



IDA21 Policy Priorities: IDA Must Go Beyond the Corporate Scorecard May 2024

The International Development Association (IDA) recently began its 21st replenishment (IDA21). World Bank management has shared that, for the first time, IDA21 policy commitments will align with the Corporate Scorecard as the Bank seeks harmonization across its portfolio. While the Bank's initiative to increase consistency across its policies and operations is a step in the right direction, we are concerned that this change will diminish IDA's additive value. IDA must not abandon priorities critical to fulfilling its mandate to "help countries invest in their futures, improve lives, and create safer, more prosperous communities."

IDA is essential to addressing our most critical development challenges and setting high standards across the field. The IDA21 policy package should show ambition and commitment to the highest environmental, social, accountability, and transparency standards, seeking to include marginalized groups in project benefits and enable project-affected communities to participate in the development process. An oversimplification of the IDA21 policy package by duplicating the Corporate Scorecard puts this impact at risk. Specifically, we call on IDA to go beyond the Corporate Scorecard and address the following priorities in the IDA21 policy package:

- 1. Prioritize accountability, transparency, inclusivity, and ambition in climate commitments:** We welcome the World Bank's focus on climate in the Corporate Scorecard. However, IDA should build upon the Scorecard and commit to improving its accountability, transparency, inclusivity, and ambition in all climate finance in the IDA21 policy package, particularly around climate risks, physical infrastructure, and sustainable energy. We encourage IDA to make the following commitments:
 - a. Stakeholder engagement is critical to IDA's ability to meet both its development and climate goals and must be considered across all its focus areas. New and expanded climate investments are more likely to be effective if developed in partnership with communities. The IDA policy package should fill this gap in the Corporate Scorecard and include an indicator around stakeholder engagement.
 - b. To increase transparency and accountability of its climate finance, IDA should detail how it will monitor, report, and verify projects' climate-related impacts through indicators for GHG emissions/reductions. IDA should also provide full transparency on baseline GHG analyses, areas of land and water with improved resilience, and carbon stocks, whether in soil, plants, or marine areas.
 - c. IDA21 policy commitments should build upon the Corporate Scorecard's Planet vertical indicators and expand references to supporting adaptation measures. Many IDA-recipient countries, and particularly the most marginalized groups in

these countries, are at risk of enduring the worst impacts of climate change, and adaptation measures are critical to mitigate this harm.

- d. Internal combustion engine vehicles are the largest source of urban air pollution in IDA countries and the largest growing source of carbon emissions. IDA should support transportation infrastructure and services that reduce both air pollution and carbon emissions, which means shifting investment towards low carbon public transport systems.

2. **Enhance natural capital in land use:** IDA21 is the first replenishment following the adoption of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#). We welcome the Corporate Scorecard's inclusion of indicator 3 of outcome area 5, covering enhanced conservation, sustainable use, and management of terrestrial and aquatic areas. However, the IDA21 policy package should go beyond the Scorecard and focus on areas of high carbon stock (HCS) and high conservation value (HCV) to help IDA countries better address the twin climate and biodiversity crises. IDA should commit to disaggregating results for HCS and HCV areas when reporting on areas with improved management. This data would add significance to the measurement of IDA countries supported in implementing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and would also be helpful when assessing other areas impacting land use, such as farms and rangelands.
3. **Seek stronger commitments on disability during IDA21:** While we are pleased that the new Corporate Scorecard disaggregates 23% of all indicators by disability-inclusion, we encourage IDA to show greater ambition in the IDA21 policy package. The IDA21 policy commitments should consider disability-inclusion more holistically, including in the People, Planet and Infrastructure focus areas. Adverse climate impacts are likely to fall heaviest on the poorest and most marginalized groups, particularly [persons with disabilities](#). Avoiding these impacts requires urgently implementing mitigation measures and adaptation strategies to avert a worst-case scenario. Yet, persons with disabilities continue to be one of the least likely groups to be considered and included in discussions about mitigation and adaptation. Since climate remains a key priority during the IDA21 replenishment, the Bank must address this gap. Additionally, IDA21 should build upon outcome 8 in the Corporate Scorecard on sustainable transport and support investments in fully accessible transport systems.
4. **Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEA/H), especially of children, should be prioritized:** The Corporate Scorecard doesn't include any outcomes or indicators around SEA/H. However, there is an inherent risk of SEA/H, especially child SEA/H, in all projects funded by IDA. SEA/H is particularly acute in fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) contexts, an IDA21 lens. As an industry leader, the Bank should use IDA21 as an opportunity to contribute to systemic reform and address the root causes of SEA/H and child SEA/H. The IDA21 policy package should include a specific policy commitment that addresses the need to prevent SEA/H, particularly child

SEA/H. This commitment should consider the unique SEA/H risks children face, especially marginalized children, such as those who have a disability and/or are LGBTQI+. Within this commitment, there should be an IDA21 indicator that measures the countries supported in strengthening their child SEA/H prevention measures. Preventing child SEA/H and protecting children provides significant development benefits and contributes to meeting the goals of outcome areas 2 and 3 in the Corporate Scorecard on supporting children with better education and healthier lives.

- 5. Go beyond the gender binary and address SO/GI/SC (sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics):** We are pleased that the Corporate Scorecard now disaggregates 68% of results indicators by sex. However, in the IDA21 policy commitments, we encourage IDA to expand its definition of gender beyond the binary, in line with the World Bank's [Gender Strategy 2024-2030](#), and include references to LGBTQI+ people. The IDA21 policy package should go beyond addressing the rights of women to also promote the inclusion of LGBTQI+ individuals throughout the lifecycle of IDA projects.

We appreciate the World Bank's renewed focus on impact and initiative to seek consistency in its projects and policies, but these efforts should not overshadow the role of IDA. It is not enough for the IDA21 policy package to match the Corporate Scorecard; it must also provide additive value that addresses the specific needs of the world's poorest countries and the most marginalized groups within those countries. Finally, due to the shift in structure, we call on IDA to improve its transparency around the process and release its draft policy package well before the June 18-21, 2024 IDA Deputies Meeting.