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# Ideas, Innovation, Impact

HOW HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS INFLUENCE CHANGE

# INTRODUCTION

National and regional Human Development Reports (HDRs) are much more than just publications. They are dynamic advocacy tools created through a process of broad participation and active engagement within countries and across regions. The following pages chronicle some of the most outstanding and innovative examples.

Commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which as the UN's development network spans 166 countries, the reports bring people together to debate and articulate their development priorities. They strengthen capacities to produce data and analysis. And they focus political attention on concrete policies and resources needed to overcome poverty, foster growth and equity, and improve people's lives by expanding their choices and capabilities.

Since 1992, more than 500 national and sub-national Human Development Reports have been

produced by 143 countries, in addition to 28 regional reports. The launch of a report is frequently a high-profile national, regional or even international event. Prominent political and other leaders often participate, and media coverage can be extensive.

In many places, people have come to view the reports as important sources of innovation. Taking on cutting-edge issues, they make new connections and offer alternative proposals for development. They devise creative but intellectually rigorous means of fulfilling gaps in socioeconomic data, including on the local level, where these can be most severe.

Report teams, under the leadership of national institutions and individuals, and with the guidance of UNDP, often choose highly participatory research methods, from door-to-door municipal surveys to opinion pieces published in the final report. This has helped identify hidden disparities and broadened mainstream policy discussions by bringing in traditionally excluded perspectives—from women, poorer people, ethnic minorities and people living with HIV/AIDS.

## How Do HDRs Make a Difference?

National policies revised to reflect the needs of the poorest

Budget priorities shifted

Laws passed or amended

Human development data incorporated into statistical systems

Increased donor funding targeting human development priorities

Prominent media coverage on human development issues

People-centred curricula adopted

Civil society campaigns established

## PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

Inclusion and equity are some of the hallmarks of the human development conceptual framework pioneered by the renowned global Human Development Reports, published annually since 1990. All national and regional Human Development Reports are shaped around this approach to analysing development, which was the brainchild of economist Mahbub ul Haq. It has also drawn extensively on the research of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen and other prominent scholars.

Human development puts people at the centre of the development process. It calls for enlarging peo-

*"I received Afghanistan's first National Human Development Report with great pleasure... My Government intends to use this report for policy guidance and as a yardstick with which to measure its future achievements."*

—H.E. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan

ple's choices and building their capabilities to live a long and healthy life, have access to knowledge, enjoy a decent standard of living, and participate in the life of their community and the decisions that affect their lives. Since there are many ways of expanding people's choices, the key dimensions of human development can evolve over time and vary from country to country. Some current central issues include participation and freedom, sustainable development, and human security against both chronic threats such as hunger and abrupt threats such as job loss.

In general, human development is holistic, seeking to balance economic efficiency, equity and freedom. It is action-oriented, recognizing that the link between economic growth and human progress requires deliberate policies. These must acknowledge that growth for its own sake is not enough; its structure and quality matter as well. Human development further defines human poverty as the denial of both material well-being, and the chance for a life of dignity, self respect and basic rights.

The Human Development Reports have introduced several indices to quantitatively measure human development, starting with the human development index (HDI). It provides an alternative to the more narrow calculation of gross domestic product. Other examples include human poverty indices for both developing and developed countries; the gender-related development index, which adjusts the human development index for gender inequality; and the gender empowerment measurement, which assesses gender equality in economic and political participation.

Many national and regional Human Development Reports have used these indices as they were original-

ly designed. Some have adapted the concept and developed new indices that more accurately depict national and regional concerns—while maintaining a connection to core human development principles.

### **CHANGING POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

Because they offer flexibility, and because they are grounded in national and regional perspectives, the Human Development Reports are ideally placed to

make substantial impacts on policies and practices. Given the complexity of the policy-making process, it is not a simple matter to influence change. However, through innovative approaches and the combined efforts of multiple stakeholders, many reports have done so, as the examples in this publication make clear.

HDR policy proposals have helped shape poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), and shifted attention and resources to municipal planning. They have

## **Six Core Principles**

*HDR teams use the following corporate policy guidelines to produce high-quality reports that aim to achieve:*

**National and regional ownership** through a process that draws on national/regional actors and capabilities throughout the preparation, yielding a product firmly grounded in the country's past and existing development plans. *Ensures relevance*

**Participatory and inclusive preparation** that gathers together diverse actors as active partners. These include government, non-governmental, academic and non-academic players, both men and women, different ethnic groups and so on. *Builds consensus*

**Independence of analysis** through objective assessments based on reliable analysis and data. Reports are not consensus documents, they are independent publications in which the authors take ultimate responsibility for the points of view. *Generates respect*

**Quality of analysis** that centres on people and makes global, regional and local connections. It uses quantitative and qualitative data to support policy arguments, and to measure and monitor human advances. *Promotes human development strategies*

**Flexibility and creativity in presentation** through attractive visuals, fluid language and a creative style that will engage the interest of the target audience. *Maximizes impact*

**Sustained follow-up** that generates awareness and dialogue, and influences national development actions. *Makes the report's voice heard*

*In Latvia, the Mayor of Daugavpils referred to the national report as a “handbook for all municipal leaders and social workers.” The Mayor of Liepaga declared that “the human security concept will replace economic poverty as the organizing criterion for municipal planning.”*

changed prison rules and influenced peace negotiations. Universities and military academies have incorporated the reports into their curricula. Scholars have discovered new ideas for research.

Non-governmental groups turn to the reports to monitor progress and hold governments accountable, while journalists use them as a reporting resource. The UN system and other international development organizations employ report findings to steer national

programmes, policy advice, aid coordination and resource mobilization efforts.

The reports also inform national and regional work on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the series of basic development objectives that stemmed from the Millennium Declaration, produced by the UN Millennium Summit. The human development proposals featured in the reports make substantial contributions to plans and activities to achieve the MDGs by their endpoint of 2015. Some reports have taken an in-depth look at one or more of the goals, complementing the shorter statistical summaries offered in national and regional MDG Reports.

### **A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY**

Over the years, another result of the Human Development Reports has been the formation of vibrant national and international communities with a growing commitment to and experience working on human development. They link governments, the UN system, universities, NGOs and other partners. In documenting innovative solutions to complex devel-

opment problems, they contribute to a global sharing of knowledge. This cross fertilization allows people in different places to exchange and adapt development strategies with proven track records.

While the focus of the Human Development Reports is on regional and national knowledge, UNDP stands behind the production of the reports with a wealth of resources produced by the National Human Development Report (NHDR) Unit, which is based in UNDP’s Human Development Report Office.

The UNDP Corporate Policy on NHDRs and the HDR Toolkit offer guidance on ways to produce high-quality reports. On the Human Development Report Web site (<http://hdr.undp.org/reports>), a database of all reports is searchable by theme, year, country and region, and includes links to independent peer reviews. Two global networks—HDR-Net and HDRStats-Net—connect nearly 1,500 development practitioners, who exchange experiences and ideas through electronic discussions.

The biennial UNDP Awards for Human Development provide incentives for producing high-quality reports, while the HDR Innovation Fund issues supplementary grants for innovative practices. These help report teams aim high in terms of scholarship and policy impact, and contribute to the momentum arising as people around the world define and advocate what they need to transform their lives.

### **The Millennium Development Goals**

- 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2: Achieve universal primary education
- 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4: Reduce child mortality
- 5: Improve maternal health
- 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8: Develop a global partnership for development

# AFGHANISTAN: THE REAL THREAT IS POVERTY

**Title:** *Security with a Human Face: Challenges and Responsibilities*

**Year:** 2004

**Type:** National

## Ideas

Afghanistan may no longer be at war, but its first report documents that it is not quite at peace. While the economy is picking up overall, poverty, inequality and instability splinter the population and threaten progress.

