3. Advancing Debt Transparency

Introduction

The World Bank has been collecting external debt data from borrowers since the 1950s and has disseminated those data to the public for over 50 years. The rationale for this annual collection of data from World Bank borrowers is to support both the institution's operational needs and debt transparency. Debt transparency is increasingly recognized as an unconditional public good and one that underpins sustainable development and financial stability. Transparent disclosure of public debt reduces the risk of hidden liabilities, fosters investor confidence, strengthens fiscal management, and allows citizens of borrowing countries and their development partners to hold governments accountable. By contrast, a lack of transparency raises uncertainty and borrowing costs, and complicates debt restructuring. In recent years, that driving force has become more concrete, sustained, and measured—a debt transparency agenda that seeks not only to strengthen the integrity of debtor-creditor relations but also to safeguard development outcomes.

Each year, the World Bank's International Debt Report makes significant progress in expanding the coverage, timeliness, and consistency of the debt data it disseminates. Over the past three years in particular, debt transparency has accelerated because of the coordinated efforts of borrower countries, bilateral and multilateral creditors, the international community, and academia.

The new Debtor Reporting System (DRS) reporting requirements, set to launch in 2026, will further advance the debt transparency agenda by compelling both debtors and creditors to disclose more granular information and additional information on collateralization and restructuring agreements. Meanwhile, the recent World Bank report "Radical [Debt] Transparency" calls for the implementation of stronger audit and oversight systems to ensure accountability and data reliability (World Bank 2025b). This chapter describes those coordinated actions and quantifies their impact to show the following: how data-sharing exercises have closed data gaps, how concerted reconciliation efforts and technical assistance missions have improved consistency, how debtor coverage and timeliness have improved, and how upgraded debt management systems can increase the accuracy of debt commitments and disbursements, expand instrument coverage, and reduce inconsistencies across sources. The World Bank

is strongly committed to continuing to quantify how transparency has advanced and what the data now allow us to see.

Borrower Countries

The World Bank requires that all member countries that borrow from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association (IDA) provide regular detailed reports at a debt instrument level on long-term external debt with an original maturity of over one year owed by a public agency or a private agency with a public guarantee. It also requires borrowers to report aggregate data on long-term external debt owed by the private sector with no public guarantee. Currently, 119 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and Guyana report to the DRS.

Borrower countries bear the primary responsibility for debt transparency, and the goal for these countries—with significant support from the World Bank—is comprehensive and timely disclosure of public debt commitments, repayment terms, and transactions sufficiently granular to facilitate scrutiny of government borrowing and public accountability. Achieving this goal, however, requires both the willingness to disclose and the capacity to do so.

Borrowers have made measurable strides in expanding their debt disclosure, particularly in recent years, with progress particularly visible in the accessibility, comprehensiveness, and timeliness of published public debt data. Although practices remain uneven across countries, regions, and income groups, the overall trend since 2020 reflects a growing recognition among borrower governments that complete and transparent reporting is in both their interests and those of their citizens.

Progress in Direct Public Debt Disclosure

Public debt data are disseminated in two forms: *direct*, when they are made public by national authorities in dedicated bulletins, and *indirect*, through their reporting to the World Bank's DRS. The World Bank regularly tracks and assesses the extent and progress of borrowing countries' public debt dissemination practices, presenting its assessment of these outcomes in an annual heat map[12] that measures the strengths and weaknesses of direct reporting in IDA-eligible countries across nine key indicators: data accessibility, instrument coverage, sectoral coverage, information on recently contracted external loans, periodicity, time lag, debt management strategy, annual borrowing plan, and additional statistics and memo items.

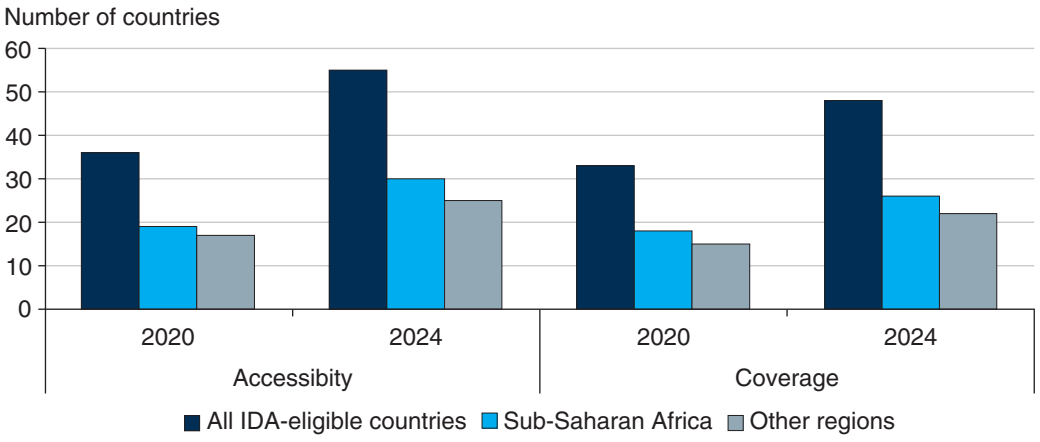
The Debt Reporting Heat Map shows significant improvement in public debt disclosure from 2020 to 2024. Of the 76 countries covered, the share of countries that do not publish any reports fell from close to 40 percent in 2020 to less than 25 percent, and now mostly includes fragile and conflict-afflicted countries or countries with severe capacity constraints.

