

Chapter 6

Human development
for everyone—
looking forward

Infographic 6.1 Human development for everyone— a five-point action agenda



6.



Human development for everyone— looking forward

We want a world where human development reaches everyone and no one is left behind—now or in the future. In that broader perspective the preceding chapters have articulated the message that since universalism is key to human development, it is both an ethical imperative and a practical requirement. The human development journey will not be universal if we leave anyone behind, and we cannot build a peaceful and prosperous world by excluding people on the path.

Human development for everyone is not a dream; it is a realizable goal. We can build on what we have achieved. We can explore new possibilities to overcome challenges. We can attain what once seemed unattainable, for what seem to be challenges today can be overcome tomorrow. Realizing our hopes is within our reach. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are critical steps towards human development for everyone.

But the reality is that the impressive progress on many human development fronts over the past 25 years has bypassed many people, particularly those who are marginalized and vulnerable. Such progress has enriched many lives—but not to the same extent and certainly not for all. The barriers are still substantial—economic, political and social—for all human beings to realize their full potential in life. Such barriers are particularly stark for women and girls, since they are discriminated against just because of their gender.

Overcoming such inequality and barriers is a prerequisite for human development for everyone. Despite the barriers to universalism, a more just, equitable and inclusive world must be viewed as achievable. Particularly where the financial and technological resources exist to eliminate deprivations, the persistence of such injustice is indefensible. A more equal world calls for practical and immediate action on three fronts. First is implementing relevant measures from the range of available policy options. Second is reforming global governance with fairer multilateralism. And third is refocusing on analytical issues, such as disaggregated indicators, voice and autonomy measures and qualitative assessments of human development.

The world has fewer than 15 years to achieve the aspirational and inspirational goals to eradicate poverty, end hunger, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Time is of the essence, as Sub-Saharan Africa shows (figure 6.1). To eliminate extreme poverty by 2030, it must progress twice as fast as its current rate. If nothing happens in the next six years, progress will have to be more than three times faster.¹ If numbers stagnate in the next 11 years, progress will have to be eight times faster.

Human development for everyone—an action agenda

In the context of these aspirations, the Report builds on its analysis and findings to suggest a five-point action agenda for ensuring human development for everyone (see infographic 6.1 on the facing page). These actions cover policy issues and global commitments.