The report states boldly that human security and development, rather than diplomacy and military force, will solve Afghanistan's complex problems. It predicts that a lasting peace will not take hold until legitimate grievances are addressed, and Afghans can expect a life of dignity, and freedom from both fear and want.

**Awards:** Innovation Fund grant

## Innovation

The report marks the first time in modern history that objective observers were allowed to gather and tabulate hard data on living conditions among everyday Afghans. In the absence of a national census for 25 years, the report team brought in a specialist from the Government of India to assist in compiling human development indicators.

To help develop national capacity to produce the report, workshops to train report team members on human development concepts took place before research began. Lectures were held for scholars and students at three major universities in Kabul and in four provinces.

## Impact

The Government has adopted the report as a tool for formulating the National Development Strategy in coming years. President Hamid Karzai referred to the report's summary of social development indicators during a presentation to the European Parliament.

The strong emphasis on national capacity development has left the Afghan authors of the report well-positioned to independently prepare future editions.

Global media coverage included stories on the BBC, CNN, Radio Australia, *Tokyo Shimbun*, Reuters, Al Jazeera, *Le Monde*, the *Slovak Spectator*, the PakTribune news service, *The Toronto Star* and *The New York Times*.

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** Not calculated

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goal 1 (poverty eradication).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Authors from the Government, international institutions and universities worked with a National Advisory Panel, chaired by the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, and an International Expert Committee.

**Methodology:** Seven sectoral and 18 thematic background papers prepared by national researchers, consultations to elicit people's views, and national and international data

## ARAB STATES: THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE

**Title:** *Building a Knowledge Society*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** Regional

### Ideas

Part of a series of groundbreaking reports that have grabbed attention around the world, the 2003 edition looks at how knowledge deficits hinder human development in Arab countries. The report finds that a knowledge gap more than an income gap determines countries' prospects in a global economy.

It lays out a vision of a future knowledge society built on political freedoms, high-quality education, widespread innovation, the production of knowledge, and general knowledge models that are broad and open to the outside world.

### Innovation

The Arab Human Development Reports have brought Arabs together from across 22 countries to debate and offer insights into the region's most contentious issues—all under the close scrutiny of the rest of the world.

The 2003 report devises a novel indicator for measuring knowledge that considers not just the quantity and quality of education, but also incorporates data on the numbers of daily newspapers, radios, television sets, scientists and engineers, patent applications, book titles, telephone lines, cellular phone subscribers and Internet hosts.

**Awards:** 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development, special recognition for continuing excellence

### Impact

Bahrain is now upgrading the technology skills of primary school teachers. Jordan is assessing gaps between higher education and labour market demands, a first step towards developing new policies related to a knowledge-based economy. Yemen has introduced human rights curricula.

New regional initiatives include the launch of the Arab Science and Policy Research Center.

Media coverage has been widespread in and outside the Arab region, and has continued long after the publication of the report.

Universities using the report in their curricula include Cairo University, Jordan University, King Saud University and Al-Akawayin University.

## Selected Other Reports

2004: *Towards Freedom in the Arab World*

2002: *Creating Opportunities for Future Generations*

**2004 global HDR human development index rankings:** Out of 177 countries, 108 (Algeria), 40 (Bahrain), 154 (Djibouti), 120 (Egypt), 90 (Jordan), 44 (Kuwait), 80 (Lebanon), 58 (Libya), 125 (Morocco), 102 (Occupied Palestinian Territories), 77 (Saudi Arabia), 139 (Sudan), 106 (Syria), 92 (Tunisia), 49 (United Arab Emirates), 149 (Yemen), Iraq and Somalia not available (ranges from low to high human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 2 (education) and 3 (gender equality).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Five core authors worked with 35 contributing authors and an advisory group of 23 leading Arab intellectuals, with contributors representing 22 Arab countries. A readers group of internationally renowned scholars reviewed the draft.

**Methodology:** A poll of 400 faculty members in Arab universities, 20 country reports, thematic background papers, and international and national data

## ARGENTINA: HELPING A COUNTRY MOVE BEYOND CRISIS

**Title:** *Contributions to Argentina's Human Development*

**Year:** 2002

**Type:** National

### Ideas

Published at a time of political and economic collapse, the report highlights how broad-based human development strategies can help repair a legacy of centralized and exclusionary policies.

Noting that Argentina has the human and economic resources to overcome its crisis, the report offers core proposals drawn from extensive consultations. The recommendations include an equitable decentralization policy, more cooperative federalism, and genuine and sustainable competitiveness as key to human development.

### Innovation

The report produced the Extended Human Development Index (EHDI). It includes quantitative measurements of infant mortality, unemployment and education quality to reveal overlooked social and geographical differences. A special Gross Geographical Product measurement profiles provincial statistics that did not previously exist.

Surveys polled ordinary citizens across the country on competitiveness and democracy. A massive outreach campaign, timed in part to coincide with national reform discussions, stretched from the media to the poorest communities via a cultural caravan.

**Awards:** 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development for excellence in policy impact

### Impact

The Ministries of Social Development, Health and Education are using the EHDI for designing policies and deciding resource allocations.

Parliament referred to the report for drafting a bill on federal tax co-sharing.

Provinces have begun preparing human development indices and reports as a first step towards designing local human development strategies.

The National Ministry of Education requested 40,000 copies of the report for distribution to high schools nationwide.

Military academies now offer a seminar on human development.

### Selected Other Reports

1999: *Argentina Human Development Report* (on education)

1998: *The Values for Argentines' Human Development*

1997: *Argentina Human Development Report*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 34 out of 177 countries (considered high human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (education) and 4 (reducing child mortality).

### Who and How

**The report team:** Researchers came from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, and the University of Buenos Aires. An advisory committee supervised production.

**Methodology:** Surveys, in-depth interviews, workshops, adaptation of human development indices, and triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data

# AZERBAIJAN: HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

**Title:** *Azerbaijan Human Development Report*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

**Awards:** Innovation Fund grant

## Ideas

Building on a new national information and communications technology strategy, the report finds that despite recent economic growth, the post-transition drop in GDP, along with reduced access to education and investments in research, hinder the spread of technology and hopes for a stable and diverse economy.

The report proposes learning from international examples and leapfrogging to the latest innovations on many fronts, from cellular networks to computerized health care.

## Innovation

Since Turkey and Azerbaijan were preparing reports at the same time, the two report teams struck a unique agreement to research the same topics—given that the two countries share some common cultural features. Joint reviews of their findings discovered common problems that both can collaborate on solving, such as insufficient legal frameworks and limited technical training.

The results of this collaboration are summarized in a short separate publication entitled *Azerbaijan and Turkey NHDRs 2003: Neighbours Harnessing Technology and Promoting the Information Society*.

## Impact

Following the report, the Ministry of Communication reorganized itself as the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

The country's first community organization was registered as the Human Development and Sustainable Income Generation Public Union.

The Minister of Education published a human development curriculum, and the subject became an option in secondary schools.

The Multinational Azerbaijan International Operating Company, operated by British Petroleum, followed a report recommendation and set up a Human Development Centre to work on private sector issues.

## Selected Other Reports

2002: *Azerbaijan Human Development Report*

2000: *Azerbaijan Human Development Report*

1999: *Azerbaijan Human Development Report*

1997: *Azerbaijan Human Development Report* (on social cohesion)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 91 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication) and 2 (education).

## Who and How

**The report team:** A steering committee comprised social scientists and economists from a variety of national public and private institutions.