In 2020, only 36 countries (47.4 percent) published fully accessible public debt data, whereas by 2023 this figure had risen to 51 countries (67.1 percent), representing a gain of close to 20 percentage points. The 2024 Heat Map found a 5-percentage-point improvement over the previous year: 55 countries (72.3 percent) had fully accessible public debt data (figure 3.1). Data accessibility in Sub-Saharan African nations remains lower than other regions, but it too continues to improve, rising from 19 nations publishing fully accessible data in 2020 to 30 in 2024, a 57.9 percent increase.

Policy Reforms and Institutionalization

IDA's Sustainable Development Finance Policy (SDFP) has been instrumental in embedding debt transparency reforms into national policy frameworks. The SDFP aims to incentivize countries to move toward transparent, sustainable financing and to promote coordination between IDA and other creditors in support of recipient countries' efforts. The SDFP recognizes that, although the implementation of transparent and sustainable financing practices requires actions by both creditors and borrowers, sound debt management—including debt transparency—remains the primary responsibility of borrowers.

Figure 3.1 Public Debt Disclosures by IDA-Eligible Countries, Access and Coverage, 2020 and 2024



Sources: World Bank Debt Reporting Heat Maps 2020 and 2024.
Note: IDA = International Development Association.

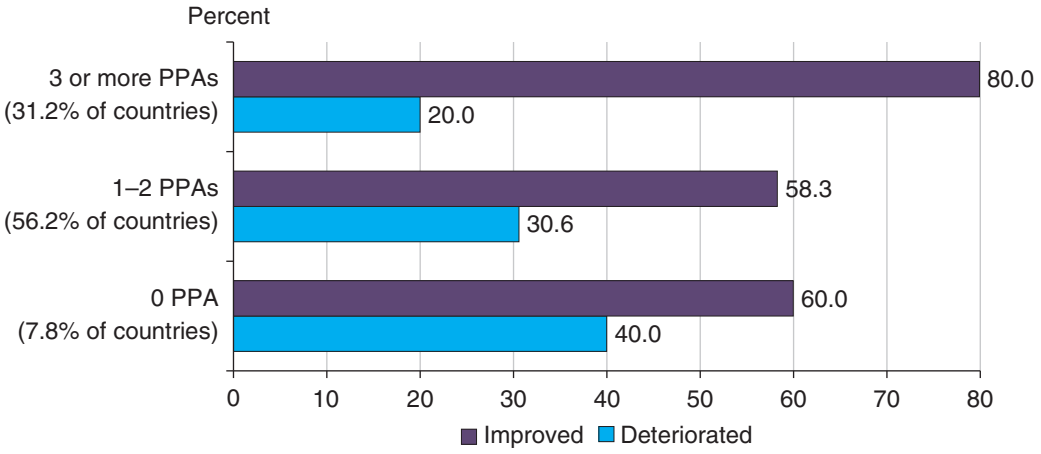
Performance and policy actions (PPAs) are concrete actions and processes that borrowers adopt to enhance debt transparency, fiscal sustainability, and debt management. Since 2020, countries have implemented more than 700 PPAs, with one-fifth targeting transparency. In fiscal year 2024, almost half of IDA borrowers implemented at least one transparency-related policy action, ranging from expanded debt coverage (especially for state-owned enterprises [SOEs]) to the institutionalization of regular debt reports or bulletins. In fiscal year 2025, 61 IDA-eligible countries prepared a total of 152 PPAs.

SDFP conditionalities have driven measurable gains in debt transparency, with countries that implement more PPAs achieving higher disclosure standards, as measured by the Debt Reporting Heat Map. Countries implementing more PPAs under the SDFP achieved stronger gains in debt transparency: 80 percent of countries with three or more PPAs improved their heat map scores, compared to 58 percent with one to two PPAs and 60 percent with none (figure 3.2).

Reporting to the World Bank Debtor Reporting System

Reporting to the World Bank's DRS has also improved. Borrowers are increasingly submitting data on time, broadening coverage to include more debt instruments and sectors, and aligning reporting with international standards. These advances reduce gaps and asymmetries in global debt statistics, strengthen cross-country comparability, and enhance the system's role as a cornerstone of global debt transparency.

