

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS 2007



Bangladesh

The Human Development Index - going beyond income

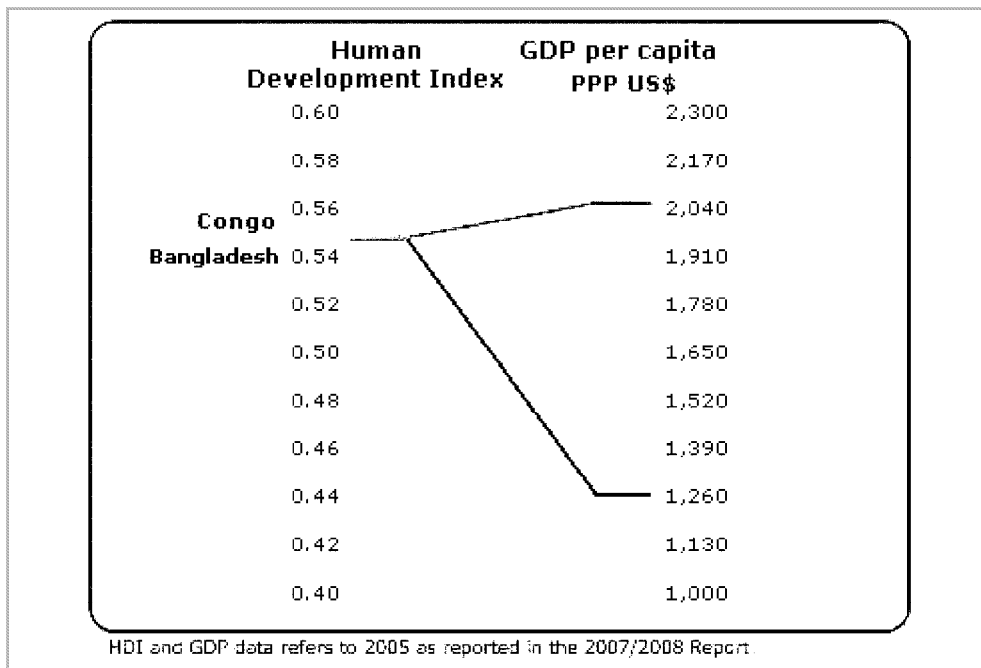
Each year since 1990 the Human Development Report has published the human development index (HDI) which looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of well-being. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income). The index is not in any sense a comprehensive measure of human development. It does not, for example, include important indicators such as gender or income inequality and more difficult to measure indicators like respect for human rights and political freedoms. What it does provide is a broadened prism for viewing human progress and the complex relationship between income and well-being.

The HDI for Bangladesh is 0.547, which gives the country a rank of 140th out of 177 countries with data (Table 1).

HDI value	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older)	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%)	GDP per capita (PPP US\$)
1. Iceland (0.988)	1. Japan (82.3)	1. Georgia (100.0)	1. Australia (113.0)	1. Luxembourg (60,228)
138. Lesotho (0.549)	126. Mauritania (63.2)	126. Nepal (48.6)	137. Equatorial Guinea (58.1)	136. Sudan (2,083)
139. Congo (0.548)	127. Lao People's Democratic Republic (63.2)	127. Central African Republic (48.6)	138. Nigeria (56.2)	137. Uzbekistan (2,063)
140. Bangladesh (0.547)	128. Bangladesh (63.1)	128. Bangladesh (47.5)	139. Bangladesh (56.0)	138. Bangladesh 2,053
141. Swaziland (0.547)	129. Solomon Islands (63.0)	129. Bhutan (47.0)	140. Yemen (55.2)	139. Lao People's Democratic Republic (2,039)
142. Nepal (0.534)	130. Turkmenistan (62.8)	130. Senegal (39.3)	141. Togo (55.0)	140. Zimbabwe (2,038)
177. Sierra Leone (0.336)	177. Zambia (40.5)	139. Burkina Faso (23.8)	172. Niger (22.7)	174. Malawi (667)

Figure 1:

