MOVING FROM DESIGN TO DELIVERY

The early fruits of trust fund reform are ripening. Through the Umbrella 2.0 Program, the Bank is reducing the number of IBRD/IDA trust funds from a fragmented 554 to 71 Umbrella Programs. As of April 1, 2021, 39 (55%) are already up and running. Each Umbrella has a common overarching development objective, governance structure, results framework, communication and visibility plan, and reporting arrangements. These reforms are lowering transactions costs not only for the Bank but for Development Partners and Clients.

Results are already being seen in country outcomes. As the health, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic reverberate around the world, several early movers of the Umbrella 2.0 Program are illustrating the value of the reform effort as they provide flexible and customizable support to regional and country responses.

The Global Water Security and Sanitation Program (GWSP) is one such early mover. “The Umbrella approach has enabled GWSP to quickly provide resources across business lines to tackle emerging needs, such as those related to COVID-19 response, while also preserving long-term engagements on the ground,” said Joel Kolker, Program Manager for GWSP. The flexibility of the Umbrella structure is enabling urgent support to governments to ensure that households have reliable water supply, health clinics have critical wash services in place, and utilities get support to allow water to flow to those most in need. Haiti, for example, is benefitting from knowledge and technical support, strengthening government capacity to plan and budget water and sanitation interventions and strengthen gender in decision making.

The Umbrella 2.0 Program enables Bank teams with our Development Partners to be ambitious and transformative by aligning trust funds under a comprehensive results framework capable of delivering results at scale. For example, PROBLUE, which launched in 2018, is benefiting from bringing together different oceanic streams such as marine pollution and plastics, shipping, and offshore renewable energy into an integrated whole.

The reforms have introduced increased strategic focus and reduced the administrative overhead long associated with managing multiple trust funds. “As a result of this consolidation we can put out one annual report, have one integrated results framework, and can convene just one Partnership Council meeting every year,” said Charlotte De Fontaubert, the PROBLUE Program Manager. “The reforms, while a bit intimidating at first, will pay dividends in the long-run,” she added.

This quarterly newsletter aims to bring you updates on the Trust Fund Reforms of the World Bank. The Reforms are moving to a new phase, with teams from across the institution establishing and rolling out their Umbrella Programs. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date on developments on policy and practice and share features stories drawn from the Programs. We’ll also bring updates on new tools and resources, as these move online. If you have questions or suggestions, please email AskTF@worldbank.org
Trust Fund Reform Update

Through the Umbrella 2.0 Programs, the World Bank is consolidating more than 554 fragmented IBRD/IDA trust funds into 71 Umbrella Programs.

Flexible Umbrella structures are creating opportunities for enhanced results and impact, strategic realignment with WBG priorities and SDG targets.

Umbrellas are strengthening complementarity among various sources of financing.

"Now, for the first time, we are on the cusp of planning in a way that strengthens complementarity among the different sources of financing during planning and implementation, maximizing their potential leverage and impact for our clients."

- Dirk Reinermann, Director of Trust Funds and Partner Relations in the Development Finance Vice Presidency.

Trust funds have long been an important part of the World Bank’s aid architecture, accounting for $1 in every $12 in disbursements to clients, and financing more than 60 percent of all technical assistance and analytics. They complement and scale up the impact of World Bank-funded operations. The ongoing trust fund reforms are contributing to the WBG’s efficiency, effectiveness, and overall development impact for Clients and Partners.

This was followed by a presentation from Eva Atterlov Frisell, a Senior Policy Specialist from Sida. Eva described the intensive multi-level dialogue that has taken place between the Bank Group and Sida following the 2012 WDR through to the present. This has been instrumental in increasing the importance that Bank initiatives have placed on gender, concretely leading to the hiring of staff with gender expertise and the inclusion of gender in M&E frameworks - two of the key interventions identified in the report.

Much has clearly been achieved, but there is more to do, and the creation of multi-donor Gender Working Groups is one example of a broadening dialogue within several Umbrella Programs.

In a panel discussion ably chaired by Charlotte De Fontaubert, the Program Manager of PROBLUE, participants heard from Rohit Khanna, Program Manager of the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). ESMAP has pioneered an approach where gender is a cross-cutting theme across all ESMAP Programs, with a specific focus on closing gender gaps in employment, entrepreneurship, and access to modern energy services.

