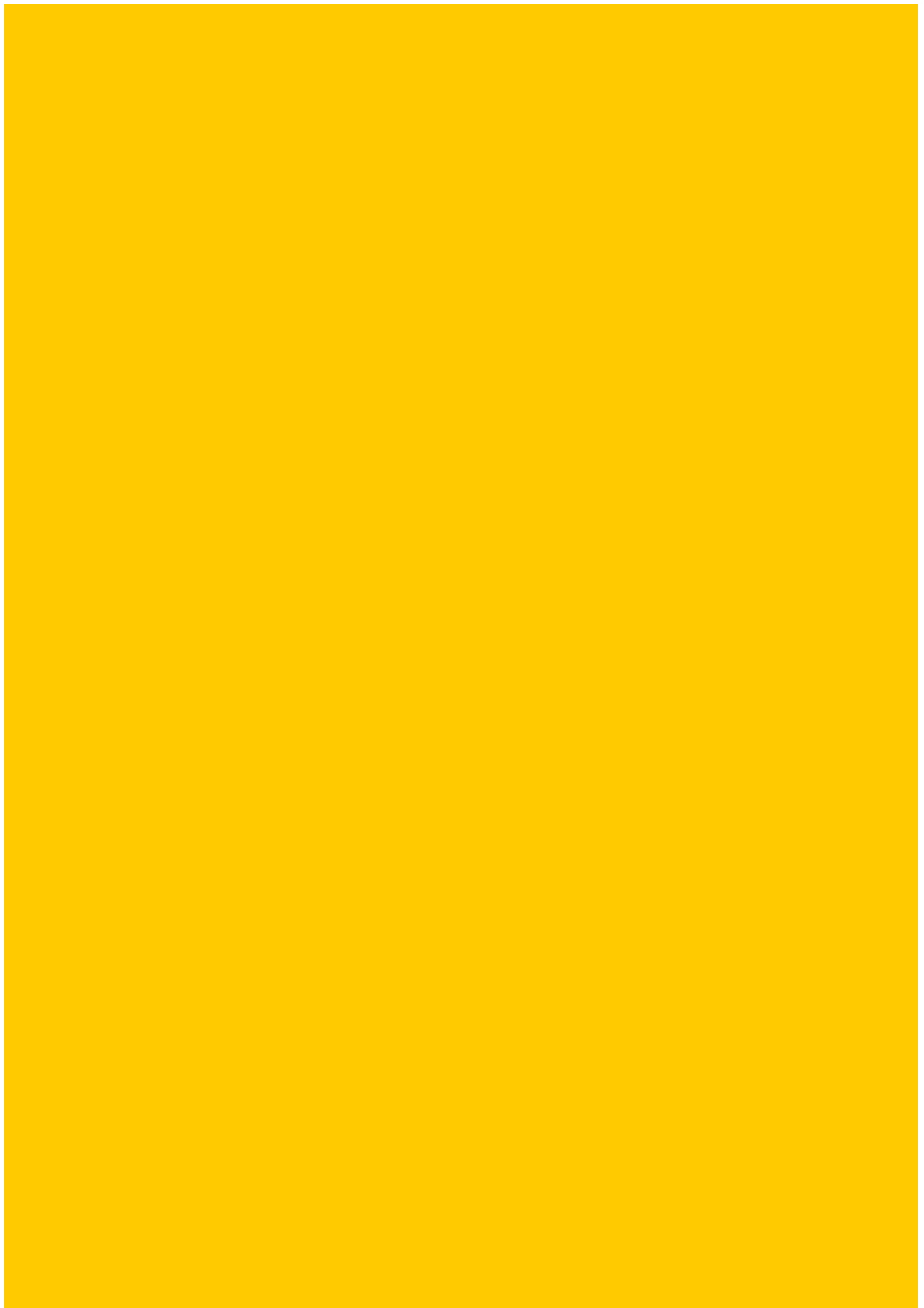


# Getting to Know the World Bank

A Guide for  
Young People





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A Guide for Young People



**THE WORLD BANK**  
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## Preface

The idea for this book emerged from our informal conversations. We are young people who work at the World Bank. We are interns, volunteers, junior professionals, and others who wanted to find a way to tell our peers in developing countries, the United States, and other nations just what the Bank does—operations we felt were sometimes misunderstood. We especially wanted to include examples of how the work of the Bank directly affects young people around the world, how its mission has changed over time, and how it is making an effort to engage youth more fully in its new mission.

Throughout the writing and production process, we consulted with peers from many countries. This book includes what we learned from online discussions over several months and what we heard in gatherings of young people: in focus groups; in our groundbreaking Youth, Development, and Peace Conference held in Paris in 2003; and in a subsequent conference held in Sarajevo in 2004. At these two conferences alone, World Bank staff met with hundreds of young people from more than 80 countries to develop plans for working together in the future.

Our hope is that after reading this book, you will have a clearer understanding of the Bank's role in global development, where to go for further information, and how you can get involved in our efforts. We hope you will agree that our generation has much to contribute to positive change in our world.

## Acknowledgments

This book was prepared under the guidance of a working group comprising representatives from the World Bank's Youth to Youth (Y2Y) Community, the Children and Youth Unit, and the Office of the Publisher. Thaisa Tiglao of the Office of the Publisher coordinated meetings of the working group and collated comments on and reviews of the draft manuscript. Major funding for the project was provided by the Children and Youth Unit.

Sheila Kinkade adapted much of the book's content from existing World Bank publications and Internet resources. Additional writing and the manuscript editing were provided by Amy DeLouise.

Comments during development of the manuscript came from the Y2Y Publication Committee, which consisted of Aseem Agrawal, Julia Anderson, Mohini Bhatia, Shehan de Sayrah, Maria Rosario Soraide Duran, Katherine Gruene, Heather Ashlee Harkins, Zenaida Hernandez, Helle Jeppsson, Bruna Lecossois, Rachel Marie Pressley, Nancy Rodriguez, Stephanie Saenger, Christine Sedky, Frank Sperling, John D. Stephenson, Thaisa Tiglao, Arianne Wessal; and from Ana Elisa Luna Barros, Maya Brahmam, Kennedy Fosu, Pierre Girardier, Dirk Koehler, Gloria La Cava, Viviana Mangiaterra, Gerry Rice, Juan Felipe Sanchez, Katherine Sheram, Kafu Kofi Tsikata, John Underwood, Gerold Vollmer, and Nina Vucenik.

