Great progress has been made in recent years in securing better access and financial protection against the cost of illness through collective financing of health care. Managing scarce resources effectively and efficiently is an important part of this story. Experience has shown that, without strategic policies and focused spending, the poor are likely to get left out. The use of purchasing to enhance public sector performance is well-documented in other sectors. Extension to the health sector of lessons from this experience is now successfully implemented in many developing countries.

The Many Faces of Corruption: Tracking Vulnerabilities at the Sector Level

Corruption... How can policymakers and practitioners better comprehend the many forms and shapes that this social pandemic takes? From the delivery of essential drugs, the reduction in teacher absenteeism, the containment of illegal logging, the construction of roads, the provision of water and electricity, the international trade in oil and gas, the conduct of public budgeting and procurement, and the management of public revenues, corruption shows its many faces. The Many Faces of Corruption attempts to bring greater clarity to the often murky manifestations of this virulent and debilitating social disease.

Gender and Economic Growth in Kenya: Unleashing the Power of Women

Kenyan women are making a large - although frequently unseen - contribution to the country’s economy, particularly in the agricultural and informal business sectors. But women face more severe legal, regulatory, and administrative barriers to starting and running businesses than do their male counterparts. Gender and Economic Growth in Kenya examines the barriers that are preventing women from contributing fully to the Kenyan economy and makes recommendations for addressing these barriers. Addressing these constraints will not only help women make a full economic contribution, but will also improve their livelihoods and those of their families and will help create a more enabling environment for all Kenyan businesses, regardless of the gender of their founders.

China's Information Revolution: Managing the Economic and Social Transformation

Since 1997, China has devoted considerable resources to information and communications technology (ICT) development. China has the world’s largest telecommunications market, and its information technology industry has been an engine of economic growth - growing two to three times faster than GDP over the past 10 years. E-government initiatives have achieved significant results, and the private sector has increasingly used ICT for production and service processes, internal management, and online transactions.
Challenges of African Growth: Opportunities, Constraints, and Strategic Directions

This book analyzes the wide range of issues that should be taken into account in forest-related legislation. It stresses that forest law must be understood in the context of the broader legal framework governing land use and land tenure, as well as international obligations related to trade, environmental protection, and human rights. The book also pays significant attention to institutional arrangements and governance practices relevant to forests, including decentralization, transparency, and law enforcement.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Personal Author (s): Lawrence C. Christy, Charles E. Di Leva, Jonathan M. Lindsay, Patrice Talla Takoukam
Subjects: Economics, Development

Capacity Building in Economics Education and Research

This book presents papers from the conference on "Scaling up the Success of Capacity Building in Economic Education and Research," which took place in Budapest at the Central European University campus. It includes contributions from key researchers, academics and policy makers from Europe, the United States, and developing countries that identify and brainstorm on capacity building challenges.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Edited by Francois Bourguignon, Boris Pleskovic, Yehuda Elkana
Subjects: Economics

Managing Public Debt: From Diagnostics to Reform Implementation

High quality public debt management plays a critical role in reducing the vulnerability of developing countries to financial crises. With sound risk and cash management, effective coordination with fiscal and monetary policy. Good governance and adequate institutional and staff capacity in place, governments can develop and implement effective medium-term debt management strategies. This book draws insights from a joint pilot program set up by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to design relevant reform and capacity-building programmes in twelve countries. The experiences of these geographically and economically diverse countries illustrate the challenges and elements necessary to make progress in the area of public debt management.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Subjects: Public Finance

Developing The Domestic Government Debt Market

Domestic government debt markets play a critical role in managing public debt effectively and reducing the vulnerability of developing countries to financial crises. Many aspects of debt markets - money, primary, and secondary markets; a diversified investor base; and sound securities custody and settlement systems and regulation - interact in complex ways and are affected by previous policies and developments. Developing the Domestic Government Debt Market: From Diagnostics to Reform Implementation draws insights from a joint pilot program set up by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to design relevant reform and capacity-building programs in twelve countries.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Subjects: Debt Markets, Government Debt
Budgeting and Budgetary Institutions

Budgeting and budgetary institutions play a critical role in resource allocation, government accountability, and improved fiscal and social outcomes. This volume distills lessons from practices in designing better fiscal institutions, citizen-friendly budgets, and open and transparent processes of budget preparation and execution. It also highlights newer concepts of performance budgeting, accrual accounting, activity-based costing, and the use of information and communication technology in budgeting. These tools of analysis are supplemented by a review of budgeting in post-conflict countries and two country case studies on the reform of budgeting systems.

Local Public Financial Management

Transparent and prudent local financial management has come to be recognized as critical to the integrity of local public sector and to gaining and retaining trust of local residents. Such integrity and trust is sometimes lacking in some local governments in developing countries, especially in the Africa region. This volume attempts to provide practical guidance to local governments interested in establishing sound financial management systems. Leading international experts have contributed to all relevant aspects of local public financial management - cash management, internal controls, accounts, audits, and debt management.

Local Budgeting

This book provides a comprehensive treatment of all aspects of local budgeting needed to develop sound fiscal administration such as setting priorities, planning, financial control over inputs, management of operations and accountability to citizens. Topics covered include fiscal administration, forecasting, fiscal discipline, fiscal transparency, integrity of revenue administration, budget formats, and processes including performance budgeting, and capital budgeting.