Brief interventions by Sarah Keener, the Senior Social Development Specialist on the Global Water and Sanitation Program (GWSP) and Hiska Reyes, the Senior Social Development Specialist on the South Asia Trade Facilitation Program also highlighted the innovative ways gender is being included in the WBG’s trust funded programs.

In her closing remarks, Eva Johansson, a Lead Policy Advisor in Sida noted the ongoing challenges of this work, especially given the impact of the pandemic on women and girls. She also noted the importance of continuing the dialogue, and building on the mutual commitment to learning and exchange.

Advancing Gender Equality through Umbrella Programs

A dialogue event held on March 25th discussed the findings of a recent SIDA-initiated pilot on the incorporation of gender equality in the work of the Bank Group. Watch here.

The session was introduced by Caren Grown, the Bank’s Senior Director for Gender. Caren outlined the Bank Group’s strategy that gives priority to addressing specific gender gaps, to strengthening country-level diagnostics and ‘gender tagging’ of activities, allowing monitoring against specific gender strategic goals.

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Trust Fund Reform ...Powered by Community

It’s been a year since the Development Finance (DFi) Vice Presidency launched a Community of Practice to support Program Managers through the sometimes daunting process of establishing and managing Umbrella 2.0 Programs.

The Umbrella Program Managers Network is a knowledge and learning platform that allows for exchange among teams, ensuring a smooth Bank-wide transition into the Umbrella Programs. “The Network provides an excellent avenue for sharing good practices, unbottling and addressing likely challenges in the management and implementation of an Umbrella Program,” explained Adenike Sherifat Oyeyiola, Program Manager for Financial Management and Accountability.

As well as providing a platform (through meetings and online exchanges) the Network has been instrumental in moving Trust Fund reform forward across the whole institution,” said Ana Cebreiro, former Program Manager for the Global Tax Program. “It has contributed to a trust fund policy that reflects a good compromise between corporate needs and those of our development partners.”

The Network has further enhanced ownership of the reforms. Change is never easy and especially so if it is perceived as an edict from above. “The Umbrella Program Manager’s Network has cultivated a sense of joint ownership of the Trust Fund reform process,” said Kornra Wang, Program Manager for the Knowledge for Change Program, “it has given the practitioners a voice and allowed us to shape the policies and practices adopted by the Bank”.

The Network holds monthly meetings, focused on specific topics, from results frameworks, through communication and visibility, to governance. In most cases specialists in the topic of the day are invited to provide guidance and address questions, although there is emerging evidence of sharing among the Programs themselves. “Our communication specialist joined the meeting and together we learned about internal and external communications’ management, the abundance of resources available for knowledge management, and best practices for communications strategy development,” recounted Ceren Ozer, the current Program Manager for the Global Tax Program. “Our communications specialist has since been in touch with other communications professionals and has benefitted from the knowledge sharing within the community.” Our goal is to harness the tremendous experience and creativity that exists in the Network, and ensure that emerging good practice rapidly makes its way to those who can benefit,” noted David Gray, a Sr. KM Specialist in DFi.

Bob Saum, Director, Standards, Procurement and Financial Management, has led the Network since its inception. “As someone with a long history with trusts funds, I see how successful Umbrella Programs can be and how critical Program Managers are to that success. The Network provides an opportunity for globally-located Program Managers to share their successes, as well as ask questions, and learn from one another—which is exactly what we want to see at the Bank!”

Development Partner Center

The DPC is the single-stop portal for Development Partners that allow access to their WBG financing portfolio (IBRD/IDA TFs, IFC TFs, FFOs, FIFs, and IDA) through a secure and customizable website. Contact us at DPCqueries@worldbank.org.

In a continuous efforts to improve data transparency, the following new features have recently been added in DPC:

• The new umbrella structure is fully incorporated, allowing DPs to view their IBRD/IDA TFs contributions into Umbrella Programs and Standalone TFs.
• Grant commitments can now be viewed at the window level, allowing DPs to view how they are contributing to thematic and regional allocations.
• Externally Financed Output (EFO) information is now surfaced in DPC.

What’s New?

