

1. Global Development Finance (GDF)



Global Development Finance (GDF), is the World Bank's annual review of recent trends in and prospects for financial flows to developing countries. It is an indispensable resource for governments, economists, investors, financial consultants, academics, bankers, and the entire development community.

Vol I: Analysis and Outlook reviews recent trends in financial flows to developing countries. Also available as a two volume set, Vol II. Summary and Country Tables* includes comprehensive data for 138 countries, as well as summary data for regions and income groups. Also available on CD-ROM, with more than 200 historical time series from 1970 to 2005, and country group estimates for 2006.

Corporate Author: World Bank

Subjects: Banking, Finance, and Investment; Development Economics

2. Competition and Performance in the Polish Second Pillar

This paper provides an assessment of the Polish funded pension system and the quality of the regulatory framework for the accumulation phase. There are two elements that distinguish the Polish pension fund portfolios from other reforming countries: the relatively high component of domestic equity, and the negligible component on international securities. Although this asset allocation has provided relatively high real rates of return in the past, it may not be the case in the future, as further portfolio diversification to other instruments will become necessary to ensure sustainable rates of return. The paper provides a number of recommendations to expand the opportunities of investments to pension funds.



Corporate Author: World Bank

Author: Heinz Rudolph; Roberto Rocha

Subject: Labor

3. Financial Sector Dimensions of the Colombian Pension System



This paper provides an assessment of the funded pension system and the quality of the regulatory framework for both accumulation and payout phase. It suggests that the lack of portfolio diversification may contribute in the future to low returns and poor pensions and provides a number of recommendations to expand the opportunities of investments to pension funds. The paper also finds that pension fund administrators are not exploiting the scale economies in certain areas of the business such as collection of revenues and account management, and proposes mechanisms to reduce costs and increase efficiency through greater competition. The paper examines the products and options offered at retirement age and finds a bias toward the payment of pensions in the form of lump sums and suggests alternatives for improving the availability of other instruments.

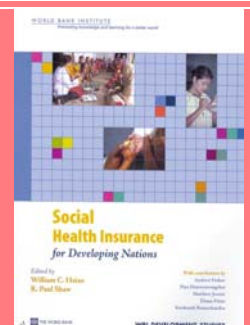
Corporate Author: World Bank

Author(S): Heinz Rudolph , Hela Cheikhrouhou , Roberto Rocha , Craig Thorburn

Subject: Labor

4. Social Health Insurance for Developing Nations

Specialist groups have often advised health ministers and other decision makers in developing countries on the use of social health insurance (SHI) as a way of mobilizing revenue for health, reforming health sector performance, and providing universal coverage. This book reviews the specific design and implementation challenges facing SHI in low- and middle-income countries and presents case studies on Ghana, Kenya, Philippines, Colombia, and Thailand.

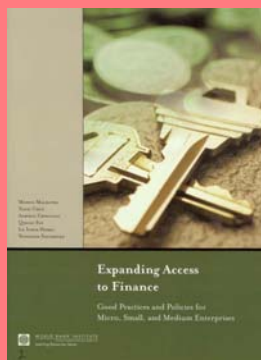


Corporate Author: World Bank

Edited by: William Hsiao , R. Paul Shaw

Subject: Health, Nutrition and Population

5. Expanding Access to Finance: Good Practices and Policies for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises



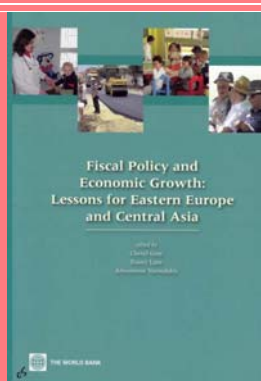
This book's prime audience is government policy-makers. It provides a policy framework for governments to increase micro, small and medium enterprises' access to financial services - one which is based on empirical evidence from around the world. Financial sector policies in many developing countries often work against the ability of commercial financial institutions to serve this market segment, albeit, often unintentionally. The framework guides governments on how to best focus scarce resources on three things: developing an inclusive financial sector policy; building healthy financial institutions; and investing in information infrastructure such as credit bureaus and accounting standards. The book provides examples and case studies of how such a strategy has helped to build more inclusive financial institutions and systems in many countries.