**Methodology:** A survey of information and communications technology access, and joint reviews of findings with the team preparing Turkey's national Human Development Report



# BOLIVIA: TRACING THE LINKS BETWEEN CULTURE AND GLOBALIZATION

**Title:** *Interculturalism and Globalization: Bolivia's Potential*

**Year:** 2004

**Type:** National and sub-national

## Ideas

As economic and social crisis simmers in Bolivia, touched off in part by disputes over natural gas reserves, the national report and a series of four sub-national reports question the potential of globalization in a poorer society with low social cohesion.

The reports contend that globalization must be connected to local cultural norms. They propose embracing a proactive 'interculturalism', and envisioning a 'possible Bolivia', where wealth is widely distributed and information technology serves human development.

## Innovation

In a society with diverse perspectives on human development, the national report uses a sociological survey to bridge traditional data and measurements of people's subjective experiences. Unprecedented in its scope and approach, the survey covers 3,600 people in nine departments and measures perceptions related to globalization. New indices measure issues including intercultural tolerance and disposition to opening the economy to external markets.

The sub-national reports study regions with strong ties across national borders; two reports include input from neighbouring countries.

## Impact

The President of Bolivia praised the national report as offering the most complete economic analysis in 40 years.

A lively media debate about the report's conclusions persisted long after it was launched, due to a concerted dissemination strategy. It included the production of 60 30-minute radio 'magazines' in three languages picked up by 278 radio stations. An impact study found six out of 10 rural radio listeners had discussed the magazines with friends and families.

The Government is using the national report to help formulate a National Information and Communication Strategy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs turned to the sub-national reports to shape a Frontier Development Strategy.

## Selected Other Reports

2003: *Human Development Report on Gender*

2002: *Bolivia Human Development Report* (on political capabilities for human development)

2000: *Bolivia Human Development Report*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 114 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goal 1 (poverty eradication).

## Who and How

**The report team:** A group of core researchers worked with a consultative panel of prominent academics, and an institutional committee presided over by the Vice-President of Bolivia that comprised high-profile public and private sector representatives willing to advocate for human development.

**Methodology:** A sociological survey, 45 focal groups, in-depth interviews on the 'Internet culture' and thematic workshops

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: PUTTING THE MDGS INTO NATIONAL PLANS

**Title:** *Millennium Development Goals*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

**Awards:** 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development, special recognition for support of the MDGs; Innovation Fund grant

## Ideas

Nearly a decade after war ended and a massive international push for reconstruction began, Bosnia and Herzegovina is taking greater national charge of its development.

The report, which features quantitative MDG achievements and human development analysis, asks, "Where will I be in 2015?" It uses the MDGs to frame proposals to increase the pace of development, and warns that policy must be proactive and avoid resting on the achievements of the former Yugoslavia.

## Innovation

Extensive collaboration between the report team and the team preparing Bosnia and Herzegovina's PRSP produced multisectoral policy recommendations that build on existing Government action plans.

A comprehensive chapter on MDG monitoring presents nationally adapted targets and indicators. The MDG target on poverty reduction, for example, is recast in terms of Bosnia and Herzegovina achieving European Union (EU) levels. The report extends targets on gender equality to include a reduction in domestic violence.

## Impact

Over 70 per cent of the localized MDG indicators are included in Bosnia and Herzegovina's PRSP, where they will serve as benchmarks for future policies. The report's proposed halfway values for 2007 helped map the PRSP's medium-term targets.

The Government's Economic Policy Planning Unit has adhered closely to the report's development priorities: poverty reduction, gender equity and international partnership.

UNDP published a follow-up report dovetailing the localized MDGs with the EU social inclusion framework.

Ongoing advocacy keeps MDG messages on commercial products, such as bread packaging.

## Selected Other Reports

2002: *General Human Development Report*

2000: *Youth*

1999: *General Human Development Report*

1998: *General Human Development Report*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 66 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to all eight goals.

## Who and How

**The report team:** Sets of national experts on each MDG drafted each chapter, working under a team leader from the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues.

**Methodology:** Data analysis and regular consultations with the Government, the group preparing the PRSP and civil society organizations

## CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: INVESTING IN THE ROMA

**Title:** *The Roma in Central and Eastern Europe: Avoiding the Dependency Trap*

**Year:** 2002

**Type:** Regional and national (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia)

### Ideas

In the midst of European prosperity, the Roma live in conditions similar to the poorer parts of the developing world. Drawing on data from five countries where roughly half the Roma reside, the report demonstrates that they need more than anti-discrimination laws. Escaping a 'dependency trap' requires opportunities to enjoy good health, education and income.

A cost/benefit analysis shows that investments in appropriate projects to assist the Roma offer long-term benefits far exceeding the costs.

**Awards:** 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development for excellence in regional policy impact

### Innovation

*Avoiding the Dependency Trap* became the first report to address Roma issues through the wider lens of human development, rather than exclusively human rights.

The report presents the first-ever household study of the Roma, with over 5,034 interviews. It marks the first calculation of the human development index for the Roma, and the first disaggregation of MDG indicators, making the case that national averages bury disparities.

Five national reports fed into the regional report; an interactive Web site (<http://roma.undp.sk>) compiles all the data.

### Impact

Based on a report recommendation, the World Bank and the Open Society Institute launched the initiative A Decade of Roma Inclusion, with the objective of meeting the MDGs for the Roma community. UNDP is contributing new methodologies for collecting socioeconomic data reflecting ethnicity.

All nine countries participating in the Decade have adopted MDG targets for the Roma that include baseline data from the report.

With Roma issues a key policy priority for EU integration, the report, one of the most widely quoted UNDP publications ever, is still a favoured media resource.

Wide publicity has helped UNDP mobilize substantial funds for national Roma programmes.

## Selected Other Reports

2004: *Reversing the Epidemic: Facts and Policy Options* (on HIV/AIDS)

1999: *Transition*

1998: *Poverty in Transition?*

**2004 global HDR human development index rankings:** 56 (Bulgaria), 32 (Czech Republic), 38 (Hungary), 69 (Romania) and 42 (Slovakia) out of 177 countries (ranges from medium to high human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goal 1 (poverty eradication).

## Who and How

**The report team:** The authors represented the different countries studied for the report, plus an expert on labour economics from the University of Napoli in Italy. Experts from national and international organizations working on Roma issues provided feedback along with groups of Roma in Romania and Bulgaria.

**Methodology:** Surveys, the preparation of five national reports and data from Roma-targeted publications

## COLOMBIA: PEOPLE ADD THEIR VOICES TO PEACE

**Title:** *The Conflict: A Dead End with Ways Out*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

**Awards:** 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development for excellence in a participatory and inclusive process; Innovation Fund grant

### Ideas

The report explores how Colombia's complex and ongoing conflict closes off all dimensions of human development, taking lives, destroying economic security and shutting down political participation. It looks at the victims of armed conflict by geographic regions and as affected groups.

In 11 policy areas, the report makes proposals to strengthen development policies, such as by forging stronger links between debt cancellation and controlling the narcotics trade, and between demobilization and youth employment.

### Innovation

Before, during and after publication, the report has served as a platform for national and regional debate. Over 100 workshops took place, with a Web site launched beforehand that featured a wealth of human development resources. A multiplier network of 60 people trained for three days before fanning out across the country to present the report findings to local communities.

New indicators measure the impact of violence, and include a human development index corrected for violence that compares 65 countries and all Colombian departments.

### Impact

Development plans for Medellín, Antioquia and Meta have incorporated recommendations on issues including the prevention of guerrilla recruitment, mine action and the strengthening of local institutions.

The report fostered an unusually broad public dialogue in an environment where open discussion remains difficult. It involved peace activists, members of Congress, the military, civil servants, NGOs, religious leaders and ordinary citizens.

A new Human Development Unit is ensuring ongoing follow-up to the report, with activities including a database of good practices in peace-building, and forums and publications featuring diverse perspectives on key issues of concern.