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a focus group at the University of Ghana, Legon; and Woubedle Alemayehu (Ethiopia), who also contributed a special piece on her collaboration with the Bank on development issues. A posting on the Bank's Youthink! Web site generated additional comments from 27 countries.

The Office of the Publisher managed editorial and print production. Patricia Hord Graphik Design contributed the design, layout, and typesetting. The cover design was based partly on a concept by Louise Derricks. Monika Lynde provided advice on print options and managed the printing phase. Janet Sasser served as an indefatigable production editor, orchestrating and contributing to the many aspects of the process to ensure a quality product.

Richard Crabbe  
Office of the Publisher



# 1

## Youth and Development

“This generation—yours, my generation—we’re the first generation that can look at poverty and disease...and say with a straight face, we can be the first to end this.... We can be the first generation. It might take a while, but we can be that generation.... For the first time in history we have the know-how...but do we have the will?”

Bono, lead singer and songwriter for the band U2  
in a speech to graduating college seniors, May 2004<sup>1</sup>

What do young people have to do with development? A lot.

In many nations, youth stand at the forefront of efforts to address urgent social challenges—advocating for their own rights and for the rights of others who are all too often neglected, or forgotten. Take, for example, Jyotirmayee “Jyoti” Mohapatra of India. At 19, Jyoti launched the Meena Club—an effort to mobilize local citizens around crucial issues facing women and children. Today, five years later, more than 300 Meena Clubs are working in five districts across India to abolish child labor, reduce the infant and maternal death rate, ensure educational opportunities for children, and promote greater understanding of women’s and children’s rights.

There are many examples of young people like Jyoti who were motivated to take action and make a difference in their communities. In today’s Africa—especially in South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia—thousands of young people are playing important roles in the fight against HIV/AIDS, educating their peers and the public at large about the dangers of the disease. And in many countries that have since transitioned

“Meena” is an animated character seen on TV and known throughout Southeast Asia. She is the universal replica of an ordinary little girl who asserts her rights and those of other girls in society.



## What Is Development?

Most dictionaries define *development* as a process of change for the better, or progress in any given situation. Increasingly, the term has come to mean achieving an acceptable standard of living for all people. This includes giving everyone access to the basics:

### food



### housing



### education



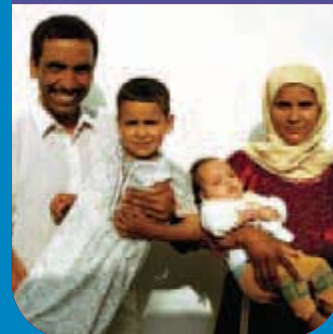
### jobs



### health



### security



The aim of development is to help people become more productive, which allows countries to trade with other countries, and more trade means more goods and services to continue improving living conditions. But to be truly lasting, development must be *sustainable* and *beneficial* to all. It must meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. For example, economic growth must not just provide base wages but must also improve workers' knowledge and skills, thus creating more and better jobs in the future and allowing new businesses to flourish.

Development is a complex and cooperative process. It requires an individual country to balance its social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental needs. It also requires the assistance of groups outside the country that can provide ideas, funds, expertise, personnel, and/or experience: multilateral institutions (such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank), governments of most of the industrial countries (such as the United Kingdom and Sweden, in the form of direct aid), and charitable organizations (such as CARE and the Mennonite Central Committee).



to democracy—such as Georgia and Indonesia—youth-led campaigns were critical in calling for reforms.

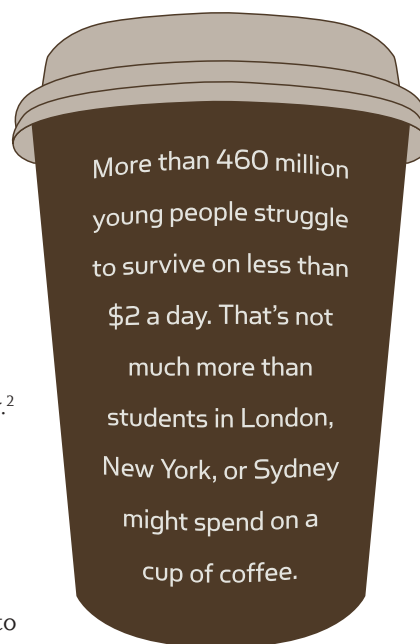
Today's young generation represents a powerful force for positive change; yet far too few young people have access to the education, skills, and opportunities that would allow them to live up to their potential. In sheer numbers, this is the biggest single generation of 15- to 24-year-olds ever—more than 1.1 billion! Whether youth feel a part of society or excluded from it will largely determine the future of our world.

## Working with and for Young People

Young people are vital to the World Bank's central mission: to free the world from poverty. Youth can and should be valuable allies in the Bank's efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, increase access to education, reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, enhance employment opportunities, protect the environment, and reduce national and regional conflicts.

Children and youth are often the greatest victims of today's global inequities. They make up nearly half of the world's poor. Of these, more than 460 million young people—more than one and a half times the population of the United States—struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day.<sup>2</sup> Two dollars a day—that's not much more than students in London, New York, or Sydney might spend on a cup of coffee. Consider also these problems disproportionately affecting youth:

- **Illiteracy:** 133 million of today's youth don't know how to read or write.
- **Disease:** Half of all HIV infections occur among individuals ages 15 to 24.
- **Hunger:** Every day, 34,000 children die from hunger and related causes.



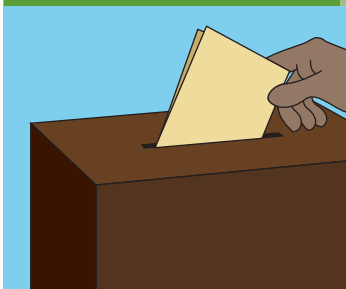
# “When young people are unsuccessful in various areas of their life...they have no hope in the future.”

Benin youth engaged in World Bank focus group

## Did you know?

That in Malaysia and Morocco you are eligible to vote at the age of 21, while in Iran, you can vote at 15 and in Croatia at 16, if you have a job?

One of the easiest and most powerful ways for young people to participate in important decisions that affect their lives is by exercising their voting rights; yet many youth who are eligible to vote lack knowledge of their nation's political system and how to participate effectively.



- **Unemployment:** 74 million youth are currently without work (that's 47 percent of the world's total unemployed).
- **Victimization:** During the past decade, 2 million children have been killed, 6 million left disabled, and 12 million made homeless as a result of war.

