working to increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems. The program is increasing digital advisory services for agriculture and food crisis prevention and management, boosting adaptation capacity of agriculture system actors, and investing in regional food market integration and trade.

Chad, Ghana and Sierra Leone [\$315 million] To increase their preparedness against food insecurity and to improve the resilience of their food systems.

Egypt [\$500 million] Emergency Food Security and Resilience Support Project to bolster efforts to ensure that poor and vulnerable households have uninterrupted access to bread, help strengthen the country's resilience to food crises, and support reforms that will help improve nutritional outcomes.

Tunisia [\$130 million] To lessen the impact of the Ukraine war by financing vital soft wheat imports and providing emergency support to cover barley imports for dairy production and seeds for smallholder farmers for the upcoming planting season.

Eastern and Southern Africa [\$2.3 billion] Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa, helps countries in Eastern and Southern Africa increase the resilience of the region's food systems and ability to tackle growing food insecurity. The program will enhance inter-agency food crisis response and boost medium- and long-term efforts for resilient agricultural production, sustainable development of natural resources, expanded market access, and a greater focus on food systems resilience in policymaking (World Bank, 2023).



Food Security Spotlight: Rwanda

Source: Vector Seek

Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food Security Project

Rwanda is a small land-locked country located in central Africa. In the 30 years since the Rwandan Genocide, Rwanda has made significant economic and political gains. By 2018, more than 60% of their parliament was filled by women and they experienced more than 7% average growth rates for over a decade. Furthermore, they have managed to reduce poverty rates (from 77% to 55%), increase life expectancy (26 to 69 years), and establish a universal health care system. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic caused much of Rwanda's progress to regress (World Bank, 2023).

The World Bank has invested \$2.83 billion across 21 different national and regional projects. This project in particular has dedicated \$26.3 million to increase agricultural productivity, market access, and food security. Since the project's onset in 2019, several objectives have already been achieved or experienced significant progress: (World Bank, 2023)

- 23% increase in harvest yield of targeted crops
- 3-point increase in food consumption score
- 6,332 farmers adopting improved agricultural technology
- 1,652 new or improved drainage and irrigation systems

This project engages with numerous thematic and priority areas including food security, climate change, human capital, agricultural productivity, and infrastructure. Several agencies have collaborated on this and other projects in Rwanda including Power of Nutrition and the Global Financing Facility (World Bank, 2023).



Source: PhysOrg: “Time is Running Out to Counteract Global Change”

Climate Change



Source: ICRC: “Seven things you need to know about climate change and conflict”

Overview of Climate Change

Climate Change has become an increasingly significant global issue that involves unnatural changes in land and water temperature, as well as abnormal patterns in the timing of seasons, rainfall, and in many other environmental systems throughout the world. These changes are the result of global warming due to the burning of fossil fuels, changes in land use, and human activities adding large amounts of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. Rising temperatures negatively affect climate systems and have destructive impacts for populations around the globe. Action is urgently needed to minimize fossil fuel emissions, reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, and adapt to the impacts of climate change on communities throughout the world.

History of Climate Change in Developing Countries

The World Bank is the biggest multilateral funder of climate investments in developing countries. We intend to go further in helping countries reduce poverty and rise to the challenges of climate change. In 2021, we provided over \$26 billion in aid to developing countries and in 2021 the Bank accounted for over half of multilateral climate finance to developing countries, as well as over two-thirds of adaptation finance (World Bank, 2023).

The first country that produced a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) with the assistance of the World Bank was Madagascar in 1988, with countries such as China, India, Russia, Senegal, and Ghana following close behind. The Bank provided financial support to governments to help with the implementation of NEAPs or similar strategies within these countries. The Bank's Country Environmental Strategy Papers assisted countries in setting environmental objectives and supported them in pinpointing how to address these goals through economic tools and approaches that use market mechanisms as well as regulatory methods and policies to address environmental issues and promote sustainable practices (World Bank: Environmental Sustainability, 2008).

Over the last four decades, the World Bank support for the environment has changed from a preventive "do no harm" approach to a "do good" approach that is more proactive. This newer approach involves direct interventions to increase environmental stewardship at the local, national, and global levels. It also includes a higher integration of environmental problems across many different sectors and policy decisions, using various methods pertaining to the country's strategy approach in accord with localized preferences (World Bank: Environmental Sustainability, 2008).

The World Bank's previous "do no harm" approach involves implementing environmental safeguards in order for the impacts of development projects to be sufficiently addressed through the creation of the environmental assessment policy and similar policies applied to natural habitats, indigenous communities, involuntary relocation, among others. The World Bank still uses environmental safeguards as a crucial aspect of addressing environmental issues throughout the world. These safeguard policies aim to avoid or mitigate the impacts of development projects on the environment and those who are affected, as well as helping aid recipients to improve their own safeguard systems and enhance the ability to handle environmental hazards. In assessing past projects that involve the Bank's use of environmental safeguards in India, China, and Sub-Saharan Africa, there has been an improvement in environmental assessment success as time evolved. After the year 1990, the bank used its environmental assessment policy for investment and adjustment projects (World Bank: Environmental Sustainability, 2008).



Source: Food Matters Live

Since 1990, the Bank has transitioned from focusing on a “do no harm” approach to a “do good approach.” This incorporates three areas of environmental stewardship, protection of the global commons, and mainstreaming. Assisting in stewardship entails aiding nations in establishing environmental priorities, establishing institutions, and executing programs and initiatives to enhance environmental well-being and durability. Alongside financial assistance such as loans and grants, this support involves aiding countries in formulating action plans and incorporating immediate and long-term environmental considerations into their national strategies, capacity development, and policy discussions. Furthermore, this is achieved through the utilization of Economic and Sector Work (ESW) tools and conducting research. A second subcategory of this approach involves mainstreaming, which is assisting in establishing valuable connections between poverty alleviation, economic effectiveness, and environmental conservation. This is achieved through prioritizing environmental sustainability as a central objective of the Bank's ESW, and integrating environmental goals into a wide array of activities and sector-specific projects that involve lending aid. As a result of this “do good approach,” countries such as Brazil, China, India, and others have experienced positive environmental and socio economic benefits with the Bank’s assistance in natural resource management projects (World Bank: Environmental Sustainability, 2008).