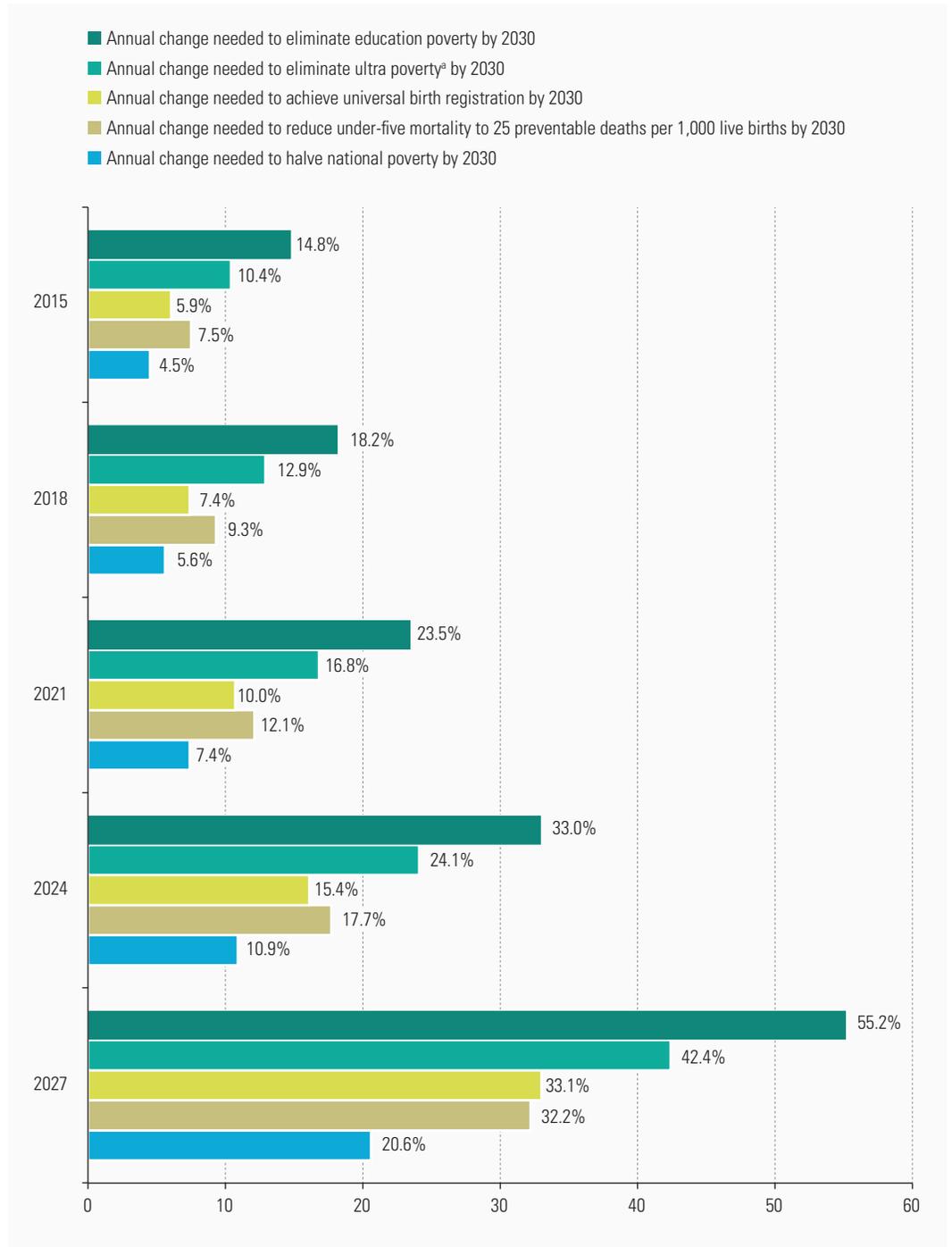
Identifying those who face human development deficits and mapping where they are

Identifying those who have been left out of the progress in human development and mapping their locations are not just parts of an academic exercise, they are essential tasks for useful advocacy and for effective policymaking. Such mapping can help development activists demand action and guide policymakers in formulating and implementing policies to improve the well-being of marginalized and vulnerable people. National and subnational Human Development Reports can be useful instruments for identifying those left behind and mapping their locations.

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FIGURE 6.1

Reaching everyone—time is of the essence in Sub-Saharan Africa



a. Defined as poverty in which individuals cannot afford to meet daily recommended food requirements.
Source: ODI 2016.

Administrative registries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Administrative registries collect multidimensional data on such subjects as time use, income and subjective well-being. A well known example is Brazil's Cadastro Único shared registry, which provides panel data on the vulnerable population, defined as households earning half or less of a minimum wage per person or three minimum wages in all. The database contains information on the characteristics of the household and each family member and on their social and economic circumstances and access to public services.

Run by Caixa Econômica Federal, a public bank, the database covers about 78 million people, mainly to assign benefits for Bolsa Família, the well known cash transfer programme. It has increased the programme's outreach while mitigating the risk of data manipulation,

fraud and clientelism, for which Bolsa Família was earlier criticized.

Other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have followed Brazil's lead. The Dominican Republic's Single Beneficiary Selection System helps identify and classify households eligible for social programmes. This targeting mechanism has been key for channelling resources to the most vulnerable households, while also improving the monitoring and evaluation of social policy programmes.

A single national database for determining eligibility has other benefits, such as preventing duplication (otherwise people may receive benefits from several programmes), reducing administrative costs across programmes and facilitating the monitoring of criteria for time limits and graduation.

Source: Checchi and van der Werfhorst 2014; ILO 2014a; World Bank 2015c.

A critical element of such a mapping exercise is collecting relevant information and data. Rather than traditional census and household surveys, innovative data collection mechanisms—such as administrative registries, as pursued in some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean—can be more effective (box 6.1).

