**Important Statement Regarding the 2020 IMF-World Bank Group Spring Meetings**

Given growing health concerns related to the coronavirus, the Management of the IMF and World Bank Group and their Executive Boards have agreed to implement a joint plan to adapt the 2020 IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings to a virtual format. Please refer to the press release and frequently asked questions (FAQ) for more.

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**People, Peace, Prosperity: Securing the Future Together**

By 2030, up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor will live in situations affected by fragility, conflict and violence (FCV). To reverse the trend, the World Bank Group's strategy for FCV seeks to address the root causes and impacts of FCV. CSOs have been integral to the development of approach, which sees complementary partnerships as essential to achieve impact on the ground. To learn more, click here.

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**New: IDA19 Deputies Report**

The final version of the IDA19 Deputies’ Report has been disclosed. Development gains in IDA countries show that progress is possible and underscore the urgency for strong collective action to broaden and accelerate such progress across the SDGs. IDA19 will continue to support the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries to implement country-driven solutions that are people-centered, generate growth, and strengthen resilience across five themes: Jobs and Economic Transformation; Fragility, Conflict and Violence; Climate Change; Gender and Development; Governance and Institutions. IDA19 implementation will run from July 2020 to June 2023.
2019 World Bank Group Corporate Scorecards Now Available

The Corporate Scorecards serve as the apex reporting tool on results and performance of the WBG and World Bank, covering FY19–23. They summarize key indicators of organizational performance and provide a snapshot of aggregate results for selected indicators. They complement a robust system of reporting on results and performance at the country and operational levels, including public disclosure and independent validation of evaluations of WBG country programs and operations. Learn more here.

RECENT REPORTS

New Women, Business and the Law: 50 Years of Data
The Women, Business and the Law index has been expanded to encompass data from 1970 onwards, allowing research on the pace, trends and causes of reforms. The index contributes to policy discussions about women’s economic opportunities. To read more, click here.

Obesity: Time for global Action
Obesity-related diseases are among the top three killers across the globe. Long believed to be a problem exclusive to high-income countries, over 70 percent of the world’s 2 billion overweight/obese individuals live in low- or middle-income countries. A new World Bank report sheds light on why the growing obesity epidemic needs to be tackled now. To see report, press release, infographic, video and podcast click here.

BLOGS AND STORIES

Stories, data, and plans: Preparing for the next pandemic
Even before the current COVID-19 outbreak, a September 2019 report compiled at the request of the United Nations Secretary-General warned that there is a “very real threat” of a pandemic that is spread airborne around the world and could wipe out almost 5 percent of the global economy.

It really works: greater transparency, less bribery
“Sunlight is the best disinfectant” is an often-heard recommendation for preventing bribery in government. We now have evidence that transparency regulation does in fact check bribery in public procurement. Doing something as simple as publishing bidding documentation online – where it can be seen by anyone -- is associated with a reduced incidence of giving money or favors to secure government contracts.

Africa takes historic lead in female parliamentary speakers
The archetype of the strong African woman standing as an unmoving pillar of her community is one that transcends national borders on the African continent. While in the past, this image often faded the instant a woman crossed the threshold of business or politics, 2019 saw significant advances in female leadership spanning the public and private arenas in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Policymakers need to focus on the quality and not just the quantity of services delivered
Education and health policymakers often focus on indicators of the quantity of services provided: Are children enrolled in school? Are women delivering their babies in a health facility? Are newborn babies receiving postnatal care? This assumes that children in school will automatically learn, and that health outcomes such as maternal and child mortality will automatically improve as service coverage increases. This assumption often is wrong.

By the people: How citizens, auditors and media reinforced rule of laws protecting Nepal’s treasured Fewa Lake
On 29 April 2018, Nepal’s Supreme Court issued a landmark order to remove buildings and business establishments that had encroached upon Fewa Lake, part of the Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley which is an important Ramsar (wetland) Site. This victory for the people of Pokhara was partly due to the findings of the audit report published in 2017 by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) which had also involved local citizens and civil society in its performance audit process.
This newsletter is produced by the Civil Society Team of the World Bank in collaboration with other units. It highlights policies, programs, events, and initiatives of the World Bank Group which may involve or be of interest to CSOs. Please send your comments and feedback to: civilsociety@worldbank.org.

The World Bank Civil Society Team
For more information visit our website: worldbank.org/civilsociety