## Selected Other Reports

2000: *Colombia Human Development Report* (on human rights)

1999: *Colombia Human Development Report* (on violence)

1998: *Colombia Human Development Report* (on poverty)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 73 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goal 1 (poverty eradication).

## Who and How

**The report team:** A 15-member coordination team of journalists, researchers, social scientists and lawyers consulted with a National Advisory Committee of prominent national figures, 11 sub-national advisory committees, local leaders in 220 municipalities and 14 departments, an academic committee and a journalists' group.

**Methodology:** Interviews, online forums, focus group meetings and official data complemented with other sources

## EGYPT: LOCAL DATA REVEAL DEVELOPMENT DISPARITIES

**Title:** *Local Participatory Development and Governorate Human Development Reports*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National and sub-national

### Ideas

A national and a series of seven sub-national governorate reports present Egypt's first comprehensive picture of current local development and look at how people can participate in local decision-making.

Preparing the sub-national reports brought local people together with elected representatives to debate key issues. The national report features locally disaggregated data, profiles the role of civil society, and delves into links between participation and education, the media and the private sector.

**Awards:** Innovation Fund grant

### Innovation

For the first time, the national report calculates the human development index across all of Egypt's 451 sub-administrative units, allowing policy makers to identify pockets of poverty hidden by national statistics. A searchable geographical database generates coloured maps to easily highlight varying levels of development.

The sub-national reports emphasized multiple layers of participation in their preparation, from round tables in the governorates involving hundreds of local people, to a cross peer review process where researchers in one governorate critiqued the findings of those in another.

### Impact

The Prime Minister requested a major programme, the Municipal Initiative for Strategic Result, to respond to the national report. It supports greater access to basic services in 58 sub-administrative units with the worst human development indicators.

Information from the report also fed into the preparation of the national Poverty Reduction Action Plan, shedding light on issues such as employment and infrastructure improvement.

All seven governors agreed to work with Local Councils on using the reports to guide plans for closing development gaps, and to provide matching funds from public and private sources. Governorates now employ a resource allocation formula that factors in the HDI.

## Selected Other Reports

2004: *Choosing Decentralization for Good Governance*

2000/2001: *Human Development Report* (on globalization)

1998/1999: *Human Development Report* (on education)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 120 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (education) and 3 (gender equality).

## Who and How

**The report team:** The authors of the national report worked with an advisory panel that included a representative from ORDEV, an organization for reconstruction and development of Egyptian villages. The sub-national reports used teams of reviewers from the governorates, along with statistical and other experts.

**Methodology:** Round-table discussions, data comparisons and studies of a national integrated local development programme

# EL SALVADOR: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MESSAGES FROM POLITICS TO ROCK SONGS

**Title:** *Challenges and Options in Times of Globalization*    **Awards:** Innovation Fund grant

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

## Ideas

During a time of national political turmoil and bilateral trade negotiations with the United States, the report sought to bring El Salvadorans together around concrete proposals for human development.

It assesses progress towards the MDGs, and probes the relationships between human development, the integration of the Central American region and globalization. A human development agenda frames the process of globalization in six areas: political, economic, social, territorial, environmental and cultural.

## Innovation

From the start, the report was designed to spread broad public awareness and contribute to consensus around the importance of human development. A vigorous outreach campaign involved presentations to presidential candidates, NGOs, journalists, provincial authorities, local people, expatriates in the United States and 20 officials at the InterAmerican Development Bank in Washington, DC. Simplified versions of the report were distributed among local communities. Comic strips featured human development messages, along with billboards carrying images from a photo contest. Street entertainers performed the play *People Are the Wealth of the Nation*.

## Impact

During the 2004 political campaign, political parties and televised debates referred to the report on issues such as globalization, tax reform and governance. The new Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy is based on the report's diagnosis of human development, poverty and inequalities. Recent fiscal reforms adopt report recommendations on stemming tax evasion.

Extensive media coverage produced over 70 newspaper articles and ongoing broadcasts on 11 radio programmes and 21 television shows.

A national alternative rock group made a video, 'Chambita', which refers to the report's statistics. It has been broadcast widely on television and radio stations that target younger audiences.

## Selected Other Reports

2001: *El Salvador Human Development Report*

1999: *The State of the Nation*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 103 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 3 (gender equality) and 7 (environmental sustainability).

## Who and How

**The report team:** A Board of Directors led a research team of 35 individuals and seven organizations. Sixteen workshops with over 300 participants offered recommendations. The workshops covered key concepts such as globalization, competitiveness and gender.

**Methodology:** National household and public opinion surveys, and data from 20 official and international sources

# INDIA/WEST BENGAL: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT LAGS DESPITE REFORMS

**Title:** *Human Development Report*

**Year:** 2004

**Type:** Sub-national

## Ideas

For a quarter century, the Indian state of West Bengal has pursued land reforms and decentralization more extensively than anywhere else in India.

The report explores the implications of these policy choices for the state's economic growth and human development, delving into the related issues of environmental and human security. It probes both achievements such as increased agricultural productivity, and drawbacks such as the lack of adequate employment opportunities.

## Innovation

The report takes an important new look at what happens when state and federal development paths diverge. It describes how West Bengal, despite substantial autonomy and impressive progress, is grappling for a foothold in India's rapidly changing macroeconomic environment.

In a time of declining resources from the central Government, the report argues for providing universal and high-quality social services, but urges the adoption of innovative mechanisms and delivery systems, rather than returning by default to the development solutions that worked in the past.

**Awards:** 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development for excellence in quality of analysis

## Impact

The state's Chief Minister has called for Cabinet action on issues highlighted in the report, including increasing rural landlessness and nutrition shortfalls for women and children; a Human Development Research and Coordination Unit has already been established.

UNDP and the state government organized a follow-up workshop attended by over 80 state ministers, economists, local representatives and NGOs. They called for improving the delivery of education and health services by shifting resources to the community level.

National media coverage disseminated the report's key ideas—relevant to all Indian states—across the country.

## Selected Other Reports

The 2004 report is the first for the state of West Bengal. Other states in India that have prepared reports include Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** India is 127 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development).

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (education), 3 (gender equality) and 7 (environmental sustainability).

## Who and How

**The report team:** A steering committee oversaw representatives from the state government, the Planning Commission of India and eminent universities.

**Methodology:** Two major studies were commissioned. One pooled state and central data on issues such as poverty and employment; a second gathered qualitative data through micro-surveys in eight districts.

# INDONESIA: CALCULATING THE COST OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR ALL

**Title:** *The Economics of Democracy: Financing Human Development in Indonesia*

**Year:** 2004

**Type:** National

## Ideas

Indonesia's report argues that human development is the prerequisite not only for fulfilling people's basic rights, but also for economic growth and the long-term survival of democracy.

Given that Indonesia has yet to return to the growth rates it enjoyed before the late 1990s economic crisis, the report calls for greater investments in public social expenditures. With some regional governments unable to afford these, it proposes a national summit to agree on mobilizing funds across the country.

**Awards:** Innovation Fund grant

## Innovation

The report goes beyond arguing the case for guaranteeing people's basic socioeconomic rights: It calculates how much they would cost. It arrives at a figure of three to four per cent of GDP to guarantee the rights to food, health, education and physical security to all Indonesians.

The report makes the first attempt to analyse public and private human development expenditures across Indonesia's 400 regions, with the former posing a daunting task given differences between the central and regional governments. The new information will help track progress on human development goals as well as the MDGs.

## Impact

The national Government has begun using the human development index to determine regional resource allocations, a departure from a past emphasis on infrastructure needs. Several districts have boosted health and education budgets, and in the first direct election of district heads, candidates used human development achievements in their platforms.