Figure 3.2 Share of Countries Improving or Backsliding on Debt Reporting Heat Map, by Number of Debt Transparency PPAs Implemented, 2021–24



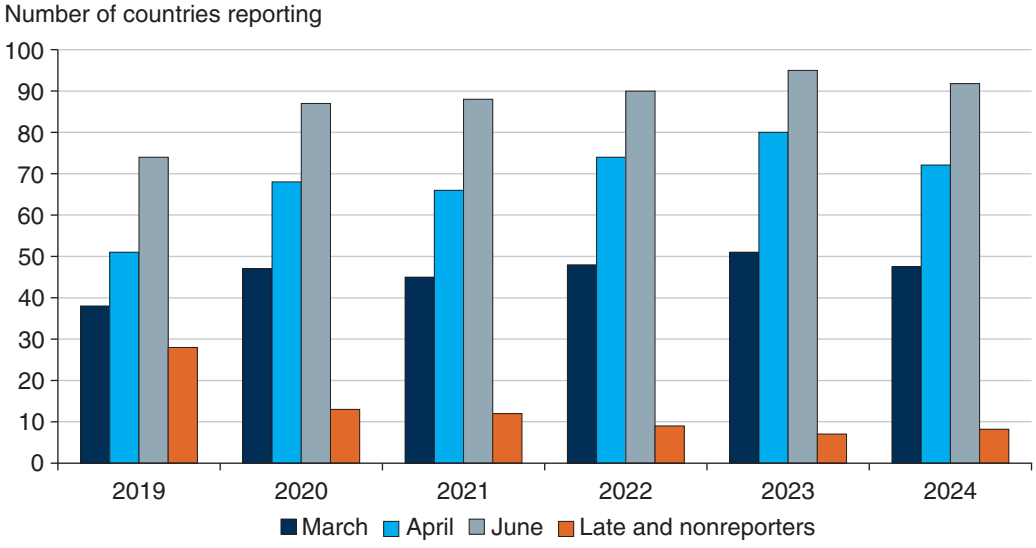
Sources: World Bank Debt Reporting Heat Map; World Bank Sustainable Development Finance Policy database.
Note: An improved country improved its average heat map scores in 2024 as compared to 2020; a deteriorated country's heat map scores deteriorated over the same period. Group labels show the percent of countries in each PPA group as a share of the total sample. PPA = performance and policy action.

The accuracy and coverage of reporting to the DRS have improved markedly over the past five years. To disclose public debt data on a regular basis in debt reports and bulletins, national debt offices must implement effective mechanisms to record and validate public debt data. In turn, these mechanisms lead to improvements in the coverage, accuracy, and timeliness of borrowers' reports to the DRS. The number of late reporters and nonreporters to the DRS fell from 28 in 2019 to just 8 in 2024, a 71.4 percent decrease. In addition, more countries are reporting earlier in the cycle, as shown in figure 3.3.

Reconciling Borrower and Creditor Data

Although borrower countries continue to improve debt data collection and reporting to the DRS, asymmetries persist between debt stock and flow data reported to the DRS and comparable creditor data. To address the issue of reconciling differences between borrower and creditor data, and to validate the accuracy of data reported to the DRS that are disseminated annually in the International Debt Report, the World Bank has cooperated with Group of Twenty (G-20) bilateral creditors since 2022 to harmonize their records of loans to IDA-eligible countries with the information submitted by those borrowers to the DRS. This cooperation has resulted in the World Bank Group of Seven (G-7)/Paris Club data-sharing exercise for end-2021 data, the first large-scale effort of its kind to systematically compare creditor- and debtor-reported data at the loan-by-loan level. Eighteen countries participated in the first exercise, including all G-7 countries plus 11 other members of the Paris Club.

Figure 3.3 Debtor Reporting System Reporting Timetable, 2019–24



Source: World Bank Debtor Reporting System database.

