

Chapter 1

Human development—
achievements,
challenges and hopes

Infographic 1.1 The world we want



1.

Human development—achievements, challenges and hopes



Human development is all about people—expanding their freedoms, enlarging their choices, enhancing their capabilities and improving their opportunities. It is a process as well as an outcome. Economic growth and income are means to human development but not ends in themselves—because it is the richness of people’s lives, not the richness of economies, that ultimately is valuable to people. With such a simple but powerful notion, the first Human Development Report, appearing in 1990, put people at the centre of the development discourse, changing the lens for assessing development policies and outcomes (box 1.1).¹

Over the ensuing 10 years the Human Development Reports extended the frontiers of thought leadership, public policy advocacy and influence on development agendas. The 1994 Human Development Report introduced the notion of human security, going beyond the traditional concept of national and territorial security.² The 1995 Human Development Report—which strongly argued that development, if not engendered, is endangered—contributed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women.³ The 1997 Human Development Report introduced a multi-dimensional concept of poverty, known as human poverty, and an associated composite measure—the Human Poverty Index, an analytical breakthrough to elevate the discussion of human deprivations beyond income poverty.⁴

In addition to contributing to development thinking, these reports, with their policy recommendations and innovative data presentations, had policy impacts. The proposal to create Honesty International in the 1992 Human Development Report led to the establishment of Transparency International.⁵ And the disaggregation of Egypt’s Human Development Index (HDI) value in the 1994 Human Development Report led to an increased allocation of public resources to Upper Egypt, a less well developed area of the country.⁶

At the turn of the century 189 heads of state and government endorsed the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals to overcome basic human deprivations by 2015, all solidly anchored in the human development approach.

The Human Development Reports have extended the frontiers of thought leadership, public policy advocacy and influence on development agendas

BOX 1.1

Human development—a people-centred approach

Human development is about acquiring more capabilities and enjoying more opportunities to use those capabilities. With more capabilities and opportunities, people have more choices, and expanding choices is at the core of the human development approach. But human development is also a process. Anchored in human rights, it is linked to human security. And its ultimate objective is to enlarge human freedoms.

Human development is development of the people through the building of human resources, for the people through the translation of development benefits in their lives and by the people through active participation in the

processes that influence and shape their lives. Income is a means to human development but not an end in itself.

The human development approach in the 1990 Human Development Report also introduced a composite index, the Human Development Index (HDI), for assessing achievements in the basic dimensions of human development. Those dimensions of human development are to lead a long and healthy life, measured by life expectancy at birth; to acquire knowledge, measured by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling; and to achieve a decent standard of living, measured by gross national income per capita.

Source: Human Development Report Office.

Every developing region's HDI value increased considerably between 1990 and 2015, although progress has been slowing since 2010

During the last decade Human Development Reports covered such themes as deepening democracy (2002), cultural diversity (2004), climate change (2008), sustainability and equity (2011) and work for human development (2015).⁷

The global reports have been complemented over the years by more than three dozen regional and subregional Human Development Reports and more than 700 national Human Development Reports.⁸ Subnational reports have also been produced, including 19 state-level reports in India and a municipal HDI in Brazil.⁹

Over the last quarter century all these reports have added momentum to human progress, and thus some of what seemed to be a daunting challenge in 1990 was largely achieved by 2015. Extreme poverty is estimated to have been below 11 percent globally in 2013, a drop of more than two-thirds since 1990.¹⁰ So even though the global population increased by 2 billion—from 5.3 billion in 1990 to 7.3 billion in 2015—the number of people in extreme poverty fell by more than a billion.

Yet not all the news is good news. Substantial human deprivations persist despite the progress. One person in nine in the world is hungry, and one person in three is malnourished.¹¹ Eleven children under age 5 die every minute, and 35 mothers die during childbirth every hour.¹² About 15 million girls a year marry before age 18, one every two seconds.¹³ Worldwide 18,000 people a day die because of air pollution, and HIV infects 2 million people a year.¹⁴ Every minute an average of 24 people are displaced from their home.¹⁵

And new development challenges have emerged. Conflicts, disasters and natural resources can no longer be considered national concerns; they have become global concerns. More than 21.3 million people—roughly the population of Australia—are refugees.¹⁶ More than 100 million people could be affected by the combined impact of El Niño and La Niña, a double shock.¹⁷ Insecurity because of violent extremism has spread throughout the globe. The cost of violence globally is about \$1,900 per person.¹⁸ Water scarcity and climate change have added to international tensions. Epidemics such as Ebola and Zika pose serious

threats to people, and about 20,000 children have become Ebola orphans.¹⁹

Human ingenuity has opened promising new arenas, but human suffering also abounds. Violence, not dialogue, has become a common human language. Isolationism, not diversity, is gaining currency. Despite the challenges, what humanity has achieved over the past 25 years and our desire to aspire to even more give us hope on many fronts. Challenges also offer rays of hope, and hopes face daunting challenges before they can be realized. This link needs to be kept in mind as we pursue our goal to overcome the challenges and realize the hopes.

The achievements we have made

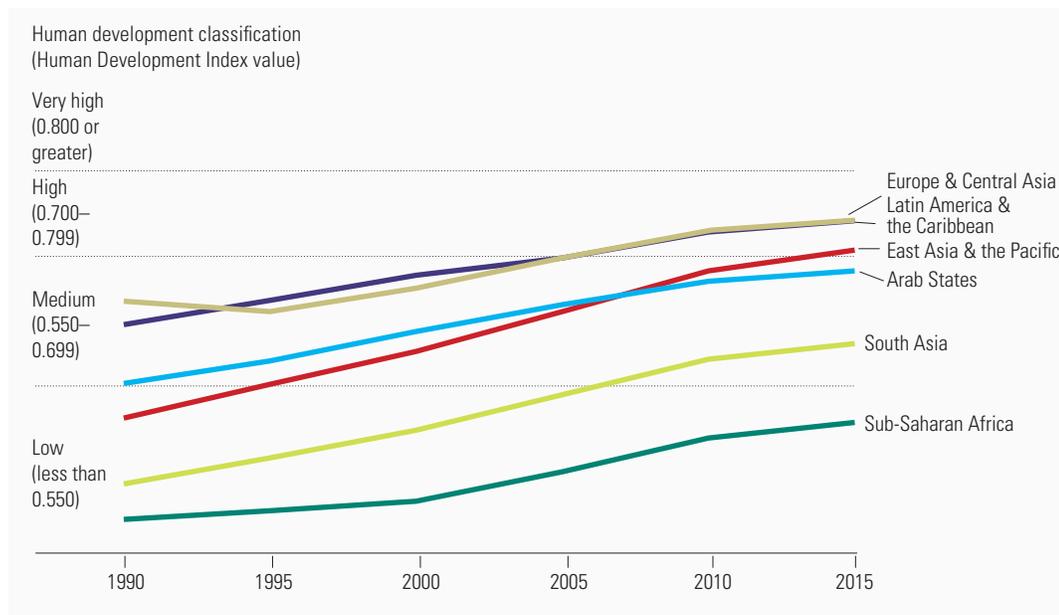
The levels of human development have improved all over the world. Every developing region's HDI value increased considerably between 1990 and 2015, although progress has been slowing since 2010 (figure 1.1). This reflects important advances not only in income, but also in health and education. Between 1990 and 2015 the aggregate HDI value of the least developed countries increased 46 percent, and the aggregate HDI value for low human development countries increased 40 percent.²⁰

Reduced poverty and hunger

The global extreme poverty rate (\$1.90 a day) was estimated at less than 11 percent in 2013, a drop of more than two-thirds from the 35 percent in 1990.²¹ The decrease has been particularly remarkable in East Asia and the Pacific, where the proportion of people living on less than \$1.90 a day fell from 60.2 percent in 1990 to 3.5 percent in 2013, and in South Asia, where the proportion fell from 44.6 percent to 15 percent.²² China's extreme poverty rate plummeted from 66.5 percent in 1990 to 1.9 percent in 2013. The working poor, who work and live on less than \$1.90 a day, accounted for 10 percent of workers worldwide in 2015, nearly two-thirds less than in 2000.²³ The global population suffering from hunger declined from 15 percent in 2000–2002 to 11 percent in 2014–2016.²⁴

FIGURE 1.1

Regional trends in Human Development Index values



Source: Human Development Report Office.

Decreased mortality

The global under-five mortality rate was more than halved between 1990 and 2015.²⁵ The steepest decline was in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the challenge was the greatest. While children in the poorest households are far less likely to survive to their fifth birthdays, the mortality rate is declining faster for children in poor households than for other children. Maternal mortality rates have also declined considerably since 1990: 45 percent globally and 64 percent in South Asia, as of 2013.²⁶ Access to professional health care has improved: in 2014 more than 71 percent of births worldwide were attended by skilled health personnel, up from 59 percent in 1990. In North Africa the proportion of pregnant women who receive at least four antenatal medical visits rose from 50 percent in 1990 to 89 percent in 2014, the largest improvement worldwide.²⁷ Globally, nearly two-thirds of women ages 15–49 who are married or in union use contraception, up from 55 percent in 1990.

Global health is also improving. In developing regions the proportion of undernourished people has been nearly halved since 1990.²⁸ In 2013 measles-containing vaccines reached

84 percent of children worldwide. Global coverage of two doses of the measles vaccine increased from 15 percent in 2000 to 53 percent in 2013, resulting in a 67 percent decline in the number of annual reported measles cases. An estimated 15.6 million lives were saved through measles vaccination between 2000 and 2013.²⁹ These positive developments have led to a dramatic decline in preventable child deaths.