New Trust Fund Policy

The World Bank has updated its Trust Fund (TF) Policy effective January 21, 2021. The policy was last updated in 2008 (OP 14.40). The 2021 update serves to clarify rather than substantively change the last policy update, while reflecting changes in World Bank trust fund practices and procedures over the last 12 years. The update also supports the on-going reforms of TF and Financial Intermediary Funds (FIFs). Access the new Policy here.

Online Course for DPs

Partnering with the World Bank through Trust Funds and Umbrella 2.0 Programs

This brief online module (30 minutes) has been designed specifically for our Development Partners and aims to introduce “Trust Funds and Umbrella Programs and how these are used to support the World Bank’s work. As well as introducing key concepts and a common vocabulary, the module is intended to ensure that Development Partner counterparts and technical staff are better positioned for successful dialogue with their WB counterparts and can best align work programs for maximum impact. Partners are encouraged to share this course widely, both at Headquarters and in Country Offices/Embassies.

Note that to access the course, participants may need to create an account.

New Cost Recovery Framework

Cost recovery relates to the recovery of costs (direct and indirect) associated with the administration of trust funds by the World Bank. The new framework reflects feedback from Development Partners and Bank teams and is simpler to understand and communicate, transparent and more predictable. It applies to trust funds established after January 1, 2021. Note that the Administration Agreement (AA) template has been updated to incorporate these changes. Read more.

Open Data on WB Finances

Finances.Org is the latest release of the World Bank Group Finances Program, a journey that started 10 years ago when the World Bank published its landmark Access to Information Policy, which opened the path for the Bank to emerge as a worldwide leader in open data and saw the Bank publish the first financial datasets.
Trust, transparency, accountability and good governance are more important than ever to help protect generations to come

COVID-19 remains rampant, economies are getting smaller, people are becoming poorer. At the current rate, the 2030 SDGs will not be delivered. Fragility and conflict persist, creating spill-over effects on other countries. In response to the pandemic, demands on the role of government have increased, while governments are more indebted, and confidence in government is falling. Demands from citizens and the private sector for more openness and accountability are increasing, as governments continue to navigate their new operating environment.

The response to these governance challenges will require more than band-aids and patch-ups. This is a time to reshape and reimagine the way society works; how collective decisions are made and how they are implemented. In short, the developing world will not recover satisfactorily from this crisis without breakthroughs in governance.

The Global Governance Program (GGP) is core to the World Bank Group's approach. A successful program, supported by two Umbrella Programs, will see:

- **Technical assistance and analytical activities** to complement and leverage IDA and IBRD resources. The GGP will provide policy advice and the “know-how” to help catalyze, design and implement governance reforms.
- **Innovative approaches to, and strategic initiatives in, governance** gaining support. COVID-19 requires a rethinking of the institutions of governance.
- **Rapid learning from experience**, with quickfire dissemination of knowledge and harvesting of data on governance to shorten feedback loops and ensure that approaches remain leading edge and informed by on-the-ground realities.
- **Coherence between countries and development partners** in pursuing governance reforms through larger-scaled umbrella funding.
- **Our premise is that improving governance makes a big difference to delivering goods and services**, giving better value-for-money to citizens. These contribute to inclusive growth and improved access to opportunities.

To deliver on their objectives, the two Umbrellas require strong partnerships between the World Bank and other development agencies. The GGP will include technical working groups for each of their thematic pillars (modules) that will include bilateral development agencies, IFIs, foundations and private sector partners.

To learn more about the Global Governance Program, contact Piet Hein Van Heesewijk (pvanheesewijk@worldbank.org)
Emergency Response for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Communities Impacted by COVID-19

COVID-19 is not only a worldwide public health emergency but has become an international economic crisis. Recent World Bank estimates indicate that COVID-19 is likely to cause the first increase of global poverty since 1998, pushing 71 to 100 million people into extreme poverty. In developing countries, the COVID-19 crisis is having an immediate and amplified impact on the poorest and most vulnerable regions. The 40 million people working in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) around the world are particularly vulnerable because of their generally poor health care, precarious working conditions, high incidence of respiratory diseases, and exposure of vulnerable groups in an environment with little government oversight.

