

world development report **2007**

*Development and  
the Next Generation*



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the Next Generation*



THE WORLD BANK  
Washington, DC

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1 2 3 4 09 08 07 06

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**Typesetting** by Precision Graphics.

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As a teenager, Paul lost his parents to HIV/AIDS. Art is Paul’s passion, and his goal is to use art to share the stories of his homeland and to help other young people in need in Africa.

Softcover

ISBN-10: 0-8213-6541-X

ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-6541-0

ISSN: 0163-5085

eISBN-10: 0-8213-6542-8

eISBN-13: 978-0-8213-6542-7

DOI: 10.1596/978-0-8213-6541-0

Hardcover

ISBN-10: 0-8213-6549-5

ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-6549-6

ISSN: 0163-5085

eISBN-10: 0-8213-6550-9

eISBN-13: 978-0-8213-6550-2

DOI: 10.1596/978-0-8213-6549-6

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# Foreword

The time has never been better to invest in young people living in developing countries—that is the message of this year’s *World Development Report*, the twenty-ninth in the series. The number of people worldwide aged 12–24 years has reached 1.3 billion, the largest in history. It is also the healthiest and best educated—a strong base to build on in a world that demands more than basic skills.

Today’s youth are tomorrow’s workers, entrepreneurs, parents, active citizens, and, indeed, leaders. And, because of falling fertility, they will have fewer children than their parents as they move through adulthood. This in turn may boost growth—by raising the share of the population that is working and by boosting household savings. Rich and poor countries alike need to seize this opportunity before the aging of societies closes it. Doing so will enable them to grow faster and reduce poverty even further.

This Report examines five pivotal phases of life that can help unleash the development of young people’s potential with the right government policies: learning, working, staying healthy, forming families, and exercising citizenship. Within each of these transitions, governments need not only to increase investments directly but also to cultivate an environment for young people and their families to invest in themselves. The Report identifies three policy directions for helping youth develop themselves and contribute to society: *expanding opportunities*, *enhancing capabilities*, and *providing second chances*.

Investing in young people strongly contributes to the Bank’s overarching mission of fighting poverty. At the same time, investing in young people is a challenge for governments in all countries, rich and poor. It is my hope that this Report contributes to addressing this challenge by sharing the experiences of countries where young people, supported by good policies and institutions, have been able not only to cope but to flourish—and in the process, contribute to a future of hope and opportunity for all generations.



Paul Wolfowitz  
President  
World Bank Group



# *Acknowledgments*

This Report has been prepared by a core team led by Emmanuel Y. Jimenez and comprising Jean Fares, Varun Gauri, Mattias K. A. Lundberg, David McKenzie, Mamta Murthi, Cristobal Ridao-Cano, and Nistha Sinha. The team was assisted by Amer Hasan, Sarojini Hirshleifer, Natsuko Kiso, and Annette Richter, all of whom also contributed to drafting parts of the Report, as well as Mehmet Ziya Gorpe, Claudio E. Montenegro, and Victor Sulla. Additional contributions were made by Deon Filmer, Paul Gertler, Elizabeth King, and Peter Orazem. The work was conducted under the general guidance of François Bourguignon and Jean-Louis Sarbib. Extensive and excellent advice (including help in preparing background papers) was received from Jere Behrman, Robert Blum, David Lam, and Cynthia Lloyd, to whom the team is grateful without implication.

Many others inside and outside the World Bank provided inputs and helpful comments (see the bibliographic note). The Development Data Group contributed to the data appendix and was responsible for the Selected World Development Indicators. The team would also like to acknowledge the generous support of a multidonor programmatic trust fund, the Knowledge for Change Program. Additional support was also provided by the Hewlett Foundation and the governments of Denmark, Germany, Japan, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

The team benefited greatly from a wide range of consultations managed by Maya Brahmam, Stephen Commins, Viviana Mangiaterra, Juan Felipe Sanchez, Gerold Thilo Vollmer, and Kavita Watsa. Consultations included events and workshops held in 26 developing countries and a few developed countries in Europe, North America, and Asia, as well as online discussions of the draft. The team wishes to thank participants in these workshops, videoconferences, and discussions, which included staff in country offices, researchers, government officials, staff of nongovernmental and private sector organizations and, of course, the young people themselves. Particularly noteworthy were the efforts in the three countries “spotlighted” in this Report: Brazil, Sierra Leone, and Vietnam.

Rebecca Sugui served as senior executive assistant to the team, Ofelia Valladolid as program assistant, and Jason Victor as team assistant. Evangeline Santo Domingo served as resource management assistant.

Bruce Ross-Larson was the principal editor. Book design, editing, and production were coordinated by the World Bank’s Office of the Publisher under the supervision of Dana Vorisek, Susan Graham, Andrés Meneses, and Randi Park.



# Methodological Note

## Writing about young people

One of the biggest challenges in writing this Report was that the evidence base was uneven. Data to carry out diagnostic analysis for some topics, such as youth citizenship and migration, were limited. More importantly, there were very few rigorous evaluations of youth programs and policies for any of the transitions and issues covered in the Report. To help address these gaps, the team used consultations and surveys, as described below. It also supported several impact evaluations that were either ongoing or could be concluded within the Report's timeframe.