The children and youth represented by these statistics have little control over their circumstances and have no voice in decisions that affect their everyday lives. Until recently, governments and international development agencies rarely incorporated the knowledge and opinions of young people into their policy-making decisions. Moreover, they often failed to see how youth issues are integral to their efforts to promote sustainable development and economic growth.

The World Bank recognizes that to reach important development goals, young people must be engaged in the process. Successful development work must take their needs, experiences, views, and insights into account.

## Listening to Youth Voices

A major milestone in the World Bank's efforts to engage young people more fully in its work was the Paris Youth, Development, and Peace (YDP) Conference held in September 2003. The two-day event brought together more than 100 representatives of youth organizations from 70 countries. The conference



provided a forum for concerns, priorities, and recommendations on international development issues. Participants also explored existing youth-led approaches to fighting poverty and how these might be applied in other parts of the world.



Conference attendees identified four priority areas for the Bank’s work with and for young people:



These four themes now form the basis for the World Bank’s Children and Youth Framework for Action. (For further information, see chapter 7.)

The Paris YDP Conference was only the beginning. As it tackles a wide range of complex development issues, the Bank continues to consult with youth throughout the world. Many of these individuals refer to a “poverty of the spirit” that occurs when young people grow up without hope and the chance to dream of a better future.

Said one young Brazilian: *“Millions of young people have had their dreams stolen. Yes, dreams! We human beings have to be fed, need air, a home, etc., but more than that, we have to be able to dream...because surviving does not equal living, and to live is to be able to grow, to hope, to create, and to plan.”*

**World Bank-speak**

The World Bank has created a vocabulary all its own—a vocabulary that is often reduced to acronyms. To help you understand the Bank’s language, a list of acronyms and a glossary are included at the end of the book.

### Origin of the term “world bank”

The term “world bank” was first used in reference to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in an article on the Bretton Woods conference in *The Economist* on July 22, 1944. The first meeting of the Boards of Governors of the IBRD and the International Monetary Fund—held in Savannah, Georgia, in March 1946—was officially called the “World Fund and Bank Inaugural Meeting.” And several news accounts of this conference, including one in *The Washington Post*, used the term “world bank.” What began as a nickname became official shorthand in 1975 for the IBRD and the International Development Association together.



Although employees of the Bank often hear frustration from young people about circumstances beyond their control, they also see that the next generation is hopeful about the future and wants to play a role in shaping it.

## World Bank Facts: Your Questions Answered

### How and why was the World Bank established?

Following the devastation of World War II, in 1944 the representatives of 44 governments met in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, in the United States to develop a strategy for rebuilding the international economy. A key outcome of the meeting was the creation of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which would become known as the “world bank,” and the International Monetary Fund.

When the IBRD began operating in 1946, this new entity had 36 member nations. Today most of the nations of the world—184 countries—are members. Many developed nations that once borrowed money from the IBRD, including Austria, Denmark, Greece, Italy, and Singapore, are now donors.

### Where does the World Bank obtain its money?

The IBRD (the main lending institution) raises almost all of its money in the world’s financial markets by selling AAA-rated World Bank bonds to pension funds, insurance companies, corporations, other banks, and individuals around the globe. Bank finances also come from earnings on its investments, fees paid by member countries, contributions made by members (particularly the wealthier ones), and the loans repaid by borrowing countries.

### Why would a country want to borrow from the World Bank?

The Bank has a high credit rating because it has large, well-managed financial reserves. This means it can borrow money

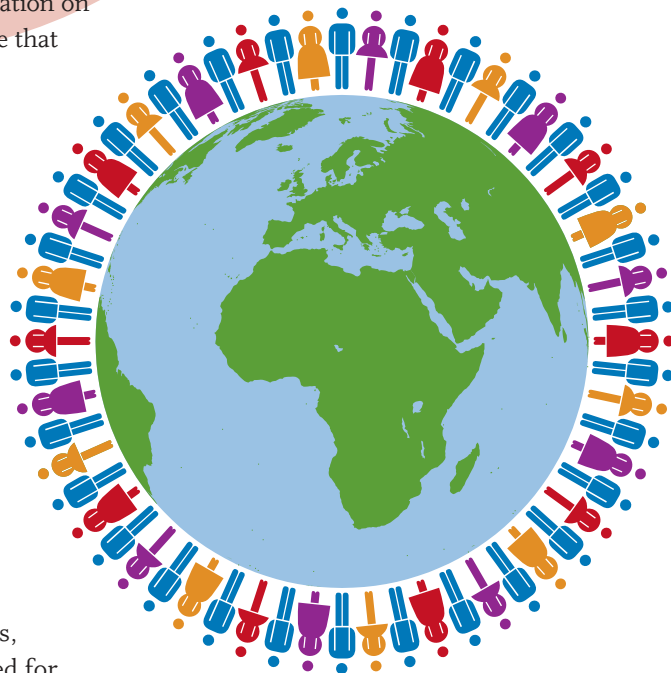
at low interest rates and pass those rates on to its borrowing countries. The Bank lends money to middle-income developing countries at interest rates that are lower than the rates on loans from commercial banks. In addition, the Bank lends money to the poorest developing countries—those that often cannot find other sources of financing—at no interest. Countries that borrow from the Bank have a much longer period to repay their loans than commercial banks permit, and they don't have to start repaying for several years after the loan is made.

### What sectors receive the most funding?

In fiscal year 2004, the World Bank focused on three priority sectors: (a) law and justice and public administration, (b) transportation, and (c) health and social services. During 2004 the Bank approved loans and grants totaling \$20.1 billion for 245 projects in developing countries worldwide. Of this amount, \$11 billion was approved by the IBRD and \$9 billion by the International Development Association (IDA), which offers grants and no-interest loans to the world's poorest countries. (For more information on these institutions and the other three that together make up the World Bank Group, see chapter 4.)

### How is the president of the World Bank selected?

By tradition the president is nominated by the Bank's largest shareholder, the United States. And by tradition the Managing Director (the top spot) of the International Monetary Fund is nominated by the European community. The candidate for president (who must be a U.S. citizen) is put before the Bank's Board of Executive Directors, who vote on the nomination. Elected for



a five-year renewable term, the president chairs meetings of the board of directors and is responsible for the overall management of the Bank.

