

The World Bank Group

This blog will provide you with information about the workings of the World Bank Group – what it does, how it works, what topics it addresses – and most importantly, how you can do business with it! If you are unfamiliar with the World Bank Group, this factsheet will provide you with the basic information. If you would like to find out more information about the World Bank Group we'd like to direct you to the manual 'Zakendoen met de Wereldbank Groep' (in Dutch).

The World Bank Group consists of five separate institutions who share the mission to eradicate poverty. To do so it uses tools such as loans, grants, equity investments and guarantees, to the sum of \$52.6 billion in 2012, to countries and the private sector. The five institutions of the World Bank are:

- **The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):** provides flexible loans with possibly long maturities to middle-income and credit-worthy poor countries. Also they provide financial advice to their client countries.
- **The International Development Association (IDA):** provides finance, through credits and grants, for the world's poorest countries. The IDA lends money on concessional terms and provides grants to countries at risk of debt distress.
- **The International Finance Corporation (IFC):** provides investment, advice and asset management for the private sector in developing countries.
- **The Multilateral Investment Agency (MIGA):** provides political and non-commercial risk insurance guarantees to private sector investors and lenders.
- **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID):** facilitates arbitration and conciliation of legal disputes between international investors.

N.B. The IBRD & IDA together are often referred to as the World Bank (not to be mistaken with the World Bank Group that comprises all five institutions).