Corporate Author: World Bank Institute

Author(S): Mohini Malhotra , Yanni Chen , Alberto Criscuolo , Qimiao Fan , Iva Ilieva Hamel , Yevgeniya Savchenko

Subject: Private Sector

6. Fiscal Policy and Economic Growth: Lessons for Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Worldwide experience highlights public finance policies that promote economic growth while meeting the need for fundamental public goods. Macroeconomic stability is essential, as large budget deficits retard growth, followed by moderate levels of public spending - around one-third of GDP or less - especially when governance and public administration are weak; that in turn requires efficiency, particularly in areas such as infrastructure, health, education, and social protection; finally, lower income and payroll tax rates can spur investment and employment. The Eastern European and Central Asia countries pioneered flat income taxes without generally suffering revenue losses as a result, but they have not addressed the problem of high payroll taxes and still face many hurdles in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending and revenue generation.

Corporate Author: World Bank

Edited by: Cheryl Gray , Tracey Lane , Aristomene Varoudakis

Subject: Economics

7. A Guide to the World Bank, Second Edition

The World Bank Group is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. Its focus is on helping the poorest people in the poorest countries by using its financial resources, staff, and extensive experience to aid countries in reducing poverty, increasing economic growth, and improving quality of life. In partnership with more than 100 developing countries, the Bank Group is striving to improve health and education, fight corruption, boost agricultural support, build roads and ports, and protect the environment. Other projects are aimed at rebuilding war-torn countries or regions, providing basic services such as access to clean water, and encouraging investments that create jobs. In addition to this critical groundwork around the world, various parts of the World Bank Group are involved in activities ranging from conducting economic research and analysis to providing financial and advisory services to governments and private enterprises. These activities reflect the emphasis the institution places on sharing development knowledge, which is gleaned not only from decades of experience.

This completely revised and updated second edition provides an accessible and straightforward overview of the World Bank Group's history, organization, mission, and purpose. Additionally, for those wishing to delve further into subjects of particular interest, the book guides readers to sources containing more detailed information, including annual reports, Web sites, publications, and e-mail addresses for various departments. It also provides information on how to work for or do business with the World Bank.

A good introduction for anyone interested in understanding what the World Bank Group does and how it does it, this book shows readers who want to learn more where to begin.



Corporate Author: World Bank

Subject: World Bank General

8. 1 World Manga: Passages

A collection of all six 1 World Manga titles in one comprehensive volume, *Passages* follows the adventures of Rei as he falls in love, gets attacked by a shark, rides an elephant, watches a man dig up a skeleton, solves the mystery of a lagoon with vanishing fish, is kidnapped by brutal mercenaries, exposes corrupt public officials, and even transforms into a girl-ewww! And, in the course of this graphic novel, Rei and his animal spirit guide encounter the depths of poverty, disease, global warming, warfare, discrimination, and corruption. But through courage, compassion, and their indomitable human spirit, he and his friends take on life's challenges in places where the odds are stacked against them - yet leave the world better off for having passed through it.



Corporate Author: World Bank
Author: Annette Roman
Subject: World Bank General

9. Investor Protection and Corporate Governance: Firm-level Evidence Across Latin America

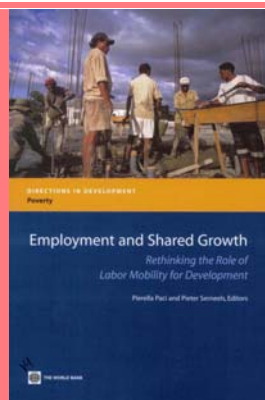


Investor Protection and Corporate Governance analyzes the impact of corporate governance on firm performance and valuation. Using unique datasets gathered at the firm-level - the first such data in the region - and results from a homogeneous corporate governance questionnaire, the book examines corporate governance characteristics, ownership structures, dividend policies, and performance measures. The book's analysis reveals the very high levels of ownership and voting rights concentrations and monolithic governance structures in the largest samples of Latin American companies up to now, and new data emphasize the importance of specific characteristics of the investor protection regimes in several Latin American countries. By and large, those firms with better governance measures across several dimensions are granted higher valuations and thus lower cost of capital.