After 2001, the World Bank has increased coordinating its global environmental project support with benefits to the local community. This includes increasing partnership on projects with financing from multiple international organizations such as the International Development Association (IDA) and IBRD. It also involves collaborating with the private sector and civil society to help reach environmental goals set by the Bank and harnessing resources. At both regional and international levels, this focus on collaboration between various stakeholders was primarily apparent in locations where there was a robust international consensus to contribute to global public goods, close connections with country assistance programs could be established, and significant resources could be mobilized. Collaboration tactics have resulted in increased effectiveness in environmental development through leveraging resources, decreasing costs of transaction, and operating at various levels: national, regional, and global. One compelling example of successful partnership implementation can be observed in Brazil, where the Bank was sufficient in maintaining fruitful partnerships with other donors and agencies to support nations in improving their management of the environment (World Bank: Environmental Sustainability, 2008).

Table 1: Portfolio by Region, Fiscal 1990 - 2007

Region	Total number of projects^a	Total commitment amount (\$ million)	Projects with ENRM content	ENRM (% of total projects)	Total commitment amount in ENRM projects (\$ million)	ENRM commitment (% of total commitment)
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,907	61,742.30	555	29.1	20,950	33
East Asia and Pacific	1,064	85,472	449	42.2	39,676.50	46
Europe and Central Asia	1,266	70,539.30	419	33.1	18,658.30	26
Latin America and the Caribbean	1,373	98,445.10	559	40.7	27,703.50	28
Middle East and North Africa	540	23,359.00	193	35.7	9,451.20	40
South Asia	636	61,923.80	223	35.1	23,635.40	38
World	6	29.50	3	50.0	29.00	97
Total (all World Bank)	6,792	401,511.30	2,401	35.4	140,103.40	34

Source: World Bank databases.

As displayed in Table 1, the regions that have the largest share of environmental and natural resource management (ENRM) projects are Africa, Latin America, Europe and Central Asia, and the Caribbean. The regions with the least amount of environment management projects are the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. However, the regions with the largest total commitment amount in terms of ENRM are East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia.

The World Bank's development projects have had successful results in various countries and a wide variety of subcategories, including expanding access to electricity, promoting clean energy solutions, supporting adaptation and resilience within countries, supporting resilient transportation infrastructure, transforming food systems to be more sustainable in the long term, decreasing emissions through deforestation programs, urban and disaster risk management in cities, and improving water supply reliability (World Bank, 2023).



Source: Forge Skip Hire Leeds Blog: “Everything You Need to Know about World Environment Day 2021”

Climate Change Strategies

In 2021, The World Bank updated their Climate Change Action Plan (2021-25), which marked a large shift from its previous focus on aiding in “green” projects to investing in helping to build entire sustainable economies and shifting from inputs to measuring impacts. Our *Country Climate and Development Reports* inform the development strategies of individual countries in a manner that integrates climate and development. Other elements of the Climate Change Action Plan include: (World Bank, 2023)

Increasing financial support The Bank Group set a target to commit 35% of its overall financing to climate finance on average over the five years of the Action Plan; and at least 50% of World Bank climate finance will support adaptation.

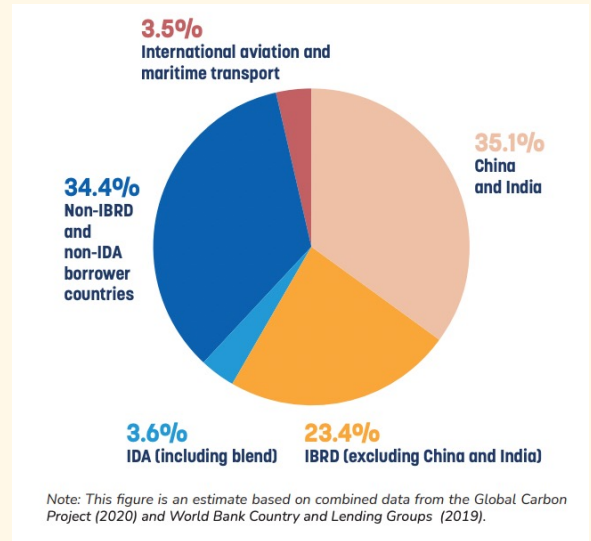
Supporting integrative approaches Ramping up support for countries to shape a green, resilient and inclusive recovery through focusing on key systems—energy, agriculture, food, water, and land; cities; transport; and manufacturing—that must be transformed to address climate change, achieve a resilient and low-carbon future, and support the protection of natural capital and biodiversity. This includes efforts to develop local capital markets and make greater use of these markets to fund private investments in climate adaptation and mitigation.

Encouraging community-based Integration Strong emphasis on approaches that integrate people and communities into the low-carbon transition; so rather than being left behind, they are beneficiaries of the new climate economy of the future (World Bank, 2023).