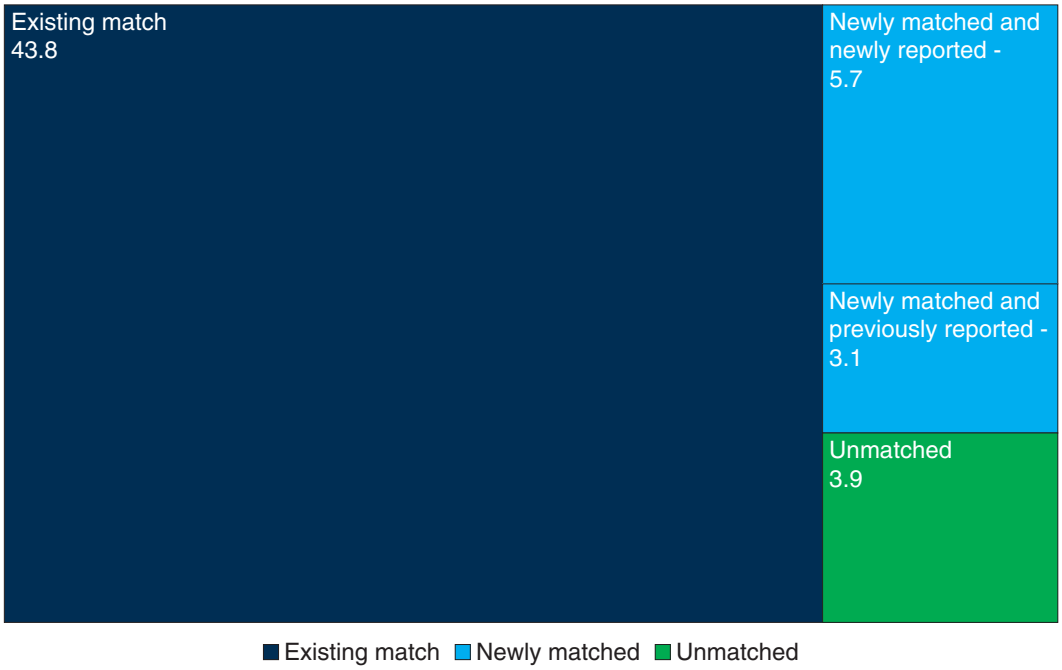
The second round of data sharing and reconciliation, conducted in 2024 with end-2023 data, built on the success of the first round and focused on replicating the original comparison and improving post-reconciliation communication with both creditors and debtors. Seventeen creditor countries (all of the G-7 plus 10 Paris Club members) participated. Creditors reported 4,692 individual loans or tranches—over 1,000 more items than in the first round—reflecting both new loans extended in 2022 and 2023 and the inclusion of Sri Lanka. Of the loans reported by creditors, 73 percent were matched to a DRS counterpart. The matched loans accounted for the majority (94 percent) of end-2023 outstanding debt reported by creditors, and the overall difference between creditor claims and the amount outstanding reported by debtors to the DRS was less than 1 percent. Unmatched items (1,255 loans) represented about 6 percent of creditor claims, suggesting that the gap between borrower and creditor data is narrow and resolvable through agreements on methodology and follow-up discussions.

The differences reflect technical issues rather than missing data and have two major reasons: (a) the practice of some creditors to report each disbursement tranche as a separate loan whereas most debtors report one consolidated loan; and (b) the indemnification of export credit guarantees that convert contingent liabilities of an official export credit agency into a direct bilateral claim. In principle, borrowers are asked to report to the DRS if a loan from a private creditor benefits from an export credit guarantee. This information is not systematically reported by borrowers, however, and most bilateral creditors do not publish information on loans they have guaranteed.

The World Bank is confident that, with appropriate input from debtors and creditors, all loans can eventually be matched and any discrepancies between end-2023 creditor claims and debt outstanding reported by debtors to the DRS eliminated—a milestone achievement. To a large extent, the gap has already been closed, as evidenced by a comparison of the results from the first round of the data-sharing exercises with those of the second round. Between the 2022 and 2024 reconciliation exercises, coverage of legacy (pre-2022) obligations improved materially. In total, 723 additional loans accounting for US$8.8 billion were matched (figure 3.4), largely because of improved communications with borrowers and creditor countries, and reporting of additional information, particularly with regard to borrowers' reporting of loan tranches.

Figure 3.4 Debt Stock of Newly Matched Loans between End-2021 and End-2023, G-7/Paris Club Data-Sharing Exercise

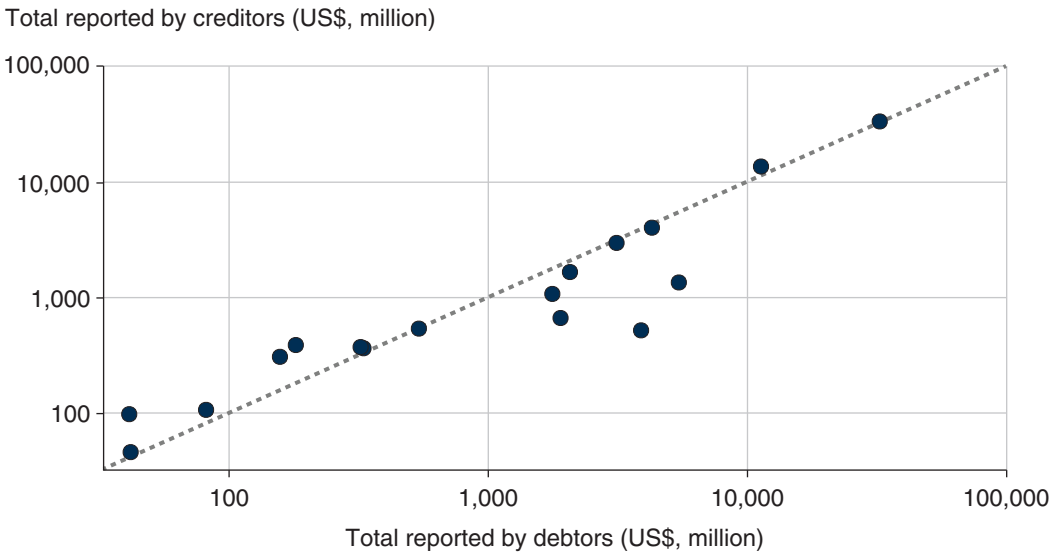
US$ (billion)



Sources: G7/Paris Club creditor files; World Bank Debtor Reporting System.
Note: Excludes loans contracted in 2022–23. G7 = Group of Seven.

