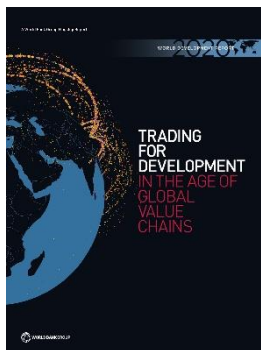


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By the World Bank

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ISBN: 978-1-4648-1457-0. SKU: 211457. 224 pages.

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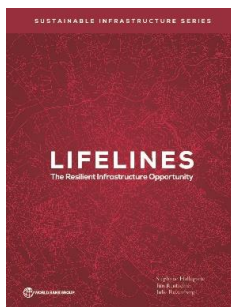
International Debt Statistics 2020

By the World Bank

International Debt Statistics (IDS) is a longstanding annual publication of the World Bank featuring external debt statistics and analysis for the 123 low- and middle-income countries that report to the World Bank Debt Reporting System (DRS). **This book addresses current issues related to the development, administration, scoring, and usage of public examinations.** High-stakes public examinations dominate education systems in Asia, Africa, Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. They can strongly influence teacher and student behavior, especially at the middle and upper levels of secondary education. This volume identifies **key issues and problems related to examinations in a large number of emerging economies and OECD countries.** Examination agencies **can learn from the successes and failures of other systems.** The primary target audience for the book is public examination officials in national, regional, and state examination boards. The book should also be of interest to senior educational policy makers concerned with certification and learning achievement standards, for governmental and tertiary agencies responsible for student selection, and for professionals at development agencies.

ISBN: 978-1-4648-1461-7. SKU: 211461. 196 pages.

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Lifelines: The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity

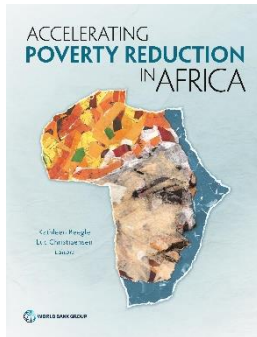
By Stephane Hallegatte, Jun Rentschler, and Julie Rozenberg

Infrastructure is central to people's lives. Without electricity, telecommunications, roads, water, and sanitation, people cannot make a living, stay healthy, and maintain a good quality of life. Access to basic infrastructure is also a key driver of economic development. **This report lays out a framework for understanding infrastructure resilience** - the ability of infrastructure systems to function and meet users' needs during and after a natural hazard. It **focuses on four infrastructure systems that are essential to economic activity and people's well-being:** power systems, including the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity; water and sanitation—especially water utilities; transport systems—multiple modes such as road, rail, waterway, and airports, and multiple scales, including urban transit and rural access; and telecommunications, including telephone and Internet connections.

ISBN: 978-1-4648-1430-3. SKU: 211430. 220 pages.

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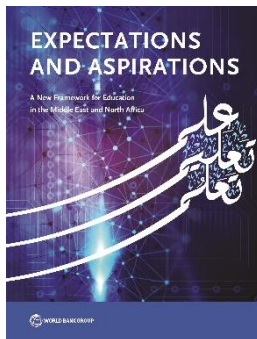
Accelerating Poverty Reduction in Africa

Edited by Kathleen Beegle and Luc Christiaensen

Despite Africa's widespread economic and social welfare accomplishments, the region's challenges remain daunting: economic growth has slowed in recent years. Poverty rates in many countries are the highest in the world. And notably, the number of impoverished in Africa is rising because of population growth. From a global perspective, the biggest concentration of poverty has shifted from South Asia to Africa. *Accelerating Poverty Reduction in Africa* explores critical policy entry points to address the demographic, societal, and political drivers of poverty; improve income-earning opportunities both on and off the farm; and better mobilize resources for the poor. It **looks beyond macroeconomic stability and growth—critical yet insufficient components of these objectives—to ask what more could be done and where policy makers should focus** their attention to speed up poverty reduction. **This report takes a "jobs" lens to its task. It focuses squarely on the productivity and livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable—that is, what it will take to increase their earnings.** Finally, it presents a road map for financing the poverty and development agenda.

ISBN: 978-1-4648-1232-3. SKU: 211232. 308 pages.