Overall mortality rates are falling in part because of actions to tackle malaria, tuberculosis, measles, and HIV and AIDS. Between 2001 and 2015 more than 6.8 million malaria deaths, many of them in children, were prevented.³⁰ The number of new HIV infections also fell, from an estimated 3.5 million in 2000 to 2.1 million in 2013. From 1995 to 2013 increasing use of antiretroviral therapy averted 7.6 million deaths from AIDS.³¹ Tuberculosis mortality rates also fell in response to efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat the disease, with 37 million lives saved between 2000 and 2013.³²

Improved access to basic social services

Access to basic social services has been greatly expanded worldwide. Between 1990 and 2015,

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2.1 billion people gained access to improved sanitation, halving the number of people resorting to open defecation, a major source of transmittable diseases such as cholera.³³ More than 2.6 billion people gained access to an improved source of water, and the Millennium Development Goal target of halving the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water was reached five years ahead of schedule.³⁴ The improvement has been impressive in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the proportion of the population with access to an improved drinking water source rose from 48 percent in 1990 to 68 percent in 2015, and in East Asia, where the proportion rose from 68 percent in 1990 to 96 percent in 2015. And despite rapid urbanization across the globe, the proportion of the urban population living in slums fell almost 10 percentage points between 2000 and 2014 in developing regions.³⁵

In developing regions 91 percent of primary school-age children were enrolled in 2015, up from 83 percent in 2000, and the number of out-of-school children worldwide fell by almost half over the same period.³⁶ The greatest progress has been in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the net primary school enrolment rate rose from 52 percent in 1990 to 80 percent in 2015. As a result, a larger proportion of young people can now read and write: The global literacy rate among people ages 15–24 was 91 percent in 2015, up from 83 percent in 1995. The gap in literacy between young men and young women has also narrowed, to an estimated 3 percentage points in 2015. North Africa and South Asia showed the greatest improvement in youth literacy, pushed by a strong increase in literacy among young women.

Increased people's participation

People's participation in public and political life, another essential aspect of human development, has also improved over the past 25 years. The average share of parliamentary seats held by women worldwide rose from 11 percent in 1995 to 22 percent in 2015, and two-thirds of developing countries have achieved gender parity in primary education, allowing girls and women to better voice their concerns and interests.³⁷ Civil society organizations have expanded considerably, helping individuals exercise agency, express

their opinion and defend their interests on the national and international scenes.

Improved environmental sustainability

Environmental protection, which has become a key global issue, has shown encouraging successes as well. The degradation of the ozone layer, a major concern in the 1990s, has been halted, and by 2050 the ozone layer will have fully recovered from the damages caused by ozone-depleting substances.³⁸ The share of marine biodiversity areas that are protected increased from 15 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2016.³⁹ The global net loss in forest area declined from 7.3 million hectares a year in the 1990s to 3.3 million in 2010–2015, and the share of terrestrial areas that are protected increased from 16.5 percent in 2000 to 19.3 percent in 2016. Communication and information on the need to protect nature and the impact of climate change have reached more people than ever before, raising awareness in every corner of the world.

Advances in technology

New technologies are one of the most apparent changes in our current lives. They have lifted economies up, facilitated transportation and communication, led to major advances in health and education, expanded information and participation and created new security tools. Green technologies may be the key to a more sustainable future, where resources are available to all without harming the environment. Information and communication technology has spread exponentially. In 2016, 94.1 percent of the population in developing countries own a mobile phone, and 40.1 percent have access to the Internet, up from 7.8 percent in 2005.⁴⁰ In developed countries access to the Internet and to smartphones is nearly universal.

The impact of technology on the economy is undeniable. Global high-technology exports have more than doubled in the last 15 years, from \$987 billion in 1999 to \$2,147 billion in 2014.⁴¹ Cloud technology, three-dimensional printing, advanced robotics, energy storage and digital assistants hold great potential for creating new jobs and new areas of work. People with the skills and resources to use

technology and create value can thrive in today's digital world, as discussed in the 2015 Human Development Report.

New technologies have also changed the way governments interact with their citizens, increasing the reach and efficiency of public service delivery.⁴² Several countries use mobile phones to extend basic social services, including health care and education, to hard-to-reach populations.⁴³ The Internet allows much more information to be shared than any other means of communication has. The amount of digital data has doubled every three years since 2000, and today less than 2 percent of stored information is offline.⁴⁴

Though there is far to go before all people can live their lives to their full potential, cooperation and commitments to eliminating deprivations and promoting sustainable human development have improved the lives of billions of people over the past 25 years. The Republic of Korea has sustained progress in human development for even longer (box 1.2).

The challenges we face

Some challenges are lingering (deprivations), some are deepening (inequalities) and some are emerging (violent extremism). Some are global

(gender inequality), some are regional (water stress) and some are within national boundaries (natural disasters). Most are mutually reinforcing: Climate change reduces food security, and rapid urbanization marginalizes poor people in urban areas. Whatever their nature or reach, these challenges have an impact on people's well-being.

Lingering deprivations and inequalities

Even with all the impressive progress in reducing poverty over the past 25 years, 766 million people,⁴⁵ 385 million of them children,⁴⁶ lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2013. Poor nutrition causes 45 percent of the deaths among children under age 5.⁴⁷ Children born in developing countries in 2016 will lose nearly \$177 billion in potential lifetime earnings because of stunting and other delays in physical development.⁴⁸

Yet one-third of the world's food is wasted every year.⁴⁹ If one-fourth of the food wasted across the globe could be recovered, it could feed 870 million people.⁵⁰ Unless the world tackles deprivation today, 167 million children will live in extreme poverty by 2030, and 69 million children under age 5 will die of preventable causes.⁵¹ These outcomes will definitely shrink the capabilities of future generations. About 758 million adults, including

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BOX 1.2

Human development in the Republic of Korea—a longer term perspective

The Republic of Korea has travelled a highly successful path of human development over the past six decades. And the major drivers behind the country's sustained trajectory of high human development include successful land reforms, rural development, extensive human resources development and rapid equitable economic growth. Export orientation, sustainable domestic resource mobilization with strong redistribution policies, and public infrastructure development also played major roles. Needless to say, effective institutions and governance were also key.

The main dynamics of the Republic of Korea's progress was a virtuous cycle between economic and social policies, which—while maintaining the primacy of the growth objective—adapted flexibly to evolving constraints and opportunities and successfully harnessed

major currents in the human development space, such as globalization, technological change and urbanization.

The Republic of Korea attained a critical mass of policies conducive to human development in the face of multiple challenges. Doing so allowed the country to remain on a path of rapid and socially inclusive human development for so long—and to serve as a model for other countries. The country, assisted by the United Nations Development Programme Seoul Policy Centre for Global Development Partnerships, is already conveying its knowhow (such as that gleaned from the Seoul government's Clean Construction System) to partner countries, duly adapted to the realities of partner countries, whose policymakers and political leaders are aiming for similarly rapid and sustained improvements in human development.

Source: UNDP Seoul Policy Centre for Global Development Partnerships.

Poverty is no longer a problem of developing regions only; it is also on the rise in developed countries

114 million young people, still lack basic reading and writing skills.⁵² Lingering deprivations are evident in various aspects of human development (figure 1.2).

Poverty is no longer a problem of developing regions only; it is also on the rise in developed countries. The International Labour Organization estimates that in 2012 more than 300 million people in developed countries lived in poverty.⁵³

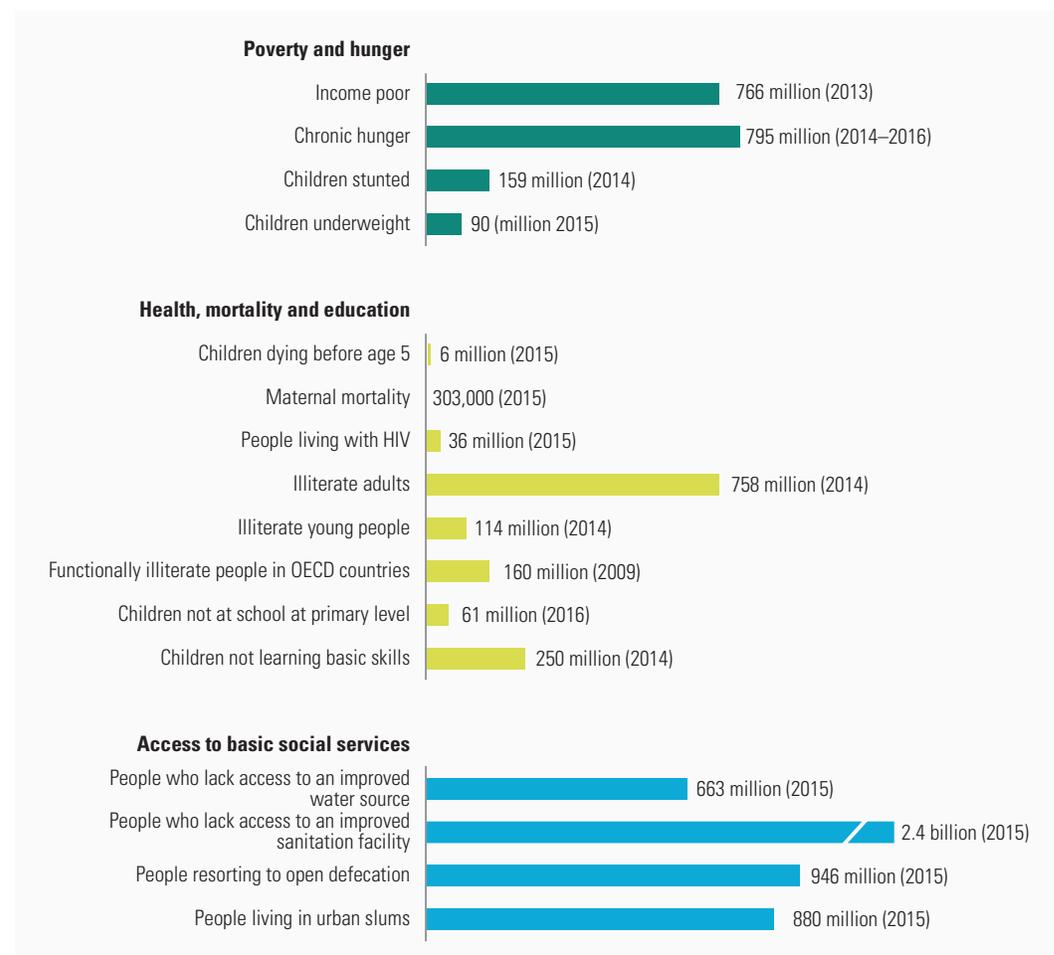
Children and women are the most affected by poverty, and 36 percent of children in developed countries live under the relative poverty line, in households with an income below 60 percent of the national median household income. In the United States 32 million adults are functionally illiterate, and in the United Kingdom 8 million.⁵⁴

Rising incomes around the world have been accompanied by widening inequality. Measures of the gaps in income equality include the Gini coefficient (where a value of 0 means that everyone has the same income, and a value of 1 means that one person has all the income) and quintile ratios (the ratio of the average income of the wealthiest 20 percent of the population to the average income of the poorest 20 percent of the population).