Region and Project Highlights

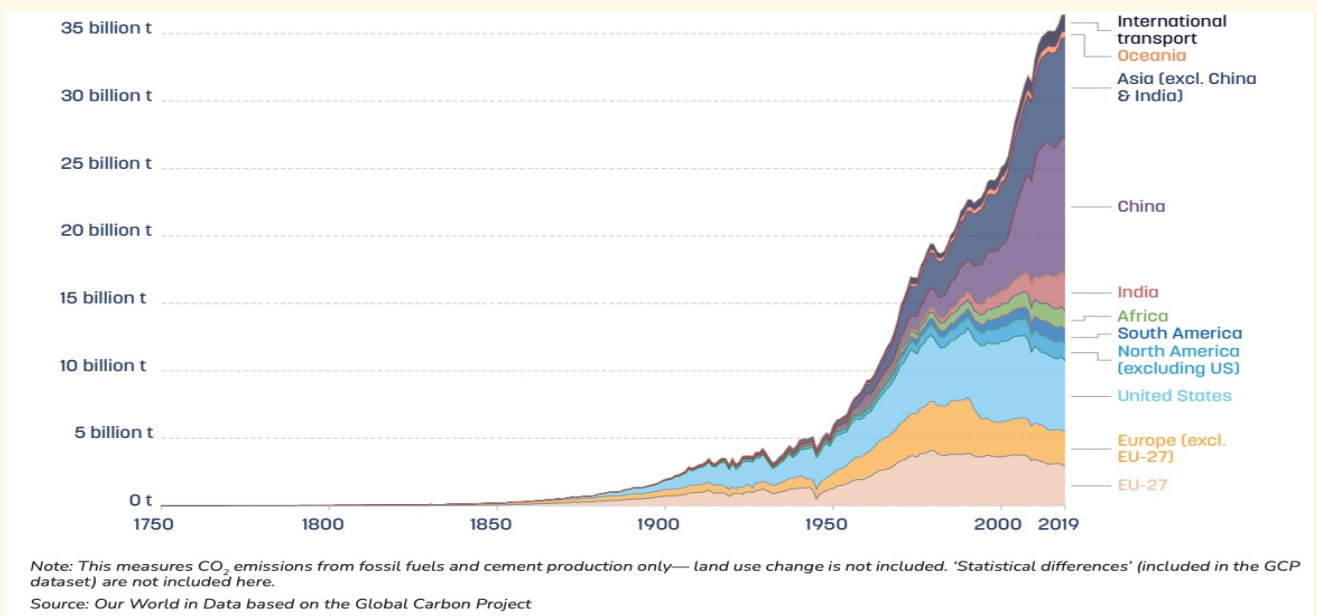
Figure 4: Share of CO2 Emissions by World Bank Category

According to our research, climate change could cause 216 million people to migrate within their own countries by 2050, with hotspots of internal migration emerging as soon as 2030, spreading and intensifying thereafter. Climate change could cut crop yields, especially in the world’s most food-insecure regions. At the same time, agriculture, forestry, and land use change are responsible for about 25% of greenhouse gas emissions, as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5. The agriculture sector is core to addressing the climate challenge (World Bank, 2023).



Source: World Bank Climate Change Action Plan

Figure 5: Annual Total CO2 Emissions by World Region



Source: World Bank Climate Change Action Plan

Climate Change in Latin America

The World Bank Group is the largest donor to climate change programs. The list below provides a sample of projects in Latin America that work to improve areas relating to energy, adaptation and resilience, low-carbon transport infrastructure, food and agriculture, forests and landscapes, and water and waste (World Bank, 2023).

Peru [\$66 million] The Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) project has assisted in improving forest management in indigenous communities. This project has allocated funds towards initiatives aimed at reforestation or enhancing the natural regeneration of forests, promoting traditional agriculture, conserving and utilizing indigenous medicine, implementing agroforestry practices to improve biodiversity, and indigenous land management practices in various regions of Peru.

Colombia [\$140 million] The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is providing backing for the implementation of TransMicable cable cars in Bogota. These cable cars establish connections between low-income areas and the primary bus network. Additionally, the IFC is extending financial aid to expand the TransMilenio corridors, a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, and assist the city in improving its environmental and social practices. These endeavors have led to improved access to transportation, reduced commuting times, and increased employment opportunities.

Brazil [\$56 million] In June 2021, the IFC entered provided a loan to a government-owned water utility, with a strong emphasis on environmental and sustainability aspects. This marks IFC's first sustainability-linked loan in Latin America's infrastructure sector and its second in the global water industry. The funding will assist Corsan, the water utility, in implementing a program to address water loss and enhance energy efficiency. This will involve the replacement of outdated electric pumps and hydrometers, as well as network upgrades.

Argentina [\$150 million] The Second Habitat and Urban Land Project promotes formal and planned urban growth, improves living conditions, and responds to crises and emergencies (World Bank, 2023).



Climate Change Spotlight: China

Source: Dreamstime

China and the Red Soil Project

China is one of the top three countries most affected by natural disasters every year, in terms of disaster frequency, economic damages, and the amount of lives lost. In 2016, 72 million people were affected, 1,335 lives were lost and \$45 billion in economic damages were caused. Figure 5 displays the annual total CO2 emissions by world region, with China being one of the largest contributors. Floods and droughts in China also impact several million people each year. The UNISDR estimated the yearly economic loss from floods to be \$18 billion resulting in negative impacts to agricultural production, further exacerbating food insecurity (World Bank, 2023).

Table 2: Project Cost by Component (in US\$ million equivalent)

Project Cost By Component	Appraisal Estimate US\$ million	Actual/Latest Estimate US\$ million	Percentage of Appraisal
Land development	37.40	44.79	119.8
Infrastructure development	29.80	36.87	123.7
Buildings	21.80	31.73	145.5
Machinery and vehicles	13.40	11.09	82.7
Crop establishment	83.70	96.91	115.8
Livestock development	39.40	49.64	126
Rural energy	2.50	3.11	124.3
Agro-processing	28.60	45.02	157.4
Research	2.30	1.85	80.3
Training and TA	5.80	7.70	132.8
Project Management	4.00	7.31	182.7
Total Baseline Cost	268.70	336.02	
Physical Contingencies	17.90		
Price Contingencies	9.90		
Total Project Costs	296.50	336.02	
Total Financing Required	296.50	336.02	

Source: World Bank Second Red Soils Area Development Project

Table 2 displays the project cost in US dollars in each subcategory, with crop establishment and livestock development having the largest financial commitment.



