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First things first: meeting basic human needs in the developing countries.

Author: Streeten P; Burki SJ; Ul Haq M; Hicks N; Stewart F

Source: New York, Oxford Univ. Press, 1981. 206 p.

Abstract: This volume presents an approach that enables the poor to earn or obtain their "basic needs." Early in 1978 a World Bank work program was launched to study the operational implications of meeting basic needs within a short period, for example 1 generation, as a principal objective of national development efforts. An attempt is made in this book to distill some of the results of that work. The objective of meeting basic needs brings to a development strategy a heightened concern with the satisfaction of some elementary needs of the whole population, particularly in education and health. The explicit adoption of this objective helps gear production, investment, income, and employment policies to meet the needs of the poor in a cost effective manner and within a specific time frame. The emphasis on making the poor more productive has remained an important component of the basic needs approach. Its distinct contribution consists in deepening the income measure of poverty by adding physical estimates of the particular goods and services required to realize certain results, such as adequate standards of nutrition, health, shelter, water and sanitation, education, and other essentials. Thus, the basic needs approach represents a stage in the evolution of analysis and policy. The country and sector studies conducted by the World Bank made important contributions to the formulation of such a program. The country studies in particular provided special insights into the problems of poverty and the dimensions of deprivation in each country emerged from them. The complex question of whether a conflict exists between basic needs and growth has not been conclusively answered. What appeared clear is that better education, nutrition, and health are beneficial in reducing fertility, raising labor and productivity, enhancing people's adaptability and capacity for change, and creating a political environment for stable development. The more pressing basic needs can be met

successfully even at quite low levels of income per head, without sacrificing economic growth. The country studies showed that even in the short-term there is considerable scope for improving basic needs performance by the better management of resources. It is evident that the redirection of policies toward meeting basic needs often requires major changes in the power balance in a society. The most important aspect of the World Bank's basic needs work program was the sector studies, which helped identify several operational policy issues.

Language: [English](#)

Year: [1981](#)

Keywords: [Developing Countries](#) | [World Bank](#) | [Economic Development](#) | [Development Planning](#) | [Poverty](#) | [Social Change](#) | [Development Policy](#) | [Needs](#) | [Social Development](#) | [International Agencies](#) | [Organizations](#) | [Political Factors](#) | [Sociocultural Factors](#) | [Economic Factors](#) | [Socioeconomic Factors](#) | [Policy](#)

Document Number: 017010



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