Although income inequality across households has risen in many countries, some estimates show that it has narrowed across the world as a whole because the incomes of developing and developed regions have been converging. Relative global inequality has declined steadily over the past few decades, from a relative Gini coefficient of 0.74 in 1975 to

FIGURE 1.2

Human deprivation lingers in some indicators of well-being



Source: Human Development Report Office.

0.63 in 2010, driven by declining inequality between countries arising from the extraordinary economic growth in, primarily, China and India.⁵⁵ This happened despite an increasing trend towards inequality within countries. By contrast, absolute inequality, measured by the absolute Gini coefficient, has increased dramatically since the mid-1970s (figure 1.3). To understand the absolute and the relative, take an example. In 2000 one person in a country earns \$1 a day and another person \$10 a day. With economic growth, in 2016 the first person earns \$8 a day, and the second person \$80 a day. The relative difference between the two remains the same (the second person has 10 times more than the first person), but the absolute difference has gone up from \$7 to \$72.

The World Bank reports that between 2008 and 2013 income gaps widened in 34 of the 83 countries monitored as income grew more quickly for those in the wealthiest 60 percent of the income distribution than for those in the poorest 40 percent.⁵⁶ And in 23 countries people in the poorest 40 percent saw their income decline.

Increases in income have been particularly sharp at the top of the income distribution. Some 46 percent of the total increase in income between 1988 and 2011 went to the wealthiest 10 percent (figure 1.4). Since 2000, 50 percent of the increase in global wealth benefited only

the wealthiest 1 percent of the world’s population. Conversely, the poorest 50 percent of the world’s population received only 1 percent of the increase.⁵⁷

Global wealth has become far more concentrated. The wealthiest 1 percent of the population had 32 percent of global wealth around 2000 and 46 percent around 2010 (figure 1.5). The super-rich—the wealthiest 0.1 percent—loom larger. The share of national wealth among the super-rich in the United States increased from 12 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 2008 (before the financial crisis) and to 22 percent in 2012 (critics pointed to inequality as one of the key causes of the crisis).⁵⁸

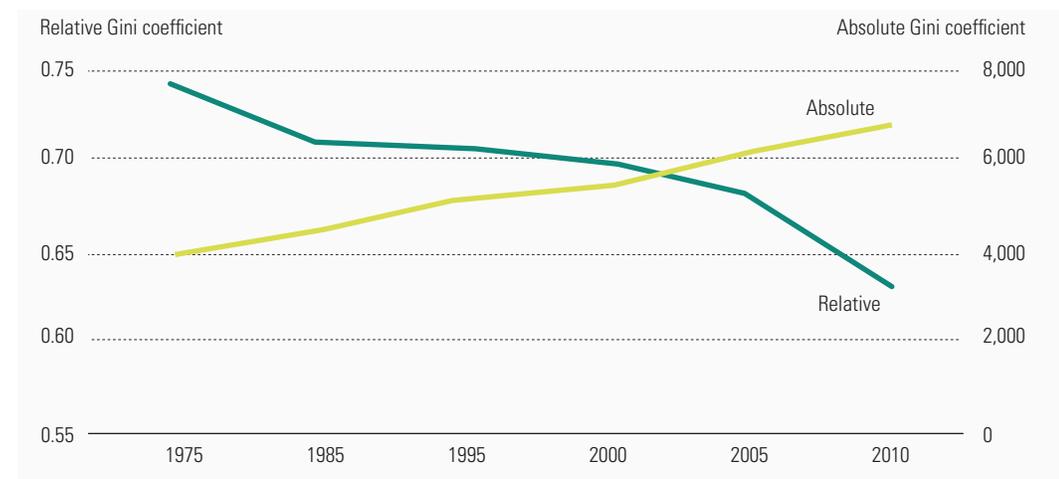
Access to the benefits of the digital revolution is uneven globally. Almost 2 billion people still do not use a mobile phone, and only 15 percent of the world population has high-speed Internet access.⁵⁹ Some 89 percent of the planet’s urban population has access to 3G mobile broadband, compared with only 29 percent of the rural population.⁶⁰

The inequality discussion often focuses on vertical inequality—such as the inequality between wealthiest 10 percent of the population and the poorest 10 percent—and rarely on horizontal inequality—such as the inequality across ethnic groups. Analysis of horizontal inequality can bring critical insights to the inequality discourse (box 1.3).

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FIGURE 1.3

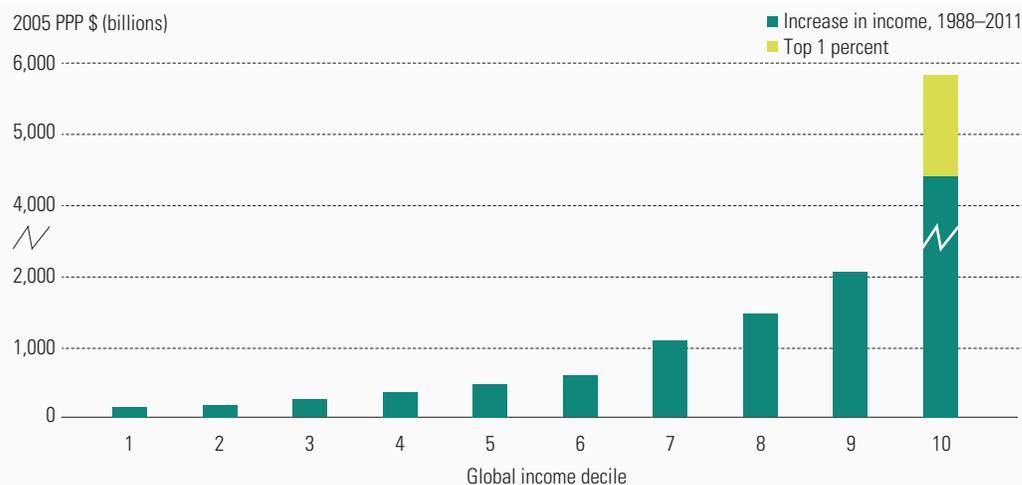
Relative global inequality has declined steadily over the past few decades, but absolute inequality has increased dramatically



Source: Niño-Zarazúa, Roope and Tarp 2016.

FIGURE 1.4

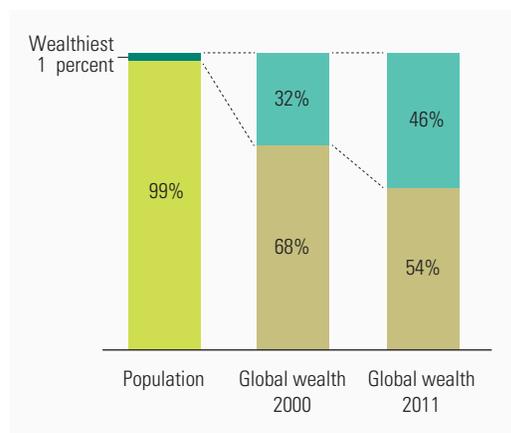
Some 46 percent of the total increase in income between 1988 and 2011 went to the wealthiest 10 percent



Note: PPP is purchasing power parity.
Source: Lawson 2016.

FIGURE 1.5

Global wealth has become far more concentrated



Source: Human Development Report Office estimates based on Milanović (2016).

Urbanization has been described as a new frontier of development because it is not a passive outcome of development, but a creator of value

Lingering deprivations and inequalities present serious challenges to human development on at least three fronts. First, they stunt the capabilities of people—not only their well-being, but also their voice and autonomy. Second, they initiate and reinforce a process of exclusion whereby poor people and others at the bottom of the social ladder are excluded from influencing the processes that shape their lives. Third, they create a society where rights and opportunities are denied to poor people—and that is unjust.

Multidimensional population dynamics

The planet’s surging population is projected to grow to 9.7 billion in 2050 (figure 1.6), with five main implications: widespread urbanization, an ageing population, a growing middle class, migration and a youth bulge.

In 2014 more than half the world’s people lived in urban areas, a share expected to reach two-thirds by 2050, when cities will have swollen by another 2.5 billion people.⁶¹ The world is projected to have 41 megacities by 2030, each with more than 10 million inhabitants.⁶² Urbanization has been described as a new frontier of development because it is not a passive outcome of development, but a creator of value—the more than half of humanity living in cities generates more than 80 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).⁶³

Not all urbanization is positive, however, especially if it is unplanned. It puts pressure on infrastructure and may lower residents’ quality of life. More than 1 billion people live in housing that is below minimum standards of comfort and sanitation, and new houses have to be built for 3 billion people by 2030.⁶⁴ Some 880 million people live in slums, and nearly 40 percent of the world’s future urban expansion may occur in slums.⁶⁵ Almost 700 million urban slum dwellers lack adequate sanitation, which—along with lack of safe

BOX 1.3

Insights based on horizontal inequalities

A common argument in discussions about horizontal inequality is that people would be more favourable to redistribution within their own group and less favourable to redistribution between groups because the former is perceived by the group as just and fair.

But Ghana and Uganda showed far higher approval ratings for redistribution between ethnic groups, even though ethnic identity was just as strong as in other countries. High approval for redistribution is clearly compatible with a strong ethnic identification.