The latest data reconciliation exercise also shows that the gap between borrower and creditor data has narrowed for individual creditors. For 10 of the 17 participating creditors, the end-2023 claims align closely with the comparable figure reported by borrowers to the DRS. For 7 creditors, a larger difference with DRS data is observed and stems in part from issues discussed earlier with regard to loan tranches and indemnification of claims on guaranteed export credits. Other factors include misclassification by borrowers of direct and guaranteed export credits, loans extended by creditors to private sector companies that are not reported to the DRS at the loan level, or methodological differences in borrower/creditor accounting of debt swaps. Figure 3.5 compares the total end-2023 claims reported by each of the 17 creditors as outstanding with the total debt owed to those same creditors reported to the DRS by the borrowers. Points on the dashed line indicate perfect alignment between debtor and creditor reporting.

Figure 3.5 Asymmetries between Creditor and Borrower Claims on Debt Outstanding Position at End-2023



Sources: G-7/Paris Club creditor files; World Bank Debtor Reporting System.
Note: Data for selected International Development Association debtors and G-7/Paris Club creditors. Both axes are on a logarithmic scale. G7 = Group of Seven.

The World Bank and creditors are committed to addressing these issues by refining the data-sharing template, institutionalizing an annual sharing exercise, and expanding participation beyond the G-7 and Paris Club creditors to the broader group of G-20 countries. These steps, combined with bilateral dialogue with both creditors and borrowers, are designed to make reconciliation faster, more replicable, and more complete in future rounds.

The World Bank is also testing innovative information technology solutions to digitalize and automatically reconcile debt records. In 2025, the World Bank launched a pilot project in Indonesia, funded by the Japanese Ministry of Finance, for the development of a digital platform facilitating information sharing between borrowers and official creditors. Both parties would connect to the platform to transfer or receive digital information related to loan contracts and related transactions. For each new transaction (that is, new loan signed, payment, disbursement, or modification), the originator would create a new data file electronically transmitted to the platform according to standardized templates. The counterpart would validate the information and automatically transfer the data as needed into its own debt recording system. The platform will restrict access to individual loan data to the respective borrower and creditor, and will generate aggregated statistics only. In Indonesia, the debt office can now automatically transfer World Bank loan data for validation and upload the data into the local debt system, and efforts are under way to cover other official creditors.

Measuring Progress: Data Revisions and Transparency Outcomes

Progress in improving debt data transparency is evidenced by the introduction of new data sets and revisions to the DRS database to improve accuracy and coverage as additional or more comprehensive data become available. In 2021, the Bank introduced a new four-dimensional database that incorporates the breakdown by individual creditor country and multilateral institution in published data. Previously, the database had three dimensions: debtor country, type of borrower and type of creditor series, and time. The new database facilitates creditor-by-creditor reconciliation of data reported to the DRS with information published by borrowers in debt bulletins, as illustrated in the case of Guinea-Bissau (box 3.1), or made available by creditors. It also allows the World Bank to make more comprehensive analyses of the systematic improvements in the accuracy and coverage of the database on a continuous basis as new data become available.

Box 3.1 Guinea-Bissau: A Commitment to Debt Transparency

[*Note:* This box was prepared before the government transition that occurred in November 2025.]

Guinea-Bissau is one of the world's poorest and most fragile countries, with a history of political and institutional fragility dating back to independence from Portugal in 1974. It is characterized by significant economic vulnerabilities, high risk of debt distress, and limited institutional capacity and human resources.

Despite those and other challenges, the government is committed to transparent disclosure of public debt data. A National Committee on Debt Policy was instituted in 2021, and decrees were issued to establish the responsibilities of the Debt Directorate. Monitoring and recording of public debt were strengthened with support from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In 2023, a Ministerial Order expanded the coverage of the debt bulletin and mandated quarterly publication.

Accurate and timely reporting to the World Bank Debtor Reporting System (DRS) is key to debt transparency. In this context, the Debt Directorate and the World Bank recently collaborated on a comprehensive review of the data reported to the DRS since 2007 to determine that they (a) captured borrowing from all external creditors, and (b) mirrored the data in the national record and published in debt bulletins. For a small country, Guinea-Bissau has a relatively complex external debt portfolio, with 19 creditors and 98 active loans as of end-2024.