### How many people work for the World Bank?

The Bank employs more than 10,000 people, with about 7,000 at the headquarters in Washington, D.C., and the rest in its field (or country) offices around the world. World Bank staff—including economists, policy analysts, educators, environmental scientists, health specialists, financial analysts, anthropologists, engineers, and many others—come from 165 nations.

### What is the relationship between the World Bank and the United Nations?

The Bank's formal relationship with the United Nations (U.N.) is defined by a 1947 agreement that recognizes the Bank as an independent specialized agency of the United Nations as well as a member and observer in many U.N. bodies.



The Bank has links with the United Nations at various levels. At the executive level, the Bank president and the U.N. secretary general engage in an ongoing dialogue on substantive issues such as poverty eradication, capacity building, humanitarian and postconflict issues, human rights, and the financing of development. At the operational level, the Bank collaborates with the United Nations Development Programme and other U.N. funds and programs on diverse projects through policy coordination, project implementation, cofinancing, and aid coordination.



## What is the difference between the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund?

People sometimes confuse the World Bank with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which was also founded at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944. Although IMF functions are complementary to those of the World Bank, organizationally it is completely separate.

While the Bank provides assistance to developing countries, the IMF is responsible for ensuring the stability of the international monetary system—the system of international payments and exchange rates among national currencies that enables business to take place between countries. The IMF aims to prevent crises in the system by encouraging countries to adopt sound monetary policies. It is also—as its name suggests—a fund that can be tapped by members needing temporary financing to address balance-of-payments problems.

## Notes

1. This address was given at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also said: “I used to think the future was solid or fixed, something you inherited like an old building that you move into when the previous generation moves out or gets chased out. But it’s not. The future is not fixed; it’s fluid. You can build your own building, or hut or condo, whatever... But my point is that the world is more malleable than you think, and it’s waiting for you to hammer it into shape. So go forth and build something with it...”
2. All dollar amounts are current U.S. dollars unless otherwise specified.



“Working with the World Bank has taught me a lot about my country’s development situation...and has helped me see the responsibility we [young people] have in building a brighter future.”

Woubedle Alemayehu



The Bank is currently the largest provider of development assistance to Africa and the region’s leading financier of HIV/AIDS programs. Areas of high priority include infrastructure, agriculture, health, nutrition, population control, education, community-driven development, and trade promotion within the region.

### Ethiopia: Young People Tackle the HIV/AIDS Crisis

In the summer of 2003, 16-year-old Woubedle Alemayehu was selected, along with 21 other Ethiopian high school students, to participate in a five-day World Bank orientation “camp”

organized by the Ethiopian Country Office. Woubedle and her fellow students visited Bank-funded projects, including a program serving those with AIDS. “The visit to the AIDS patients had a very big impact on all of us,” recalls Woubedle, now 18.

With the Bank’s support, Woubedle and the other group members set out to assess youth participation in HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in three regions of Ethiopia. The group interviewed representatives of youth associations, civil society organizations, and government, and talked with HIV/AIDS patients. They organized a panel discussion involving Bank staff and key local stakeholders to discuss their findings and potential solutions.

### Sub-Saharan Africa Fast Facts



What resulted was a comprehensive project aimed at providing the nation's youth with information about the disease, how to design and implement HIV/AIDS prevention programs, and where to go for funding. Says Woubedle, "The most important thing I have learned from all of this is that each and every one of us can make a difference."

But Woubedle learned much more. She learned that she wanted to be a doctor and has enrolled in medical school.

### Africa's Virtual University

More than half of Africa's 700 million people are under 20 years old. It's no surprise then that demand for college-level education is so enormous that many high school graduates are unable to find places in local universities.

Taking advantage of the latest technology, the World Bank helped to set up the African Virtual University (AVU), an interactive instructional telecommunications network established to serve the countries of Africa. The AVU uses the power of telecommunications technology to provide world-class education and training programs to students and professionals.