## Listening to young people

In one of the most elaborate and wide-reaching consultations for a *WDR*, over 3,000 young people participated in focus group discussions in 26 developing countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, the Dominican Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Kenya, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Timor Leste, Turkey, Vietnam, and the Republic of Yemen. We consulted youth workers and experts from governments, nongovernmental organizations, partner organizations, and the World Bank to ensure that participants were representative of the youth in their country. From November 2005 to May 2006, these young women and men debated and discussed the Report's five life transitions. The process was undertaken by the country offices, supported strongly by a joint team of the Children and Youth Unit of the Bank's Human Development Network, the External Relations Vice-Presidency (EXT), and the *WDR*. A special effort was made to reach out to young people whose voice is often not heard, such as young women, rural youth, and those living with a disability. The team found the discussions immensely helpful in forming hypotheses, validating quantitative findings, and providing a rich context. Some meetings lasted a few

hours, others three days. In a few, members of the core team for this Report engaged directly; in others, they were sent reports, which are available on our Web site, [www.worldbank.org/wdr2007](http://www.worldbank.org/wdr2007). The team also engaged with representatives of global youth organizations and youth leaders in Europe, Japan, and North America, including members of the Bank's Youth, Development and Peace Network and the Francophonie and the Organización Ibero-Americana de Juventud (OIJ). New media were used for e-discussions and videoconferences with youth leaders from around the globe, as well as for an open youth commentary on the World Bank's Web site.

The quotations in the margins of this Report were taken from the *WDR* youth consultations (see Mangiaterra and Vollmer [2006] and [www.worldbank.org/consultations](http://www.worldbank.org/consultations)) and the e-discussion connected to the Youth Social Technopreneurship Conference in October 2005. For quotations taken from sources other than these, the source is given in an endnote or below the quotation.

## Surveying young people

Several of the issues covered in this Report are not covered by existing developing country surveys. To provide insights on these issues, the Report team added questions to nationally representative audience surveys by InterMedia in late 2005 and early 2006 for Albania, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iraq, Malaysia, Romania, and Tajikistan. In addition, rich data on information and communication technology use and political attitudes were obtained from InterMedia's survey databank.

A large new database was constructed from existing country household surveys in 97 developing countries, covering all Bank regions and 21 developed countries. For all developed countries and more than half of the developing countries, at least two survey points per country, covering the 1990s and early 2000s, were used for the cross-country comparisons. These data complemented those from the Demographic and Health Surveys (ORC Macro) and Living Standards Measurement Study surveys.

# Abbreviations and Data Notes

## Abbreviations

ABC	Abstain-Be faithful-use Condoms	MENA	Middle East and North Africa region
AGETIP	Agence d'Exécution des Travaux d'Intérêt Public	MTV	Music Television
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome	NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
ART	Antiretroviral therapy	NER	Net enrollment rate
ASER	Annual Survey of Education Report (India)	NFHS	National Family Health Survey
AVU	African Virtual University	NGO	Nongovernmental organization
BMI	Body mass index	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	ORC	Opinion Research Corporation
CDC	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	ORT	Oral rehydration therapy
CDCA	Centro de Defesa da Criança e do Adolescente	PETI	Program to Eradicate Child Labor (Brazil)
CEDECA	Center of Defense of Children and Adolescents	PIRLS	Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study
CEDPA	Center for Development and Population Activities	PISA	Program for International Student Assessment
CORFO	Corporación de Fomento de la Producción (Chile)	PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
DDR	Disarmament, demobilization, and rehabilitation	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys	SACMEQ	Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Education
DPT	Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus	Sida	Swedish International Development Agency
ECD	Early childhood development	SMS	Short Messaging Service
EFA	Education for All	SPW	Student Partnerships Worldwide
EPL	Employment Protection Legislation	STD	Sexually transmitted disease
EU	European Union	STI	Sexually transmitted infection
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
GDP	Gross domestic product	UCEP	Underprivileged Children's Education Program
GNI	Gross national income	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
GNP	Gross national product	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency virus	UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
ICL	Income contingent loan	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ICT	Information and communication technology	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IEC	Information education and communication	UNODCCP	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute	USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
ILA	Individual learning accounts	WDR	<i>World Development Report</i>
ILO	International Labour Organization	WHO	World Health Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund		
INCAP	Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama		
IUD	Intrauterine device		
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army		



## Data notes

The countries included in regional and income groupings in this Report are listed in the Classification of Economies table at the end of the Selected World Development Indicators. Income classifications are based on gross national income (GNP) per capita; thresholds for income classifications in this edition may be found in the Introduction to Selected World Development Indicators. Group averages reported in the figures and tables are unweighted averages of the countries in the group, unless noted to the contrary.

The use of the word *countries* to refer to economies implies no judgment by the World Bank about the legal or other status of a territory. The term *developing countries* includes low- and

middle-income economies and thus may include economies in transition from central planning, as a matter of convenience. The term *advanced countries* may be used as a matter of convenience to denote high-income economies.

Dollar figures are current U.S. dollars, unless otherwise specified. *Billion* means 1,000 million; *trillion* means 1,000 billion.

*Serbia and Montenegro* is used in this Report either because the event being discussed occurred prior to the independence of the Republic of Montenegro in June 2006 or because separate data for the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro are not available.