Growth and Poverty Reduction: Case Studies from West Africa

This volume provides a set of six case studies from West Africa. These assess the benefits of growth (or the costs of a lack of growth) in terms of poverty reduction in those countries. The first part of this book describes the experience of two countries (Ghana and Senegal) that achieved high levels of growth in the 1990s, and that also experienced important reductions in poverty, even though growth was not strictly pro-poor. The second part describes the experience of two other countries (Burkina Faso and Cape Verde) that also achieved high levels of growth in the 1990s, but where there was an initial perception that growth did not lead to much poverty reduction.
The UK-Nigeria Remittance Corridor: Challenges of Embracing Formal Transfer Systems in a Dual Financial Environment

This study is the first research work on remittances conducted in Nigeria and reveals the actual state of its remittances market. The report describes how United Kingdom residents of Nigeria origin transfer remittances home and how the funds are distributed to their beneficiaries in Nigeria. The review presents the remittances industry conditions existing in the UK-Nigeria remittance corridor at the origination and distribution stages of the transactions, and the intermediaries who facilitate the transfers. The report makes conclusions and compares these main findings with lessons from other corridors.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Subjects: Finance

South-South Migration and Remittances

South-South Migration and Remittances reports on preliminary results from an ongoing effort to improve data on bilateral migration stocks. It sets out some working hypotheses on the determinants and socioeconomic implications of South-South migration. Contrary to popular perception that migration is mostly a South-North phenomenon, South-South migration is large. Available data from national censuses suggest that nearly half of the migrants from developing countries reside in other developing countries. Almost 80 percent of South-South migration takes place between countries with contiguous borders. Estimates of South-South remittances range from 9 to 30 percent of developing countries’ remittance receipts in 2005. Although the impact of South-South migration on the income of migrants and natives is smaller than for South-North migration, small increases in income can have substantial welfare implications for the poor. The costs of South-South remittances are even higher than those of North-South remittances. These findings suggest that policymakers should pay attention to the complex challenges that developing countries face not only as countries of origin, but also as countries of destination.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Personal Author(s): Dilip Ratha, William Shaw
Subjects: Finance

Insurance Against Covariate Shocks: The Role of Index-Based Insurance in Social Protection in Low-Income Countries of Africa

Uninsured risks have far reaching consequences for rural growth as well as poverty reduction. A range of informal mechanisms to insure rural households against the impact of shocks, but they are a modest component of a risk layering strategy for well-off households and even less protective for low-income households. Formal Insurance mechanisms (including conceptually similar credit access) have inherent market imperfections. State interventions to address these limitations have proven costly and generally are targeted poorly. Recent developments in microfinance as well as in insurance marketing have opened new possibilities for household risk reduction. Index insurance such as weather indexing addresses other inherent problems in insurance by using an indicator that is not affected by individual behavior and may address monitoring costs and moral hazard. A number of innovations using index insurance are being tried currently in diverse settings ranging from India to Mongolia to Malawi. Marketing costs may limit the provision of such insurance to small farmers, but even in such cases microfinance institutes may serve as market intermediaries. Moreover, state and sub national governments can use insurance to achieve countercyclical funding of programs. In this vein, municipal governments in Mexico have used insurance to finance disaster contingency while the World Food Program has insured a portion of its emergency assistance to Ethiopia. Humanitarian organizations and NGOs may also seek insurance in this manner.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Personal Author(s): Harold Alderman, Trina Haque
Subject: Social Protection
This book analyzes the wide range of issues that should be taken into account in forest-related legislation. It stresses that forest law must be understood in the context of the broader legal framework governing land use and land tenure, as well as international obligations related to trade, environmental protection, and human rights. The book also pays significant attention to institutional arrangements and governance practices relevant to forests, including decentralization, transparency, and law enforcement.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Personal Author(s): Lawrence C. Christy, Charles E. Di Leva, Jonathan M. Lindsay, Patrice Talla Takoukam
Subjects: Forestry law and legislation.

1 World Manga: Passage 6: Corruption - Broken Trust

On the trail of a member of his lost family, Rei witnesses a community tragedy he just can’t walk away from. But one boy’s - er, man’s - heroics aren’t the way to uncover the dark secrets and conspiracy that led to this breaking of the public’s trust! Now Rei must learn the meaning of patience as he teams up with an investigative journalist and the daughter who longs to follow in her parent’s footsteps. Will justice be served? And will Rei ever be reunited with his family...?

Corporate Author: World Bank
Personal Author(s): Annette Roman
Subjects: Corruption

The Little Data Book on Private Sector Development

The Little Data Book on Private Sector Development 2007 is one of a series of pocket-sized books intended to provide a quick reference to development data on different topics. The Little Data Book on Private Sector Development 2007 provides data for more than 20 key indicators on business environment and private sector development in a single page for each of the World Bank member countries and other economies with populations of more than 30,000. These more than 200 country pages are supplemented by aggregate data for regional and income groupings. The data topics include: economic and social context, business environment, private sector investment, finance and banking, and infrastructure.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Subjects: Private Sector

The Little Green Data Book 2007

This pocket-sized reference on key environmental data for over 200 countries includes key indicators on agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, energy, emission and pollution, and water and sanitation. The volume helps establish a sound base of information to help set priorities and measure progress toward environmental sustainability goals.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Subjects: Environment