Redistribution is critical in addressing horizontal inequality and can form the core of public policy to ensure

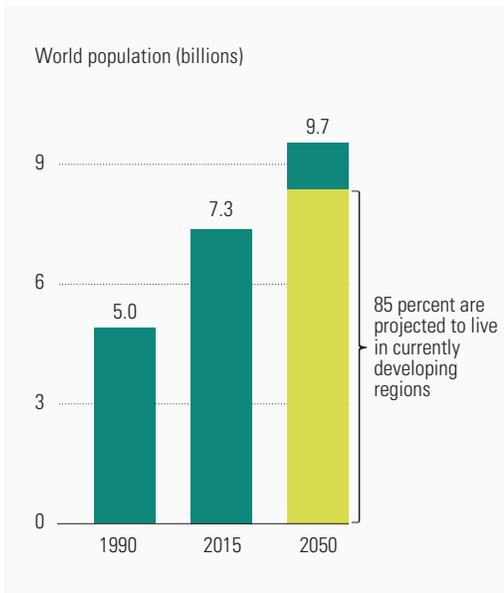
rights, justice and equality in a multiethnic society. Such policies would have constitutive benefits (such as enhancing human capabilities in various groups) as well as consequential benefits (such as improving social cohesion).

Deprivation is a denial of human rights (which have intrinsic value), and overcoming it is also instrumental in enjoying other rights and freedoms. Equality has intrinsic value (anchored in the notion of justice) as well as instrumental value because it affects other accepted objectives. Inequality is justified only if it improves the position of the poorest or if it arises through legitimate processes.

Source: Cornia and Stewart 2014.

FIGURE 1.6

The planet's surging population is projected to grow to 9.7 billion in 2050



Source: UNDESA 2015b.

drinking water—raises the risk of communicable diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea, particularly among children.⁶⁶ Violence, drugs and crime also increase with rapid urbanization. And urbanization is linked to climate change. Along with prosperity and innovation, global cities are the principal sources of the carbon dioxide emissions that are warming the earth.⁶⁷ Many larger cities are in low-lying coastal areas,

leaving them exposed to the dangers of flooding associated with rising sea levels and storm surges.

As a result of declining fertility and greater longevity, older people now make up an increasing proportion of national populations. The number of people ages 60 and older is expected to reach 1.4 billion in 2030 and 2.1 billion in 2050.⁶⁸ That would raise the global old-age dependency ratio (the ratio of the number of people ages 65 and older to the number of people of working age, generally ages 15–64) in developing countries from 13 percent in 2015 to 26 percent in 2050.⁶⁹ And that will have major implications for retirement ages, health services, elder care, social protection and family relationships. In developed countries ageing populations are challenging retirement systems and requiring adaptations to work arrangements and long-term care services.⁷⁰

The global middle class—households with a daily expenditure of \$10–\$100 per capita in purchasing power parity terms—is expected to expand to 3.2 billion people in Asia and the Pacific and to 1.7 billion people elsewhere by 2030.⁷¹ Its rapid expansion stems from the rise in countries such as China, where middle-class households (with an annual income of \$11,500–\$43,000) increased from 5 million in 2000 to 225 million in 2015.⁷² But country definitions of the middle class differ, both through the lenses of income and expenditure and in relative terms compared with a societal mean.⁷³

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Population shifts associated with migration will change not only the demographic profile of societies, but also their values, norms, culture and political and social institutions

How might the growth of the middle class affect human development? The larger middle class is more of an economic middle class than the traditional intellectual middle class, and its approach to social debate, intellectual leadership and social cohesion may differ from that of its predecessors, which acted as the conscience of society, provided intellectual leadership in social and cultural movements and championed the poor and the marginalized. In most societies younger people will constitute an economic middle class that strives for innovation and creativity in life as well as in work. They are also more likely to see themselves as global citizens, with positive implications for human capabilities and opportunities.

But the new middle class may show consumption patterns that have adverse impacts on sustainable consumption. It may have its own social agenda (such as social entrepreneurship) but be motivated more by personal economic advancement. It may also be more insular and be more intimately linked to a Twitter community or a Facebook community than to a physical community or neighbourhood. It may have many digital connections but few human connections.

Population dynamics will continue to change because of migration to developed countries. The population of the European Union was 507 million in 2013. Without migration it would drop to 399 million by 2080, but with migration it would rise to 520 million.⁷⁴ The population of the United States was 324 million in 2015. Without migration it would have risen to 338 million by 2016, but with migration it reached 441 million. Population shifts associated with migration will change not only the demographic profile of these and other societies, but also their values, norms, culture and political and social institutions, possibly creating tensions and conflicts. One human development challenge will thus involve forging peaceful and cohesive multicultural societies in many parts of the world.

Today young people ages 10–24 account for about 1.8 billion of the world's 7.3 billion people.⁷⁵ Around 90 percent of these young people live in developing countries. A third of the world's population is under age 20, and in about 40 African countries more than half the population is under age 20.⁷⁶ There are more young people alive today than at any other time in

human history.⁷⁷ Young people are active users of information and communication technology, and 30 percent are digital natives, young people ages 15–24 who have been using the Internet for five years or more.⁷⁸

Yet 73.3 million young people are out of work, and 40 percent of young people in the global labour force are either unemployed or poorly paid.⁷⁹ Young people are three times more likely than adults to be out of work.⁸⁰ Nearly 156 million young people in emerging and developing countries are working poor—working but living in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 a day or in moderate poverty on \$1.90–\$3.10 a day.⁸¹ In the next 15 years young people worldwide will need 600 million jobs.⁸²

Millennials—people ages 18–34 in 2015—are expected to work longer hours (nearly a quarter work more than 50 hours a week) and retire much later (a quarter expect to retire after age 70) than their grandparents—the silent generation, mostly in their 70s and 80s (box 1.4).⁸³

Globalization—a double-edged sword

Globalization has been heralded over the years as an engine of growth. In China and India opening up the economy to the world accelerated growth, which in turn helped address human development challenges—reducing poverty, improving health outcomes and extending access to basic social services. Thanks largely to China, the extreme poverty rate in East Asia dropped from 60 percent in 1990 to 3.5 percent in 2013.⁸⁴ In 40 countries analysed

BOX 1.4

Millennials versus the silent generation

- Millennials are better educated.
- Female millennials are much more likely to be working.
- Millennials face tougher job markets.
- Millennials are less likely to marry.
- Millennials are more likely to be an ethnic minority.
- Millennials are far less likely to be war veterans.
- Female millennials are better educated than male millennials.

Source: Patten and Fry 2015.

in 2013, 453 million people—190 million of them women—were working in global value chains, up from 296 million in 1995.⁸⁵ A study of 40 countries, 13 of them developing countries, found that trade generally favours the poorest people because they spend more in traded sectors.⁸⁶

Globalization has been accelerated by the technological revolution, particularly the digital revolution. Global trade in merchandise and services amounted to almost \$24 trillion in 2014, up from \$13 trillion in 2005.⁸⁷ And knowledge-intensive flows increased 1.3 times faster than labour-intensive flows.⁸⁸

But globalization has not delivered the expected shared prosperity. Unskilled workers lost jobs in many economies, and manufacturing jobs disappeared. Productivity may have increased, but this did not always translate into higher wages, and the inequality in pay between unskilled and highly skilled labour has widened considerably.⁸⁹

People have struggled during the process of globalization: Those who have recently crossed the poverty line in developing countries face vulnerable employment and informality, and the traditional middle class in high-income countries faces stagnant wages and reductions in social services. This pattern is shaping global social attitudes towards globalization: People self-defined as part of the lower middle class and working class feel less engaged by the concept of global citizenship (figure 1.7). The causes

are invisible in indicators such as overall GDP growth or progress out of poverty by extremely poor people, yet the frustration can create political and institutional instability if left addressed.

There seems to be a widespread view that globalization is good for a small elite but not for the broad masses of people.⁹⁰ Even many academics and policymakers who welcomed globalization are revising their opinion. It was always thought that globalization would not benefit everyone but that the benefits would eventually outweigh the losses.⁹¹ The backlash against globalization is reshaping politics in various countries. But it cannot be rolled back, so the challenge is to ensure that globalization leaves no one behind.

People on the move

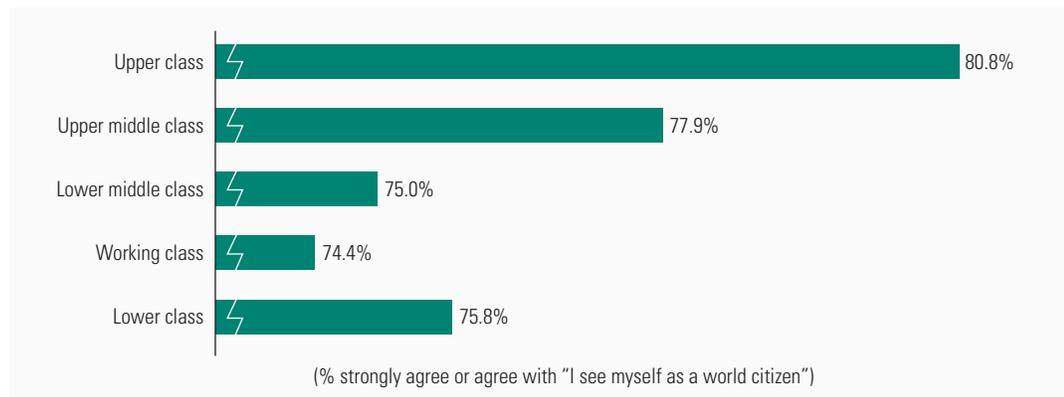
Millions of people are on the move because of conflicts, disasters or a search for better economic opportunities. Conflicts, violence and human rights violations have prompted massive displacements of people within or outside their countries.

