

HDR website: <http://hdr.undp.org>

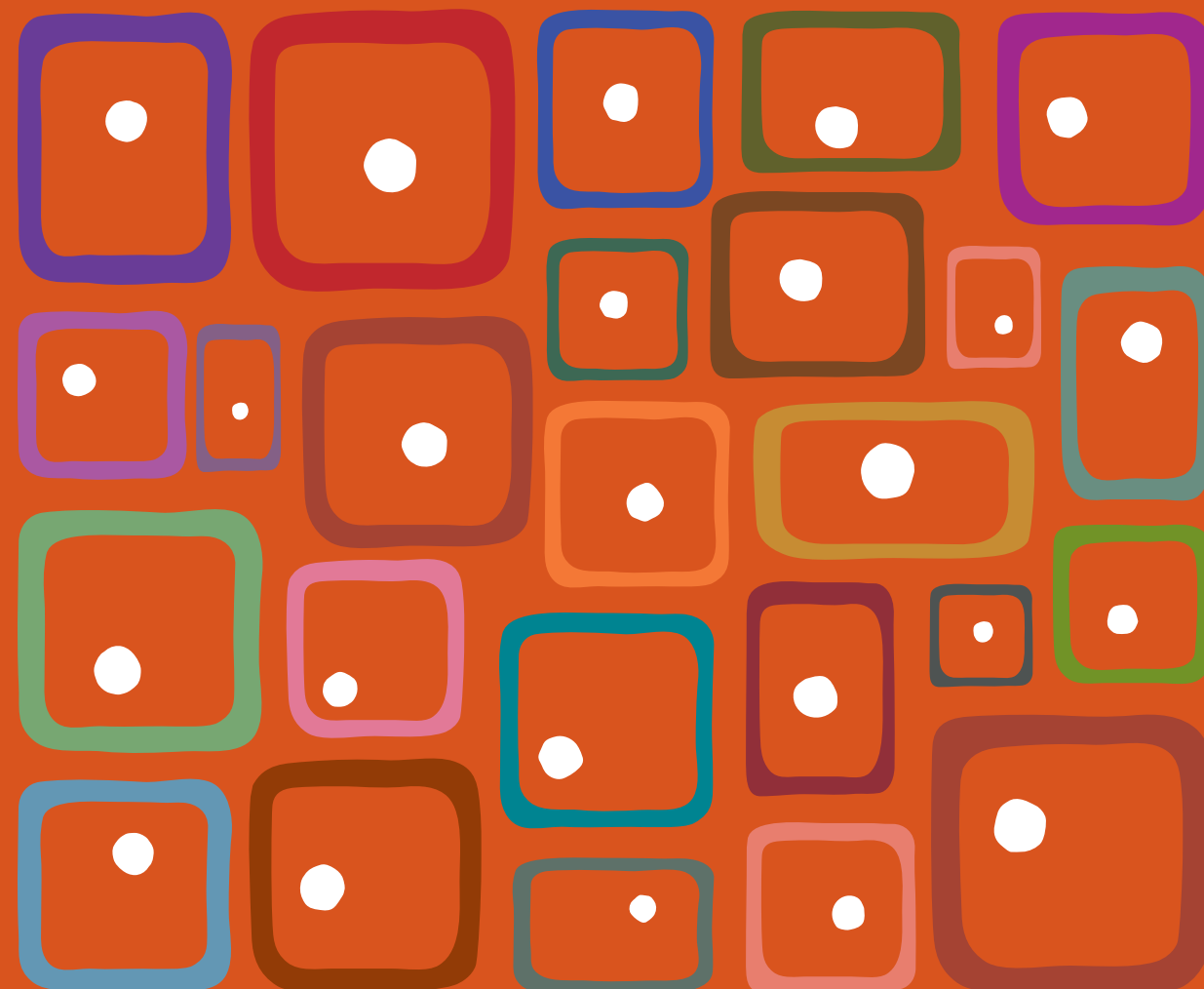
The human development concept is about putting people at the centre of development. It is about real improvements in people's lives. It goes beyond the material measure of their wellbeing or income. Under this paradigm economic growth is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for human development. There is a need to enlarge people's choices and enhance their capabilities so that they can develop their full potential and lead productive and satisfying lives in accord to their needs and interests.

Among the most basic capabilities for human development are to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable, to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living and to be able to participate in the life of the community. Without these, many choices are simply not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.

The urgency to measure and closely monitor human development in an integral manner brought about the creation of the composite Human Development Index (HDI) back in 1990.

