

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (World Bank)

Infrastructure Indicators

Ongoing work:

The World Bank's Development Data Group (DECDG) along with the Sustainable Development Vice-Presidency and the various sector and regional offices are developing a core set of infrastructure indicators and systematic database covering the energy, water & sanitation, transport, and ICT sectors which will be used to monitor project, country, and global policies & performance. Country tables on ICT, sourced mainly from the ITU, can be accessed from the World Bank's external Data site.

See also: <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/countrydata.html>

3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues

Poverty Statistics

- New estimates of global poverty are the first re-evaluation of the World Bank's "\$1 a day" poverty line since 1999. The international poverty line has been recalibrated at \$1.25 a day, using new data on purchasing power parities (PPPs), compiled by the International Comparison Program, and an expanded set of household income and expenditure surveys. New measurements of the extent and depth of poverty are presented for 115 developing countries, along with poverty measurements based on their national poverty lines.

- The World Bank will continue its theoretical and practical work in the area of measuring and analysing income poverty, as well as efforts in developing tools to measure the many other dimensions of poverty. In the past few years the WB prepared a Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) Source Book, which is designed as a handbook for the 42 PRSP countries (9 of them are in the ECE region) in developing their strategy for poverty alleviation. A considerable part of the book is focused on the issues of data on poverty, poverty measurement, and poverty monitoring. The Bank will continue maintenance and updating of databases on Poverty developed to assist countries in monitoring poverty trends and embarking on strategies to help them reduce poverty. The aim is to help countries reach the Strategy 21 goals of fostering economic well-being and social development. They include:

Poverty Monitoring Database provides quick access to comprehensive poverty information. Its main components are:

- (i) Information on household surveys: key features and general information on income/consumption surveys conducted recently. The information sheets indicate whether household survey data are available to the general public. Links to the data set are provided when they are available on the web;

- (ii) Poverty Assessment Summaries conducted by the World Bank since 1993;

- (iii) Participatory Poverty Assessments, which provide basic information on assessments conducted by the Bank and other institutions;

PovcalNet is an interactive computational tool that allows users to replicate the calculations made by the World Bank's researchers in estimating the extent of absolute poverty in the world.

PovcalNet also allows one to calculate the poverty measures under different assumptions and to assemble the estimates using alternative country groupings or for any set of individual countries of their choosing. (<http://go.worldbank.org/NT2A1XUWP0>).

- Training of statisticians and policy makers on how to use household survey data for analysis and policy is and will continue to be provided by the World Bank Institute on a regional basis. Country specific training on analysis is carried out under several LSMS projects and under Poverty Assessments.

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- o Poverty Monitoring Database (<http://go.worldbank.org/CVC2XGIIH0>)

- o Living Standards Measurement Study Survey Database <http://www.worldbank.org/lsm/>

- o Database on Household Expenditure and Income Data for Transitional Economies (<http://go.worldbank.org/KTN5N3L4H0>)

- o PovcalNet <http://go.worldbank.org/NT2A1XUWP0>.

See: <http://www.worldbank.org/data/> for more information.

3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals

MDG Indicators

- In collaboration with other international agencies the World Bank is working to strengthen the system to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. At the international level, efforts are continuing to improve poverty and education data and to promote greater coordination in the compilation and dissemination of data on the MDG indicators. At the national level, efforts are under way to strengthen the capacity of countries to report on progress towards the goals and to document the statistical methods and procedures used.

- The Bank maintains a web site on Millennium Development Goals (MDG). MDGs grew out of the agreements and resolutions of world conferences organized by the United Nations.

See also: <http://www.developmentgoals.org/>.

- The World Bank contributes to the development of core and supplementary environmental indicators for monitoring progress toward the Millennium Development Goals through the Environment subgroup of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the MDGs.

3.3.6 Sustainable development

Sustainable Development

- The World Bank contributes to the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD). This group aims to develop a guidance document on developing asset-based approaches to measuring sustainable development.
- The World Bank contributes to the update of the Indicators of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development Indicators taskforce. Indicators are now classified as core and non-core and provide methodology sheets and background information to support indicator efforts in countries.