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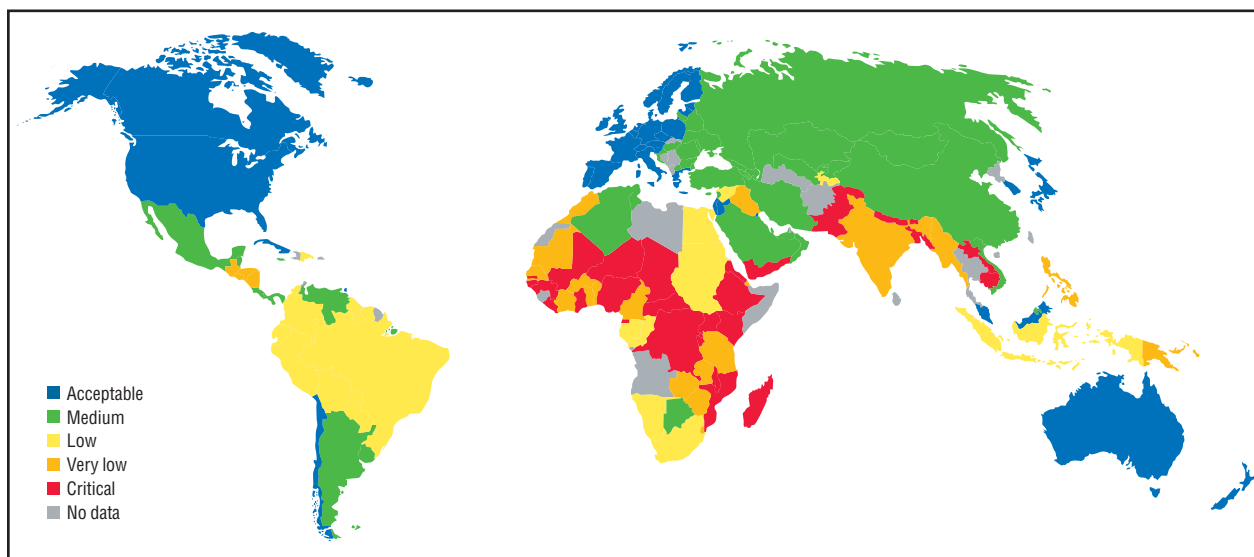




BASIC CAPABILITIES INDEX 2007

Half-way between 2000 and 2015: Far from where we should be

To reach an acceptable BCI does not imply a high level of social development. It merely signifies that the country has achieved universal coverage of minimum essential needs that are a prerequisite for advancing towards greater well-being. It is a departure point, not the destination. At the present rate of progress Sub-Saharan Africa will only arrive at this departure point in 2108. This is 93 years after the target date of 2015 set by the world leaders in 2000 to achieve basic social development goals. South Asia, with its significantly greater rate of progress, will only be arriving there 47 years after the Millennium Summit. And, except for Europe and North America, no region will be able to reach this minimum base level in less than 20 years if current rates of progress do not improve.



The year 2007 is half-way between 2000, when world leaders pledged to achieve specific targets in the fight against poverty, and 2015, the year set for these Millennium Development Goals to be achieved. Yet, at the current slow rate of progress, once that year has arrived, in many countries the commitments will not be achieved.

This conclusion emerges from watching the evolution of the Basic Capabilities Index (BCI), produced annually by Social Watch with the latest information available for each country. The BCI is a summary-index that compares and ranks countries according to their social development progress, based on the status of national societies in relation to several minimum basic capabilities. The BCI gets closer to 100% when countries ensure universal access to a minimum (or basic) set of social services (health, education, etc.). Achieving that level does not mean meeting all desirable social welfare objectives of any given society. It only marks a starting point.

The BCI numbers for 2007 reveal that half of the countries have a BCI reading of *low* level or below and 25 countries are in a *critical* situation

(Table 1). Without a substantial acceleration in the rate of progress by 2015 the average BCI value for countries in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa will not surpass *very low*, and all other regions except Europe and North America will still be far from the 'acceptable' level.

The BCI and minimum conditions for development

Social Watch has developed the Basic Capabilities Index (BCI) as a way not based on income to identify poverty situations.¹ The most widely poverty-related indicators used internationally are the World Bank estimates on the number of people living with less than one or two dollars per day or the United Nations Development Programme ranking based on the Human Development Index, which combines income figures with health and education related in-

dicators. The BCI is comparatively easier to build and it is feasible to implement it at sub-national and municipal level, without requiring expensive household surveys as income-based indexes do. By not using income, the BCI is consistent with the definitions of poverty based on the deprivation of capabilities and the denial of human rights.

The BCI is based on three indicators: percentage of children who reach fifth grade, survival until the fifth year of age (based on mortality among children under five) and percentage of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel. Each of these indicators by themselves express different dimensions addressed by internationally agreed development goals (education, children's health and reproductive health). Also, research shows that, as a summary-index, the BCI provides a general picture consistent with the health status and the basic educational performance of a given population.

