

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

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NEWS



Now Open: Call for Session Proposals for the 2019 Spring Meetings Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF)

The next CSPF will convene in Washington, D.C., from April 9 to 12, 2019 as part of the WBG-IMF Spring Meetings. The call for session proposals will be open until Friday, February **15, 2019**. Visit the [CSPF website](#) for more details. For a summary report on the 2018 Annual Meetings CSO registration and participant feedback survey results, click [here](#).



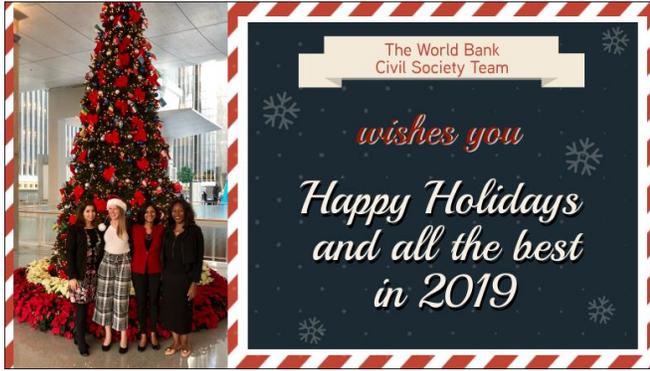
New Climate Action Plan: World Bank Group Announces \$200 billion over Five Years for Climate Action

In 2018, the World Bank Group provided a record-breaking \$20.5 billion in finance for climate action: doubling delivery from the year before the Paris Agreement and meeting its 2020 target two years ahead of schedule. The new targets build on the World Bank Group's 2016 Climate Change Action Plan. Read more [here](#).



Lack of Health Care is a Waste of Human Capital: 5 Ways to Achieve Universal Health Coverage By 2030

UHC Day, celebrated on December 12 every year highlights global progress towards UHC. Due to strong national leadership and ambitious reforms, most parts of the world have seen an expansion in access to health services and action to ensure affordability. However, half the world's population still cannot access needed health services and 100 million people are pushed into extreme poverty each year because of health expenses, according to recent research from the World Bank Group and World Health Organization (WHO). Read more [here](#).



Season's Greetings from the World Bank Civil Society Team

From the CSO team at the World Bank, we send you our best wishes for this holiday season and for the New Year. As the year comes to an end, we reflect on the robust and productive engagement we've had with civil society partners and look forward to continued collaboration in 2019. .

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Globalization: Contents and Discontents](#)

- January 15-16, 2019
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

[Land and Poverty Conference 2019](#)

Catalyzing Innovation

- March 25-29, 2019
- Washington, DC

[Civil Society Policy Forum](#)

2019 WBG-IMF Spring Meetings

- April 9-12, 2019
- Washington, DC

To see more World Bank events, please click [here](#).

BLOGS AND STORIES

[Does the digital economy provide tourism opportunities for local communities in Africa?](#)

Since 2016, tourism market trends have shifted away from “get-a-way” travel to traveling for ‘authentic’ experiences. This transformation is driven by the world’s largest consumer group—millennials—and amplified by digital platforms and social media but is also echoed across other segments. African countries, with their abundant wealth of natural and cultural assets, are perfectly positioned to capitalize on this shift, just as the rise of digital platforms are reducing market access barriers for such products. However, in our new World Bank Group report, we found that while demand for experiencing ‘life like a local’ in Africa is set to outpace growth of arrivals, there are still many supply-side challenges that need to be addressed.

[Measuring regional poverty in MENA: Update and remaining challenges](#)

When the World Bank recently released the 2018 Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report; Piecing Together the Poverty Puzzle, which includes the global and regional poverty estimates, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) stood out for two particular reasons. First, the MENA region is the only region where the extreme poverty rate increased between 2011 and 2015. Second, this was the first time that regional estimates were reported for MENA after several years of poor data availability and issues with 2011 Purchasing Power Parity conversion factors in selected countries.

[Shining a light on asset-disclosure practices at the International Anti-Corruption Conference](#)

In October, hundreds of representatives of civil society organizations, public and private sector representatives, journalists and international organizations gathered in Copenhagen for the 18th International Anti-Corruption Conference. This annual conference is viewed by many as a leading forum in the field of anti-corruption. The Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR)—together with the Network for Integrity organized a joint session at the conference on promoting transparent and accountable institutions.

This newsletter is produced by the Civil Society Team of the World Bank Group (WBG) in collaboration with other units. The Newsletter highlights several policies, programs, and initiatives of the WBG which may involve or be of interest to CSOs. Please send your comments and feedback to: civilsociety@worldbank.org. You can subscribe to the Newsletter using our [subscription page](#).

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The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20433 USA
Tel: (202) 473-1000