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Expectations and Aspirations: A New Framework for Education in the Middle East and North Africa

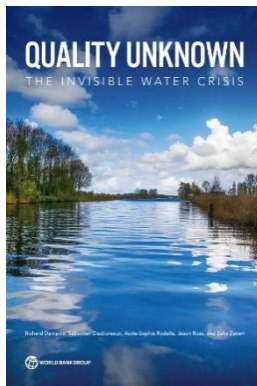
Edited by Safaa El Tayeb El-Kogali

Decades of investments and education reforms in the Middle and North Africa region (MENA) contributed little to the region's human capital and wealth without meeting the aspirations of its people. Unleashing education's potential requires a 'push' for learning, a 'pull' for skills, and a new 'pact' for education. **Education has been at the heart of the region's history and civilizations for centuries. Despite its decades-long, heavy investment in education, the region remains stuck with low-level learning and skills outcomes.** There are four key sets of tensions that are holding back education in the MENA region: credentials and skills, discipline and inquiry, control and autonomy, and tradition and modernity. Shaped by society, these are reflected in schools and classrooms. Addressing these tensions and unleashing the potential of education requires **a new framework with a three-pronged approach:** Firstly, learning that starts early and educators leveraging technology. Secondly, a stronger pull for skills and coordinated multi-system education reforms. Finally, a new pact for education with a unified vision, shared responsibilities, and accountabilities.

ISBN: 978-1-4648-1234-7. SKU: 211234. 260 pages.

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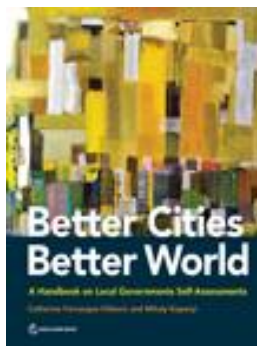
Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis

By Richard Damania, Sébastien Desbureaux, Aude-Sophie Rodella, Jason Russ, and Esha Zaveri

This report attempts to show the impacts of hidden subaquatic dangers and elucidate strategies for combating them. *Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis* **presents new evidence and data to examine the effects of water quality on economic growth, finding that upstream pollution lowers growth in downstream regions.** The authors show that some of water's most ubiquitous contaminants have greater impacts than has been acknowledged, with stark implications for food security. Tackling the world's water quality challenge requires recognizing its scale, bringing new insights to policy makers. This will inform evidence-based decision making and citizens' calls to action. **The report advocates for a paradigm shift emphasizing safer, and often more cost-effective remedies** that prevent pollution by combining smarter policies with newer technologies. The authors assert that such solutions exist and change are possible.

ISBN: 978-1-4648-1459-4. SKU: 211459. 144 pages.

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Better Cities, Better World: A Handbook on Local Governments Self-Assessments

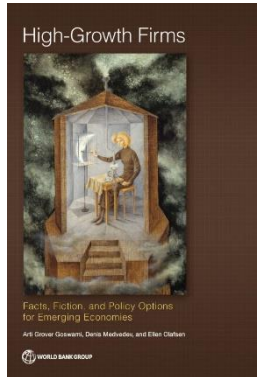
By Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic and Mihaly Kopanyi

In a context of skewed financial resources and complex urban challenges, more cities are searching for **more effective and innovative ways to deal with new and old problems.** *Better Cities, Better World: A Handbook on Local Governments Self-Assessments* is at the heart of this debate. It recognizes the complex past, current, and future challenges that cities face, **outlining a bottom-line, no-nonsense framework for data-based policy dialogue and action;** a common language that, for the first time, bridges public investments programming (Urban Audit/ Self-Assessment) and financing (Municipal Finances Self-Assessment). It addresses two key, often overlooked questions: **Are we doing the right things? Are we doing things right?** This text offers pragmatic, purposeful tools to central governments, city leaders and policy makers, municipal staff, and cities' partners.

ISBN: 978-1-4648-1336-8. SKU: 211336. 342 pages.

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High-Growth Firms: Facts, Fiction, and Policy Options for Emerging Economies

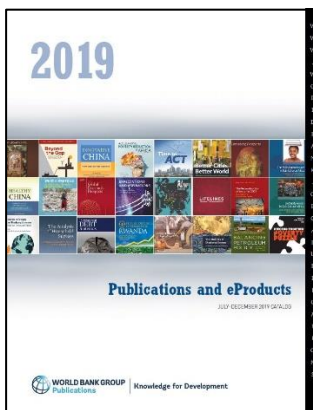
By Arti Grover Goswami, Denis Medvedev, and Ellen Olafsen

A remarkably small fraction of firms account for most job and output creation in high-income and developing countries. **This book presents new evidence on the incidence, characteristics, and drivers of high-growth firms** based on in-depth studies of firm dynamics in 11 countries. Its authors reveal that high-growth firms create positive spillovers for other businesses along the value chain. They also show that most firms struggle to sustain rapid rates of expansion and that the relationship between high growth and productivity is often weak. Consequently, the book **calls for a shift toward policies that improve the quality of firm growth**, proposing a new “ABC framework” of growth entrepreneurship: improving Allocative efficiency, encouraging Business-to-business spillovers, and strengthening firm Capabilities. **This book is the third volume of the World Bank Productivity Project**, which seeks to bring frontier thinking on measurement and productivity determinants to global policy makers.

ISBN: 978-1-4648-1368-9. SKU: 211368. 190 pages.

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