At the end of 2015 more than 65 million people worldwide had been forcibly displaced (internally displaced persons, refugees and asylumseekers)—the most since the Second World War and more than the population of France or the combined populations of Australia, Canada and New Zealand (figure 1.8).⁹² Some 86 percent of them are hosted in developing countries, making refugees less of a burden on developed countries (box 1.5).⁹³

Globalization cannot be rolled back, so the challenge is to ensure that it leaves no one behind

FIGURE 1.7

People self-defined as part of the lower middle class and working class feel less engaged by the concept of global citizenship

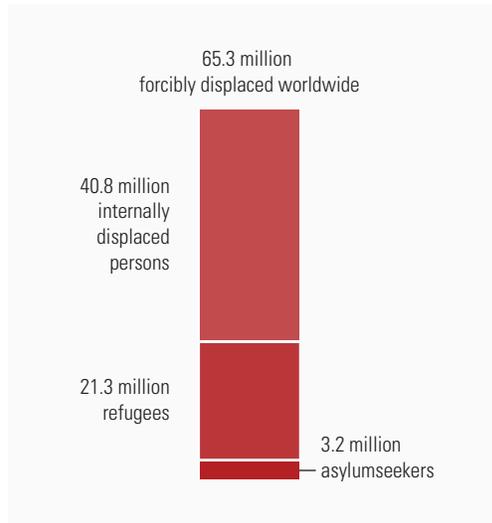


Note: Data are for 59 countries.
Source: Human Development Report Office estimates based on World Values Survey, wave 6, (www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp).

Children are among the major victims of forced displacement

FIGURE 1.8

At the end of 2015 there were more than 65 million people worldwide who had been forcibly displaced



Source: Statista 2016.

BOX 1.5

Five common myths about refugees

Refugees are a European problem

Europe is home to only 6 percent of global refugees; 86 percent are in developing countries. The six richest nations host only 9 percent of refugees worldwide.

Refugees are not desperate—they are choosing to migrate

By definition refugees are people who flee across borders to escape violent conflict or persecution.

Most refugees are young, able-bodied men

Worldwide nearly 50 million children have migrated or been forcibly displaced. These children may be refugees, internally displaced persons or migrants.

Refugees and migrants bring terrorism

Over the past few years the deadliest terrorist attacks around the world have been perpetrated by citizens born in the targeted countries.

Developed countries are overcrowded and cannot take any more people

The size of the population in most developed countries is actually declining, and the demographic dividend in these countries is being exhausted. Migration can be crucial in addressing this issue.

Source: Human Development Report Office.

Children are among the major victims of forced displacement. Of the nearly 50 million children who have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced, 28 million fled violence and insecurity.⁹⁴ More than 98,000 children are unaccompanied in migration or have been separated from their family.⁹⁵

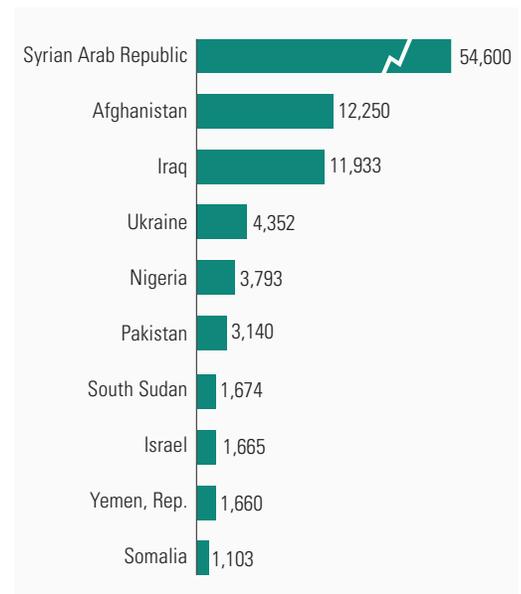
People on the move also face dangers during their journeys and afterwards. The global count of migrant deaths was more than 10,000 in 2014 and 2015, and many more were unaccounted for.

Widespread conflict and violent extremism

Widespread conflict and violent extremism have become a challenge of our time. Conflict-related deaths are a proxy measure for the absence of peace. Since the end of the Second World War there has been a downward trend in such deaths, except in 2000, when the Eritrean–Ethiopian war alone caused at least 50,000 deaths.⁹⁶ With the escalation of conflict and extreme violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, 2014 saw the highest number of battle-related deaths since 1989: more than 50,000 (figure 1.9).⁹⁷ In 17 countries affected by prolonged conflicts, more than

FIGURE 1.9

2014 saw the highest number of battle-related deaths since 1989: more than 50,000



Source: Purdie and Khaltarkhuu 2016.

56 million people are trapped in a vicious cycle of violence and hunger.⁹⁸

In 2000 UN Security Council resolution 1325 recognized that war affects women differently and stressed the need to increase women's participation in peace talks.⁹⁹ But from 1992 to 2011 only 9 percent of participants in peace negotiations were women.¹⁰⁰ Globally, fewer than 5 percent of peacekeepers are women.¹⁰¹

Incidents of violent extremism and terrorism worldwide rose from fewer than 5,000 in 2006 to nearly 15,000 in 2014.¹⁰² There has been a nearly tenfold increase in deaths from violent extremism and terrorism since 2000—from 3,329 victims to 32,685 in 2014.¹⁰³ And the death toll keeps rising. In Iraq an estimated 50,000 people have died since 2003.¹⁰⁴ In 2016 more than 20,000 people died during internal conflict in Afghanistan, and more than 10,000 died in Yemen.¹⁰⁵

Economic losses from conflict are estimated at \$742 billion a year, dwarfing the \$167 billion in annual gross disbursements of official development assistance.¹⁰⁶ But the costs of conflicts and violence are not limited to economic costs. People are uprooted because of conflicts and violence, they lose their belongings, they are on the run, their families are broken up—and too many die. About 600 million young people live in fragile and conflict-affected situations with no work and little hope.¹⁰⁷ Despair sometimes leads them to violent extremism. Refugee children and adolescents are five times more likely than nonrefugee children and adolescents to be out of school, with serious implications for building their capabilities.¹⁰⁸

Broader peace, stability and security are linked not only to the end of wars and conflicts, but also to the end of violence within societies and human security in personal and community life. Violence has become a human language in many societies, and intolerance has become the reaction (box 1.6).

Rising shocks, expanding vulnerabilities

Although human beings are extremely resilient, the system in which they live and operate has to be resilient as well. Pandemics, natural disasters, climate change, economic and financial crises and other shocks can slow, reverse or completely derail human development. The effects on human development are

BOX 1.6

Human security, as people see it

Human security to me means that my children and grandchildren will never see killing of human beings because of their colour or tribe as I witnessed in 1994 during the genocide of Tutsi in Rwanda.

—A female professional from Rwanda

Human security to me means that I can walk on any street, anywhere, at any time using any clothes that I want—and with no fear.

—A man from Brazil

To me personally, human security means being free to be myself as a transwoman who came from the very oppressive continent of Africa, to be free from that violence and feeling safe and functional.

—A former student from the United States

Human security is good nutrition, health and education, stability and peace, prosperity of the country and a robust state, freedoms, justice, democratic government.

—A male government official from Yemen

For me, human security means equality between people no matter what age, race, gender, social status or preferences they have. It means mutual respect between the people in the whole wide world.

—A female student from Belarus

Human security for me is to have a voice. It means the right to participate in political process, the right to criticize injustice.

—A male professor from India

Human security is not to worry or think about my day-to-day needs and safety.

—A gay male government official from the Philippines

Human security for me is the future health and well-being of my children and grandchildren.

—A female retired social worker from New Zealand

Source: Human Development Report Office.

not transitory; they may become permanent. Recovering from shocks takes a long time. Even six years after the economic and financial crisis of 2008–2009, at least 61 million fewer jobs were available globally than expected.¹⁰⁹ Five years of war in the Syrian Arab Republic and the spillover in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey have cost close to \$35 billion—equivalent to the GDP of the Syrian Arab Republic in 2007.¹¹⁰ It will take time to return to the prewar GDP.¹¹¹ Restoring Libya's infrastructure will cost an estimated \$200 billion over the next 10 years.¹¹²

Broader peace, stability and security are linked not only to the end of wars and conflicts, but also to the end of violence within societies and human security in personal and community life

The combined effects of growing populations, rising incomes and expanding cities will cause the demand for water to rise exponentially, while supply becomes more erratic and uncertain

Eighteen million people living with HIV, mostly young and adolescent, do not receive antiretroviral treatment.¹¹³ Young women ages 15–24 are at higher risk of HIV infection and account for 20 percent of new HIV infections among adults globally.¹¹⁴ About 1.8 million children live with HIV, and only half of them receive lifesaving treatment.¹¹⁵ More than 50 percent of people living with HIV do not know that they are infected,¹¹⁶ and only 30 percent of young women have comprehensive and correct knowledge about HIV.¹¹⁷

Noncommunicable diseases lead to 38 million deaths a year, 28 million of them in low- and middle-income countries.¹¹⁸ Cancer causes 8.2 million deaths a year, 5.7 million of them in developing countries.¹¹⁹ Almost 2.1 billion people worldwide are overweight or obese, 62 percent of them in developing countries.¹²⁰ The number of overweight children is projected to double by 2030.¹²¹

Ebola and Zika have emerged as epidemics going beyond a country or group of countries. And infectious diseases are developing resistance to the antimicrobial drugs used to treat them. Overprescription and failure to complete courses of treatment allow resistance to develop and microbial infections to become a human health threat. Some 700,000 deaths are attributed to antimicrobial resistance each year;¹²² that number could skyrocket to 10 million a year by 2050 and cause global GDP to drop 1.1–3.8 percent. Some 28 million more people are projected to slide into poverty because of antimicrobial resistance.¹²³

Some 218 million people a year are touched by natural disasters.¹²⁴ The total direct costs of disasters and major diseases are equivalent. Between 1980 and 2012 an estimated 42 million human life-years were lost to disasters, and 80 percent of them in developing countries.¹²⁵ Fragile and conflict-affected states are home to more than 1.4 billion people and half the world's extremely poor, a number that will grow 82 percent by 2030 if no action is taken.¹²⁶

Imbalances between the needs of people and the capacity of the planet

Every year, 24 billion tonnes of fertile soils are lost to erosion, and 12 million hectares of land are lost to drought and desertification, affecting

the lives and livelihoods of 1.5 billion people.¹²⁷ Desertification could displace up to 135 million people by 2045.¹²⁸ Biodiversity is below safe levels across more than half the world's lands.¹²⁹ Every year, 300 million tonnes of plastic are manufactured, but only 15 percent is recycled, leaving 46,000 floating pieces of plastic per square mile of ocean.¹³⁰ But this is a minuscule fraction of the total amount of waste held in the seas, which affects nearly 700 marine species.¹³¹