In April 2020, the Extractives Global Programmatic Support (EGPS) Umbrella financed a systematic data collection exercise on how COVID-19 has affected ASM communities. The task team worked with 17 partners across 22 countries and published the results on the Delve platform. The research findings revealed encouragingly high levels of COVID-19 health awareness in remote mining communities and found that miners were relatively confident that if needed, they have adequate access to health support. However, an overwhelming number of miners are facing food insecurity as a result of cost-inflation of basic goods and reduced income resulting from temporary mine closures, a drop in mineral prices, and disruptions in the gold trade chains of ASM-sourced products/materials.

The findings informed the design of a targeted COVID-19 emergency response facility under EGPS. The emergency response was formally established in June with seed funding of 1 million Swiss francs from the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO). The window has since received financing of $4.8 million from Belgium and Germany. The latest funding enabled the second call for proposals.

The emergency response addresses ASM vulnerabilities and provides short-term assistance to a range of international, regional, national, and local organizations engaged in artisanal mining.

Promoting the leadership, inclusion, and sustainable empowerment of women in extractive industries - the AWIMA Jewellery Project

The adverse economic shock caused by the COVID-19 pandemic threatens the enormous progress that Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) communities have made to formalize the sector.

The Association of Women in Mining in Africa (AWIMA), a network promoting the leadership, inclusion, and sustainable empowerment of women in extractive industries, through its AWIMA Jewellery Project, aims to mitigate the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic upon women, particularly those in ASM communities, while simultaneously celebrating their resilience.

Building on the increasing global demand for ethical products, the project launched the AWIMA Jewellery Design Competition to provide a one-of-a-kind platform celebrating the resilience of African women in mining while using innovative ideas to partner with African women designers and jewelers.

To unearth the vast female design talent on the African continent and its diaspora, in January 2021, the competition invited African female designers to submit a brooch inspired by the theme; “A Symbol of solidarity that unifies and honors Women in mining in Africa”.

The winning design, “Lady Aya” was made by Ngone Sagne, a Senegalese Jeweller. Ms Sagne’s design was not only the unanimous selection of the panel of judges, it also received the majority of the 1500 votes from the public to win the “People’s Choice Award.”

To learn more about the EGPS, contact Charlotte Ampaire (campaire@worldbank.org)
Prioritizing Food Security in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, seasonal hunger is widespread. Last year, as measures to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic caused border closures and disrupted productive activities and consumption throughout the country, vulnerable communities became more food insecure. The Government’s pandemic response aimed to prioritize food security through the Dastarkhwan-e-Millie (“national dining table”) program.

The effort would require significant financial resources. Partners in the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), one of the “early movers” on Umbrella 2.0 trust fund reforms, took decisive action. Working closely together, Afghanistan’s Ministry of Finance, the World Bank and ARTF donors identified undisbursed funding in projects across the World Bank’s Afghanistan portfolio. World Bank teams worked with Government project teams to release funds from existing projects and re-program them into COVID-19 response operations. At its annual meeting (held virtually), the ARTF Steering Committee approved the ARTF portfolio adjustments. Within a few months, the ARTF partnership had mobilized US$ 740 million in new and re-programmed emergency support for Afghanistan’s relief and recovery response to the pandemic across the health, fiscal and policy, agriculture and water sectors. US$ 283 million of this sum is directed to community development programs, co-financed with IDA, that support Dastarkhwan-e-Millie.

Three government agencies (the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the Independent Directorate for Local Governance and Kabul Municipality) provide funds to local community development councils (CDCs) across the country. CDCs purchase relief packages from local providers to create jobs and stimulate local economies. The relief packages provide 2–3 weeks of rations to Afghan families when most needed. Each package, with a value of 4,000 afghanis (about $52), contains essentials such as cooking oil, rice, beans, flour, peas, and soap. After some delays, program operations began to work effectively during the early months of 2021, and as of April 15, over 743,000 households have already benefitted.

Such a massive relief effort during a pandemic is complex and faced a number of challenges. To ensure transparency in the proper use of resources and successful delivery of the food and hygiene packages to families in need, Dastarkhwan-e Millie has set up a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism to address complaints and investigate allegations of corruption or abuse related to the project. Awareness about this mechanism has been raised through public service announcements on TV, radio, and social media. Robust third-party monitoring financed by ARTF donors provides additional assurance to the Government and its partners that the program is serving those it is intended to help.

