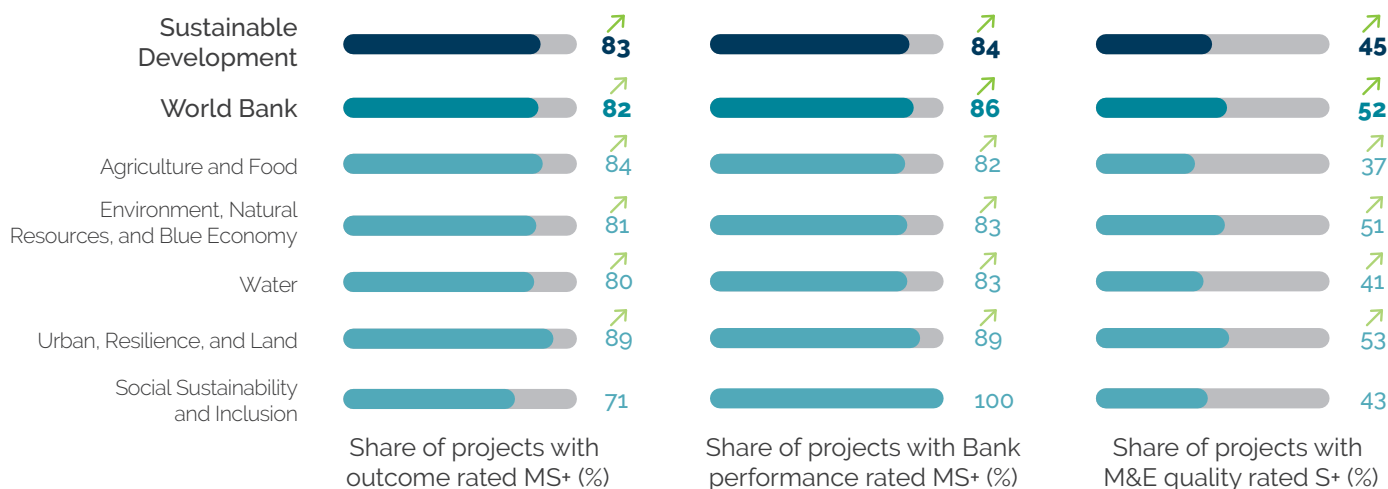


# Sustainable Development | Performance and Outcomes

Independent Evaluation Group, April 2022

This Practice Group update is based on [Results and Performance of the World Bank Group 2021](#) and IEG data.

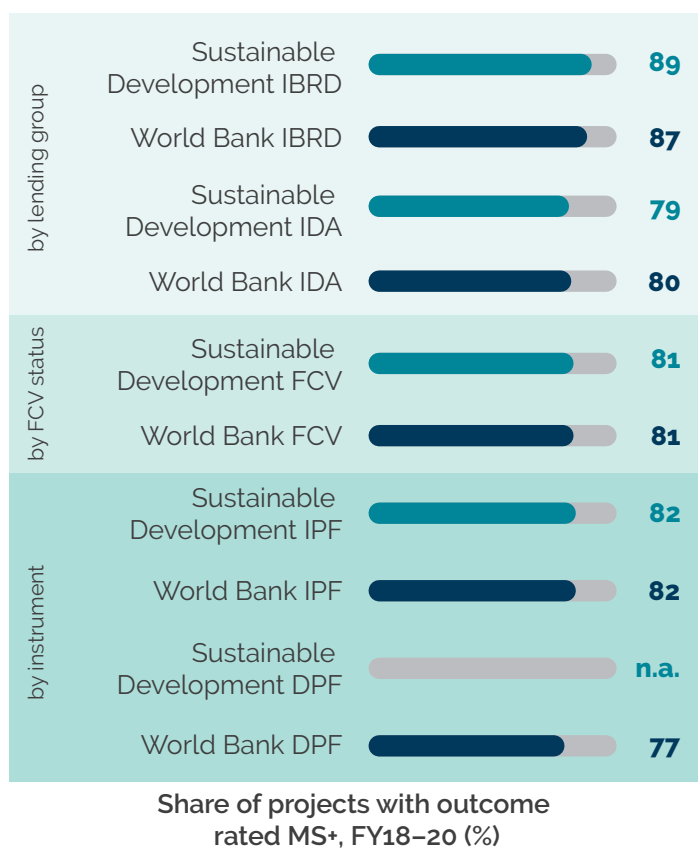
## World Bank Project Ratings FY18–20 (compared with FY15–17)