In 2012 an estimated 8.4 million people died from air, water or land pollution.¹³² At least 6.5 million people a year are believed to be dying from air pollution, with many more injured.¹³³ The cost of air pollution in welfare losses has been estimated at \$5 trillion, 60 percent of which is in developing regions.¹³⁴ About 2.7 billion people still depend on wood or waste fires that cause indoor air pollution, affecting women and children the most.¹³⁵ Indoor air pollution leads to around 3.5 million deaths a year.¹³⁶

Forests and trees provide vital resources to 1.3 billion people, and in developing countries, forest income is second only to farm income among rural communities.¹³⁷ Between 60 million and 200 million indigenous peoples rely on forests for survival.¹³⁸ Acting as the lungs of the world, forests also slow climate change, and acting as carbon sinks, they increase resilience. Yet in tropical countries the annual net forest loss is 7 million hectares—the size of Ireland.¹³⁹

Water stress is a major challenge affecting more than 4 billion people worldwide.¹⁴⁰ The combined effects of growing populations, rising incomes and expanding cities will cause the demand for water to rise exponentially, while supply becomes more erratic and uncertain. Water is becoming scarcer in the Arab States and in the African Sahel, where it is already in short supply, and may start disappearing in Central Africa or East Asia, where it is currently abundant. These regions could see declines of as much as 6 percent of GDP by 2050 because of water-related impacts on agriculture, health and income.¹⁴¹

In 2012 more than 80 percent of the world's primary energy supply came from fossil fuels, and only 16 percent came from renewable energy.¹⁴² In 2015 fossil fuels accounted for 55 percent of global energy investment, and today fossil fuel companies benefit from global subsidies of \$10 million a minute.¹⁴³ About

1 billion people worldwide lack access to electricity.¹⁴⁴ By 2040 the planet's energy system will need to serve 9 billion people, and much of the energy will have to be renewable.

Climate change will aggravate land degradation—especially in drylands, which occupy 40 percent of global land area, are inhabited by some 2 billion people and support half the world's livestock.¹⁴⁵ By 2030 climate change is expected to cause an additional 250,000 deaths a year from malaria, diarrhoea, heat stress and malnutrition.¹⁴⁶

The poorest people are more exposed than the average population to climate-related shocks and are at high risk of floods, droughts and heat waves; crop failures from reduced rainfall; spikes in food prices after extreme weather events; and increased incidence of diseases after heat waves and floods. Poor people are also more exposed to higher temperatures and live in countries where food production is expected to decrease. If climate-smart action is not taken now, more than 100 million additional people could be living in poverty by 2030.¹⁴⁷ Climate change can have the most disastrous effects on indigenous peoples, who rely more on natural resources and agriculture.

The hopes we have

What humanity has achieved over 25 years despite all the challenges it has faced gives hope that fundamental change is possible. Yes, progress on many fronts has been uneven and deprivations linger, yet what has been achieved can become a foundation for progress in many areas. We can explore new possibilities for overcoming challenges and attain what once seemed unattainable. Realizing our hopes is within our reach.

Rapid progress is possible

Some of the impressive achievements in human development over the last 25 years have been in regions and areas that once were lagging. South Asia, where extreme poverty is rampant, reduced the extreme poverty rate from 44.5 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 2013.¹⁴⁸ Average incomes rose among the poorest 40 percent between 2008 and 2013 despite the financial crisis.¹⁴⁹ And between 2011 and 2014,

700 million people worldwide became account holders in banks, other financial institutions or mobile money service providers.¹⁵⁰

Africa boosted life expectancy by six years in the 2000s. Latin America and the Caribbean reduced the under-five mortality rate by 70 percent between 1990 and 2015.¹⁵¹ The Americas have been declared free of measles.¹⁵² Guatemala has joined three other Latin American countries that were already free of river blindness.¹⁵³ Southeast Asia cut the share of the population living in slums from 40 percent in 2000 to 27 percent in 2014.¹⁵⁴

In 2005 India aimed to connect every community with more than 1,000 people (and every community with more than 500 people in hilly, tribal and desert areas) to an all-weather road.¹⁵⁵ Four years later, 70 percent of the target communities were connected. In 2005 Ethiopia launched Sub-Saharan Africa's largest social protection programme.¹⁵⁶ Four years later 7.5 million people were supported in times of food insecurity. In 2010 Senegal targeted 191 rural villages for improved access to electricity, boosting the number of people with access from 17,000 to 90,000 in 2012.¹⁵⁷

All these gains are reasons for hope that rapid progress is possible, even in areas previously lagging. The world has the resources, the technology and the expertise to overcome human deprivations. And the notion of sharing prosperity gives us hope that we are ready to tackle human deprivations together. Inaction is not an option.

The resounding voices of the people

People everywhere want to influence the processes that shape their lives. They are vocal in raising concerns—such as those related to waste recycling and extractive industries, ethical sourcing and fair practices in trade, citizen safety and the public health implications of agribusiness and pharmaceuticals. Other examples include antiglobalization protests and the Occupy movement against wealth and income inequality. Technology and social media have mobilized grassroots activism and included people and groups previously unable to exercise voice and opinion (box 1.7).

The Internet brings people together through offline protests as well. In 2014 the platform Avaaz.org coordinated a gathering of more than

The world has the resources, the technology and the expertise to overcome human deprivations. And the notion of sharing prosperity gives us hope that we are ready to tackle human deprivations together

As more people raise their voices to express their hopes and aspirations as well as their despair and frustration, mobilizing to demand what they want will become easier

400,000 people in Manhattan—and hundreds of thousands more in other cities—for the “biggest climate march in history.”¹⁵⁸ Crowdfunding allows individuals to contribute small amounts of money towards a philanthropic project that requires larger funds. Donors can fund local projects through civic crowdfunding or projects in other countries through charity crowdfunding.¹⁵⁹ Spacehive, a civic crowdfunding platform in the United Kingdom, specializes in raising funds for small community projects such as improving a playground or renovating a school. It has raised nearly £5 million (more than \$6 million) since its launch in 2011.¹⁶⁰

Although petitions, protests, fundraising and political publications have always existed, the Internet has allowed them to reach an unprecedented level and bring together people across the world. Mobile phones have multiplied the impact of popular movements. The broadcasting on Facebook of police attacks during pro-democracy demonstrations was instrumental in the 2011 Arab Spring.¹⁶¹ Smartphones and subscription-free mobile phones will likely accelerate this trend, creating new opportunities for people to express themselves freely, even under authoritarian regimes.

As more people raise their voices to express their hopes and aspirations as well as their despair and frustration, mobilizing to demand what they want will become easier. People’s voices can thus

become a more powerful force, giving others hope in shaping the world they want.

Expanding human ingenuity and creativity

Human ingenuity and creativity have initiated technological revolutions and translated these revolutions into the way we work, think and behave. Technology is all around us, and sometimes in us—biotech, digital tech, nanotech, neurotech, green tech and so on. The digital revolution has been going on for some time. The number of connected devices worldwide was projected to increase from 9 billion in 2012 to 23 billion in 2016.¹⁶² Some estimates put the Internet’s contribution to global GDP at as much as \$4.2 trillion in 2016.¹⁶³

The innovations of the technological revolution have ranged from three-dimensional technology to digital banking, from e-books to e-commerce, from the sharing economy to crowdworking. Economies have become individualized to match demand and supply peer-to-peer. The labour market does not require a traditional workplace, and the process has opened opportunities for many while making work precarious or even vulnerable for many others.

Mobile phones and mobile Internet services offer many new opportunities for

BOX 1.7

Cyberactivism—a new form of participation

Cyberactivism is political engagement by means of the Internet. Netizens are individuals who work to create online communities to realize social or political goals. But the Internet also brings together individuals who do not otherwise engage in political or public life and simply feel concerned by a specific issue.

On several occasions in recent years, large numbers of people have signed online petitions to draw the attention of policymakers to their opinions. In 2010, 2 million petitioners succeeded in banning politicians convicted of crimes from running for office in Brazil. In 2012 an online petition received 1.8 million signatures in support of the recognition of Palestine as a state by the United Nations. In 2014, 2.3 million people signed

an online petition to oppose the eviction of the Maasai people from their ancestral lands by the Tanzanian government. Since 2010 the United Kingdom has provided the opportunity for citizens to petition Parliament on an issue by gathering 100,000 signatures.

In 2003 online mobilization led protests in several countries against the war in Iraq. Over the past 10 years this trend has encompassed protests by civil society organizations and protests prompted by individuals who join together over a specific issue and then disengage from political discourse. An important aspect of these protests is their geographic scope, sometimes spanning several cities and sometimes several countries.

Source: Human Development Report Office.

people—access to dynamic price information (as in Niger), productivity gains (as in Morocco), job creation in technology-based industries and labour-market services. They have helped poor female entrepreneurs through marketing information (as in Bangladesh) and contributed to the financial inclusion of poor people through mobile banking (as in Kenya).¹⁶⁴

The digital revolution raises the hope of addressing such daunting challenges as ensuring food security, overcoming health concerns, combating climate change and meeting energy needs. The development of immunotherapy has opened opportunities for successfully battling different types of cancers, such as breast cancer. Three-dimensional printing can produce industrial prototypes and human tissue. Cloud technology has the potential to improve access to online information technology services for businesses and governments at low cost and to enable new online products and services for millions of producers and billions of consumers.

Continuing the progress in women's empowerment

Women have made major strides in all walks of life. Gender equality and women's empowerment are not add-on issues in the development dialogue, but a mainstream dimension of the development discourse locally, nationally and globally.

Women have proved to be productive economic actors, prudent decisionmakers, visionary leaders, compassionate volunteers and constructive peacekeepers. And many women are expanding their horizons.