Pursuing a range of available policy options with coherence

Translating universalism from principle to practice will have to go beyond mapping those left out in the human development journey and identifying the barriers they face. Pursuing necessary policies and empowering those left out are a must.

Human development for everyone requires a multipronged set of national policy options (see chapter 4): reaching those left out using universal policies, pursuing measures for groups with special needs, making human development resilient and empowering those left out.

Keep in mind, however, that country situations differ and policy options have to be tailored to each country. Policies in every country have to be pursued in a coherent way through multistakeholder engagement, local and subnational adaptations and horizontal (across silos) and vertical policy coherence (for international and global consistency).

Closing the gender gap

Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental dimensions of human development. With half of humanity lacking equal progress in human development, human development is not universal. This simple but a powerful truth is often forgotten in the preoccupation with average human progress.

Gender gaps exist in capabilities as well as opportunities. As the 2016 Global Gender Gap Report indicates, progress is still too slow for realizing the full potential of half of humanity within our lifetimes.² On current trends East Asia and the Pacific will take 111 years to close just the economic gender gap (not to speak of other gender gaps), and the Middle East and North Africa, 356 years.

At a historic gathering in New York in September 2015 some 80 world leaders committed to end discrimination against women by 2030 and announced concrete and measurable national actions to kickstart rapid changes. The commitments address the most pressing barriers for women, such as increasing investment in gender equality, reaching parity for women at all levels of decisionmaking, eliminating discriminatory legislation and tackling social norms that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women. Now is the time to act on what has been promised and agreed.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental dimensions of human development

The Sustainable Development Goals, critical in their own right, are also crucial for human development for everyone; the 2030 Agenda and the human development approach are mutually reinforcing

Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and other global agreements

The Sustainable Development Goals, critical in their own right, are also crucial for human development for everyone; the 2030 Agenda and the human development approach are mutually reinforcing. Further, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is an important step for all human beings to realize their full potential in life. In that context the focus should be not only on people who are “just behind and visible,” but also on those who are “far behind and invisible.” Tracking and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals are thus important to measure progress, identify gaps in sustainable development and change policies and implementation plans, if development is off track. Her Excellency Angela Merkel, chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, argues that all of humanity will have to work together towards realizing the inspirational 2030 Agenda (see special contribution).

The historic Paris Agreement on climate change 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 (box 6.2). All parties should now report regularly on their emissions and their efforts to implement their commitments, submitting to international review. On another front, the New York Declaration, announced at the UN Summit for Refugees in September 2016, contains bold commitments to address the issues facing refugees and migrants and to prepare for future challenges (box 6.3). The international community, national governments and all other parties must ensure that the agreements are honoured, implemented and monitored.

Working towards reforms in the global system

In today’s globalized world, national policies for universal human development must be complemented and supplemented by a global system that is fair and that enriches human development. The current architecture of the global system has five glaring shortcomings: the governance of economic globalization is

BOX 6.2

The Paris Agreement on climate change

The key outcomes of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were the Paris Agreement and a companion decision known as the 21st Session. Among their provisions:

- Reaffirm the goal of limiting global temperature increase to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels, while urging efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.
 - Establish binding commitments by all parties to make nationally determined contributions and pursue domestic measures aimed at achieving the contributions.
 - Commit all countries to report regularly on their emissions and progress in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions and to undergo international review.
 - Commit all countries to submit new nationally determined contributions every five years, with the clear expectation that they will represent progress beyond the previous contributions.
- Reaffirm the binding obligations of developed countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to support the efforts of developing countries, while encouraging voluntary contributions by developing countries, too.
 - Extend through 2025 the current goal of mobilizing \$100 billion a year in support by 2020 with a higher goal to be set for the period after 2025.
 - Extend a mechanism to address the loss and damage resulting from climate change, which explicitly will not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation.
 - Require parties engaging in international emissions trading to avoid double counting.
 - Call for a new mechanism, similar to the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol, that enables emission reductions in one country to be counted towards another country’s nationally determined contributions.

Source: UNFCCC 2015.