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: To facilitate comparability with general World Bank results, the ratings presented use the RAP 2021 dataset, updated on August 10, 2021. More recent statistics can be derived using the online tool available at <https://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/ieg-data-world-bank-project-ratings>. The figure shows the percentage of projects closed in FY18–20 with outcome or Bank performance rated moderately satisfactory or above or with M&E quality rated substantial or above. Arrows (↗ or ↘) show trend compared with the percentage of projects closed in FY15–17 (the previous three-year period). FY = fiscal year; M&E = monitoring and evaluation; MS+ = moderately satisfactory or above; S+ = substantial or above.<sup>1</sup>

## Sustainable Development in Depth



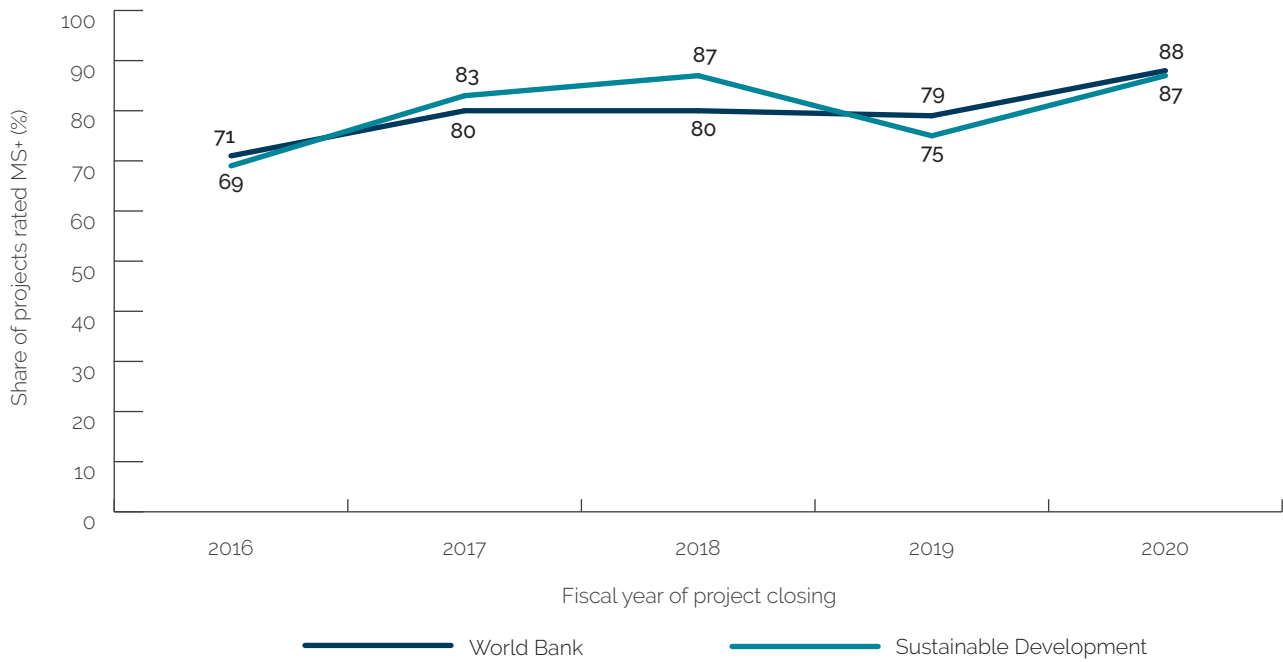
- ▶ Of all Practice Groups, Sustainable Development’s performance increased the most (along with Infrastructure). Among projects closed in fiscal years (FY)18–20, 83 percent were rated moderately satisfactory or above on outcome, an increase of 8 percentage points from FY15–17. This increase was accompanied by substantial improvements in monitoring and evaluation quality ratings and Bank performance ratings.
- ▶ The Water Global Practice project outcome ratings improved the most, increasing 14 percentage points between FY15–17 and FY18–20.
- ▶ Despite improvements, the percentage of Sustainable Development projects with a monitoring and evaluation quality rating of substantial or above is well below the corresponding World Bank-wide figure.

Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: DPF = development policy financing; FCV = fragility, conflict, and violence; FY = fiscal year; IBRD = International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; IDA = International Development Association; IPF = investment project financing; MS+ = moderately satisfactory or above; n.a. = not applicable.<sup>2</sup>