The Government and civil society organizations have agreed to hold a national social summit; preparations are underway.

The National Commission of Human Rights has conducted a series of policy dialogues on economic and social rights, using the report and its indices as a primary reference.

## Selected Other Reports

2001: *Towards a New Consensus: Democracy and Human Development in Indonesia*

1996: *General Human Development Report*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 111 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (education), 3 (gender equality), 4 (child mortality) and 5 (maternal health).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Two key national institutions led the research: the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) and BPS-Statistics Indonesia.

**Methodology:** Analysis of data from the national Social Economic Survey, the annual State and Regional Budget, and sectoral ministries; and a survey on the costs of basic entitlements



# JORDAN: IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE TELL THEIR STORIES—AND POLICY MAKERS LISTEN

**Title:** *Building Sustainable Livelihoods*

**Year:** 2004

**Type:** National

**Awards:** Innovation Fund grant

## Ideas

Researchers set out to examine the complex and widely variable face of poverty in Jordan. Extensive consultations with people living in poverty provided first-hand accounts of the negative impacts of globalization, as well as the fallout from regional instability on social and economic development.

The report challenges Jordan's macro-level development gains, presenting data that is disaggregated and extends back to 1970 to show policy flaws that have prevented an even distribution of benefits.

## Innovation

Working closely with local volunteers, the report team interviewed over 800 people in seven pockets of poverty across Jordan, spending up to 20 days in each location. Stories and quotes appear throughout the report. Survey participants identified different categories of poverty; the report presents recommendations accordingly.

The report was the first in the Arab states to offer a national analysis of the concept of sustainable livelihoods, a human rights-based approach to development that assesses access and threats to livelihood assets. A 'how to' guide explains methods for collectively claiming entitlements.

## Impact

Following discussions between the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and UNDP, the Government decided to provide targeted support to Zarqa Governorate. Highlighted in the report, it is the country's poorest urban area. Special development plans emphasize reducing poverty and unemployment. UNDP is supporting a socioeconomic study and a local MDG report to establish baseline and future development targets.

Jordan's King has established the Royal Commission for Regionalization to begin decentralizing governance structures by setting up directly elected local and regional councils.

The World Bank reformulated its gender strategy for Jordan based on the report's analysis.

## Selected Other Reports

**2000:** *Jordan Human Development Report* (on youth)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 90 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication) and 3 (gender equality).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Primary contributors came from the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development and the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development. Many researchers were younger women. A 50-member review group critiqued drafts of the report.

**Methodology:** Surveys, data and qualitative analysis drawn from governmental and non-governmental sources

## KOSOVO: MAPPING PARTICIPATION BY THE NUMBERS

**Title:** *The Rise of the Citizen: Challenges and Choices*

**Year:** 2004

**Type:** Autonomous province

### Ideas

Produced in an election year, and as the international presence in Kosovo declines, the report explores the relationship of participation and representation to human development.

It identifies wide variations in human development across different communities, revealing the difficult circumstances of the Roma and high insecurity among Serbs. Steps to deepen democracy and improve living standards include governance reforms, the closure of growing gaps between social groups and the mobilization of civil society.

**Awards:** Innovation Fund grant

### Innovation

There has been no census in Kosovo since 1981, which has severely hindered policy-making. The report features a human development data set for 30 municipalities based on a household survey that reached 6,000 households. Questions on participation yielded data for a Participation Index, with figures broken down by ethnicities, municipalities, and urban and rural residents.

An Innovation Fund grant supported an extensive outreach campaign that included a short film festival, a contest to design a Web page and a map displaying human development achievements by municipality.

### Impact

A new law was passed to carry out a population and housing census, one of the report's recommendations. The report also helped prompt the adoption of a new Law on Decentralization.

The Prime Minister's office has created the Office for Public Safety to move towards democratic oversight of the security sector, while the Office of Good Government has embarked on an anti-corruption campaign.

UNDP and other development partners are using the survey data to identify communities most in need of development support; the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare has started a pilot employment generation project to break down barriers to economic participation.

## Selected Other Reports

2002: *Building Bridges to a Better Future*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** Not calculated

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication) and 3 (gender equality).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Writers from UNDP, the Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development, the University of Michigan Ann Arbor and the Office of the Prime Minister worked with senior statistical and academic consultants.

**Methodology:** A municipal household survey, questionnaires, municipal meetings, a Human Development Conference, and national and international data

# LATVIA: A NEW TAKE ON HUMAN SECURITY

**Title:** *Human Security*

**Year:** 2002/2003

**Type:** National

**Awards:** 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development for excellence in human development innovations—concepts or measurement

## Ideas

As Latvia wrestles with the changes posed by EU membership, globalization and rapid transition, the report offers the first systemic analysis of human security. It measures perceptions of security and Latvia's 'securitability', defined as an individual's ability to be secure, even after disruption.

The report identifies major securitability factors, such as economic conditions and trust in government, and names current security priorities, including stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS and reducing the proliferation of narcotics.

## Innovation

Working with psychologists, the report team designed a special survey to gauge individual perceptions of security on 64 issues, with the results disaggregated by gender, age, income level and ethnicity. The data helped in devising a profile of people closest to the securitability threshold and most in need of attention.

The report provides a holistic framework for fostering human security in all aspects, rather than a discussion of policies in key sectors. It looks beyond responding to individual threats to the more encompassing capacity to address whatever threats arise.

## Impact

The then newly formed Government included many report recommendations in its declaration of intended initiatives, including improved public health financing and stronger laws to protect victims of domestic violence.

Parliament requested a briefing on the report, and later asked UNDP to join its Committee on the Future of Latvia as an observer.

Presentations to municipal governments led senior officials from major cities to refer to the report as a "handbook for all municipal leaders and social workers," and declare that "the human security concept will replace economic poverty as the organizing criterion for municipal planning."

## Selected Other Reports

2000/2001: *Latvia Human Development Report: The Public Policy Process in Latvia*

1999: *Latvia Human Development Report* (on globalization)

1998: *Latvia Human Development Report* (on the state, individuals and the private sector)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 50 out of 177 countries (considered high human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 6 (combating HIV/AIDS) and 7 (environmental sustainability).

## Who and How

**The report team:** The principal authors came from academic institutions, the Government and NGOs. A steering committee comprised national and regional UNDP representatives, and the editor-in-chief of two prior reports.

**Methodology:** Surveys, interviews, academic research and data from official sources as well as polling institutions

# MEXICO: REFINING THE MEASUREMENT OF INEQUALITIES

**Title:** *Human Development Report*

**Year:** 2002

**Type:** National

## Ideas

Mexico's first report draws a comprehensive picture of the basic patterns and dynamics of human development, including through an analysis of the evolution of inequalities over the last half century. It finds that progress in easing regional disparities began to stall around 1980 with the advent of trade liberalization and structural reforms.

Today, some states have reached high levels of human development through deliberate policy-making and high rates of growth; others remain trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty.

## Innovation

The report designed a human development index that is sensitive to inequalities in dimensions such as income, education and health, as well as across individuals. The Refined Development Index with Generalized Means allows the report to delve into questions such as, how much does general development increase if only one dimension expands? What is the total human development gain from improvements among a targeted group of individuals? The report calculates that on average, inequality contributes to 26 percent of lost development potential among individuals. This figure is much higher in the most unequal Mexican states.

## Impact

Two prominent universities—the Universidad Iberoamericana and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, the largest public university in the country—followed the launch of the report with well-attended symposiums on human development.

Intensive national press coverage publicized key themes of the report, including the notion that the Refined Development Index be used to guide budget allocations.

Given the critical challenges posed by social and economic inequalities across Latin America, countries such as Brazil, Chile, Guatemala and Uruguay have explored the use of the Refined Development Index. Two Mexican state-level reports are also considering using it.