Abdul Hadi, 28, is a daily-wage worker in Mehtarlam, the provincial capital of Laghman province. He has eight children and is also responsible for his brother’s widow and her five children. “We cannot find any job due to the coronavirus pandemic these days,” he says. “We slept on empty stomachs several nights. Both my and my sister-in-law’s family received relief packages.” He is grateful for the relief packages, which he says helped save his family members’ lives at a critical time. Altogether, the programs are expected to reach over 5 million households. The effort exemplifies the ARTF motto, “Rebuilding Together.”
Addressing social inclusion is one of the most important development challenges of the 21st century. That is why the World Bank has launched a new vehicle for partnership: Social Sustainability Initiative for All (SSI4All). This partnership supports the efforts of vulnerable communities and people to shape their own future.

Climate change, pandemics, and conflict continue to grow and have laid bare many of the deep-rooted inequalities facing vulnerable groups—including women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, racial and ethnic minorities, and sexual and gender minorities. Across the world, these groups continue to face barriers that exclude them from accessing essential services and fully participating in society.

SSI4All finances innovative data and analytics to deepen understanding of social exclusion, and informs policies related to inclusion, citizen engagement, resilience, conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery, and support for refugees and internally displaced persons. We work to strengthen the capacity of country governments and communities to tackle climate risks and design solutions together.

Through partnership with governments, multi-lateral organizations, donors, the private sector, civil society organizations, grassroots organizations, foundations, think tanks, and universities, SSI4All strives to foster the development of inclusive, resilient, and empowered societies, where citizens have voice and governments respond.

At the World Bank, we are committed to leaving no one behind and recognize that delivering on our vision of a green, resilient, and inclusive recovery will only be possible by taking a multi-sectoral approach with our partners. SSI4All is about expanding opportunities for all people—today and tomorrow.

For more information please contact:

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BRINGING RESILIENCE TO SCALE

Tapping into its long experience and deep expertise in disaster risk management and climate resilience, and capitalizing on its unique position within the World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) has mobilized and delivered funding, knowledge and technical assistance that has been instrumental to the resilience building efforts of IDA countries in every region of the world.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Facility has acted swiftly to support the global response, drawing on the fundamental pillars of its work, including risk identification, risk reduction, preparedness, and financial protection. As an example of how these fundamentals can be applied, GFDRR funded a new World Bank report Frontline: Preparing Healthcare Systems for Shocks from Disasters to Pandemics which offers recommendations based on lessons learned from disaster risk and emergency management practices.

As IDA countries strive to not only build back better in the aftermath of COVID-19, but also sustain and even accelerate the progress they’ve made in tackling disasters and climate change, it is vital that we take stock of what we have achieved and learned from our efforts thus far. This new booklet highlights stories of impact from GFDRR’s engagements in IDA countries.

Leveraging citizen engagement to tackle the DRM-FCV nexus in Guinea and Kenya

Across the globe, an increasing number of countries are affected by the interrelated and mutually reinforcing challenges of disaster and climate risk and those of fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV). Guinea and Kenya are no exception to this trend. The northern region of Kenya has been dealing with the complex interplay of droughts and communal and armed conflict over natural resources. Guinea, meanwhile, is highly exposed to disaster and climate hazards even as it copes with longstanding social and political tensions.

Locally led efforts in both Guinea and Kenya, including those by local governments, are at the forefront of tackling these critical challenges. In FY20, the GFDRR DRM-FCV Nexus Program supported these efforts, with a focus on leveraging citizen and community engagement at the nexus of disaster risk management (DRM) and FCV.

A focus of GFDRR’s efforts in both Guinea and Kenya has been to better understand the barriers to citizen and community engagement with respect to marginalized groups such as women, young people, and traditional leaders. For example, in Kenya, a technical team worked with local partners to conduct a survey of stakeholders’ perceptions and experiences at the country level. Even as the survey revealed an increasing appreciation for the importance of resilience-building, including in the context of the DRM-FCV nexus, it also highlighted two potential barriers to engagement: gaps in applying DRM-FCV resilience-building practices at the county level. Complex and overlapping planning processes combined with a lack of tools capable of helping stakeholders challenge disaster and climate risks to complicate local efforts to develop resilience.