The human development index gives a more complete picture than income

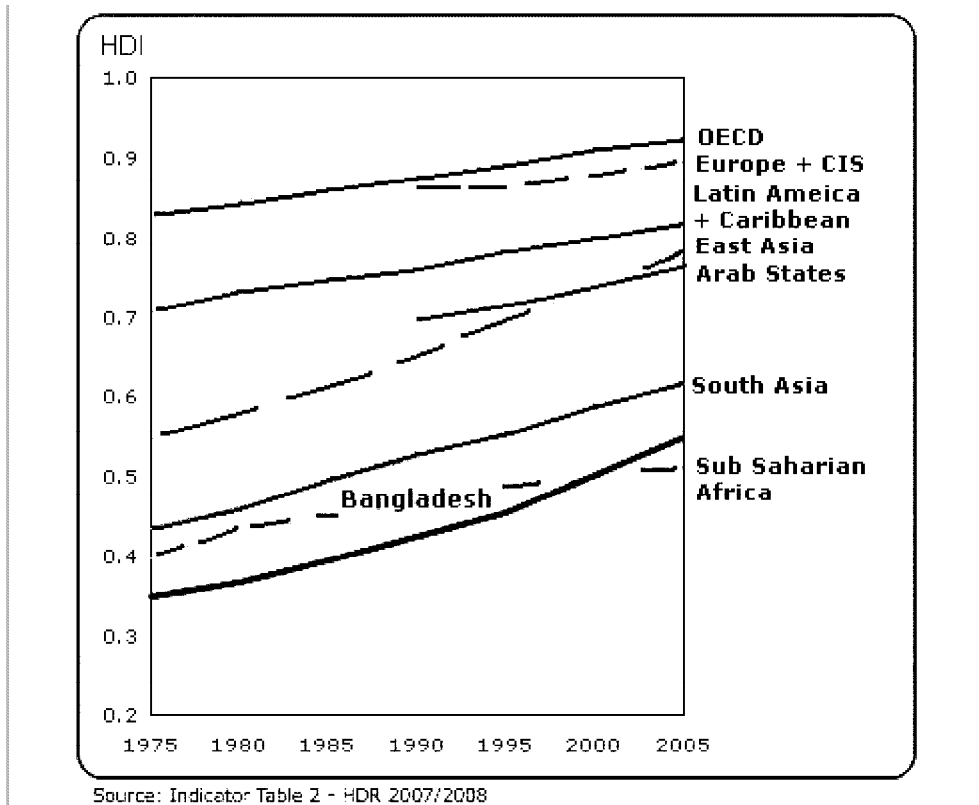


This year's HDI, which refers to 2005, highlights the very large gaps in well-being and life chances that continue to divide our increasingly interconnected world. By looking at some of the most fundamental aspects of people's lives and opportunities it provides a much more complete picture of a country's development than other indicators, such as GDP per capita. Figure 2 illustrates that countries on the same level of HDI as Bangladesh can have very different levels of income.

Of the components of the HDI, only income and gross enrolment are somewhat responsive to short term policy changes. For that reason, it is important to examine changes in the human development index over time.

The human development index trends tell an important story in that aspect. Since the mid-1970s almost all regions have been progressively increasing their HDI score (Figure 2). East Asia and South Asia have accelerated progress since 1990. Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), following a catastrophic decline in the first half of the 1990s, has also recovered to the level before the reversal. The major exception is sub-Saharan Africa. Since 1990 it has stagnated, partly because of economic reversal but principally because of the catastrophic effect of HIV/AIDS on life expectancy.

Figure 2: HDI Trends



Human poverty in Bangladesh: focusing on the most deprived in multiple dimensions of poverty

The HDI measures the average progress of a country in human development. The Human Poverty Index for developing countries (HPI-1), focuses on the proportion of people below a threshold level in the same dimensions of human development as the human development index - living a long and healthy life, having access to education, and a decent standard of living. By looking beyond income deprivation, the HPI-1 represents a multi-dimensional alternative to the \$1 a day (PPP US\$) poverty measure.

The HPI-1 value of 40.5 for Bangladesh, ranks 93rd among 108 developing countries for which the index has been calculated.

The HPI-1 measures severe deprivation in health by the proportion of people who are not expected to survive age 40. Education is measured by the adult illiteracy rate. And a decent standard of living is measured by the unweighted average of people without access to an improved water source and the proportion of children under age 5 who are underweight for their age. Table 2 shows the values for these variables for Bangladesh and compares them to other countries.

Human Poverty Index (HPI-1) 2004	Probability of not surviving past age 40 (%) 2004	Adult illiteracy rate (%ages 15 and older) 2004	People without access to an improved water source (%) 2004	Children underweight for age (% ages 0-5) 2004
1. Chad (58.9)	1. Zimbabwe (57.4)	1. Burkina Faso (76.4)	1. Ethiopia (78)	1. Nepal (48)
14. Timor-Leste (41.8)	50. Lao People's Democratic Republic (16.6)	10. Senegal (60.7)	42. Malawi (27)	2. Bangladesh (48)
15. Gambia (40.9)	51. Guyana (16.6)	11. Bhutan (53.0)	43. Rwanda (26)	3. India (47)
16. Bangladesh (40.5)	52. Bangladesh (16.4)	12. Bangladesh (52.5)	44. Bangladesh (26)	4. Yemen (46)
17. Côte d'Ivoire (40.3)	53. Turkmenistan (16.2)	13. Central African Republic (51.4)	45. Ghana (25)	5. Timor-Leste (46)
18. Zimbabwe (40.3)	54. Solomon Islands (16.1)	14. Nepal (51.4)	46. Central African Republic (25)	6. Burundi (45)
108. Barbados (3.0)	173. Iceland (1.4)	164. Estonia (0.2)	125. Hungary (1)	134. Chile (1)

Building the capabilities of women

The HDI measures average achievements in a country, but it does not incorporate the degree of gender imbalance in these achievements. The gender-related development index (GDI), introduced in Human Development Report 1995, measures achievements in the same dimensions using the same indicators as the HDI but captures inequalities in achievement between women and men. It is simply the HDI adjusted downward for gender inequality. The greater the gender disparity in basic human development, the lower is a country's GDI relative to its HDI.

