

Since 1996, the [Heavily Indebted Poor Countries \(HIPC\)](#) initiative has focused on providing external debt relief to poor countries with unsustainable debt burdens on a burden-sharing basis by all multilateral, bilateral and commercial creditors. The savings from debt relief are to be used to help countries reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs. In practice however [the delivery of debt relief](#) has not been as fast or as broad as initially intended. In 2005 the [Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative \(MDRI\)](#) was introduced to provide additional relief and thereby accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs.

To assist countries to maximise their debt relief, DFI has developed detailed [training materials and manuals](#), conducted [research and analysis](#) and provides [advisory services](#).

For IMF and World Bank background information on the HIPC and MDRI initiatives and access to country HIPC debt strategy analyses conducted by the IMF and World Bank, please see [www.imf.org/external](http://www.imf.org/external) or [web.worldbank.org/](http://web.worldbank.org/).