## Selected Other Reports

2004: *Mexico Human Development Report: The Challenge of Local Development*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 53 out of 177 countries (considered high human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goal 1 (poverty eradication).

## Who and How

**The report team:** A group of principal researchers were led by coordinators from the Universidad de las Americas and Universidad Iberoamericana. An advisory panel comprised representatives of Government ministries and other influential academic institutions.

**Methodology:** Data analysis and background research papers

# MONGOLIA: A WIDENING RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE

**Title:** *Urban-Rural Disparities in Mongolia*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

## Ideas

Since Mongolia's transition from socialism, democracy has greatly expanded civil and political freedoms. The report, however, demonstrates that access to resources varies widely. Poverty is increasing in rural areas, due in part to the withdrawal of subsidies for social and other services, and a vast and rugged territory.

The report calls for more balanced development policies, stressing that this means not only equitable urban and rural investments, but also the empowerment of people locally to decide their own development path.

## Innovation

Mongolia's report is one of only a few HDRs to study how topography, climate and geography can lead to striking development inequalities. Using information collected by a national NGO that reached out to people in all 21 provinces, the report finds that rural disparities have not only prompted obvious trends such as migration, but are also behind lower birth rates and the diversification of income sources among traditional herders.

The report calculates the human development index by urban and rural residency, and by provinces and cities. The results are compared to HDIs for other transition and landlocked countries.

## Impact

The Government incorporated information from the report in its State Population Development Policy, including through stipulations to increase support to regional centres and promote more intensive livestock herding.

Political parties used the report in preparing their action plans before the 2004 elections, calling for balanced social and economic policies that prioritize jobs, secure livelihoods and accessible services.

The preparation of the report involved Mongolia's first foray into organizing a national human development network, proving that this is not only feasible but desirable for making continued contributions to development.

## Selected Other Reports

2000: *Reorienting the State*

1997: *Mongolia Human Development Report* (on transition)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 117 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (education), 3 (gender equality) and 7 (environmental sustainability).

## Who and How

**The report team:** The Mongolian Population Development Association, a national NGO established in 2001, supervised the production process for the first time. A five-member coordination team managed training on human development for 23 contributors, including staff from the National Statistics Office.

**Methodology:** Analysis of Government, international and non-governmental data; interviews with urban and rural residents; case studies

# PAKISTAN: THE CAUSES OF POVERTY AND THE POINTS OF INTERVENTION

**Title:** *Poverty, Growth and Governance*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

## Ideas

Pakistan's first report analyses the factors fuelling poverty, including weak implementation of public sector programmes, limited access to markets and exclusionary local power structures. It assesses the coping mechanisms poor communities can use to get out of poverty and the interventions that can assist them, arguing for alternative economic growth strategies and governance reforms. These include building local organizations for the poor with links to local governments, so that people can make choices in the use of local resources.

## Innovation

The report generates a number of novel findings about poverty in Pakistan. It demonstrates that poor health is a major factor pushing people into poverty or keeping them there because of the lack of access to services, while the education of a second earner in households contributes to pulling them out. It finds that the cost of local dispute resolution is draining significant resources from poorer households, who have little access to the judicial system.

New data chronicles civil society's role in poverty reduction, and maps often wide gaps between incomes and minimum food expenditures.

## Impact

After the report, the Government set up a Task Force on Poverty Reduction and Employment Generation, which announced a series of policy actions. A Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment is now helping to improve local service delivery, while a major programme is in the works to broaden access to justice.

Pakistan's current Medium-Term Development Framework incorporates the report's major pro-poor growth policy suggestions, including providing institutional support to small-scale fisheries, and producers of milk, fruit and flowers.

Provincial governments have used the report's district level human development index calculation to make decisions about funding allocations.

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 142 out of 177 countries (considered low human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (education) and 3 (gender equality).

## Who and How

**The report team:** The principal author was an economist who works with the private sector and a regional think tank. He solicited inputs from other economists, academics and NGO representatives.

**Methodology:** A survey of poor communities in eight districts; a spot survey to assess the impact of NGOs in selected areas; and analysis of official data and independent research

## TAJIKISTAN: MOVEMENT ON THE MDGS REVOLVES AROUND WATER

**Title:** *Tapping the Potential: Improving Water Management in Tajikistan*  
**Year:** 2003  
**Type:** National

### Ideas

Tajikistan is the main water provider in the Aral Sea Basin, but 43 per cent of Tajiks have no piped water; agriculture suffers from deteriorating irrigation systems.

The report analyses access to this crucial resource as a basic human right, and assesses how effective water management could lead to progress on all of the MDGs, including by diversifying agriculture and generating revenues through exports of cotton and hydropower. The report argues for a costing exercise to identify priorities and resource requirements.

### Innovation

The report team chose the subject of water resources in part to strategically capitalize on a series of other events in 2003, including the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan; the Dushanbe International Fresh Water Forum, which brought together 400 participants from 45 countries; the preparation of Tajikistan's first MDG Report; and Tajikistan's participation in an MDG Needs Assessment that was carried out by the UN Millennium Project.

The report marks Tajikistan's first attempt to integrate human development and the MDG indicators.

### Impact

Water has become a high-profile policy issue in Tajikistan, with the Government declaring a decade of Water for Life. Based on the MDG Needs Assessment, it is revising its PRSP to establish closer links to the MDG targets on water and sanitation, improve the poor's access to water, rehabilitate water supply systems and reform water management.

Tajikistan is also taking a leadership role in water management negotiations with neighbouring countries, including through a conference on transboundary river basins management. It has joined a growing movement that is shifting away from the past practice of allocating fixed quantities of water in favour of embracing more flexible and cooperative water management arrangements.

### Selected Other Reports

2001/2002: *Information and Communications Technology for Development*  
2000: *Human Development Report* (on peace and development)  
1997: *Human Development Report*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 116 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to all eight goals.

### Who and How

**The report team:** A steering committee oversaw production. Contributors included water resource management specialists, economists, statisticians and environmental specialists from Government ministries, research institutions and NGOs.

**Methodology:** A round table and regional seminar to tap an array of perspectives; and analysis of national data as well as research and surveys carried out by international organizations

# TANZANIA: A TOOL TO ASSESS A POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

**Title:** *Poverty and Human Development Report*

**Year:** 2002

**Type:** National

## Ideas

As Tanzania prepared to review its Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2003, the report fed into this process by giving a detailed account of current poverty indicators. It questions the reach of macroeconomic performance in the 1990s, given that overall household income poverty has barely declined and remains stubbornly high in rural areas.

Analysing budgets in priority sectors such as health, the report argues for new resources that explicitly benefit the poor and highlights the vulnerability of specific overlooked social groups.

## Innovation

The report was produced by a working group that is part of the Poverty Monitoring System mandated by Tanzania's Poverty Reduction Strategy. The group's balance of Government, NGO and donor members helped it take a comprehensive look at poverty and challenge existing policy where necessary. Its position as an integral part of the process to revise the Poverty Reduction Strategy allowed an efficient absorption of the report's findings into policy-making.

A well-coordinated UN Country Team backed the report, with agencies like UNICEF involved as principal contributors.

## Impact

Chapter two, on the status of poverty, was used in updating Tanzania's Poverty Reduction Strategy. On the report's recommendation, the strategy also addresses governance and accountability issues that affect the poor, such as corruption, and provides a detailed framework for monitoring and intensifying data collection efforts. The strategy takes into account report recommendations on vulnerability and social protection, and the links between poverty and the environment.

The Poverty Monitoring System, now under review, will include the report's proposed indicators to measure poverty and environmental issues.

Parliament has requested regular briefings as Tanzania begins preparing its next HDR.