## Project Outcome Ratings over Time, Sustainable Development Practice Group

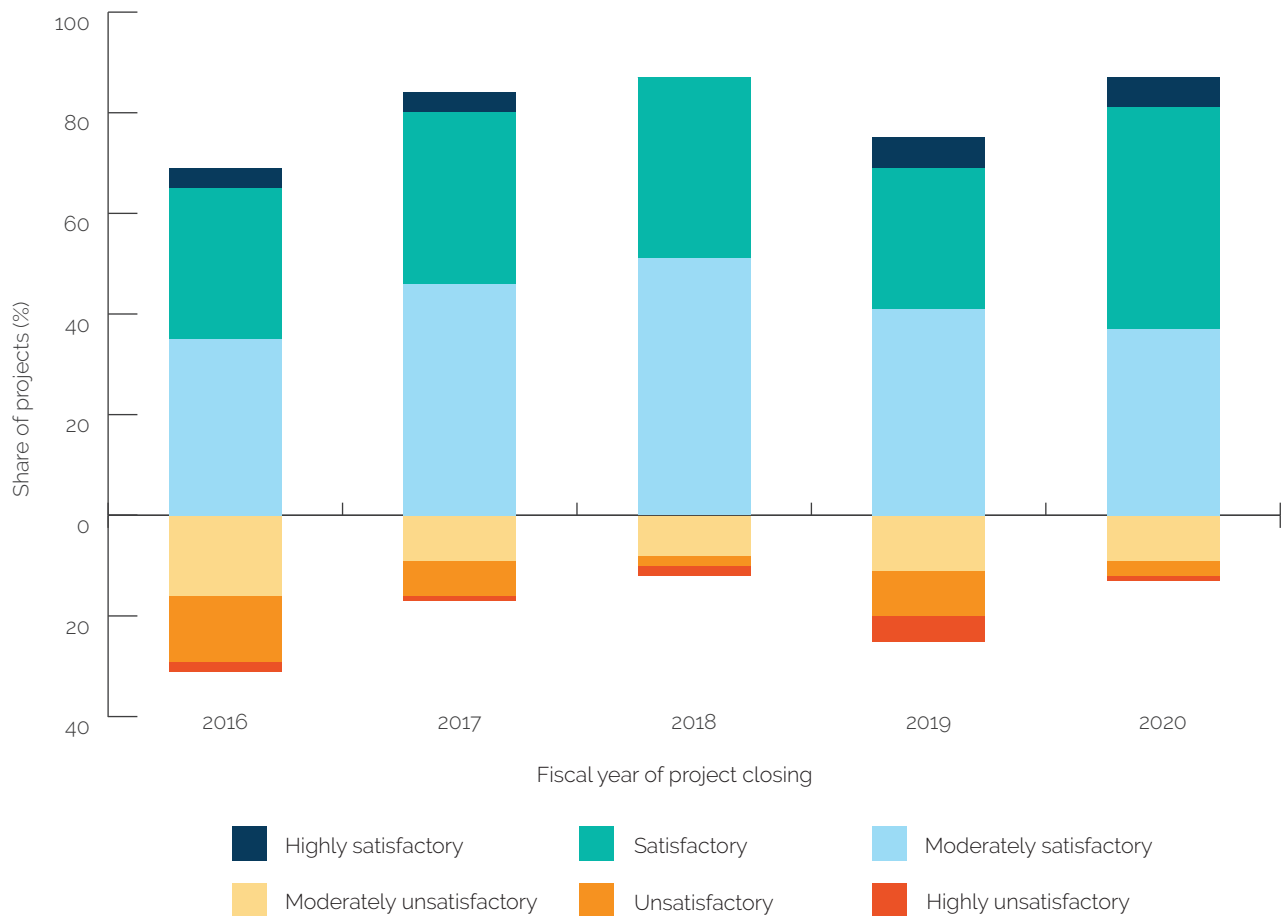
### Sustainable Development and World Bank Projects Rated Moderately Satisfactory or Above