The Sustainable Development Goals—shared vision, collective responsibilities

Human dignity is inviolable. This principle has not changed since 1948 when it was formulated by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It does not stop at national borders and applies to everyone regardless of age, gender or religion. However, to what extent have we lived up to this high principle? How far have we progressed in reality towards ensuring that every individual can lead a life in dignity? The Human Development Report sheds light on this regularly. By placing the focus on individuals, it also highlights the necessity of investing in people: in health, in education and training, in economic and social infrastructure.

Poverty and hunger, state fragility and terror—we are aware of these and other existential challenges. However, we also know that good human development is possible. Even in the poorest regions there are not only natural resources, but also tremendous creativity, innovative drive and a willingness to work hard. We have to make the most of these assets in order to seize the opportunities for a life in dignity—regardless of how difficult that might be in some cases.

At a time of increasing globalization, life chances on the different continents are more closely interconnected than ever before. It is therefore all the more important to act jointly on the basis of shared values. That is why we have adopted the 2030 Agenda with its global Sustainable Development Goals. That is why we have concluded a global climate agreement. As a result of these instruments, all states have an obligation and responsibility to tackle the key challenges facing humankind—from the eradication of poverty and the protection of the climate, nature and the environment to ensuring peace.

In many respects, viable answers to such crucial questions require us to fundamentally change how we think and act in the way we live and work. The economy, social issues and the environment have an impact on each other. Economic productivity, social responsibility and protection of the natural resources on our planet therefore have to be reconciled. This is exactly the meaning of the principle of sustainability, which the 2030 Agenda is aiming for. In its essence, it is about nothing less than a life in dignity, justice and peace, a life in an intact environment, social security and the opportunity for every individual to reach their economic potential.

The 2030 Agenda has laid the cornerstone of a new global partnership in which Germany too is assuming an active role. Already in July 2016, at the first High-Level Political Forum in New York, the German government

reported on the steps taken towards implementing the agenda at national level, as well as the measures to follow. At the international level we will use our G20 presidency in 2017 in particular to set priorities on the AGENDA.

The consistent implementation of the 2030 Agenda also calls for a transformation of the international system. One key task of the new UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, will therefore be to make the UN structures and institutions fit for purpose. Germany will be happy to support him in this process.

Modern information and communications technologies offer major opportunities for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They boost the efficiency, effectivity and transparency of measures and processes, thus saving time and money. They open up new possibilities for dialogue and cooperation. They enable everyone to have access to knowledge.

Broader access to information can, not least, promote development policy goals in areas such as good governance and rural development, as well as education, health and the development of financial systems. The development and expansion of digital infrastructure can create new opportunities for economic growth and employment in both industrialized and developing countries. The important thing is to eliminate existing differences not only between industrialized and developing countries, but also within developing countries, for example between urban and rural regions.

Alongside access to modern technologies, there is the question of digital inclusion. The right qualifications are essential if every man and woman is to participate in the digital world on an equal basis in both economic and social terms. This, too, will be one of the focal issues during Germany's G20 presidency.

Not only determination, but also unity are required in order to master the diverse global challenges and in some cases crisis-ridden developments. The 2030 Agenda provides us with a comprehensive and forward-looking approach for shaping our world together—not any old way, not at the expense of people and nature in other regions but for the benefit of everyone in our one world. We all have a responsibility, day in and day out, to make sustainability a guiding principle in action—as responsible politicians and decisionmakers in business and society, as individuals who are truly interested in our future.

Before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda it was the time to negotiate. Now is the time to act. It is up to us to enable everyone to live a life in dignity.

Dr. Angela Merkel

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

unbalanced, globalization remains inequitable, imbalances exist in the governance of multilateral institutions, multilateralism remains reactive to human security and the potential of global civil society remains untapped.