Climate Change Spotlight: China

Source: Dreamstime

China and the Red Soil Project

In Southern China, there hilly and mountainous areas make up 70% of the land which is composed of red soil. Most of the upland in this region is deemed ‘wastelands’ and is not used for agriculture, or the land is used in a way that is not sustainable. As a result, there is a significant amount of soil erosion, the farmers in this region are poor, and there is a severe loss of natural resources, including land and water. If the land keeps being used unsustainably, the agricultural and ecological system will be entirely degraded. Erosion will lead to increased floods due to river and stream beds being heightened, and decrease the lifespan of reservoirs as well as quality and volume of water. The overall loss of natural resources and damage to the environment will negatively impact people's ways of life and the economic development of that region (World Bank: China - Second Red Soils Area Development Project, 2002).

If used in a sustainable way, however, the upland areas of this region have a high potential for agricultural production. The China Red Soil II project was a project set up by the World Bank that operated in several provinces: Zhejiang, Hunan, Fujian, Jiangxi, and Guangxi. The project’s aim was to develop and rehabilitate 215 small watersheds, through designing a plan that sustainably conserves the use of natural resources in watersheds, while being economically viable in terms of cost, income, and equity. The planning stage of this project also considered the interests of multiple stakeholders with varying levels of interest, such as farmers, managers of water systems, forestry departments, and large companies. Other considerations for this project included objectives such as optimizing water management efficiency, decreasing soil erosion, employment, and alleviate poverty by increasing income for farmers and other stakeholders (Jianbo, 2002).



Climate Change Spotlight: China

Source: Dreamstime

China and the Red Soil Project

Project Cost: \$336 million

Table 2 displays the project cost in US dollars in each development focus area. The project's success is reflected across several dimensions, as shown in the sample of achieved objectives listed below.

Economic Benefits

- Output value for participating farm households increased by 30%
- Agricultural production capacity of main products increased by 50%
- Land terracing exceeded target amount by 15%
- Livestock finance exceeded original plan, increasing from 33% to 256%

Social Benefits

- Living standards increased for 67,000 households
- Annual income in 2000 more than doubled
- Employment increased for many farmers in the project area and other industries
- Improved transportation: pathway constructed in orchards and new village road helped farmers in project zone

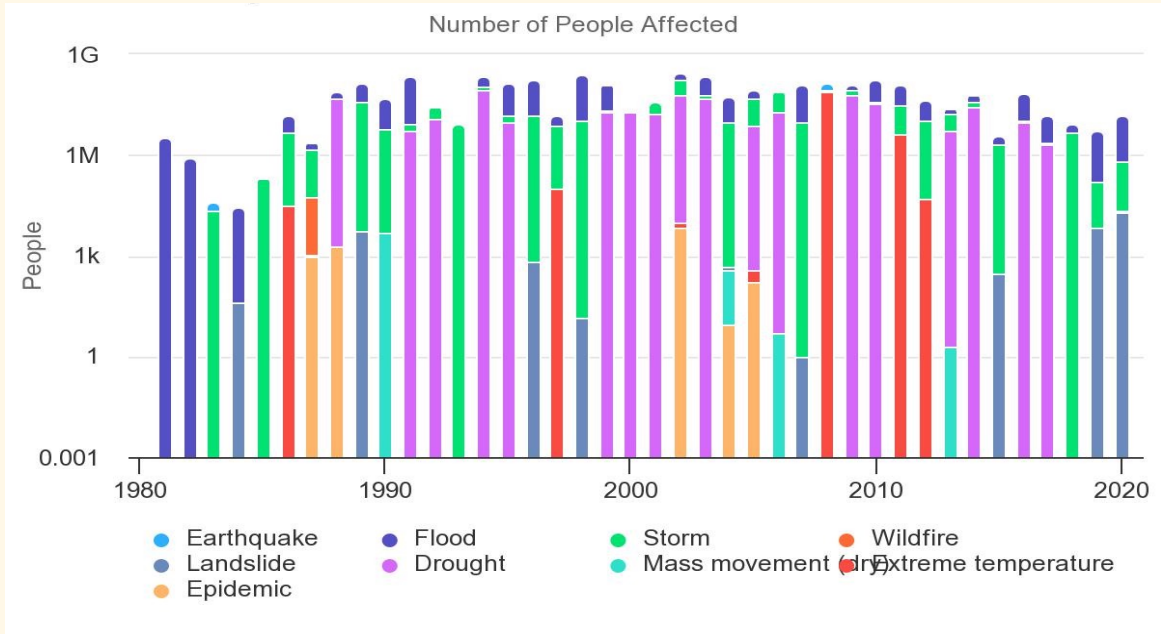
Ecological Benefits

- Erosion significantly decreased from approximately 24% to 78%
- Increased soil and water conservation, and vegetation cover
- Clean energy: Increase in fuel-efficient developed from agricultural waste which decreased the shortage of rural energy and cleaned the rural environment (World Bank: China - Second Red Soils Area Development Project, 2002).

Several Agencies collaborated on this and other projects within the region, including the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center of MOA and PPMO that were established in five different provinces to assist with implementation, as well as Project Leading Groups, Project Management Offices, and Technical Committees, that were managed by local people at central, provincial, city, and county levels in collaboration with the World Bank.