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

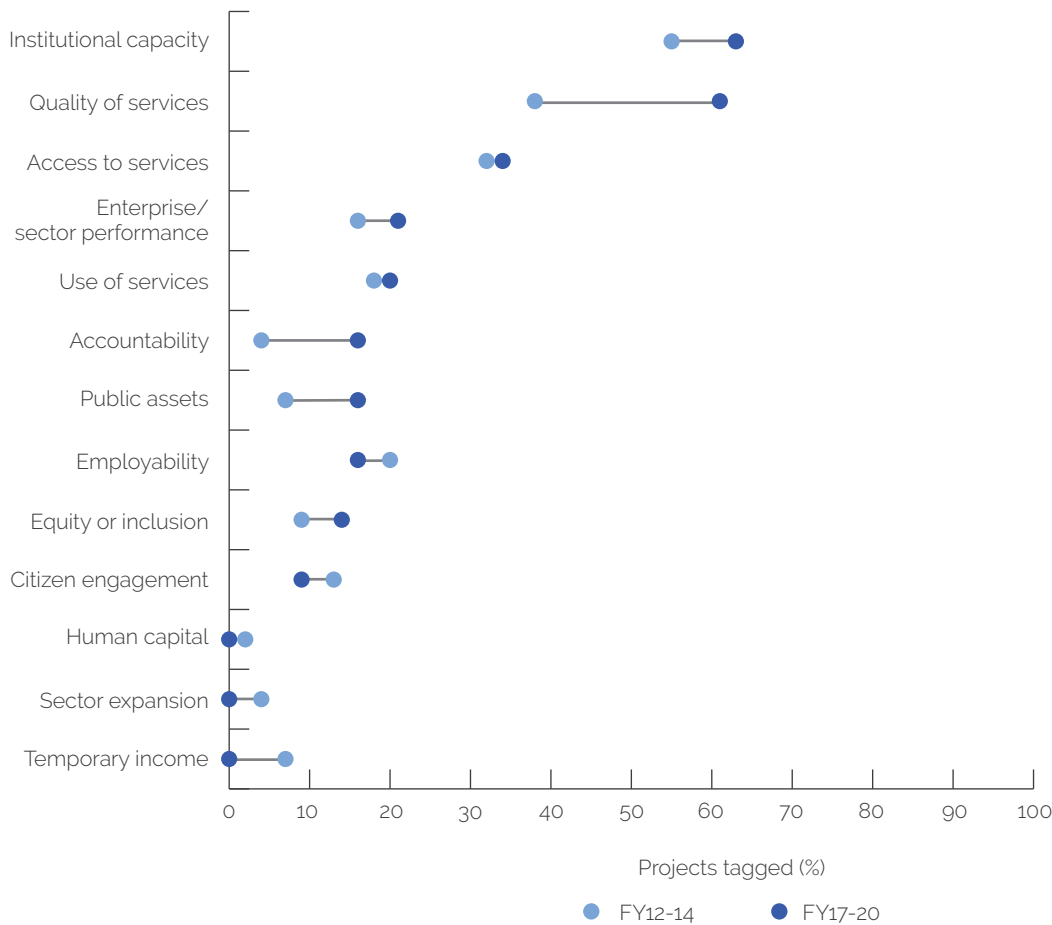
Note: MS+ = moderately satisfactory or above.

### Sustainable Development Projects, Percentage Distribution of Ratings



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

## Change in Frequency of Outcome Types among World Bank Sustainable Development Projects, FY12–14 to FY17–20



Source: Independent Evaluation Group.

Note: The figure shows the prevalence of each outcome type embodied in project development objectives of a sample of projects closed in FY12–14 (earlier group) and FY17–20 (later group). A project can have more than one outcome type, so the percentages of outcome types do not total 100 in either group. The figure shows only the 13 most relevant outcome types for Sustainable Development, ranked by the prevalence of the outcome type in the later period. The other three possible outcome types are “natural capital sustained,” “awareness, attitudes, or behaviors changed,” and “legal or regulatory context improved.” FY = fiscal year.

- ▶ For *Results and Performance of the World Bank Group 2021*, an analysis of outcome types provided initial insights on the types of change envisioned by project objectives. Sixteen outcome types were defined for the World Bank, and the analysis of outcome types was carried out for a representative sample of World Bank projects for two different time periods.
- ▶ In every Practice Group, “quality of services improved” and “capacity of institutions to perform institutional functions enhanced” are the most common outcome types. In Sustainable Development, the next-most prevalent outcome type is “access to services expanded.”
- ▶ Sustainable Development experienced a very substantial 23 percentage point increase in project development objectives with outcome type “quality of services improved.”

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>In the RAP 2021 data set, the FY18–20 cohort includes 96 percent of projects closed in those years for which the Independent Evaluation Group had received an Implementation Completion and Results Report or 91 percent also counting projects for which the report was expected but had not yet been completed. In the figure, the percentage shown for each group (or suggested by each up or down arrow) uses as its denominator the number of projects in that group that closed in FY18–20 (or FY15–17) and had outcome ratings in the data set. The groups and their respective denominators are as follows: World Bank–wide, 674 and 805; Sustainable Development, 264 and 303; Agriculture and Food, 68 and 73; Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy, 58 and 68; Water 69 and 68; Urban, Resilience, and Land, 62 and 94; Social Sustainability and Inclusion, 7 and 0.

<sup>2</sup>The Sustainable Development Practice Group had 7 DPF operations closed in FY18–20 and rated, which is too few for meaningful comparison reporting. All 7 were rated moderately satisfactory or above. In the figure, the percentage shown for each group uses as its denominator the number of projects with outcome ratings in that group. The groups and their respective denominators for the World Bank are as follows: IBRD 294, IDA 335, FCV 119, IPF 586, DPF 75; and for Sustainable Development, they are as follows: IBRD 130, IDA 106, FCV 37, IPF 253, DPF 7.