In conjunction with these efforts, technical teams in both Guinea and Kenya have also been working with local partners to develop frameworks and methodologies to better integrate citizen and community engagement in local development plans, with a focus on the DRM-FCV nexus. For instance, in Guinea, a team has been supporting the National Agency for Local Development Financing, which has selected two local governments to pilot the methodology that integrates challenges around the DRM-FCV nexus in the development planning processes across both rural and urban areas. These efforts are expected to influence local governments’ annual investment plans. In the past, local development plans, although formed with extensive community participation, had not systematically integrated DRM-FCV risks.

Even at this early stage of the work, these engagements are already informing governments and other key stakeholders as they move forward with resilience-building efforts in Guinea, Kenya, and beyond. For example, it is expected that the DRM-FCV methodology will be adapted to a forthcoming World Bank regional operation in the Lake Chad region (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria).

Visit the GFDRR Website

To learn more about the GFDRR, contact Ms. Yoko Kayabashi (ykobayashii2@worldbankgroup.org)

Video Playlist - Resilience and Disaster Risk Management in IDA Countries Ignites:

- Building resilience in Pacific atoll island countries
- Mozambique’s path to resilience after Cyclone Idai
- Tackling Urban Flooding in the future Mega-City of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: Eric Dickson
- Strengthening disaster risk management in an FCV setting: lessons from Haiti.
- Emergency response after Hurricanes Eta and Iota: lessons learned
- Resilient transport in the SIDS: a call to action.
The Global Financing Facility (GFF) launches $1.2 billion funding campaign to stop secondary health crisis for women and children due to COVID-19

The GFF has launched a US$1.2 billion campaign to support the world’s poorest countries to protect and reclaim the gains on the health of women, children and adolescents made before the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will support communities to access the services they need, helping to save lives, and build the human capital needed for a resilient recovery. The urgent call is part of total US$ 2.5 billion needed by 2025 to reclaim pre-pandemic health gains and save 18 million lives. Visit Reclaim the Gains site.

BLOG: In Rwanda, Making Every Life Known is Enhancing Human Capital
With support from the GFF and other partners, Rwanda took decisive steps to reform its CRVS system so every child can be registered and have a legal national identity at birth. This change has enabled families to access nutrition and other social benefits, a step forward to improve their growth, learning and earning capabilities and help enhance human capital. Read blog.

Healthcare Reforms Bring Results in Afghanistan’s Bamiyan Province
Since 2013, the government of Afghanistan has driven health care reforms that have helped improve the quality of care and access to medicine in the country’s Bamiyan Province. Supported by partners, including the GFF and the ARTF, the Sehatmandi project is now building on this progress to expand access to health services, particularly to vulnerable groups including women, children and adolescents. Read Story.

The GFF named among high-scoring global health organizations promoting gender equality
A new report from Global Health 50/50, released on the occasion of International Women’s Day, names the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) among one of the most high performing organizations in global health working to advance gender equality. As part of its new strategy, the GFF is doubling down on efforts to promote gender, voice, equity and sexual and reproductive health in its 36 partner countries to close gender gaps. Read blog. Read Press Release. Watch Video. Building a better, equal world for women and children.

To learn more about the GFF contact Nansia Constantinou <nconstantinou@worldbankgroup.org>
Time to decarbonize transport for a green, resilient and inclusive recovery

BY MARI ELKA PANGESTU
WORLD BANK MANAGING DIRECTOR

Original published in Voices, World Bank Blogs, April 21 2021

At a time when we face enormous challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is heartening to see the world mobilizing as never before to tackle the looming crisis of global warming. From renewable energy to carbon markets to sustainable agriculture, countries are taking steps to address emissions and enhance resilience. The international development community is also stepping up. In 2020, the World Bank Group reached its highest ever level of climate financing, at $21.4 billion, and we recently announced our plan to align all-new World Bank operations with the Paris Agreement by July 2023.

But despite all the positive momentum, there is one area in particular that requires urgent action: transport. Without decarbonizing transport, no scenario for achieving the 1.5-degree climate goal is feasible, and there we are currently heading in the wrong direction. The global transport sector emits around 24 percent of the world’s total energy-related carbon emissions, and this is expected to grow by 60 percent by 2050.

There are various aspects of transport that pose challenges for a low carbon transition. It is highly decentralized, spanning rail, road, air, and maritime. Human behavior plays a large role in travel demand patterns and is difficult to manage. Most importantly, many countries, especially in the developing world, lack policy instruments and investments to address the climate impact of the transport sector.