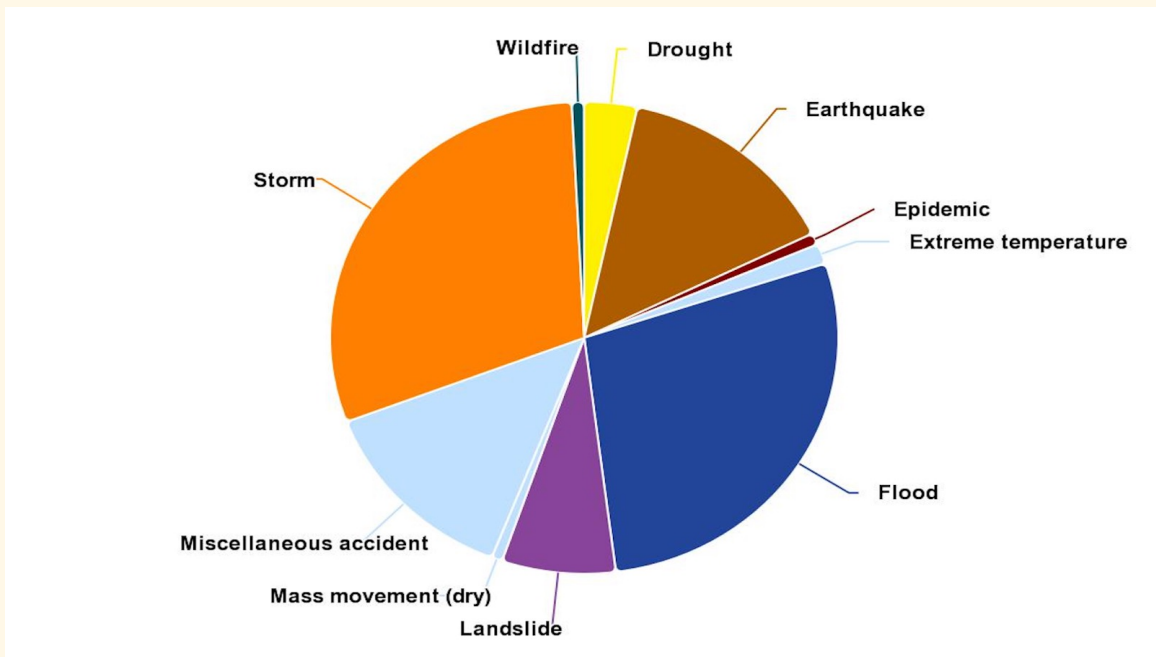
Figure 6: Key Natural Hazard Statistics for 1980 - 2020

The recognition of climate change's substantial influence on disaster management has grown, presenting a significant threat to meeting the increasing demands of the most vulnerable communities. Given the necessity of managing disaster risks, the availability of concise and dependable information becomes paramount. Figures 6 and 7 provide an overview of China's most frequent natural disasters and the effects of these hazards on China's population.



Source: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal: China

Figure 7: Average Annual Natural Hazard Occurrence for 1980-2020



Source: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal: China



Source: ARUP: “Why and How Capital Projects Should Invest in Organizational Development

Human Capital



Source: Global Citizen: “We’re Debunking 27 Myths About the Developing World”

Overview of Human Capital

Since its establishment in 1946, the World Bank has worked towards the goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. These have been supported in a myriad of ways and through various lenses. A broad topical lens which highlights the consequential effect of extreme poverty is known as human capital. Although human capital essentially finds much of its success in economic and fiscal measurement, the sum of its parts are directly related to the betterment of people’s standards of living. Human capital involves the betterment of individuals through their knowledge, skills, and health. In this sense, the World Bank chooses sectors like education, healthcare, nutrition, and work training to prioritize aid-giving in the process of promoting human capital. Human capital is indicated through population productivity meaning that the higher the number of consistent contributing members of society, the higher the rate of human capital. The increase of human capital benefits all of society and although focused on bettering the individual inherently approaches societal collaboration through cultural collectivism (World Bank, 2023).



Source: Tusktravel: 7 Reasons Making Bhutan the Happiest Country in the World

Human Capital at the World Bank

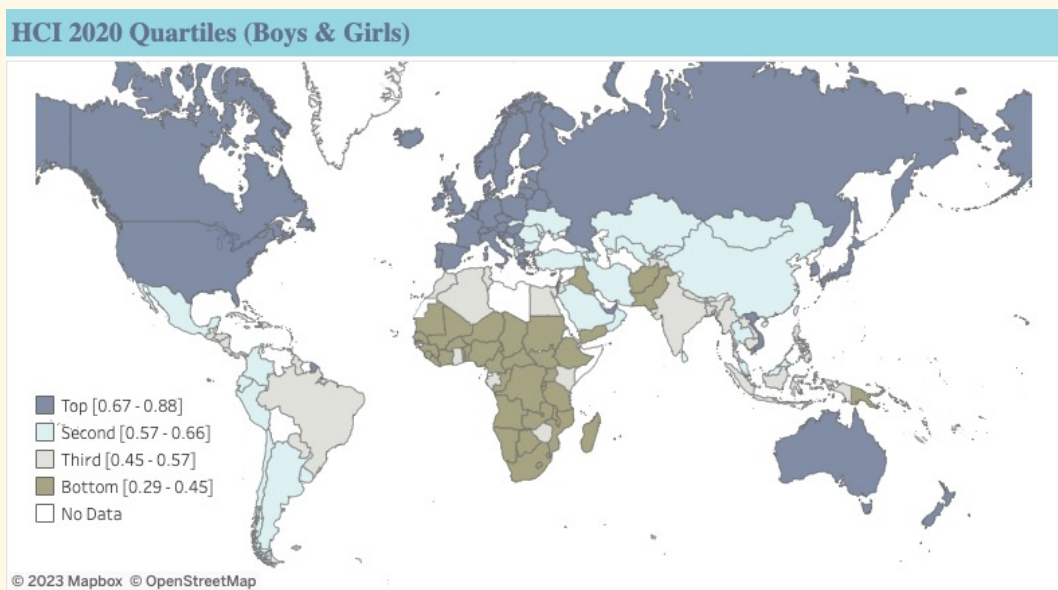
“Human capital consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people invest in and accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society. Investing in people through nutrition, health care, quality education, jobs and skills helps develop human capital, and this is key to ending extreme poverty and creating more inclusive societies” (World Bank 2023).