## Selected Other Reports

1999: *The State of Progress in Human Resource Development*

1997: *General Human Development Report* (on inequity)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 162 out of 177 countries (considered low human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (education), 6 (combating HIV/AIDS) and 7 (environmental sustainability).

## Who and How

**The report team:** The team was a sub-group integrated into the Poverty Reduction Strategy process. It included economists, social scientists, statisticians and experts from other disciplines.

**Methodology:** A benefit incidence study on water; research papers on governance, vulnerability and agriculture; and data from multiple sources, including household budget surveys and participatory poverty assessments



# THAILAND: COMMUNITIES EXPLORE HOW TO REGAIN LOCAL POWER

**Title:** *Community Empowerment and Human Development*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

## Ideas

In the wake of the Asian economic crisis, the report team sought to explore how Thailand can negotiate globalization, and reduce vulnerability and inequalities.

Extensive interaction with local communities captured the ways people are regaining control of local development, such as through community credit schemes. This rich source of information shaped the report's proposals on how the national Government, communities and development organizations can work together to claim and protect community rights.

## Innovation

A specially designed human achievement index (HAI), combining indicators on eight issues from employment to family life, reveals a clearer picture of disparities among Thailand's 76 provinces than typical income or poverty assessments.

Community representatives took up the task of drafting the first chapter, 'The Communities' View', and reviewed other chapters at regional forums. The entire report is structured around testimonials from individuals and community groups, on issues that range from managing agricultural debt to restoring lost access to natural resources.

## Impact

Provincial governors use the report for setting development priorities and resource allocations, and for negotiating with central authorities on disparities between provinces. After a meeting of the governors of the northeast provinces affirmed the merits of the HAI, provincial statistical offices began improving data collection.

Thailand's main opposition political party has referred to the report in shaping its positions on development.

The National Defense College made a course on the HAI mandatory for high-ranking officers.

All major Thai newspapers featured the report on their front pages and in follow-up editorials.

## Selected Other Reports

**1999:** *Thailand Human Development Report* (on economic crisis)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 76 out of 177 countries (considered medium human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (education), 3 (gender equality), 6 (combating HIV/AIDS) and 7 (environmental sustainability).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Principal contributors included a chair person from the National Economic and Social Development Board partnering with community leaders from four regions. A review board included prominent Thai citizens, academics, NGO activists and Government officials.

**Methodology:** Background papers, community consultations and focus groups, and recorded testimonials from community leaders

# UGANDA: DEEPENING THE IMPACT OF SUCCESSFUL POLICIES ON HIV/AIDS

**Title:** *The Challenge of HIV/AIDS: Maintaining the Momentum of Success*

**Year:** 2002

**Type:** National

## Ideas

Uganda is well known for having reduced its HIV prevalence rate from 18 to 6 per cent since 1992—but the report advocates the need for continued national momentum. It reviews 20 years of the course of the disease in Uganda, looking at impacts on households, economic sectors and macroeconomic indicators.

Describing how the country has fought the epidemic, the report highlights successful current strategies and urges that special attention be paid to youth in the future.

## Innovation

The report team published a companion document that delves in detail into the cultural and traditional factors fuelling the epidemic, including early marriage and the wife sharing practised by some tribes.

For the first time, the report disaggregates the human development index by district, covering 45 out of 56 districts, including some newly created ones with weak statistical databases.

While focused on HIV/AIDS, the report includes a chapter on the MDGs, which sparked the first widespread debate on how to use the goals in development planning overall.

## Impact

Shortly after the report's release, a major national conference on HIV/AIDS discussed its findings.

The Uganda AIDS Commission has begun providing free anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment at hospitals and medical centres in all districts, given a new understanding that the additional resources required would not unbalance Uganda's macroeconomic stability.

Uganda's Poverty Eradication Action Plan now includes specific references to HIV/AIDS and considers human development one of six priority areas.

Twenty FM radio stations featured the report prominently in widely broadcast public debates.

## Selected Other Reports

2000: *The Challenge of Employment Creation in Uganda*

1999: *General Human Development Report* (on inequity)

1998: *Causes and Consequences of Rural Poverty*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 146 out of 177 countries (considered low human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 3 (gender equality) and 6 (combating HIV/AIDS).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Principal researchers came from Makerere University and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, and included demographers and a doctor. A steering committee comprised representatives from Parliament and the Uganda AIDS Commission, as well as a person living with HIV/AIDS.

**Methodology:** Sentinel surveys and other research conducted by the Uganda AIDS Commission, and national and international data

# ZAMBIA: POLICY REFORMS TO ACCELERATE MDG PRIORITIES

**Title:** *Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger in Zambia: An Agenda for Enhancing the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

## Ideas

Zambia confronts a series of stark development challenges in trying to meet the MDGs by 2015. The report's authors decided to advocate for a concentrated push to achieve at least the first goal on poverty, which affects three-quarters of the population.

Drawing in the related issues of hunger, gender inequality and HIV/AIDS, the report examines policy reforms to accelerate progress, including those that would allow the poor better access to markets and greater participation in governance.

**Awards:** 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development for excellence in support of the MDGs

## Innovation

The report provides the first assessment of Zambia's chances for achieving the MDGs. It draws links to the national PRSP, and features a balance sheet on human development and the MDGs that summarizes progress, deprivations and prospects for the future. For the first time, the report calculates the human development indices as benchmarks for the MDGs.

A discussion on genetically modified organisms as a solution to the food crisis tapped into a serious national debate. The report suggests that before moving ahead, Zambia needs a regulatory system to monitor food safety concerns.

## Impact

As Zambia starts to integrate the MDGs in its fifth National Development Plan, the Minister of Finance and National Planning applauded the report as a milestone in marking Zambia's standing on the goals. The report is now being used as an important reference document as the Government moves forward on preparing the plan.

The report offers specific recommendations on food security that are being considered for implementing the broad strategies mapped out in the PRSP.

References to human development and the MDGs have become more common, appearing in the 2004 Budget Address and in regular media coverage on poverty.

## Selected Other Reports

2000: *Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods*

1998: *Zambia Human Development Report* (on the provision of basic social services)

1997: *General Human Development Report*

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 164 out of 177 countries (considered low human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to all of the goals, with an emphasis on Goal 1 (poverty eradication).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Contributors came from national ministries, Parliament, academia, trade unions and the private sector, and included traditional rulers.

**Methodology:** The Central Statistical Office collated most data from the 2000 National Census. Broadly participatory reviews of findings took place throughout the report's preparation; text boxes in the final report present individual perspectives.

# ZIMBABWE: MORE THAN MEDICINE—A BROADER LOOK AT HIV/AIDS

**Title:** *Redirecting Our Responses to HIV and AIDS*

**Year:** 2003

**Type:** National

## Ideas

Despite an extensive medical response and widespread awareness of HIV/AIDS, risky sexual behaviour continues in Zimbabwe, helping to maintain high HIV-prevalence rates.

The report links a faltering economy and a low level of human development to the population's overall vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. It examines the failure of medical interventions to touch the development issues driving the epidemic, and offers recommendations urging more far-reaching policy shifts.

**Awards:** Innovation Fund grant

## Innovation

Looking at the development factors influencing sexual behaviour—including those stemming from before and after colonialism—was a new approach to analysing HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe.

The report's epidemiological research uncovered 'sex networks', which fuel transmission by linking diverse sexual partners. The report profiles networks specific to sectors such as the civil service, education, agriculture and the prison systems. It notes issues particular to each, and proposes ways to interrupt the networks, for example, by factoring in the location of spouses when deploying civil servants.

## Impact

Taking a lead from the report, Zimbabwe's 2005–2006 macroeconomic policy framework makes strong links between development, HIV/AIDS and the MDGs. Most ministries now have HIV/AIDS desks, and ARV treatment is available in provincial hospitals.