The pressing need to address transport’s many challenges brought some of the most important partners to the World Bank Group Spring Meetings last week. Transport is one key area where transformational action is needed under the Bank Group’s green, resilient, and inclusive development (GRID) approach, which framed discussions at the Meetings. I was pleased to join a high-level working meeting to find ways to accelerate transport decarbonization while ensuring that countries continue to expand the social and economic benefits of transport. Ministers, CEOs, heads of departments and agencies, and others gathered around the virtual table to share their thoughts and actions, and discuss how the Bank can help turn transport around.

It was encouraging to hear about the myriad initiatives and programs around the globe that include transport emission mitigation. So much is being done – but unfortunately, all this has not been enough to change the emissions growth trend. It is clear that progress will require doing things differently, and working much more closely together. We need to approach transport decarbonization in a strategic, systemic, and coordinated manner, not as an add-on to other efforts.

One central obstacle is that transport lacks global instruments to create, test, nurture, coordinate, and scale-up solutions. To develop solutions at scale, the World Bank, other multilateral development banks, bilateral development agencies, and the private sector will need to come together and leverage their resources.

This is why we have launched the Global Facility to Decarbonize Transport (GFDT) [Read 2-Page Brief], a new Umbrella Program that is wholly focused on solving the transport decarbonization issue, and tackle related challenges from access to safety. It aims to make transport decarbonization the catalyzer that will help improve lives, create opportunities—especially for the poor, women, and girls—and boost country competitiveness. This can be accomplished by expanding the horizon for cooperation and coordination, as well as leveraging resources and influencing investments at a global level.

The synergies are strong: Bus Rapid Transit systems take cars off the roads, increase access to mobility, and are an important part of many country national climate targets or NDCs; safe transport and lower speeds allow cities to open spaces for walking and biking; better regulation of used car exports to developing countries—which in some cases represent over 90 percent of national fleets—can significantly reduce emissions, pollution and save lives with safer cars; and investing in e-mobility and other emerging technologies can help increase the competitiveness of cities and countries.

As the world recovers from COVID-19, countries have a once-in-a-generation chance to set themselves on a green, resilient and inclusive development path. Decisions taken now will determine to what extent the world experiences renewed development progress, sustainable job creation and low-carbon, resilient economic transformation. Transport decarbonization is a critical piece of this puzzle. Fortunately, there is strong consensus forged among both governments and the private sector that we must act now, together, with innovation and determination. I look forward to sharing with you the fruits of these efforts.
Healthy terrestrial ecosystems such as forests are essential to life on our planet. **PROGREEN**, the Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes, is a World Bank umbrella program supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. PROGREEN supports countries’ efforts to improve livelihoods of the rural poor while tackling climate change, loss of biodiversity and forests, deteriorating land fertility, and uncontrolled forest fires.

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Read the **FAQ**

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The **Competitiveness for Jobs & Economic Transformation (C-JET) Umbrella Program** is a global partnership facility that helps foster the economic transformation needed to enable better jobs for more women and men, sustainably and at scale. It will focus on the enabling conditions and at supporting programs that promote the entry and growth of competitive firms and sectors as drivers of better jobs.

As a global program with significant regional concentration, wherever possible, C-JET will prioritize low-income and fragile countries, particularly within development partners’ priority regions. This focus is aligned with C-JET’s objective of supporting sustainable economic development and job creation as the primary pathway out of poverty. Read more

On April 7, the C-JET Umbrella officially launched, with an initial contribution of €4MM from the government of Austria. Supporting the WBG special theme on Jobs & Economic Transformation (JET) and recognizing an urgent need to help firms and the innovation sector stay resilient amid the COVID-19 pandemic, C-JET has been established with a strong focus on building the capacity of governments to support private sector competitiveness.

The first round of call for proposals has just concluded on April 21 with proposals currently under review by the C-JET Secretariat. As an Umbrella 2.0 Program, C-JET will succeed legacy World Bank trust funds focusing on private sector development, including infoDev, Competitive Industries and Innovation Program (CIIP), IEEACP as well as relevant regional programs. C-JET is having ongoing discussions with other donors, with plans to continue expanding its MDTF global partnership with fundraising ambitions of up to US$200M.

To learn more about C-JET Contact Khaleda Atta <katta1@worldbank.org>