

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460187903321
Titolo	The World Bank and public procurement : an independent evaluation // World Bank Independent Evaluation Group
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, District of Columbia : , : The World Bank, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	1-4648-0124-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (79 p.)
Disciplina	352.5/63
Soggetti	World Bank - Finance Economic assistance - Developing countries - Evaluation Public contracts - Evaluation Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	""Cover""; ""Contents""; ""Abbreviations""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Overview""; ""Motivation and Principal Focus""; ""Evaluation Scope and Questions""; ""Findings: Volume I""; ""Findings: Volume II""; ""Going Forward""; ""Recommendations""; ""Management Response""; ""Management Action Record""; ""Chairperson's Summary: Committee on Development Effectiveness""; ""Contents of the Complete Evaluation""; ""Figures""; ""1 Moderate Results in Most Areas""; ""2 Operations Supporting Procurement Capacity: DPLs, ILs, and IDF Grants (numbers)"" ""3 Procurement Systems of UCS Participants Relative to the Bank's IEG Scores"" ""4 Correlation of Prior Review Thresholds with CPIA Scores""; ""5 Increase in the Number of P-RAMS Completed""; ""6 Time to Resolve Complaints""; ""7 Time to Clear Contracts""; ""Tables""; ""1 Summary Analysis of Prior Reviews in FY13""
Sommario/riassunto	The unanticipated spike in international food prices in 2007-08 hit many developing countries hard. International prices for food and other agricultural products increased by more than 100 percent between early 2007 and mid-2008. Prices for food cereals more than doubled; and those for rice doubled in the space of just a few months. The food

price increases were particularly hard on the poor and near-poor in developing countries, many of whom spend a large share of their income on food and have limited means to cope with price shocks. An estimated 1.29 billion people in 2008 lived on less than

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