The review improved the coverage and accuracy of DRS data. From 2020 to 2024, it added a total of US$160 million to external public debt stocks. Most of the increase (US$129 million, or 81 percent) resulted from the reconciliation of the DRS database

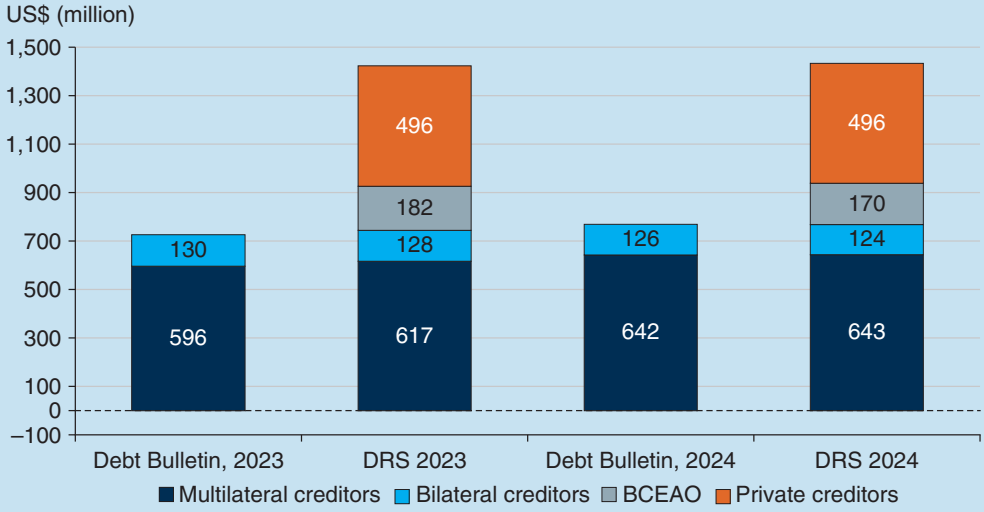
(Box continues on next page)

Box 3.1 Guinea-Bissau: A Commitment to Debt Transparency (*continued*)

with the records of the Debt Directorate and the availability of more detailed information. The inclusion of loans from the Economic Community of West African States and from Spain, previously omitted from the DRS reports, added US$31 million, or 19 percent. The overall difference in the 2024 debt stock was reduced to less than 1 percent, largely because of small exchange rate differences.

Classification, rather than a lack of transparency, accounts for the seemingly large difference between DRS data and information in the debt bulletin. Guinea-Bissau considers debt owed to the Central Bank of West African States and bonds raised in the regional market as domestic public debt, whereas the DRS classifies them as external debt in line with the international, residency-based definition (figure B3.1.1).[a] The difference in classification has no impact on total public debt, which remains unchanged.

Figure B3.1.1 External Debt Stock: Comparison of DRS and Debt Bulletins, 2023 and 2024



Sources: Ministério das Finanças 2024, 2025; World Bank International Debt Statistics database.
Note: BCEAO = Central Bank of West African States; DRS = World Bank Debtor Reporting System.

Going forward, continuous monitoring of external borrowing and accurate reporting to the DRS remain critical to the dissemination of transparent and accurate data that are essential for sound public debt management and maintaining the support and confidence of stakeholders.

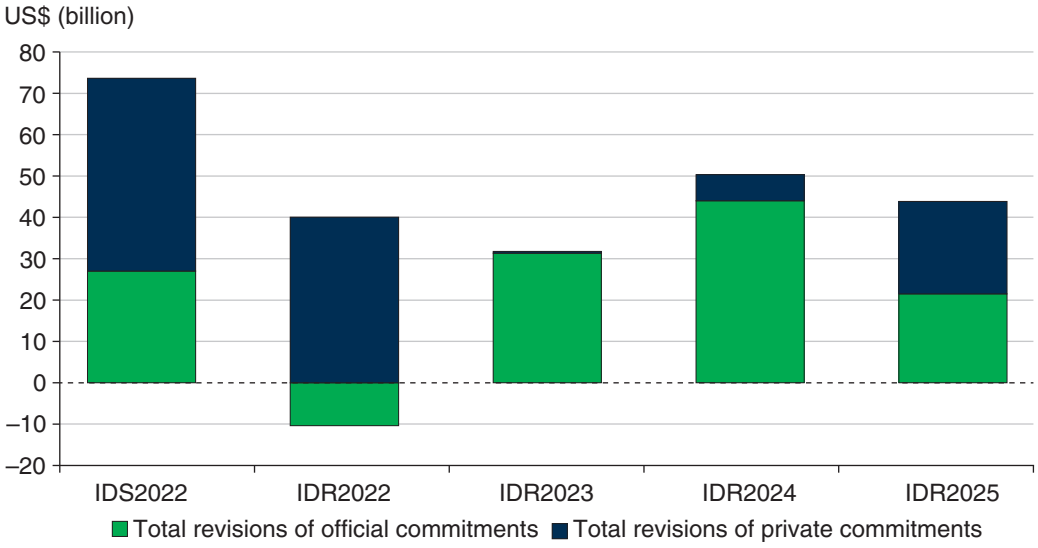
(Box continues on next page)

Box 3.1 Guinea-Bissau: A Commitment to Debt Transparency (*continued*)

a. Expansion and quarterly publication of the Debt Bulletin reflected an IDA Sustainable Development Finance Policy fiscal year 2023 policy performance action. The DRS definition of external debt accords with the international standards of the System of National Accounts and the Balance of Payments, which is based on residency. The Central Bank of West African States, the regional central bank for eight states, including Guinea-Bissau, is classified as a nonresident international institution.