This title will be useful to researchers, policy makers, government officials, and other professionals involved in corporate governance, economic policy, and business finance, law, and management.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Edited by: Alberto Chong , Florencio Lopez de Silanes
Subject: Governance

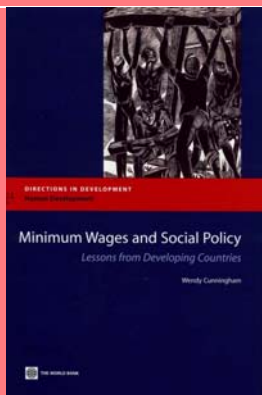
10. Employment and Shared Growth : Rethinking the Role of Labor Mobility for Development



There is one asset that poor people have in abundance: labor. Thus, what distinguishes the poor from the non-poor in low income countries is, simply, their ability to sell labor at a good price. It should be of little surprise, then, that enhancing the poor's access to employment is increasingly recognized as key to development. But while the creation of "good" jobs for the poor has become a policy priority for many developing countries, the mechanisms by which employment stimulates growth and reduces poverty have, until now, not been well understood. This book aims to help fill that gap. Focusing on labor market mobility as a central mechanism for both growth and poverty reduction, it brings together contributions originally presented at a conference organized by the World Bank's Poverty Reduction and Development Effectiveness department in June 2006. Using examples from all continents, these papers discuss why multi-segmented labor markets offer a good starting point for analysis, what role the informal sector plays in employment, whether self-employment is an engine of growth, how worker mobility affects income, and how firm dynamics affect both growth and employment through job creation and destruction. Addressed to policy makers and all who have a stake in growth and poverty reduction, *Employment and Shared Growth* aims to contribute to a better understanding of the important role of employment for economic development.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Edited by: Pierella Paci , Pieter Serneels
Subject: Labor

11. Minimum Wages and Social Policy: Lessons from Developing Countries



Offering evidence from both detailed individual country studies and homogenized statistics across the Latin American and Caribbean region, this book examines the impact of the minimum wage on wages, employment, poverty, income distribution and government budgets in the context of a large informal sector and predominantly unskilled workforces.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Author: Wendy Cunningham
Subject: Labor

12. International Migration, Economic Development & Policy

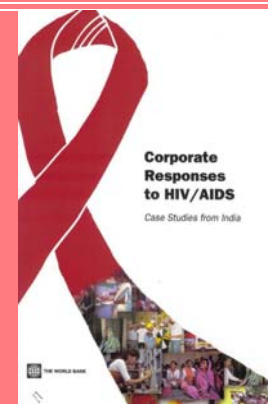
International migration has become a central element of international relations and global integration due to its rapidly increasing economic, social, and cultural impact in both source and destination countries. This book provides new evidence on the impact of migration and remittances on several development indicators, including innovative thinking about the nexus between migration and birth rates. In addition, the book identifies the effect of host country policies on migration flows, examines the determinants of return and repeat migration, and explores the degree of success of return migrants upon return to their country of origin.



Corporate Author: World Bank
Edited by: Maurice Schiff, Caglar Ozden
Subject: Economics

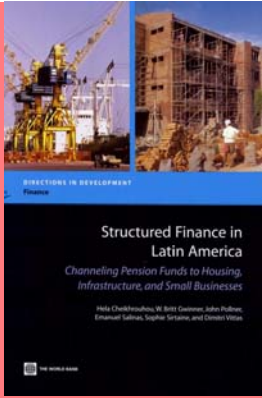
13. Corporate Responses to HIV/AIDS: Case Studies from India

How should the corporate sector engage in fighting the global burden of the AIDS epidemic? India's relatively low HIV prevalence rate often raises the question of whether it is in corporate sector interest to allocate resources to combat HIV and AIDS. The five case studies in this report feature a selection of Indian companies that felt compelled to engage in this fight and did allocate resources in order to do so. The challenges these companies encountered and innovative methods they used to surmount these challenges serve as useful lessons for those interested in launching similar initiatives.