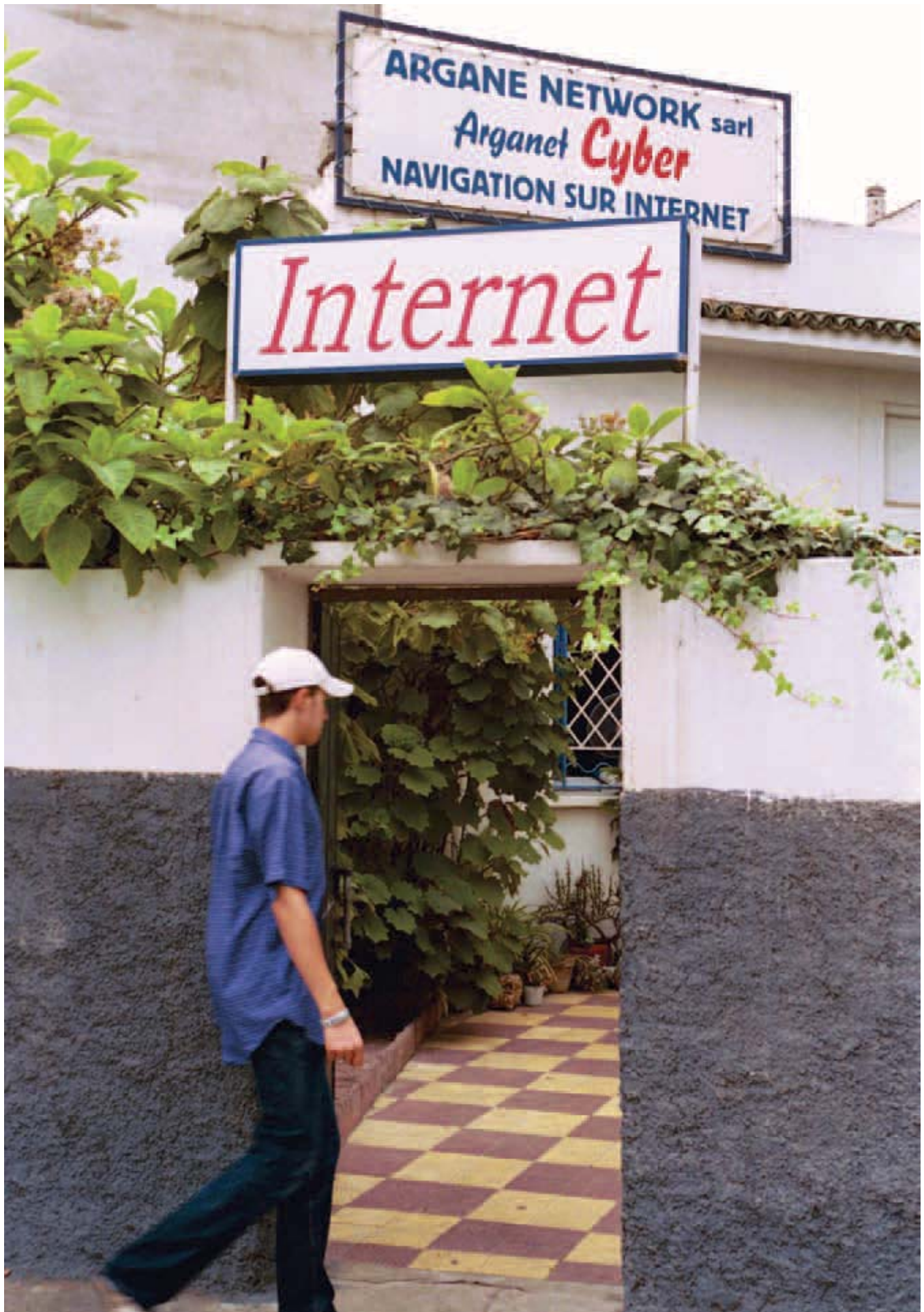


Originally started as a World Bank project, the AVU has been transformed into an independent intergovernmental organization based in Nairobi, Kenya, with 34 learning centers in 17 African countries. The World Bank continues to be its largest backer, with commitments of \$13 million over three years.

So far, the AVU has created a network of partner institutions across Africa, with learning centers hosted mainly in public universities. It launched an accredited degree and diploma in computer science. The semester-long courses are delivered to students at African universities through satellite broadcasting via the Internet. More than 23,000 students are registered in its courses, and close to 2,500 professionals are enrolled in executive business seminars.

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NAVIGATION SUR INTERNET

*Internet*



# 7

## The Future: Youth and the World Bank

Imagine a room filled with more than 120 Brazilian youth offering their recommendations to national government officials for dealing with issues ranging from poverty and education to unemployment and violence. As unusual as such a gathering may sound, this is exactly what happened in June 2004. The policy recommendations put forth by these young Brazilians were incorporated into a special report presented to Brazil's president and to be included in the country's agenda for young people.

Such a unique meeting came about, in part, through the World Bank's efforts in Brazil to solicit youth opinions on the nation's development priorities. Months earlier, a diverse group of young Brazilians came together to form *Vozes Jovens* (Youth Voices). It is one of what are now more than

### Listening to Youth Voices

In 2002 the Bank launched its first Youth Voices project, in Peru (see page 72). Youth Voices members, selected through an application process, volunteer their time at the Bank's country offices and have the opportunity to research, advise, and comment on a range of national development issues. Among those countries with Youth Voices groups are:

- Bosnia
- Brazil
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Kosovo
- Macedonia
- Moldova
- Turkey
- Yemen.

#### Profile: Renata Florentino de Faria Santos

A member of the Brazil Youth Voices team, Renata Florentino de Faria Santos had never before worked with a large multilateral institution. After graduating from Brasilia University with a degree in sociology, she assumed her current role as Youth Policy Coordinator for the Interagir Group, a youth-led grassroots organization. But Renata soon had a chance to work with the World Bank. Interagir was one of more than 120 youth groups to advise the Bank on the development of Brazil's Country Assistance Strategy (which defines the development action plan for a country based on analysis of needs and close collaboration with all partners, especially within the country).

Although some people feel such agencies "are not close enough to reality, my experience showed otherwise," says Renata. She applauds the Bank's effort in Brazil to convene a diverse cross-section of young leaders to discuss and debate youth issues as they relate to the development of the nation's Country Assistance Strategy. "The experience showed me how we can deal with diversity in a very democratic way, respecting all differences and considering it as an advantage, not as a negative thing."

**"A country that does not invest in its people will never be developed."**

Renata Florentino de Faria Santos



20 such national-level groups worldwide that serve as informal advisers to the Bank on their countries' development concerns and priorities. The Bank is asking young people around the globe for their insights into and perspectives on a range of issues—from efforts to enhance educational opportunities for Egyptian youth to ways of preventing conflict in East Timor.

The Bank has recently intensified its focus on children and youth. An important first step for the institution is to listen to young people, so that it can understand what issues are important to them and what strategies they feel are best suited to meeting their needs. The Bank is taking the next step, to integrate youth perspectives more fully into its work. And it plans to expand youth involvement in the future.

## The World Bank and Youth: Working Together to Combat Poverty

### What young people bring

- A fresh perspective on development issues derived from hands-on experience
- A long-term commitment
- Resources, ideas, and abilities
- Enthusiasm for development and a willingness to participate and contribute
- Organizations and networks with global reach and knowledge
- An understanding of grassroots realities and access to local communities
- Energy to build more inclusive, responsive, and effective public policies and program strategies.

### What the Bank brings

- A willingness to listen and learn
- A long-term commitment
- The ability to conduct research across a wide range of development issues (e.g., education, health, employment)
- Past experience and existing Bank projects and activities that help children and youth (e.g., to access education and obtain jobs)
- The ability to combine financing with a plan established in collaboration with developing countries
- Influence at both the international and national levels
- Opportunities to build capacity.

## Shaping a New Agenda on Children and Youth

The story of how Brazil's youth came to actively contribute to the nation's development plan is part of a larger story unfolding around the world as the Bank shapes and refines its work with and for young people. A milestone in these efforts was the Youth, Development, and Peace (YDP) Conference held in Paris in September 2003. A second conference was held in Sarajevo in September 2004. The two events brought together Bank staff and hundreds of young people from more than 80 countries to develop plans for working together in the future.

The Paris and Sarajevo YDP conferences took place against a backdrop of growing Bank involvement in youth issues at the national and regional levels. For decades the Bank has made significant contributions to improving the lives of young people in such areas as health and education, but the urgency of the issues youth are faced with, the increasing demands from government for support in addressing them, and the necessity of reaching the Millennium Development Goals prompted Bank leadership and staff to increase efforts to address the needs of young people.

To help coordinate these efforts, the Bank created a Children and Youth Unit in 2002. The unit's main objectives are to:

- Promote greater knowledge of children and youth issues within and outside the Bank
- Support children- and youth-focused operations across the Bank, based on evidence and best practice
- Facilitate the involvement of youth in Bank operations and projects
- Foster partnerships with outside organizations.