An analysis of five vintages of International Debt Statistics, including the one accompanying this report, reveals for LMICs excluding China an upward revision of US$229.4 billion in previously unrecorded external public and publicly guaranteed commitments contracted over the past decade because of systematic improvements in accuracy and expansion in coverage of the database. This revision equates to, on average, a 5.6 percent increase in annual commitments to LMICs from 2014 to 2024, with the newly recorded commitments divided almost equally between official creditors (US$113.6 billion) and private creditors (US$115.8 billion) (figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6 Ex Post Revision of Commitments, Low- and Middle-Income Countries (Excluding China), 2014–24



Sources: World Bank International Debt Statistics database, 2022–25.
Note: The figure quantifies the revisions as a result of the analysis using International Debt Statistics data to review public and publicly guaranteed commitments reported in IDS2022 and IDR2022 through 2025. IDR = International Debt Report; IDS = International Debt Statistics.

Several factors account for these ex post revisions of the commitment figures. From the borrower perspective, first and foremost, there is often a lag of one to two years in reporting on loan commitments to the DRS because borrowers often do not record loan commitments in the loan accounting system until a disbursement occurs. Second, measures taken by LMICs to strengthen the capacity to monitor and record external borrowing or to upgrade debt management software will invariably improve the accuracy and coverage of the national database and lead to more timely and comprehensive reporting to the DRS. For example, Angola added US$29.3 billion in commitments from private creditors, and Tanzania added US$4.3 billion divided roughly equally between official and private creditors. Large-scale data revisions occurred in South Africa when it transitioned to loan-level reporting to the DRS, having previously reported in aggregate. Although this shift did not materially affect the overall level of outstanding debt, the more granular data provided information on US$19.2 billion in commitments from private creditors. Occasionally a country may pay off all loans to the World Bank and be removed from the DRS database, only to subsequently resume borrowing and reporting to the DRS. A case in point is Turkmenistan, which returned to the database in 2021 after a four-year hiatus, adding US$6.9 billion in commitments, most of which were from official creditors.

A major reason for the upward revision of commitments is the concerted effort by the World Bank Group's Debt Statistics Team to ensure that external public debt recorded in the DRS captures borrowing by central banks, including bilateral currency swaps and borrowing of SOEs, which often constitute an important component of external debt. Bilateral currency swaps with the People's Bank of China—and, for countries in South Asia, the Reserve Bank of India—have been a key factor in the upward revision of commitments to Argentina, Bhutan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Deposits from China and the Gulf States have also led to revised commitment data for several countries including Egypt and Pakistan.

The steady rise in the number of borrowers that include the external obligations of SOEs in the data reported to the DRS often accounts for the largest share of the ex post increase in commitments, because this borrowing is often significant. In 2022, Türkiye reported additional commitments of US$5.8 billion spread over several years to SOEs, primarily public banks. Similarly, in 2023, Viet Nam provided information on US$5 billion in commitments to SOEs from official and private creditors not previously reported to the DRS.

Improved Debt Management Capacity, Standards, and Methodology

Capacity building and standard setting have been essential enablers of transparency gains. Regular World Bank training workshops and technical assistance have strengthened the ability of national authorities to produce higher-quality debt data. At the same time, harmonization of definitions and the adoption of reconciliation templates have fostered greater consistency across countries and creditors.

In this context, the World Bank Group's Debt Statistics Team held two recent workshops—the first in Perugia, Italy, in June 2024 and the second in Chiba, Japan, in April 2025—that brought together a group of debt management professionals and central bankers for a technical deep dive and strategic dialogue on the evolving debt ecosystem. Participants explored the gaps and discrepancies that undermine debt sustainability and complicate restructuring efforts, and they examined the rationale to improve transparency and resilience in their own debt reporting processes. The workshops also looked at important debt-related issues such as how to improve debt sustainability, increase transparency, and facilitate swifter restructuring.

In addition, the World Bank continues to offer direct, hands-on assistance to DRS reporting countries in the form of technical assistance missions. These missions typically entail World Bank staff traveling to reporting countries to work side by side with government officials to improve their databases, reporting, and understanding of DRS methodology. Such assistance can help resolve issues and overcome challenges in obtaining the best possible data.

