



## Fact Sheet

# Human Development Indices

## Human Development Report 2016

### *'Human Development for Everyone'*

- **Impressive progress has been made in the past 26 years; with significant human development gains in all regions and major progress among least developed countries.** Since 1990, the global [Human Development Index](#) (HDI) value has increased by more than 20 percent and that of the least developed countries by more than 45 percent.
- **Human Development as measured by the HDI continues to improve, but at a slower pace.** Every region's HDI value increased considerably between 1990 and 2015 but progress has slowed since 2010. HDI values for developing countries increased by over 6 percent both for 2005-2010, but fell to 4.4 percent for the period 2010-2015.
- **The top five places in the global HDI rankings are:** Norway (0.949), Australia (0.939), Switzerland (0.939), Germany (0.926) with Denmark and Singapore (0.925) sharing the 5th spot.
- **The bottom five countries in rank order of HDI are:** Burundi (0.404), Burkina Faso (0.402), Chad (0.396), Niger (0.353) and Central African Republic (0.352). There is more than twice as wide a range in HDI values in the bottom five countries compared to the top five.
- **Unequal distribution of human development gains in education, health and living standards within countries remains a challenge to achieving human development for all.** The [Inequality adjusted HDI](#) (IHDI) shows that globally, 22 percent of human development progress was lost in 2015, when taking into account inequalities in HDI indicators. On average low human development countries have the highest levels of loss in HDI due to inequality (32 percent), followed by medium (26 percent) and high human development countries (20 percent) and very high human development countries (11 percent).
- **Women are more likely than men to be in low human development. These gender gaps tend to be larger in countries with lower HDI scores.** Worldwide, the [Gender Development Index](#) (GDI) shows that the average HDI for men is 0.693 while for women it is 0.738 (6 percent lower than for men). The gender gap in HDI is, on average, 2 percent for the very high human development group of countries (where the HDI value for men is at 0.898 and for women at 0.881), but is 15 percent for the low human development group (where the HDI value for men is 0.536 and for women is 0.455).
- **Almost 1.5 billion people in developing countries live in multidimensional poverty as measured by the [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) (MPI),** 54 percent of them (800 million) in South Asia and 34 percent (more than 500 million) in Sub-Saharan Africa. On average, 29 percent of the people living in rural areas worldwide are multidimensionally poor as measured by the MPI, versus 11 percent in urban areas, though there are variations across regions.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

UNDP Headquarters, New York

Anna Ortubia / [anna.ortubia@undp.org](mailto:anna.ortubia@undp.org) / +1 212 906 5964

Ann-Marie Wilcock / [ann-marie.wilcock@undp.org](mailto:ann-marie.wilcock@undp.org) / +1 212 906 6586

UN DP Nordic Regional Office

Trygve Olfarnes / [trygve.olfarnes@undp.org](mailto:trygve.olfarnes@undp.org) / +47 94156028

Caroline Åberg / [caroline.aberg@undp.org](mailto:caroline.aberg@undp.org) / +46 70 547 93 42

*ABOUT THIS REPORT: Human development is about expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live. This idea focuses on people and their choices and opportunities. The Human Development Reports use this approach to analyse some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity to achieve sustainable progress. More information at <http://hdr.undp.org>*