Focusing primarily on girls and disadvantaged groups, Nepal's Welcome to School Initiative led to an increase in net enrolment of 470,000 children, 57 percent of them girls, within a year of its implementation in 2005.¹⁶⁵ Nepal's policy on adolescent girls was initially centred on health and education but now encompasses needs in employment, skills development and civic participation.¹⁶⁶

Access to employment opportunities and to finance has opened opportunities for many poor women. The Women Development Act in the Philippines allows women to borrow money, obtain loans, execute security and credit arrangements and access loans in agrarian reform and land resettlement programmes under the

same conditions as men.¹⁶⁷ Financial services in South Africa and the United States are similarly regulated to avoid gender discrimination.¹⁶⁸

Romania's Order No. 473/2014 supports female entrepreneurs by financing their best business plans.¹⁶⁹ It aims to cultivate entrepreneurship among woman-owned businesses. Bangladesh is encouraging female participation in the workforce, with the ambition of bringing the share of women in the workforce up from 34 percent to 82 percent by 2026, thus adding 1.8 percentage points to GDP.¹⁷⁰ In the Democratic Republic of Congo a new family code is being drafted to support women in business.¹⁷¹ All these efforts contribute to women's economic empowerment, which needs to be appropriately conceptualized (box 1.8).

Women have become active in areas where they were not traditionally active, and they have excelled in every aspect of life where they are engaged, even in societies where women have faced great obstacles in overcoming their traditional roles. Consider the success of Kimia Alizadeh, the Iranian female athlete at the 2016 Olympics, who not only competed but won a medal.¹⁷² There is now a female fighter pilot in the United Arab Emirates.¹⁷³

Women are demanding gender equality in all walks of life. Nearly 15,000 people recently signed an online petition in Saudi Arabia calling on the government to abolish the country's guardianship system, which prevents women from engaging in fundamental tasks without the permission of a male relative or without being accompanied.¹⁷⁴

Society is gradually accepting and appreciating what women can achieve and contribute. Norms, values and legal frameworks are evolving. Côte d'Ivoire is tackling legal discrimination against women.¹⁷⁵ While in the 1990s very few countries legally protected women from violence, today 127 do. This is partly the result of successful awareness-raising on the human and economic cost of such violence.¹⁷⁶ Lebanon now penalizes domestic violence. Peru prohibits sexual harassment in public spaces. Hungary criminalized economic violence as a form of domestic violence. Cabo Verde adopted a new law in 2011 to fight gender-based violence.¹⁷⁷ The State of Palestine recently elaborated the Arab region's first national strategy to fight violence against women, with the participation of survivors of violence.

Women have become active in areas where they were not traditionally active, and they have excelled in every aspect of life where they are engaged

Five misconceptions about women's economic empowerment

- *Women's economic contribution is limited when women are not employed.* Globally, women are less engaged in paid employment than men. In 2015, 36 percent of women and 44 percent of men worked full time for an employer. However, women's economic contribution in unpaid care and domestic work is remarkable: a 2011 survey in 46 countries found that, on average, 28 percent of women and 6 percent of men spent three to five hours a day on household work.
- *Women's economic participation equals women's economic empowerment.* Increasing the number of women in the workforce is an important objective, but if they enter it under poor conditions, their empowerment may not be improved. Exploitation, dangerous or stigmatized work, low pay and job insecurity are unfavourable terms often encountered by women.
- *There is an automatic win-win between gender equality and wider development outcomes.* Gender equality has been found to promote economic growth, household poverty reduction and human development. But the reverse is not always true. This means that governments need to pay dedicated attention to gender equality and not rely solely on growth to achieve it.
- *What works for one group of women will work for another.* Women across the world often face similar obstacles, such as limited access to property and financial services, lack of social protection and unpaid care burden. Yet demographic, economic and cultural contexts also contribute to these barriers and make each woman's experience different from others'. Policymakers cannot consider women to be a homogeneous group and apply standardized solutions to gender issues. Tailored approaches are required.
- *Increasing women's individual skills and aspirations is the main challenge.* Women's capacity to seize economic opportunities can be substantially improved through individual support such as training in business management skills, but structural causes of gender inequality must be addressed simultaneously. A survey of 67 countries in 2009 showed that 20 percent of men believed that women should not be allowed to hold any job that they are qualified for outside of their home.

Source: Hunt and Samman 2016.

Countries where the rule of law is applied also have more gender-equal laws

El Salvador obtained its first conviction in a case of femicide after a national protocol to guide investigations was adopted.¹⁷⁸ In Latin America and the Caribbean the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is working with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote the adoption of a regional model protocol for investigating femicide.¹⁷⁹ Gambia and the United Republic of Tanzania have banned child marriage, raising the legal age of marriage for both boys and girls to 18.¹⁸⁰ And in Mozambique, marrying the survivor of rape is no longer a defence option for rapists.¹⁸¹

Countries where the rule of law is applied also have more gender-equal laws.¹⁸² Specialized courts that tackle acts of violence against women can help provide effective legal action. Domestic and family violence courts were created in Brazil through the Maria da Penha Law. The Indian inheritance law reform improved the economic freedom of women, who were thereby able to double their spending on

their daughters' education thanks to increased savings.

Slowly opening the space for action on some taboos

Several issues that were once rarely discussed and poorly addressed have received increased attention from the general public, civil society and policymakers over the last two decades. Among the groups of people who have benefited from breaking these taboos are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, women and girls who suffered female genital mutilation and cutting, and survivors of gender-based violence. Same-sex marriage is performed in nearly two dozen countries.¹⁸³ Numerous countries recognize civil unions, registered partnership and unregistered cohabitation. Even though lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people have equal constitutional rights in only five countries, at least their existence is recognized and their problems are discussed in various platforms,

including the United Nations.¹⁸⁴ According to a report by GLSEN, the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex students in the United States may be gradually improving, but it remains troublesome.¹⁸⁵ Many civil society organizations such as OutRight Action International have been working to address these issues.

Several countries have implemented legal reforms to reduce female genital mutilation and cutting, femicide, acid violence and honour violence. Gambia has outlawed female genital mutilation and cutting.¹⁸⁶ El Salvador and Mexico have enacted legal reforms that define femicide as a criminal offence and have adopted measures to prevent and punish the crime.¹⁸⁷

The first law banning acid violence was passed in Bangladesh in 2002, and the death penalty was introduced later as punishment for the crime.¹⁸⁸ Acid attacks in Bangladesh fell from 494 incidents in 2002 to 59 in 2015. The Indian Penal Code was amended in 2013 to recognize acid violence as a criminal act.¹⁸⁹ Female parliamentarians, political leaders and nongovernmental advocates in Pakistan have actively supported new legislation to prevent acid attacks against women.¹⁹⁰ About 100 acid attacks in Colombia occur each year, so the country strengthened its legislative framework and enacted a law in January 2016 to impose sentences of 12–50 years imprisonment for perpetrators.¹⁹¹

The Acid Survivor Foundation, active in Bangladesh, Cambodia and India, provides support to acid violence survivors.¹⁹² A dedicated helpline in the State of Palestine, including

online counselling and referral mechanisms, has already provided information to and potentially saved the lives of 18,000 callers.¹⁹³

Increasing awareness of sustainability

Awareness of sustainability has been increasing. It is much more visible in the global development agenda today than it was in the 1990s (box 1.9). Both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change bear this out. This increased visibility results from changes in the environment, natural resources and the climate that we can now all perceive. These changes have made it necessary to transform the way we produce, consume and function to protect our ability—and the ability of future generations—to live on the planet.

Realization is growing that natural resources are everybody's responsibility, from individuals to global institutions. They are global common-pool resources, meaning that they are limited (overuse reduces the availability for other users) and that anyone can access them relatively freely (regulating their consumption is difficult). So their management must be global, but national and local actions can have considerable impacts. The pollution of a river by a single factory can deplete natural resources along the riverbanks for kilometres downstream and pollute underground water reserves over an even larger area. Positive individual actions, if repeated by millions of people, can likewise make a difference.

Several countries have implemented legal reforms to reduce female genital mutilation and cutting, femicide, acid violence and honour violence

BOX 1.9

The growing recognition of the importance of environmental sustainability

In 1992 a milestone summit was organized in Rio de Janeiro that led to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 2000 environmental sustainability was included as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals and subsequently integrated into most international and national development strategies. At the World Summit on Social Development in 2005, environmental sustainability was recognized as one of the three pillars of sustainable development, along with economic development and social development.

The year 2015 was a turning point with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which gives unprecedented

attention to environmental sustainability and climate change, and the Paris Agreement on climate change, through which 195 member states committed to reducing carbon emissions. Three of 17 Sustainable Development Goals are dedicated to environmental sustainability, and all of the others call for environmentally sustainable practices in their respective fields. Increasingly perceptible resource depletion and climate change highlight the importance of integrating environmental sustainability in development strategies for the good of present and future generations.

Source: Human Development Report Office.



The power of culture to prompt action

My son recently asked me whether he had saved much CO₂ from being emitted into the air by using the Little Sun solar lamp I designed. He also wanted to know why, if a tonne of CO₂ weighs so much, it does not drop to the ground. And where is it? To him, a tonne is heavy and physical and not an intangible mass distributed in the atmosphere. His questions made me realize how little I myself know about CO₂.

When I was my son's age, back in the late seventies, there was no discussion of climate change. Nature was where I spent my summers, in a tent in the Icelandic highlands, a stark contrast to the Copenhagen I lived in. These natural and manmade realms could not be more separate. But today, there is no nature outside of human activity. Our survival and future depend on understanding the effects of CO₂ consumption and acting on that understanding.

But what do we understand? What, for instance, is a tonne of CO₂? Is it hot or cold, wet or dry? Perhaps it would help to know that one tonne of CO₂ could be imagined as a cube the size of a three-storey house or that, when frozen, it would form a block of dry ice about 0.67 cubic metres in size. But what does that actually tell me if I do not know how much CO₂ I produce in a year or on an average day? What does it tell me if I do not sense my interrelationship with planet Earth?

We need science to tell us that the weight of CO₂ is based on the atomic mass of the molecules. A scientist can tell me that a tonne of CO₂ is equal to the energy expenditure of a house for about a month, a small car driven for two days nonstop or a 747 flying for less than two minutes and that because of the greenhouse effect, excessive amounts of CO₂ in the atmosphere lead to global warming.