Up until 2017, the World Bank aided the value of our global human capital through alternatively titled projects. The concept of human capital the bank claims as the principal determinant in the world’s developmental journey. To both protect and invest in people is one of the main methods that the bank plans on ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity by the year 2030. This is a reaction to the bank’s prioritization of a couple of the world’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In response to its recognized importance, a project was announced to both put a name to the bank’s large-encompassing objective and to spread awareness of its urgency. The Human Capital Project, born in 2017, is a global effort to accelerate more and better investments in people for greater equity and economic growth (World Bank 2023). Beginning humbly with less than 30 collaborating countries, as of April 2023 87 countries have committed to working with the World Bank to promote widespread economic prosperity in alignment with the Human Capital Project (World Bank, 2023).

Human Capital Index

In order to maintain a quantifiable set of data regarding the globe's human capital values the bank published the Human Capital Index in 2018, which has since been updated in 2020. The Human Capital Index serves to determine a current newborn's potential human capital to be attained by age 18. Although effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic on human capital are not yet available due to lack of data, the bank expects the human capital index to decrease as a consequence to all that was lost during the viral crisis. The Human Capital Index determines a country's current and projected human capital value through six primary components; the probability of survival to age five, expected years of school, harmonized test scores, learning-adjusted years of school, adult survival rate, and fraction of children under five not stunted. By recognizing their population's productive contribution, policymaker's from each country are able to capitalize on knowing where structural improvements are most needed and how future generations of workers may support or inhibit economic development.

Figure 8: Human Capital Index Map



Source: The World Bank: Human Capital Project

Figure 8 shows the most recent update on that status of human capital value according to the HCI in each region.

A country's HCI has a positive correlation to its designated income category. Countries qualifying as lower income are more likely to be guaranteed to have a lower human capital rate than countries which are considered higher income. This is a direct reflection of how economic prosperity affects human development and vice versa. As a result of this data, the bank and the world are able to quantifiably visualize which countries are in increasingly higher need of donor aid support. As seen in figure 9 compared to figure 10 the discrepancies between low income and high income countries in terms of human capital are impossible to ignore:

Figure 9: Afghanistan

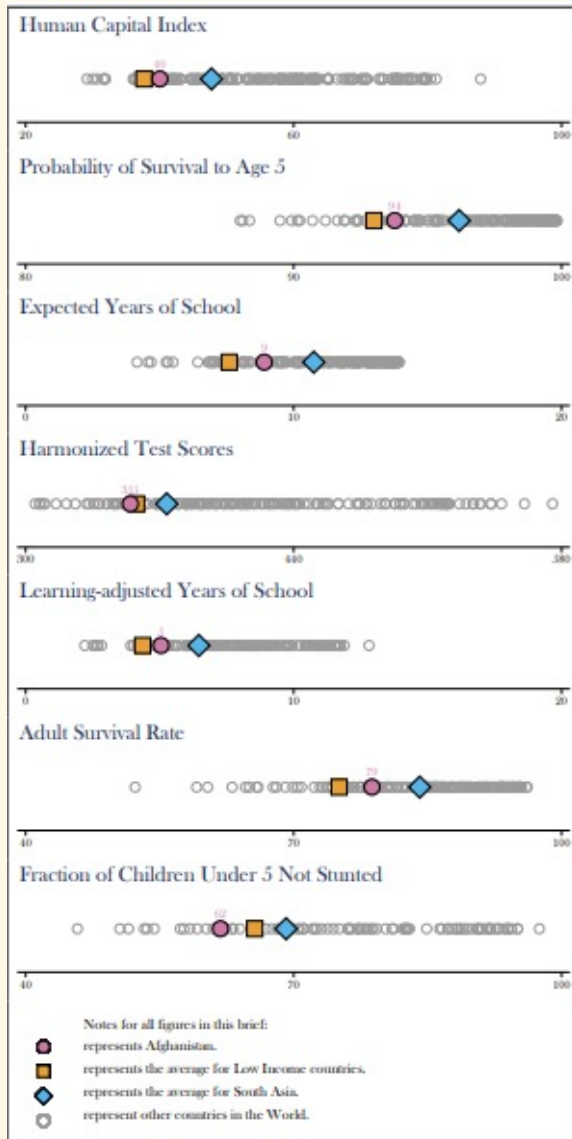
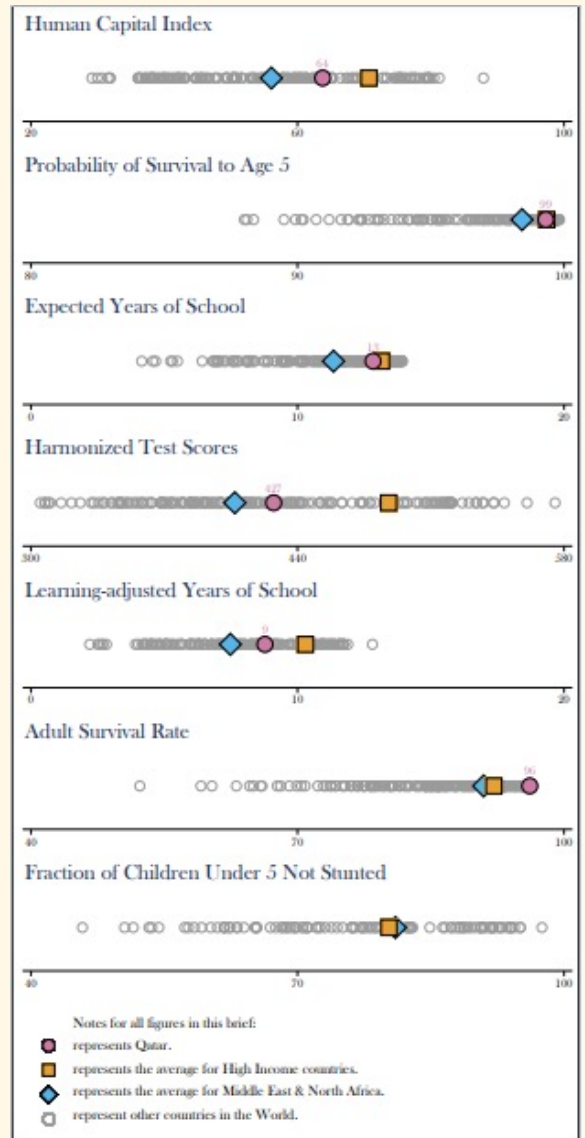


