

Chapter 1

Evaluation Highlights

- Development success in any individual country is increasingly intertwined with making progress on shared global challenges.
- The *Annual Review of Development Effectiveness* is in a new, two-part format.
- Part I tracks World Bank performance by analyzing projects, country programs, and results from monitoring and evaluation.
- Part II examines a special topic: the Bank's work in fostering global public goods.



Chinese lanterns at night; photo ©Frank Kraemer/zefa/Corbis, reproduced by permission.

Introduction

For the World Bank and its partners, the ever-present test is to deliver results—to lift people out of poverty and promote socially and environmentally sustainable development. Achieving such success in any individual country is increasingly intertwined with making progress on shared global challenges. A fair and efficient international trade regime, for example, is a global public good (GPG) that allows developing countries to trade more and grow faster. The growing global threat of climate change—a “public bad” by contrast—particularly imperils the poor who bear the brunt of more frequent natural disasters and hazards to health and agriculture (IEG 2006b; Stern 2006).

This year’s *Annual Review of Development Effectiveness* (ARDE) is in a new format and presents evidence on the Bank’s efforts in two important and connected areas. Part I, which is a standard section of the new format, analyzes the trends in outcomes of Bank projects and country programs in recent years. Equally important—and building on past practice¹—the report goes beyond performance indicators and digs deeper into the framework employed by the Bank to monitor and evaluate its work. This ARDE assembles the available evidence on how monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems are progressing, both in terms of quality and coverage. It illustrates how new techniques are beginning to be employed, including impact evaluations and new results management systems for the International Development Association (IDA). The review also refers to evidence to benchmark the Independent Evaluation Group’s (IEG’s) own contribution to influencing the Bank’s performance.

All of this is important because a successful M&E system that focuses on results can have three major benefits. It can provide an early warning when an intervention is not working well, and a basis for improving a project during implementation. It can provide a broad measure of results for accountability and demonstrate to stakeholders the degree to which the Bank has contributed to development results. Finally, it can contribute to global knowledge for development, providing useful lessons for other projects and programs within the same country, or within the same sector in other countries.

Part II of the report examines a special topic. There has been enormous growth in international attention to the great shared global challenges of our time—a set of supranational issues collectively known as *global public goods*. This year’s ARDE looks at the Bank’s work in fostering GPGs, such as protecting the earth’s climate and preventing the spread of dangerous

communicable diseases. GPGs are clearly important in their own right and are becoming ever more closely associated with the Bank's development impact (as described in Part I). To fight the many dimensions of poverty—including vulnerability—the world must be able not only to help antipoverty programs at the individual country level, but also to create the framework for collective action on transnational issues that can support or undermine the fate of the poor.

As the Bank has emphasized inclusive and sustainable globalization, the importance of coordinated global solutions to cross-border problems has risen in tandem. Indeed, the Bank has identified

fostering GPGs as one of its six strategic themes. This report focuses on two roles the Bank has identified as its comparative advantage: (i) identifying how the Bank's country-based model has helped or hindered its support for GPGs, and (ii) drawing lessons from the Bank's experience as an advocate for action on GPGs.

The thematic focus of ARDE 2008, taken together with the components of Part I of the report, helps inform important choices for the Bank's strategy and its implementation. It also sets a framework for work by IEG in other evaluations—including next year's ARDE—to focus attention on development impact in the future.