

If you're having trouble reading this message, [click here](#)



Civil Society Engagement Newsletter

January 2023

NEWS



[Call for Proposals Open for the 2023 Spring Meetings CSPF](#)

The World Bank Group (WBG) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), in collaboration with the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) Working Group, have launched a Call for Proposals for the next CSPF. Taking place during the upcoming WBG-IMF Spring Meetings, the CSPF is the most extensive platform for civil society engagement for both organizations and offers civil society an exciting opportunity to discuss shared development priorities. Organizations are invited to submit their proposals via [this submission form](#) by **Tuesday, February 21 by 9:00 AM EST**. To learn more or watch past sessions, visit the [CSPF event page](#). Please write to civilsociety@worldbank.org with any questions.



[Evolving the World Bank Group's Mission, Operations, and Resources: A Roadmap](#)

The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors recently discussed an [Evolution Roadmap](#) to better address the scale of today's development challenges. In its preliminary discussion, the Board reaffirmed the continued commitment to ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity in a sustainable way. The Board also confirmed its commitment to serve all client countries including LICs, MICs, SIDs and FCV countries. Read more [here](#).



[World Bank Approves \\$610 Million Financing Package for Ukraine](#)

The World Bank Group approved a new financing package that includes projects to boost relief and recovery efforts in Ukraine amid the ongoing war. Additional financing will be supported by a guarantee from the United Kingdom mobilized under the [Public Expenditures for Administrative Capacity Endurance \(PEACE\)](#) Project. The Bank will also support Ukraine with a new project to restore and improve access to healthcare and address urgent needs for health services due to the war. Visit the WB's [website for Ukraine](#) and read the [press release about this newest package](#).



[GPSA in Review: Collaborative Social Accountability for Development](#)

The Annual Report of Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) showcases results across sectors such as health, education, social protection, water, agriculture, public procurement, financial management, and more. Established by the WBG Board in 2012, GPSA aims to expand opportunities for CSOs to work with governments in enhancing the delivery of public services using social accountability mechanisms including citizen feedback. GPSA provides support through capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation, as well as knowledge sharing to its 300+ global partners. Explore the GPSA's [website](#), [annual report](#), and [Twitter](#).



[Second Year of Sharply Slowing Growth: Global Economic Prospects](#)

The World Bank's latest *Global Economic Prospects* report finds that global growth is slowing sharply in the face of elevated inflation, higher interest rates, reduced investment, and disruptions caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Given fragile economic conditions, any new adverse development—such as higher-than-expected inflation, abrupt rises in interest rates to contain it, a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic, or escalating geopolitical tensions—could push the global economy into recession. Read the [press release](#), download [the report](#), watch a [video](#) or visit [the website](#).



[From Double Shock to Double Recovery: Health Financing in the Time of COVID-19](#)

A new update to last March's *Double Shock, Double Recovery* discussion paper takes into account the economic impact of the war in Ukraine and notes that, without immediate action, many low- and lower-middle-income countries will be left behind on the path to health and economic recovery. Read the *Old Scars, New Wounds* update [here](#).



[Responding to the Food and Climate Crisis in Somalia and beyond](#)

In a recent conversation with the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, and the World Bank, veteran BBC reporter Andrew Harding explored how the international community is responding to the food and climate crises in Somalia and beyond. What responses are working to relieve hunger today and build resilience to crises in the future? [Watch it here](#) or on [FB Live](#) (with Q&A).

VIRTUAL EVENTS & TRAININGS

[Environmental and Social Framework \(ESF\) Dialogue Series \(February 2, 2022 – June 30, 2023\)](#)

The **Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Dialogue Series** provides an opportunity to explore the most pertinent ESF-related issues and challenges, while strengthening collaboration and partnerships with diverse stakeholders from across the world. The series provides an opportunity for technical experts to share information and obtain feedback from stakeholders on the opportunities and challenges in their work. It also enables peers to share insights on solutions that could be adapted across countries. See [more](#).

[Global Program on Sustainability \(GPS\) Seminar Series \(June 21, 2022 – June 30, 2023\)](#)

The **Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) Seminar Series** shares the latest knowledge on how policy makers and the financial sector can integrate environmental sustainability considerations into decision making. Knowledge sharing and learning are central to GPS' goals, and these virtual sessions present an opportunity to highlight real-life case-studies, ongoing work and lessons learned from countries that are beginning to look beyond GDP and traditional financial metrics to account for environmental risks and opportunities. See [more](#).

To see more World Bank events, please click [here](#).

BLOGS, STORIES, PUBLICATIONS, AND MORE

[A transformed fertilizer market is needed in response to the food crisis in Africa](#)

On the heels of a summit of African leaders in Washington, World Bank Group President David Malpass emphasized the need for a transformed fertilizer market in response to the food crisis in Africa. Across 45 countries globally, 205 million people are in acute food insecurity, meaning they have so little access to food that their lives and livelihoods are in danger. One key obstacle to food production in many developing countries is access to fertilizers, which enrich the soil with the nutrients needed for healthy crops. [Read more](#).

[Corruption according to AI](#)

This blog author has asked OpenAI chatbot, a language model trained on vast amounts of data to mimic human chats, to answer some questions on corruption. Here is what AI responded, "corruption is harmful for humanity because it undermines the rule of law and erodes public trust in institutions. It also distorts the economic and political functioning of a society as resources are diverted away from the most vulnerable, creating a cycle of poverty and inequality." [Find out more](#).

[Locking eyes on recovery by elevating the UHC financing agenda](#)

[Save the Children's](#) Lead for Health Financing for Universal Health Coverage and Lead for Pharmaceutical Policy co-authored a [blog post](#) on the World Bank's blog platform that discusses the steps needed to protect health spending and enhance health financing for the most vulnerable families as macro-economic conditions deteriorate further in the coming months. The blog also has suggestions for partners and donors on where they can support. [Read more](#).

To read more blogs, [click here](#).

This newsletter is produced by the Civil Society Team of the World Bank in collaboration with other units. It highlights policies, programs, events, and initiatives of the World Bank Group which may involve or be of interest to CSOs. Please send your comments and feedback to: civilsociety@worldbank.org.

The World Bank Civil Society Team
For more information, visit our website: worldbank.org/civilsociety