Figure 10: Qatar



Source : World Bank : Human Capital Project

Figures 9 and 10 demonstrate the regional discrepancies involved in human capital according to national income level. Afghanistan, a country in South Asia and considered to be low income, shows overall below average numbers in human capital compared to Qatar, a country in the Middle East and considered to be high income.

Human Capital in Europe & Central Asia

To prioritize human capital, the World Bank develops projects in sectors such as jobs and development, education, and healthcare. There have been many past projects implemented and assisted by the World Bank all throughout the world since human capital encompasses a wide variety of subcategories, but most recently as early as 2019, some of the most prominent human capital projects have been administered in the Central Asian and European regions. Some recent project highlights within these three sectors include: (World Bank, 2023)

Albania [\$10 million] Jobs and Development: A program surrounding Gender Equality in Access to Economic Opportunities with the assistance of the World Bank helped achieve the government's goals of increasing women's access to assets, job opportunities for women through leveling the playing field, and enhancing the institutional structures to support policy making that is gender-informed. As a result of project implementation, government contract bidders now must sign an agreement regarding workplace non-discrimination. In addition, 28% of women who enrolled in national employment services have successfully secured employment.

Yemen [\$300 million (IDA Financed)] Health: The Emergency Human Capital Project was implemented by the World Bank with other project partners such as UNOPS, UNICEF, and WHO to help increase the delivery and service of public health systems, sanitation functions, and water quality. Between 2021 and 2022, 2.8 million people were able to receive important nutrition, health, mental health services, through the project. In addition, close to 500,000 people obtained access to enhanced sanitation and water supply systems. Other key highlights from this project included several million women and children under five years of age receiving crucial healthcare and support services, such as preventative nutrition services, immunization, safe birth delivery, and support in managing water consumption.

Uzbekistan [\$49.9 million] Education: The Improving Pre-Primary and General Secondary Education Project generated by the World Bank helped to address the issue of a very low enrollment rate of children in preschools in 2013 (5%). The project's main goal was to increase learning opportunities in underprivileged areas throughout Uzbekistan. It includes a half-day school readiness program that runs all year long, for kids ages 5 and 6. This project also invested heavily in human resources development through conducting a 10-day training for 2,000 teachers and professionals in the education field, that centered around different teaching methods such as early child development and child-centered approaches. By 2019, about 100,000 children had greater educational opportunities across 2,420 rural kindergartens in Uzbekistan, due to the half-day program that the Bank helped to initiate (World Bank, 2023).



Source: Vektorstock

Human Capital Spotlight: Türkiye

Türkiye: Safe Schooling and Distance Education

Project Cost: \$160 million

From 2011-2010, Türkiye has experienced a downgrading in human capital in terms of basic education, preventative health, and labor force participation due to global shocks and other domestic factors. However, Türkiye still has a high potential to regain its strong foundations of public policy and institutions that contribute to improving human capital. In order for these foundations to be unlocked and recuperated, efforts must be made to confront the various challenges that are surfacing, through improving equitable growth, cultivating an ecological and resilient transition in terms of the environment, and strengthening durability to future global shocks. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, Türkiye's continual investment in human capital building is crucial to meet the needs of the country's citizens (World Bank, 2023).

In terms of strengthening basic education, the World Bank developed the Safe Schooling and Distance Education Project. This project's aim was to increase the education system's capacity to effectively supply online learning to children in an equitable manner in accordance with its goal of increasing resilience to global shocks post-pandemic. The Bank has been supporting Türkiye through this project in the midst of online distance learning during the pandemic, in school re-opening, and online learning investments for the long-term. To do this, the project seeks to create a system to improve learning outcomes from a digital standpoint, through providing access to materials, teacher training encompassing the expansion of digital education, virtual classrooms, and supplying digital materials and curriculums. Through this project, the Bank will also support the design of a strong disaster risk management plan in education as well as a disaster recovery plan (World Bank, Safe Schooling and Distance Education Project Appraisal Document, 2020).



Source: Vektorstock

Human Capital Spotlight: Türkiye

Türkiye: Safe Schooling and Distance Education

This project also aims to meet the needs of most vulnerable school children, such as those from remote areas, those with disabilities, low socio-economic backgrounds, or those who are refugees or do not speak Turkish as a first language. It is currently being implemented by the Ministry of National Education and includes three different categories: (World Bank, 2023)

1. Emergency Connectivity and IT Infrastructure for Education in Emergencies
2. Digital Content for Safety and Quality
3. Institutional Capacity for Education Technology Resilience

Since the project's onset in 2020, several objectives have been met or achieved significant progress:

- Increased number of online distance education users from 300,000 to 1,000,000 during March 2020
- Over 2,000 digital or video materials were created and adapted for students with a sight or hearing impairment.
- provided certified online professional development training to 826,394 teachers
- Increased environmental benefits and disaster-risk management benefits, including making the digital platform able to withstand extreme climate, power outages, and a decrease in carbon emissions by cutting back on paper usage and travel
- Percentage of students experiencing regional poverty that have access to the distance education system increased from 14% to 30% (World Bank, Safe Schooling and Distance Education Project Appraisal Document, 2020).