The unit actively supports the engagement of young people in the Bank's efforts to address their needs. Working together on priorities and strategies, youth and the Bank can make a difference.

### A Framework for Action

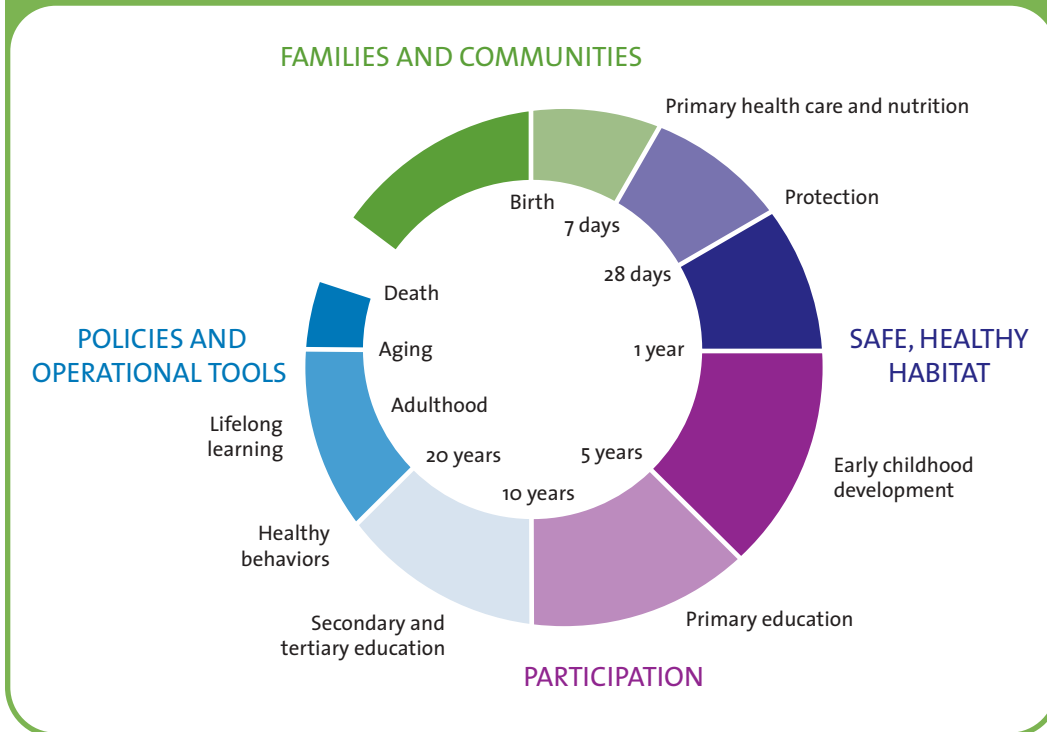
Working in close association with youth and international partners, the World Bank's Children and Youth Unit has developed a "Children and Youth Framework for Action" to guide the Bank's work for and with young people. In drafting the framework, the Bank conducted interviews, focus groups, online dialogues, and videoconferences with hundreds of young people around the world. What emerged from these discussions, as well as from consultations with a wide range of experts on children and youth, was the necessity of mobilizing diverse sectors of society to meet young people's needs. Also found important was looking at individual issues—such as the number of school dropouts within a given country—within the larger context of other development concerns, such as poverty and unemployment.



## The Life Cycle Approach

The Framework for Action is based on a life cycle approach to addressing young people's needs. Such an approach looks at the needs of children and youth at different ages, or various stages in their development, and helps World Bank staff in its client countries establish priorities for how and where to focus limited resources. For example, in lower-income countries, such an approach might translate into greater investments in nutrition and other health measures aimed at keeping children alive.

The life cycle approach emphasizes the involvement of families and communities in promoting children's well-being. Countries need effective policies and institutions to ensure that young people have access to education, health care, and other essential services. Also important is making sure that young people themselves have influence over the decisions that affect their lives.



## Engaging Young People as Partners

To date, the World Bank has launched dozens of youth initiatives in every region of the world in which it operates. These programs actively engage young people in identifying issues and proposing solutions to urgent development challenges. In some of the Bank's country offices, young people are involved in day-to-day operations, and in others, they have contributed to their countries' national development plans and Poverty Reduction Strategies. Here are some examples:

- In Moldova, members of the Youth Voices group, an informal advisory committee to the Bank's country office, provided valuable input into the development of that nation's Country Assistance Strategy, as well as assistance with HIV/AIDS initiatives and efforts to rehabilitate schools.
- Young Roma (23–34 years old) from eight countries in Central and Eastern Europe traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with the Bank's president and staff, local civil society organizations, and government leaders. The visit was part of a larger Bank initiative to strengthen the skills of young Roma leaders and to provide a platform for their voices to be heard.
- In Ethiopia, young people are actively involved in the Bank's efforts, in conjunction with government authorities, to develop and implement HIV/AIDS policies and programs.
- And in Nepal, 18- to 20-year-olds attended a series of workshops and a national conference aimed at obtaining their insights into and perspectives on current development needs and priorities.



These experiences have reinforced the tremendous value of including young people in the development dialogue.

### Peruvian Youth as Partners for Change

*Nuevas Voces* is a three-year-old initiative of the Bank's country office in Peru that invites some dozen young people, already active in their communities, to spend time at the office to learn, research, advise, and comment on the Bank's work. Participants are selected from a large pool of candidates initially nominated by their youth groups, schools, churches, or other community organizations. The criteria include their willingness to learn about development and create a plan that their sponsoring organization can later put into action.

It's a win-win situation. These socially conscious activists receive hands-on experience in development, and the Bank receives their valuable perspectives on its work. "I understand better the role the World Bank plays in countries like mine, as well as the role of the government and civil society," says Natalia Toledo, who participated in the *Nuevas Voces* opportunity.

Following a brief introduction to development, the Bank, and its country programs, students get to work on a project of their choice. One recent project engaged youth in preparing a study on how to improve educational curricula and policy. Participants also visited existing Bank projects in Peru and offered their opinions on how the projects were prepared, carried out, and reviewed.

"I was amazed by the amount of information and knowledge the Bank manages," recalls Natalia. "I knew it was one of the institutions that generates the most research on development, but I really didn't know its scope and breadth, or how to use and approach it."