Bangladesh's GDI value, 0.539 should be compared to its HDI value of 0.547. Its GDI value is 98.5% of its HDI value. Out of the 156 countries with both HDI and GDI values, 107 countries have a better ratio than Bangladesh's.

Table 3 shows how Bangladesh's ratio of GDI to HDI compares to other countries, and also shows its values for selected underlying values in the calculation of the GDI.

GDI as % of HDI	Life expectancy at birth (years) 2004	Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older) 2004	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio 2004
	Female as % male	Female as % male	Female as % male
1. Maldives (100.4%)	1. Russian Federation (123.1%)	1. Lesotho (122.5%)	1. United Arab Emirates (126.0%)
108. United Arab Emirates (98.5%)	172. Tonga (102.8%)	121. Nigeria (76.9%)	101. Ukraine (101.5%)
107. United States (98.5%)	173. Timor-Leste (102.7%)	122. Iraq (76.3%)	102. Paraguay (101.4%)
108. Bangladesh (98.5%)	174. Bangladesh (102.7)	123. Bangladesh (75.7%)	103. Bangladesh (101.2%)
109. Zimbabwe (98.5%)	175. Namibia (102.6%)	124. Cambodia (75.2%)	104. Andorra (101.2%)
110. Austria (98.5%)	176. Swaziland (102.6%)	125. Algeria (75.5%)	105. Saudi Arabia (101.1%)
156. Yemen (92.7%)	194. Niger (96.9%)	152. Afghanistan (29.2%)	194. Afghanistan (55.3%)

The gender empowerment measure (GEM) reveals whether women take an active part in economic and political life. It tracks the share of seats in parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of female professional and technical workers- and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence. Differing from the GDI, the GEM exposes inequality in opportunities in selected areas.

Bangladesh ranks 81st out of 93 countries in the GEM, with a value of 0.379.

Fighting climate change

As a result of past emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs), the world is now on course for future climate change. This year's Human Development Report identifies 2 °C as the threshold above which irreversible and dangerous climate change will become unavoidable. It also explains why we have less than a decade to change course and start living within a sustainable global carbon budget identified at 14.5 gigatonnes of CO₂ (Gt CO₂) per annum for the remainder of the 21st Century. Currently, emissions are running at twice this level. If these trends continue, the carbon budget will be set for expiry during the 2030's, setting in motion processes that can lead to temperature increases of 5 °C or above by the end of this century---roughly similar to temperature changes since the last ice age 10,000 years ago.

With 2.4% of the world's population, Bangladesh accounts for 0.1% of global emissions - an average of 0.3 tonnes of CO₂ per person. These emission levels are below those of South Asia (table 4).

High-income OECD countries meanwhile lead the league of "CO₂ transgressors". With just 15% of the world's population, they account for almost half of all emissions. If the entire world emitted like High-income OECD countries -an average of 13.2 tonnes of CO₂ per person, we would be emitting 6 times our sustainable carbon budget.

Bangladesh has signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol. As a non-Annex I Party to the Protocol, Bangladesh is not bound by specific targets for greenhouse gas emissions.

CO ₂ emitters	Total emissions (MtCO ₂)		CO ₂ emissions annual change (%)	CO ₂ emissions share of world total (%)		Population share (%)	CO ₂ emissions per capita (tCO ₂)	
	1990	2004	1990-2004	1990	2004	2004	1990	2004
United States	4,818.3	6,045.8	1.8	21.2	20.9	4.6	19.3	20.6
China	2,398.9	5,007.1	7.8	10.6	17.3	20.2	2.1	3.8
Russian Federation	1,984.1	1,524.1	-1.9	8.8	5.3	2.2	13.4	10.6
India	881.7	1,342.1	6.9	3.0	4.6	17.4	0.8	1.2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	218.3	433.3	7.0	1.0	1.5	1.1	4.0	6.4
Pakistan	68.0	125.6	6.0	0.3	0.4	2.4	0.6	0.8
Bangladesh	15.4	37.1	10.1	0.1	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.3
Nepal	0.6	3.0	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1
Maldives	0.2	0.7	26.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.5
Bhutan	0.1	0.4	15.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Global aggregates								
High-income OECD	10,055.4	12,137.5	1.5	44.3	41.9	14.3	12.0	13.2
Least developed countries	74.1	146.3	7.0	0.3	0.5	11.8	0.2	0.2
South Asia	990.7	1,954.6	7.0	4.4	6.7	24.4	0.8	1.3
Medium human development	5,944.4	10,215.2	5.1	28.2	35.2	65.1	1.8	2.5
World	22,702.5	28,982.7	2.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.3	4.5

Bangladesh was mentioned in the Report in pages 3, 14, 26, 29, 30, 41, 43, 44, 45, 59, 64, 73, 76, 77, 87, 88, 94, 100, 102, 106, 171, 175, 176, 177, 189, 190, and 197.