These shortcomings pose challenges to human development on several fronts. The distributional consequences of inequitable globalization promote the progress of some segments of the population, leaving poor and

The New York Declaration

- Protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status. This includes the rights of women and girls and promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation in finding solutions.
- Ensure that all refugee and migrant children are receiving education within a few months of arrival.
- Prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Support those countries rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants.
- Work towards ending the practice of detaining children for the purposes of determining their migration status.
- Strongly condemn xenophobia against refugees and migrants and support a global campaign to counter it.
- Strengthen the positive contributions made by migrants to economic and social development in their host countries.
- Improve the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance to those countries most affected, including through innovative multilateral financial solutions, with the goal of closing all funding gaps.
- Implement a comprehensive refugee response based on a new framework that sets out the responsibility of Member States, civil society partners and the UN system, whenever there is a large movement of refugees or a protracted refugee situation.
- Find new homes for all refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as needing resettlement and expand the opportunities for refugees to relocate to other countries through, for example, labour mobility or education schemes.
- Strengthen the global governance of migration by bringing the International Organization for Migration into the UN system.

Source: United Nations 2016i.

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vulnerable people behind. Such globalization makes those left behind economically insecure. And people suffer in lingering conflicts.

To move towards a fairer global system, the agenda for global institutional reforms should focus on global markets and their regulation, on the governance of multilateral institutions and on the strengthening of global civil society. That reform agenda should be promoted vigorously and consistently by bolstering public advocacy, building alliances among stakeholders and pushing through the agenda for reform.

Human development for everyone —future substantive work

To ensure universal human development, the action agenda for policies and reforms will have to be backed by substantive work on analytical issues and assessment perspectives. The substantive work must begin with the why questions. Why are people discriminated? Why have social norms and values evolved to what they are now? Answering will require not only economic analysis, but also sociological and anthropological studies.

Some issues in the human development approach need to be refocused. So far, the approach has concentrated more on freedom of well-being than on freedom of agency. This may have a historical reason. In earlier years basic deprivations were more significant, deserving the most analysis, measurement and policy response. But as well-being has been realized, freedom of agency has become more important. Voice and autonomy have become more important not only in their own right, but also as critical instruments for the empowerment and well-being of those left out.

The focus also has to be on analysing and understanding collective capabilities. Collective agency is critical for people who are marginalized and vulnerable, who may not be able to achieve much alone. And because poor and disadvantaged people suffer most from insecurities and vulnerabilities, human security needs to be analysed through its links with human development and the balance between short-term responses and long-term prevention.

To ensure human development for everyone, future substantive work should also concentrate on assessing human development. Reaching everyone requires disaggregated data and the pursuit of three other issues.

First, assessments of human development so far have focused on quantitative achievements. But with progress in human development, quality has also become important. For example, more children are enrolled in and attending school, but what are they learning? So along with quantitative monitoring of progress in human development, it is equally important to assess the quality of those achievements.

Second, even though it is more difficult to measure voice and autonomy, research should focus on developing such a measure. Much has been written on this, and human development assessments can build on that work. Such a measure would not only complement the Human Development Index (a measure of well-being), it would also be a powerful instrument to advocate for the voiceless.

Third, various measures of well-being and deprivations have been proposed from different perspectives. Those left out suffer deprivation in multiple aspects of life. So it is crucial that we have a clear idea of multiple deprivations and well-being. Examining how human development measures can benefit from the other measures of well-being would be a worthwhile exercise.

Because universalism is central to the human development approach, some of these analytical and assessment issues would inform and guide the research, analysis and work of future Human Development Reports, including the 2017 Report. This is necessary to extend the frontiers of the human development approach, to better understand human development issues and to address future human development challenges.

Conclusion

From a human development perspective, we want a world where all human beings have the freedom to realize their full potential in life so they can attain what they value. This is what human development is all about—universalism, leaving no one behind. Universal human development must enable all people—regardless of their age, citizenship, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or any other identity—to expand their capabilities fully and put those capabilities to use. This also means that capabilities and opportunities are sustainable throughout an individual’s lifecycle and across generations. But those less endowed or lagging behind need support from others—from individuals, communities and states—to realize their full potential.

In the ultimate analysis, development is of the people, by the people and for the people. People have to partner with each other. There needs to be a balance between people and the planet. And humanity has to strive for peace and prosperity. Human development requires recognizing that every life is equally valuable and that human development for everyone must start with those farthest behind.

The 2016 Human Development Report is an intellectual contribution to resolving these issues. We strongly believe that only after they are resolved will we all reach the end of the road together. And when we look back, we will see that no one has been left out.

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