Debt transparency is also a key component of the broader debt-management technical assistance that the World Bank, together with the International Monetary Fund and international and regional implementing partners, provides through the Debt Management Facility Program. This program provides technical assistance to 89 developing countries as of fiscal year 2025 in areas such as Debt Management Performance Assessments, the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy, and the formulation of Debt Reform Plans. The third phase of the Debt Management Facility Program, launched in 2019, has also focused on debt transparency by offering technical assistance in reviewing the legal framework and institutional arrangements related to debt reporting, assessing quality of back-office functions, identifying gaps in publication of debt reports, and making recommendations aligned with sound practices.

Next Steps: Institutionalizing Debt Transparency Gains

Looking ahead, the priority is to ensure that recent transparency gains are consolidated and institutionalized. Achieving this goal will require several initiatives.

Data-sharing exercises. The World Bank plans to extend its annual data-sharing exercise to all G-20 countries, plus any other lending nations that want to participate. It will also work more closely with the G-7 and other lending countries to address discrepancies and request appropriate corrections to DRS data. It will follow up with debtors about anomalies or lags that the sharing exercise identifies in their reports to the DRS, and it will keep exploring innovative solutions to facilitate debt reconciliation.

The World Bank will also continue its efforts to expand the coverage of SOE debt and private sector debt to gain a more comprehensive picture of what borrower countries, including the private sector, owe and to whom they owe it.

Policy reforms. Through the SDFP, currently in its sixth year of implementation, the World Bank will continue to incentivize IDA-eligible countries to move toward transparent, sustainable financing. Under the SDFP's Program of Creditor Outreach, the World Bank will continue to leverage its role as a convener and enabler to promote stronger collective action, greater debt transparency, and closer coordination among borrowers and creditors to mitigate debt-related risks. Effective collective action by creditors—including multilateral development banks, other international financial institutions, bilateral lenders, and private sector creditors—can help mitigate debt-related risks pertaining to supply-side factors. As part of the Program of Creditor Outreach, IDA will broaden and strengthen its engagement with international financial institutions, including through the development and promotion of sustainable financing principles. IDA will also enhance transparency and communication on sustainable financing with a broad range of creditors, including through dialogue on the SDFP, and other information-sharing initiatives.

Technical assistance missions will also remain vital to sustaining momentum on debt transparency gains. Under the fourth phase of the Debt Management Facility Program, to be launched in 2025, technical assistance and training will continue to be provided on debt recording, investor relations, monitoring, and reporting to increase the number of countries that perform satisfactorily in this area of government debt management. Activities will also focus on enshrining debt transparency in legislation and improving policies and procedures, including through the rollout of the new, automated real-time debt reconciliation tool and other tools for managing loans and bonds.

Finally, leveraging modern debt management systems for integrated, real-time reporting and maintaining international and academic scrutiny of LMIC debt will help to ensure that transparency gains already made are locked into place and that further gains are enabled.

Notes

1. Top 10 borrowers in 2024 comprised China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Türkiye, Indonesia, Argentina, Colombia, Ukraine, and Thailand.
2. Because the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System does not collect data on domestic debt, domestic debt figures presented in this report are derived from country reports to the World Bank–IMF Quarterly Public Sector Debt database, publicly available country debt bulletins, and market sources.
3. For further information please visit World Bank, "Donor Financing Mechanisms for Ukraine," https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ukraine/brief/world-bank-group-donor-financing-mechanisms-for-supporting-ukraine.
4. Sri Lanka was not eligible for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative or the Common Framework because it was not classified as IDA-only when they were initiated.
5. The conversion of medium-term deposits to equity is reflected as forgiveness of external debt in International Debt Statistics. The conversion of short-term deposits is recorded as a reduction in the stock of short-term debt but is indistinguishable from other changes in the stock of short-term debt.
6. The Low-Income Country Debt Sustainability Framework covers 69 countries.
7. The pandemic amplified the reliance on domestic borrowing, particularly for Sub-Saharan Africa, frontier LIC DSF countries, and LIC DSF countries characterized by fragile and conflict-affected situations; LIC DSF governments borrowed more heavily in domestic markets to meet the sudden increase in financing needs.
8. Data on public domestic debt composition cover 60 out of the 69 countries under the LIC DSF. The analysis excludes 9 countries because of the lack of published data or of sufficiently detailed data: Afghanistan, Eritrea, Myanmar, Sudan, and the Republic of Yemen due to the lack of a recent LIC Debt Sustainability Analysis and Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu due to lack of sufficiently detailed data.
9. Domestic debt transparency in LICs has improved since 2020 according to the World Bank's annual assessment of the transparency of domestic debt issuance, with notable advances among active issuers. More countries have adopted market-based instruments, with the share of LICs relying on auctions for more than half of their domestic borrowing rising by 15 percent (to 30 countries by 2023). The number of countries publishing issuance calendars also increased by 20 percent, to 30 out of 69 LICs. These advances have improved predictability and communication with market participants. However, weak implementation and gaps in post-issuance transparency continue to constrain market development.
10. European Commission and Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness, "DRMKC–INFORM," https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index.
11. Using data from the World Bank's World Development Indicators, https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators.
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