**“At a time when we are in a race to attain the Millennium Development Goals—and achieve a new balance between rich and poor nations—the need for creative ideas and uncommon partnerships is ever greater.”**

James D. Wolfensohn, World Bank President, Development Marketplace 2003

## **Bank Funding Opportunities**

Although the vast majority of Bank funds are distributed in the form of loans to governments, limited grant funds are available to youth organizations and individuals through the Small Grants Program and the Development Marketplace.

### **Small Grants Program**

Created in 1983, the Small Grants Program is one of the few global programs of the World Bank that directly fund civil society organizations. Administered through the Bank’s country offices, the program supports activities of civil society organizations whose primary objective is civic engagement of the poor and marginalized populations. By involving citizens who are often excluded from the public arena, and by increasing their capacity to influence policy and program decisions, the Small Grants Program helps facilitate ownership of development initiatives by a broader sector of society.

Grants are awarded once a year and generally range from \$3,000 to \$7,000, with a maximum of \$15,000. Contact the local World Bank country office to see if the program is offered. For further information, visit: [www.worldbank.org/smallgrantsprogram](http://www.worldbank.org/smallgrantsprogram).

## Development Marketplace



Recognizing that the most innovative means of addressing development challenges often start small—in the minds and hearts of those living closest to local problems—the World Bank offers opportunities for social entrepreneurs to test their brilliant but unusual ideas. First launched in 1998, the Development Marketplace provides monetary awards to grassroots visionaries with poverty-fighting proposals.

The global competition (held every 12–18 months), as well as country-level and regional Development Marketplaces, is open to anyone: civil society groups, youth organizations, private foundations, academia, and private sector corporations. It encourages creative thinking, risk taking, teamwork, and dialogue between diverse players engaged in development initiatives. The awards not only recognize innovation but also encourage creative partnerships between civil society, business, development banking, and government.

Over the past seven years, more than 1,000 groundbreaking projects in over 70 countries have received Development Marketplace awards totaling nearly \$40 million. Recent winning concepts included protecting farms in Zimbabwe from elephant incursions by planting chili peppers, recycling discarded plastic into usable objects in Burkina Faso, using discarded car tires to reinforce walls in earthquake-prone Turkey, and developing fly-fishing eco-tourism in Mongolia.

Development Marketplace 2005, whose theme is “Innovations for Livelihoods in a Sustainable Environment,” received more than 2,600 proposals. These were reviewed by 150 environmental experts both within and outside the World Bank, and 78 finalists were chosen for projects that ranged from natural tsunami control in the Philippines to making wood briquettes from sawdust in Azerbaijan. Project representatives presented their ideas to the jury and the general public at the end of May in Washington, D.C., at Bank headquarters. Thirty-one innovators won almost \$4 million, with a maximum grant of \$150,000 per proposal.

## Collaborating with Other Organizations

Given the enormous amount of work to be done to improve the lives of young people around the world, the Bank must work in partnership with organizations at the local, national, regional, and international (bilateral and multilateral) levels to maximize the collective resources, networks, and expertise available. Key partners in the Bank's efforts to engage youth and better meet their needs include:

- United Nations System (e.g., UNICEF, U.N. Focal Point for Youth, United Nations Development Programme, UNAIDS, and United Nations Fund for Population Activities)
- Youth organizations (e.g., International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Organization of Scouts Movement, and several regional Youth Platforms)
- Regional development banks (e.g., Inter-American Development Bank)
- Nongovernmental organizations (e.g., Save the Children, Plan International)
- Bilateral agencies (e.g., GTZ—German Technical Cooperation, U.S. Agency for International Development, Canadian International Development Agency).

These organizations have played vital roles in the Bank's efforts to convene diverse groups of young people and strengthen networking and information sharing among them. The future promises continued alliances in pursuit of a common mission to enhance young people's well-being and ability to contribute to their communities as active citizens.

## How Young People Can Get Involved in the Bank's Work

A variety of ways exist for young people to become involved in the work of the World Bank, and to have their voices heard

concerning Bank projects and initiatives.

Brief descriptions of these opportunities follow. The Bank also sponsors a Web site that features issues of particular interest to young people. Visit the site at: <http://youthink.worldbank.org/>.



- The **New Voices in Development** initiative enables young people, as young as teenagers, and their organizations to connect with one another and share ideas to increase program impact. New Voices teams are working with Bank country offices in various parts of the world. Plans are under way to give participants an opportunity to travel to country offices outside their own nations to see the similarities and differences in what other country offices do and how they do it. (For further information, see page 72.)



- The Bank's **Internship Program** offers graduate and Ph.D. students the opportunity to improve their skills as well as gain the experience of working in an international environment. Candidates are typically

pursuing fields related to economics, finance, human development, social science, agriculture, the environment, or private sector development.

- The **Junior Professional Associates** program provides recent graduates (up to age 28) with entry-level work experience and first-hand exposure to the challenges of development and poverty alleviation. The two-year program is

designed to be used as a stepping-stone to a career in government, consulting, the private sector, or academia.

- The **Young Professionals Program** attracts individuals up to age 32 who have demonstrated a commitment to development that is supported by academic success, professional achievement, and leadership potential. The program recruits through a highly selective and competitive process.
- The **Graduate Scholarship Program** is open to students pursuing a master's degree in a field related to development. It covers associated costs for up to two years. Students must attend a university outside their home country, be under the age of 45, and have at least two years of professional experience.
- The **Youth to Youth (Y2Y) Community** is a network of young professionals in the World Bank whose purpose is to exchange and channel ideas related to Bank work and strategies, as well as to reach out to external organizations working with youth. Membership is not limited by age. Y2Y welcomes individuals of all ages who are committed to development issues that affect youth globally and who believe in integrating youth issues into all development work.
- The **Youth, Development, and Peace (YDP) Network** formally facilitates youth participation in the development process. Young people from all over the world are looking to the World Bank to develop and implement capacity-building and knowledge-sharing partnership programs for youth organizations. During the YDP conferences in Paris (2003) and Sarajevo (2004), participants proposed the creation of an informal youth-led network, the Youth, Development, and Peace Network.

On November 30, 2004, the following mission statement was adopted for the YDP Network: "Convinced that youth are key agents for change, the YDP Network aims



to create direct interaction among youth organizations, the World Bank, and other partners to facilitate active youth participation in projects, policy design, and youth advocacy for development. This will be achieved through knowledge sharing, capacity building, empowerment, and resource mobilization.” To find out more about YDP goals and activities, go to <http://www.ydpnetwork.org>.