But for many people, science alone is not enough to compel action. It struck me, when I was looking up this data, that it was familiar, that I had seen it more than once in the media and that I somehow knew most of it. So I asked myself why does knowing not translate into doing when so much is at stake?

This is where culture has something to offer. Culture can help us make sense of abstract concepts and information in ways which resonate. The visual arts, theatre, poetry, literature, dance, architecture and creativity in a broad sense help us build a relationship with abstract ideas, making them concrete, felt. Culture can add motivational impetus to the knowledge we gain from science. Importantly, however, culture can bring people to the point of action without prescribing the actual action. It does not tell us what

to do or how to feel, but rather empowers us to find out for ourselves. Today, in politics, we are bombarded with emotional appeals, often linked to polarizing, populist ideas. The great thing about the arts and culture, on the other hand, is that they allow spaces to emerge in which people can disagree and still be together, where they can share individual and collective experiences, and, in the process, form diverse communities based on inclusion rather than exclusion. Experiences like these can become exercises in democracy, inspiring trust, in ourselves and in society.

When I work in my studio, I draw inspiration from the fact that neuroscientists and psychologists recognize that the brain has two different systems for processing perceptions: one is analytical and deals with facts and data, and the other is experiential and deals with emotions and instincts. The experiential system—activated when you encounter art, for instance—tends to be the stronger motivator. Much of the communication on climate change, however, is focused on the analytical, attempting to reason with people to change their behaviour. Although it is clearly important to ground action in knowledge and rational thought, we also need to understand the central role of our experiential system in motivating action.

Ice Watch, an artistic intervention that I created with Minik Rosing, a geologist and expert on Greenland, takes an experiential approach by bringing people into direct contact with the physical reality of climate change. In 2015, during COP21 in Paris, we brought almost 100 tonnes of glacial ice from Greenland to the Place du Panthéon. Visitors touched the blocks of ice as they melted, put their ear to them and even tasted the ice. When we asked people about their responses, most described feelings; they felt touched. Some spoke about the sounds of the melting ice, like miniature explosions—as if the small pockets of compressed air, frozen inside the turquoise ice for millennia, were speaking to us from the past. Contact with the ice afforded an experience of its fragility, of time and of the distant Arctic. It was both concrete, physical and spatial as well as abstract and contemplative. Together, the emotional and intellectual experience allowed each of us to host the climate debate in our bodies, paving the way for an embodied understanding of our changing environment and planet.

Culture can inspire people to move from thinking to doing, and it holds the potential to inspire great social change. It is only by connecting the head and the heart that we will succeed in building a future for the planet shaped by positive, powerful climate action.

Olafur Eliasson

Artist and founder of Little Sun

Climate-smart agriculture and climate-smart development are gaining currency. For example, about 500,000 solar panels were installed every day in 2015, an unprecedented growth that meant that renewable energy had become the

world's top source of installed power capacity.¹⁹⁴ On a single day—11 July 2016—India planted 50 million trees to take on climate change.¹⁹⁵ In 2015, 247,000 electric cars were sold in China.¹⁹⁶ Globally, 13 percent of greenhouse

gas emissions are now covered by carbon pricing initiatives.¹⁹⁷ The value of the trade in environmental goods almost tripled between 2001 and 2012, from \$231 billion to \$656 billion.¹⁹⁸ According to some estimates, the value of the environmental goods and services market will reach \$1.9 trillion by 2020. Trade can also do more to spread green technology. A clear shift in spending towards cleaner energy was seen in 2015—\$313 billion in renewable energy sources and \$221 billion in energy efficiency.¹⁹⁹

But awareness about sustainability has to take a broader view. For example, climate change is not only an environmental issue or a science issue. Olafur Eliasson, artist and founder of Little Sun, argues that to internalize and act on the vital data of climate change, culture has something to offer (see special contribution).

Stronger global commitments

Over the years people have grown accustomed to heated debates leading to bitter gridlock at the national, regional and global levels. But through the rubble the tender shoots of a global consensus are emerging to ensure a sustainable world for future generations. The 2030 Agenda adopted by 193 member states of the United Nations on 25 September 2015 is among the most important platforms for efforts to end poverty by 2030 and pursue a sustainable future.²⁰⁰ The agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators (box 1.10).

Similarly, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reached a landmark agreement on 12 December 2015 in Paris, charting a fundamentally new course in the two-decade-old global climate efforts. After four years of negotiations the treaty is the first to consider both developed and developing countries in a common framework, urging them all to make their best efforts and reinforce their commitments in the coming years.²⁰¹ All parties should now report regularly on emissions and on efforts to implement their commitments and submit to international review. The Paris Agreement on climate change came into force on 4 November 2016. More than 70 countries, which account for nearly 60 percent of global emissions, have ratified it.²⁰²

The first UN Summit for Refugees, held in September 2016, brought member states together to agree on a more humane and coordinated way to respond to the risks faced by refugees and migrants and to prepare for future challenges. It resulted in the New York Declaration, a series of national and international commitments (see chapter 6).

A recent groundbreaking ruling by the International Criminal Court in The Hague sentenced an Islamic militant from Mali who helped destroy the fabled shrines of Timbuktu to imprisonment for nine years.²⁰³ The trial was unique on two fronts: it was the first at the court to focus solely on cultural destruction as a war crime, and it was the court's first prosecution of an Islamic militant.

The human development approach and the 2030 Agenda

The human development approach and the 2030 Agenda have three common analytical links (figure 1.10):

- Both are anchored in universalism—the human development approach by emphasizing the enhancement of freedoms for every human being and the 2030 Agenda by concentrating on leaving no one behind.
- Both share the same fundamental areas of focus—eradicating extreme poverty, ending hunger, reducing inequality, ensuring gender equality and so on.
- Both have sustainability as the core principle.

The links among the human development approach, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are mutually reinforcing in three ways. First, the conceptual foundation of the 2030 Agenda is strengthened by the analytical elements of the human development approach strengthen its conceptual foundation. Similarly, the human development approach is enriched by elements in the narrative of the 2030 Agenda.

Second, the Sustainable Development Goal indicators can be used with the human development indicators in assessing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, the human development approach can supplement the Sustainable Development Goal indicators with additional indicators.

In spite of heated debates leading to bitter gridlock at the national, regional and global levels, through the rubble the tender shoots of a global consensus are emerging to ensure a sustainable world for future generations

Sustainable Development Goals**Goal 1**

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts¹

Goal 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

1. Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Source: United Nations 2015c.

The links among the human development approach, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are mutually reinforcing

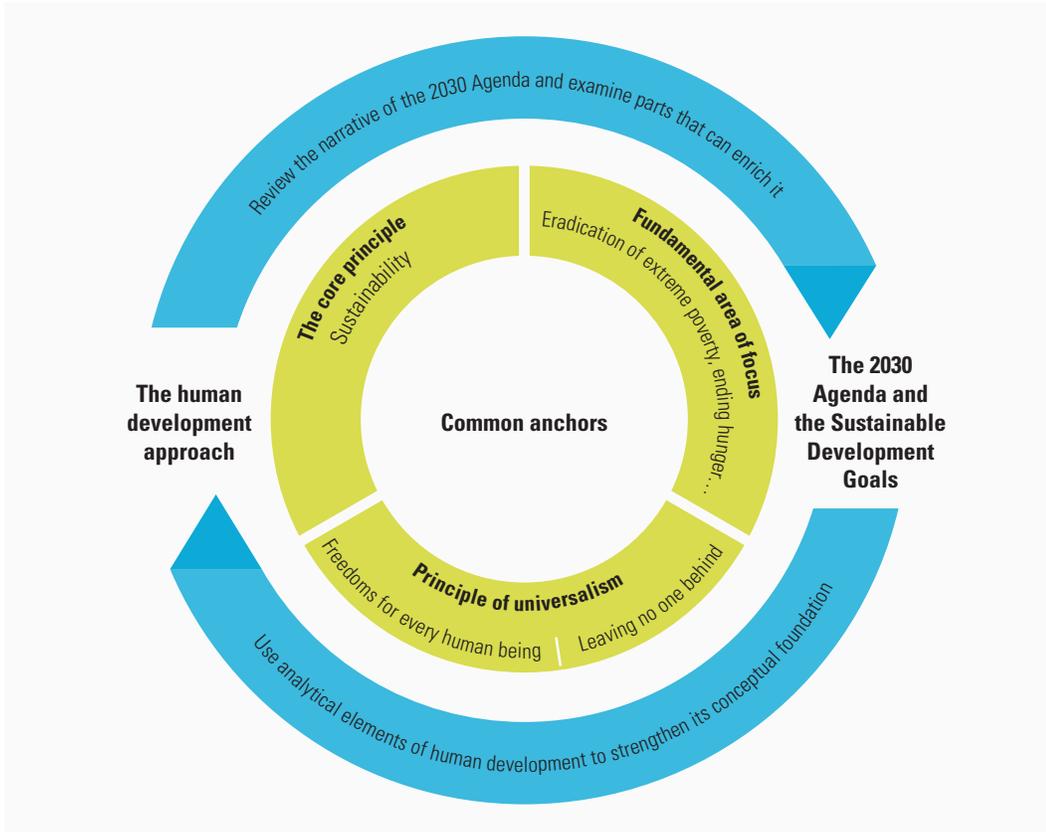
Third, the Human Development Report can be an extremely powerful advocacy instrument for the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. And the Sustainable Development Goals can be a good platform for the greater visibility of the human development approach and the Human Development Report through 2030.

Universalism is at the core of human development. And given the progress in human

development over the past 25 years and the hope it presents, human development for everyone must be and can be attained. But there are considerable challenges and barriers to universal human development. So universalism of human development must not remain a philosophical tenet. It must become a practical reality to analyse the who and where of why human development not reaching everyone—a task for chapter 2.

FIGURE 1.10

Analytical links between the human development approach and the 2030 Agenda



Source: Human Development Report Office.