Corporate Author: World Bank
Subject: Health, Nutrition and Population

14. Structured Finance in Latin America: Channeling Pension Funds to Housing, Infrastructure, and Small Businesses



Structured Finance in Latin America explores how structured finance mechanisms can channel pension savings to support projects in underserved sectors, deepen capital markets, and contribute to investment and economic growth.

Private pension funds have been accumulating assets rapidly in the wake of pension system reforms in many Latin American countries. Strict investment regulations to protect workers' savings have limited their investment in highly creditworthy domestic securities, yet pension fund demand for new securities has outstripped issuance of eligible traditional corporate debt instruments. This has contributed to a high concentration of pension fund assets in public debt.

Innovative structured finance mechanisms can help bring to the market a new set of creditworthy securities backed by pools of loans to small borrowers, mortgage loans or the expected proceeds of large infrastructure projects. These mechanisms create new investment opportunities for pension funds, while establishing additional sources of funding for underserved market segments. Policy makers and regulatory authorities have a catalytic role to play in the development of structured finance securities by establishing a conducive legal, regulatory, and tax framework.

Structured Finance in Latin America serves as a practical guide for development practitioners, policy makers, and others working in government, international or nongovernmental organizations, and financial institutions, who focus on finance and investment; infrastructure, transport, and urban development; housing finance; small and medium-sized enterprise development; and pension reform.

Corporate Author: World Bank

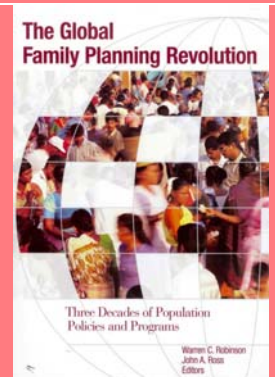
Author(S): Hela Cheikhrouhou, W. Britt Gwinner, John Pollner, Emanuel Salinas, Sophie Sirtaine, Dimitri Vittas

Subject: Banking, Finance and Investment

15. The Global Family Planning Revolution: Three Decades of Population Policies and Programs

The striking upsurge in population growth rates in developing countries at the close of World War II gained force during the next decade. From the 1950s to the 1970s, scholars and advocacy groups publicized the trend and drew troubling conclusions about its economic and ecological implications. Private educational and philanthropic organizations, government, and international organizations joined in the struggle to reduce fertility. Three decades later this movement has seen changes beyond anyone's most optimistic dreams, and global demographic stabilization is expected in this century.

The Global Family Planning Revolution preserves the remarkable record of this success. Its editors and authors offer more than a historical record. They discuss important lessons for current and future initiatives of the international community. Some programs succeeded while others initially failed, and the analyses provide valuable guidance for emerging health-related policy objectives and responses to global challenges.



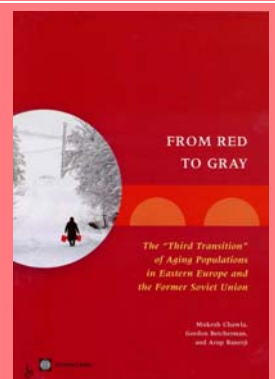
Corporate Author: World Bank

Edited by: Warren C. Robinson, John A. Ross

Subject: Health Nutrition and Population

16. From Red to Gray: The "Third Transition" of Aging Populations in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union

Conventional wisdom holds that aging populations are unfavorable for economic growth because of their potential impacts on labor supply, productivity, and savings. When this is coupled with the increased spending pressures because of pension requirements and health care, aging societies are likely to face serious fiscal problems. This report addresses these concerns in the unique context of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union where many countries are aging rapidly without the economic resources and institutional capacity of other aging societies in Western Europe and Japan.



Corporate Author: World Bank

Author(S): Mukesh Chawla, Gordon Betcherman, Arup Banerji

Subject: Health, Nutrition and Population