The National Prison Service and the Army have scaled up HIV/AIDS intervention programmes.

The University of Zimbabwe has reversed its private catering policy, which made students vulnerable to commercial sex networking in order to pay for food and basic necessities.

An apostolic faith church known for advocating polygamy is running HIV/AIDS programmes and discouraging the practice.

## Selected Other Reports

2000: *Human Development Report* (on governance)

1999: *National Human Development Report* (on globalization)

**2004 global HDR human development index ranking:** 147 out of 177 countries (considered low human development)

**Support for the MDGs:** The report contributes to Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 3 (gender equality), 4 (reducing child mortality), 5 (maternal health) and 6 (combating HIV/AIDS).

## Who and How

**The report team:** Forty-eight experts participated at different levels. A steering committee oversaw policy issues, and a management committee coordinated production. Members of the latter were elected at the Poverty Reduction Forum Annual General Meeting.

**Methodology:** Nine sector-specific research papers, official statistics, participatory surveys, and individual and group interviews

## PREPARATION TEAM

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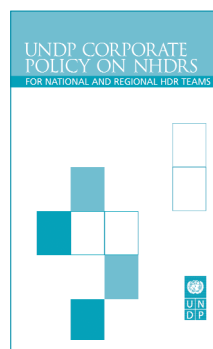
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**Web version:** Juan Pablo Mejia

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## OTHER NHDR UNIT PUBLICATIONS

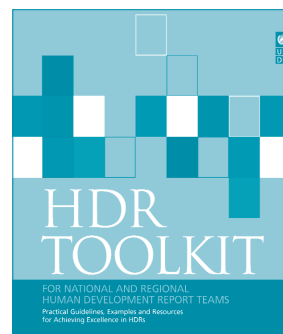
The following are selected materials prepared by the National Human Development Report Unit in the Human Development Report Office. The NHDR Unit aims to support the highest standards of quality in sub-national, national and regional HDRs, and to increase HDR influence on policy agendas.



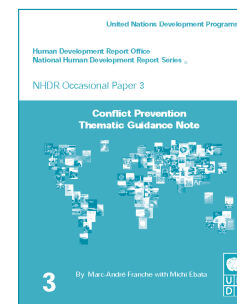
The UNDP Corporate Policy on NHDRs defines six broad principles that characterize excellence in these reports. These include national and regional ownership, a participatory and inclusive preparation process, independence of analysis, quality of analysis, flexibility and creativity in presentation, and sustained follow-up.

[http://hdr.undp.org/nhdr/corporate\\_policy.cfm](http://hdr.undp.org/nhdr/corporate_policy.cfm)

The HDR Toolkit (available in English and French) is a practical handbook offering clear suggestions for actions necessary to achieve the six principles. Through practical guidelines and over 80 illustrations of HDR



team practices around the world, the toolkit offers support for achieving excellence in HDR processes, content and advocacy. This publication includes 30 Minimum Standards that should be met by all HDRs. <http://hdr.undp.org/nhdr/toolkit/>



The Thematic Guidance Notes are intended to provide theoretical background and practical support for development practitioners to address certain themes within a human development framework. Thus far, the Gender, Environment, Conflict Prevention and

HIV/AIDS notes are available in hard copy. [http://hdr.undp.org/nhdr/thematic\\_clusters/](http://hdr.undp.org/nhdr/thematic_clusters/)

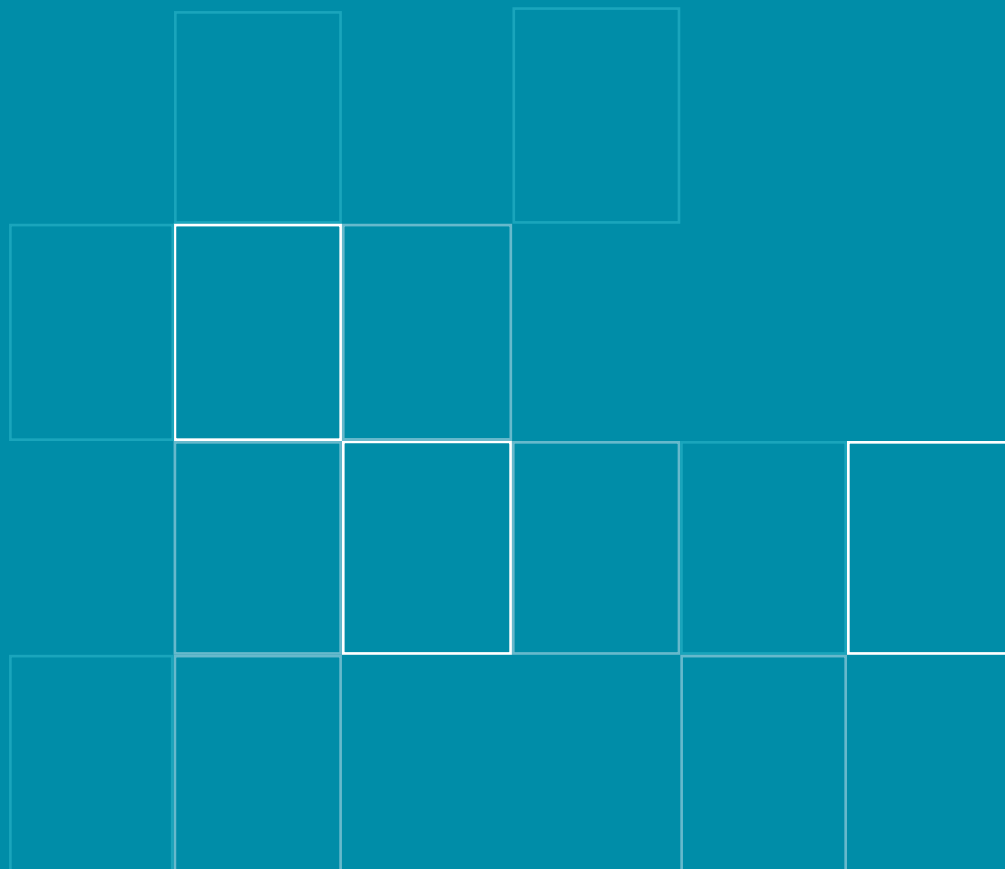
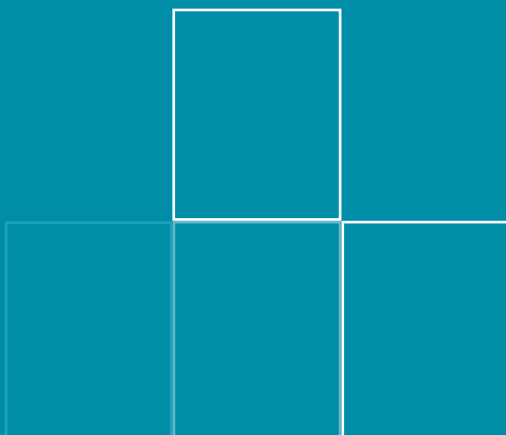
The NHDR Workspace provides a virtual space for the HDR community to share resources, experiences and lessons learned. The site contains a database of over 500 HDRs, searchable by theme, year, country and region.

<http://hdr.undp.org/nhdr/>

Human Development Report Knowledge Networks, HDR-Net and HDRStats-Net, are dynamic springboards for professional knowledge sharing and learning, connecting over 1,500 human development experts. Human development professionals are encouraged to join these networks.

<http://hdr.undp.org/nhdr/networks/>

This publication is a compilation of outstanding country-level impacts from sub-national, national and regional Human Development Reports. Through a process of broad participation, these policy advocacy tools have brought together diverse perspectives, put difficult issues on the table and contributed to mobilizing action for human development policy-making.



UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

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