### Becoming Part of the Solution



Although the World Bank has accomplished much for and with young people, such work is only a beginning—and the Bank’s ability to support the wide array of youth-led initiatives that exist remains limited. Luckily the Bank is but one of a number of organizations working locally, nationally, and internationally to address urgent development needs. Readers of this book can learn more about what the Bank and other organizations are doing, discuss and debate the issues highlighted on these pages, and take an active role in addressing needs within their communities.

A wide range of resources exists to help young people who are looking for ways to make a difference (see Resources for Action on page 80). Getting involved can mean:

- Voting and encouraging other youth of voting age to do so
- Starting an issue-oriented discussion group in school or the community
- Writing for the local media or creating a new media outlet
- Signing an online petition or starting a new one
- Launching an advocacy campaign
- Volunteering for a local, national, or international civil society organization
- Mobilizing peers to start a project or launch a grassroots organization
- Contributing to your country’s poverty reduction strategy or national development plan.

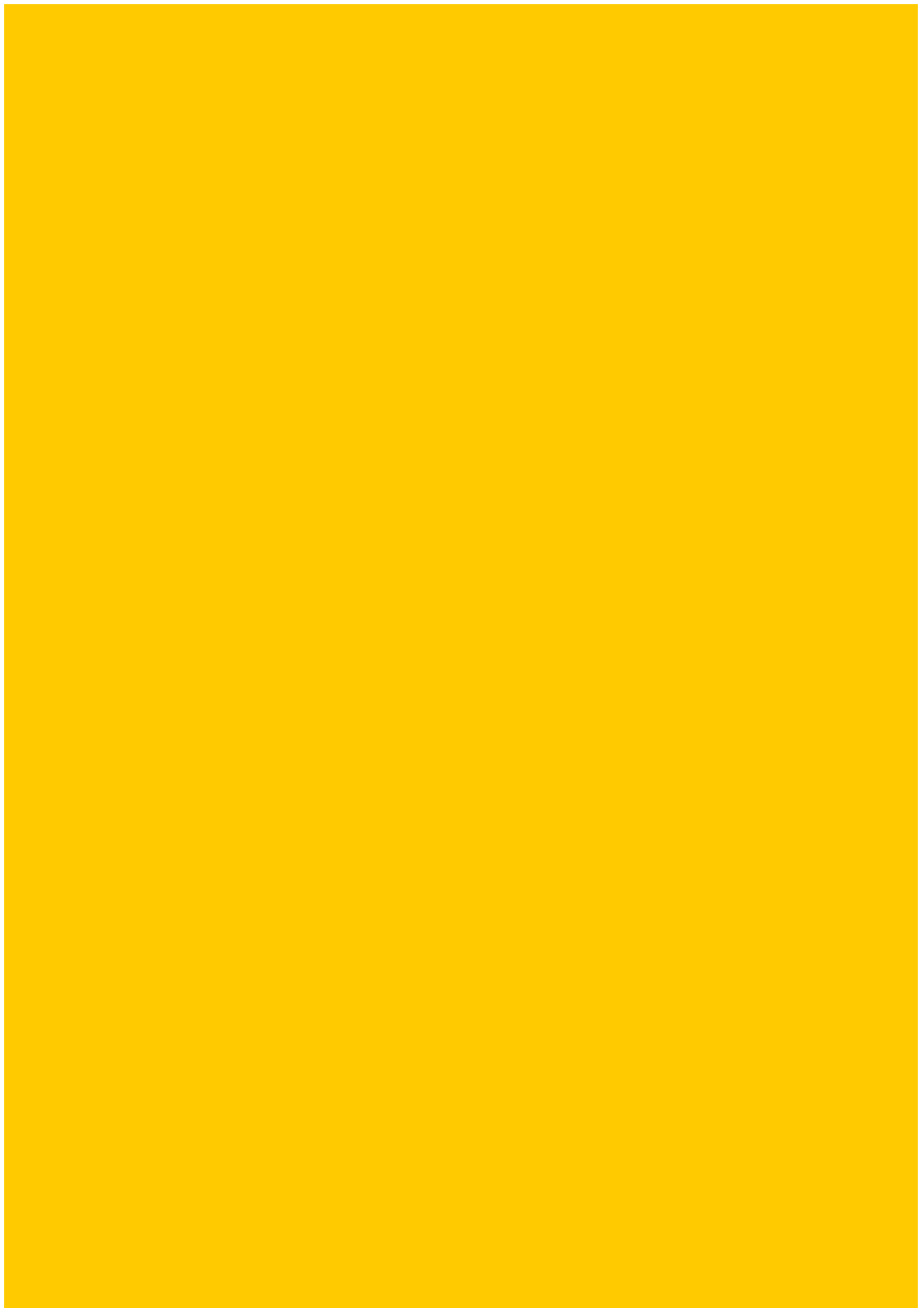
## Conclusion

Imagine a world free of poverty. Consider the impact if every young person in the developed world could reach out and assist their peers in the developing world. And imagine if every young person in the developing world who wanted to make a difference had the opportunity to do so. This is the world vision of the people working at and with the World Bank, and more and more of them are young people.

The activities described in this book represent an important step forward in the Bank's efforts to engage youth more fully in its development work. Yet these activities represent merely a starting point. The Bank—and the broader development community—has much work ahead to formulate comprehensive approaches to the critical challenges facing young people throughout the developing world.

Although future challenges are great, there is growing recognition within the development community that they can all work better together—in partnership with young people—to meet children and youth needs in more effective, sustainable ways. Using tools such as this book, young people can be engaged not just in asking questions but also in finding solutions to the world's development needs.

Much more can be achieved together than alone. The World Bank and its many partners can ensure that millions more young people are able to realize their potential and dreams of living healthy, productive, meaningful, and safe lives.



What is development? What is the difference between the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund? Who approves World Bank loans? How does the Bank deal with corruption in borrowing countries? Why not just cancel the debts of the world's poorest countries? How important is environmental impact in the World Bank's work? Does the Bank have projects that involve youth? Does the Bank really care about youth?

*Getting to Know the World Bank: A Guide for Young People* answers these questions and offers much more. Designed for 17- to 24-year-olds, the book provides an overview of the World Bank's history, organization, mission, and work. It addresses a wide range of development issues. And it looks into the Bank's future—the world's youth.

Readers will find the guide highly accessible and informative. It uses graphics to great advantage—Q & A sections, sidebar facts and figures, photos, tables—and features profiles of young people in development around the world. The last chapter describes further ideas for youth involvement in local and global development efforts.



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