Table 3: Formal Education Indicators

Level of Education and School Type	Number of Students			Net Schooling Rate (%)		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Pre-primary Education*	1 564 813	749 992	814 821	68.30	67.23	69.32
Primary School**	5 267 378	2 559 289	2 708 089	91.92	92.08	91.78
Lower Secondary School***	5 627 075	2 769 932	2 857 143	93.28	93.64	92.94
Total Upper Secondary Education****	-	-	-	84.20	83.88	84.51
Upper Secondary Level Division by School Type*****						
General Upper Secondary Education	3 250 334	1 587 880	1 662 454	44.57	41.51	41.81
TVET Education	1 793 391	708 465	1 084 926	39.63	36.07	43.00
Religious Education	605 869	339 177	266 692	-	-	-

Source: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal

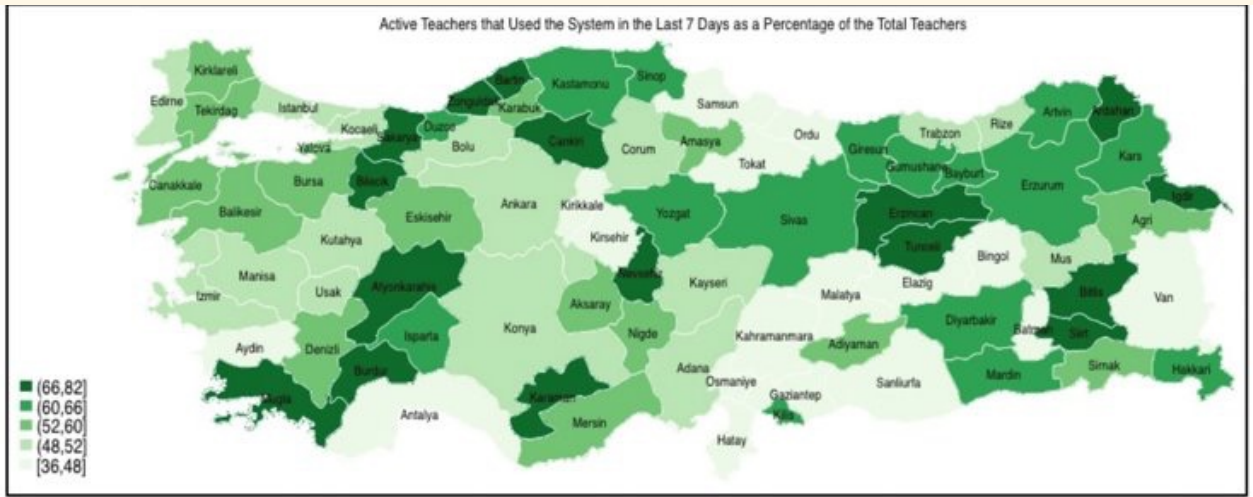
As part of the project preparation, a gender analysis was carried out to assess the education gaps related to access, learning, and equity. This analysis played a crucial role in guiding the project investments during and after the COVID-19 period. Consequently, an "affirmative action" approach was adopted within the project's universal strategy framework due to the pandemic's impact on all students and teachers.

Over the years, Türkiye has made significant progress in promoting gender equality in educational achievement. The project's ongoing support for gender equity is particularly important, as certain gaps can be heightened by the COVID-19 crisis. For instance, the economic hardships caused by the pandemic may affect households' ability to keep students enrolled in school, with girls being more susceptible to increased out-of-school rates.

While Türkiye exhibits high Net Schooling Rates (NERs) overall (as shown in Table 3), girls still constitute a higher percentage among those who are out of school at the primary and secondary levels. Access to all levels of K-12 education is not hindered by gender disparities. However, girls outperform boys in terms of educational attainment within Türkiye. In the PISA 2018 assessment, girls surpassed boys by 25 PISA points, equivalent to a little over half a year of schooling.

The Safe Schooling and Distance Education Project aims to maintain these achievements and prevent any regression in progress, considering the potential impact that both in-person and distance-based learning can have on female students (World Bank, Safe Schooling and Distance Education Project Appraisal Document, 2020).

Figure 11: Access to Online EBA: Teachers that Used the System, by Province



Source: The World Bank Staff's Calculations by using data from the General Directorate of Innovation and Educational Technologies, 2020

According to Figure 11, poverty levels in the Southeast provinces range from 14% in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Osmaniye to 42% in Sanliurfa-Diyarbakir. Conversely, the Northwest provinces exhibit the lowest poverty rates, with rates ranging from 1.3% in Zonguldak, Karabük, and Bartın to 2.8% in Bursa, Eskişehir, and Bilecik. Table 4 displays household access to the internet among families with school-age children, categorized by poverty level.

Table 4: Access to Internet for Households with School Age Children (SAC) by Poverty Level

Poverty Level	By Ns of SAC	N of Households		% with access to internet
		Total	With access to internet	
Poor Households	2 or less SAC	668,319	288,741	43%
	3 or more SAC	450,846	151,137	34%
Vulnerable Households	2 or less SAC	2,591,126	1,817,937	70%
	3 or more SAC	484,217	287,365	59%
Middle-Class Households	2 or less SAC	4,040,827	3,575,643	88%
	3 or more SAC	209,073	183,618	88%
Total Households	2 or less SAC	7,300,272	5,682,321	78%
	3 or more SAC	1,144,136	622,120	54%

Source: The World Bank Staff's Calculations by using Household Budget Survey 2018. Note: SAC refers to children between 6-16 years old

Conclusion

Through this report, our audience is forced to acknowledge the realities of how the global pandemic, conflict, and climate change has impacted communities in every corner of the globe. In the face of these challenges, the World Bank's determination to reduce poverty and promote a prosperous future has only grown stronger.

As the World Bank continues on the development journey, we will continue to capitalize on innovative projects that promote green transitions while also aiding in our other priority areas, including food security and human capital.

Source: The Conversation: "How the New Human Right to a Healthy Environment Could Accelerate New Zealand's Action Plan"



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