The first section of *Human Development Indices: A statistical update 2008* reminds us of the human development paradigm, indicators and traditional indices. Section two explains the data sources, effects of data revisions on the latest HDI values and ranks including a discussion of the impact of the recently released purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates and their impact on the HDI. The third section looks at trends since 1980 and the fourth section addresses measures of inequality in income and gender. It also contains estimated HDIs for the richest and the poorest quintiles in a number of countries. The indicator tables at the end of the report include the latest values, ranks and components of the Human Development Index, Human Poverty Index, Gender-related Development Index and Gender Empowerment Measure for all countries where the relevant data are available.

Human Development Indices: A statistical update 2008 has been prepared in order to update the main composite indices with new data and we hope it will open the path for further discussions and reflections on the challenges faced by the human development measures. 2010 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the *Human Development Report* and we intend to take the discussions even further and make a major retrospective and prospective about the contributions of the human approach to development.



Key to countries

HDI rank

69	Albania	151	Djibouti	78	Lebanon	66	Saint Lucia
100	Algeria	77	Dominica	155	Lesotho	92	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
157	Angola	91	Dominican Republic	176	Liberia	96	Samoa
59	Antigua and Barbuda	72	Ecuador	52	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	128	Sao Tome and Principe
46	Argentina	116	Egypt	43	Lithuania	55	Saudi Arabia
83	Armenia	101	El Salvador	9	Luxembourg	153	Senegal
4	Australia	115	Equatorial Guinea	68	Macedonia (TFYR)	65	Serbia
14	Austria	164	Eritrea	143	Madagascar	54	Seychelles
97	Azerbaijan	42	Estonia	162	Malawi	179	Sierra Leone
49	Bahamas	169	Ethiopia	63	Malaysia	28	Singapore
32	Bahrain	103	Fiji	99	Maldives	41	Slovakia
147	Bangladesh	12	Finland	168	Mali	26	Slovenia
37	Barbados	11	France	36	Malta	134	Solomon Islands
67	Belarus	107	Gabon	140	Mauritania	125	South Africa
17	Belgium	160	Gambia	74	Mauritius	16	Spain
88	Belize	93	Georgia	51	Mexico	104	Sri Lanka
161	Benin	23	Germany	113	Moldova	146	Sudan
131	Bhutan	142	Ghana	112	Mongolia	89	Suriname
111	Bolivia	18	Greece	64	Montenegro	141	Swaziland
75	Bosnia and Herzegovina	86	Grenada	127	Morocco	7	Sweden
126	Botswana	121	Guatemala	175	Mozambique	10	Switzerland
70	Brazil	167	Guinea	135	Myanmar	105	Syrian Arab Republic
27	Brunei Darussalam	171	Guinea-Bissau	129	Namibia	124	Tajikistan
56	Bulgaria	110	Guyana	145	Nepal	152	Tanzania (United Republic of)
173	Burkina Faso	148	Haiti	6	Netherlands	81	Thailand
172	Burundi	117	Honduras	20	New Zealand	158	Timor-Leste
136	Cambodia	22	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	120	Nicaragua	159	Togo
150	Cameroon	38	Hungary	174	Niger	85	Tonga
3	Canada	1	Iceland	154	Nigeria	57	Trinidad and Tobago
118	Cape Verde	132	India	2	Norway	95	Tunisia
178	Central African Republic	109	Indonesia	106	Occupied Palestinian Territories	76	Turkey
170	Chad	84	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	53	Oman	108	Turkmenistan
40	Chile	5	Ireland	139	Pakistan	156	Uganda
94	China	24	Israel	58	Panama	82	Ukraine
80	Colombia	19	Italy	149	Papua New Guinea	31	United Arab Emirates
137	Comoros	87	Jamaica	98	Paraguay	21	United Kingdom
130	Congo	8	Japan	79	Peru	15	United States
177	Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	90	Jordan	102	Philippines	47	Uruguay
50	Costa Rica	71	Kazakhstan	39	Poland	119	Uzbekistan
166	Côte d'Ivoire	144	Kenya	33	Portugal	123	Vanuatu
45	Croatia	25	Korea (Republic of)	34	Qatar	61	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
48	Cuba	29	Kuwait	62	Romania	114	Viet Nam
30	Cyprus	122	Kyrgyzstan	73	Russian Federation	138	Yemen
35	Czech Republic	133	Lao People's Democratic Republic	165	Rwanda	163	Zambia
13	Denmark	44	Latvia	60	Saint Kitts and Nevis		

Copyright © 2008
by the United Nations Development Programme
1 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission.

For a list of an errors or omissions found subsequent to publication, please visit our website at <http://hdr.undp.org>

Editing, cover design, layout and proofreading: Green Ink (www.greenink.co.uk)