The highest possible BCI score is reached when all women are assisted when giving birth, no child leaves school before successfully completing the fifth grade, and infant mortality is reduced to its

1 The BCI is based on the Quality of Life Index developed by the non-governmental organization Action for Economic Reforms-Philippines, which was derived from the Capability Poverty Measure (CPM) proposed by Professor Amartya Sen and popularized by the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index (HDI).

TABLE 1. BCI and BCI evolution by countries' BCI level

CRITICAL LEVEL			VERY LOW LEVEL			LOW LEVEL			MEDIUM LEVEL			ACCEPTABLE LEVEL		
Country	BCI	BCI Evolution	Country	BCI	BCI Evolution	Country	BCI	BCI Evolution	Country	BCI	BCI Evolution	Country	BCI	BCI Evolution
Gambia	69.7	→	El Salvador	79.8	→	Egypt	89.8	→	United Arab Emirates	97.9		Japan	99.9	→
Bhutan	69.1		Iraq	79.0	→	Brazil	89.1	←	Croatia	97.4		Sweden	99.9	→
Lesotho	68.5	←	Djibouti	78.3		Tuvalu	88.7		Brunei Darussalam	97.4		Austria	99.8	→
Guinea	68.4	→	Morocco	78.1	→	Colombia	88.7	→	Lithuania	97.4		Belgium	99.8	→
Kenya	68.3	→	Sao Tomé and Prin.	77.8		Kiribati	88.1		Hungary	97.3		France	99.8	→
Eritrea	66.9	→	Philippines	77.3	→	South Africa	87.2		Belarus	97.2		Germany	99.8	→
Ghana	66.4		Swaziland	76.9		Syria	87.0	←	Luxembourg	97.1	←	Greece	99.8	→
Mali	65.8	→	Côte d'Ivoire	76.9	→	Maldives	86.4	→	Oman	97.0	→	Spain	99.8	→
Yemen	63.8	←	Zimbabwe	76.3	←	Peru	86.0	→	Qatar	97.0		Switzerland	99.8	→
Madagascar	63.5	→	Honduras	76.3	→	Namibia	85.8	←	Samoa	97.0		Denmark	99.8	
Uganda	63.0	→	Mauritania	75.3	→	Tajikistan	85.7		Bulgaria	96.9	→	Finland	99.8	
Nigeria	62.8		Zambia	74.6	→	Paraguay	85.5	→	Russian Federation	96.8		New Zealand	99.8	→
Malawi	62.8		Nicaragua	74.0	→	Suriname	85.4	←	Ukraine	96.8	→	Iceland	99.8	
Mozambique	60.8		Benin	73.3	←	Vanuatu	85.1	←	Macedonia	96.5		Israel	99.8	
Pakistan	60.4	→	Myanmar	73.1	→	Dominican Rep.	84.9	←	Romania	96.3		Portugal	99.7	→
Cambodia	59.1	←	Papua New Guinea	72.9	→	Indonesia	84.9	→	Costa Rica	96.2		Norway	99.7	
Equatorial G.	58.9	←	Comoros	72.5		Gabon	81.9	→	West Bank and Gaza	96.0		Ireland	99.7	
Lao, PDR	58.0	→	Senegal	72.2	→	Guyana	81.2	←	Moldova	96.0	←	Netherlands	99.7	
Bangladesh	57.1		Guatemala	71.7	→	Sudan	81.0	←	St. Lucia	95.9	←	Poland	99.6	
Burundi	56.4	→	India	71.3	→	Ecuador	80.8		Lebanon	95.9	→	Malta	99.6	
Nepal	54.8	→	Burkina Faso	71.1	→	Bolivia	80.2	→	Mongolia	95.8	→	Cyprus	99.6	
Niger	54.6		Togo	70.2		Congo, Rep.	80.0		Kyrgyzstan	95.7		United Kingdom	99.5	→
Rwanda	51.3	→	Cameroon	70.2	←				Armenia	95.6	→	Czech Republic	99.3	
Ethiopia	50.3	→	Tanzania	70.0	→				Uruguay	95.4		Chile	99.3	
Chad	43.0	←							St. Vincent and Gren.	95.3	→	Bahrain	99.2	
									Albania	95.1	←	Canada	99.2	→
									Georgia	95.0		United States	99.2	→
									Kazakhstan	94.9		Korea, Rep.	99.2	
									Algeria	94.8		Estonia	99.2	
									Saudi Arabia	94.7		Slovenia	99.1	→
									Tunisia	94.6	→	Australia	99.1	→
									Jamaica	94.6	→	Latvia	99.0	→
									Venezuela	94.3		Cuba	99.0	
									Dominica	94.3		Kuwait	98.7	→
									Marshall Islands	94.1		Italy	98.7	
									Mexico	94.0	→	St. Kitts and Nevis	98.7	→
									Tonga	94.0		Fiji	98.6	→
									Argentina	93.7	←	Mauritius	98.6	
									China	93.0	→	Jordan	98.6	→
									Grenada	92.3	←	Barbados	98.5	→
									Cape Verde	92.1		Malaysia	98.1	
									Turkey	91.6	→	Trinidad and Tobago	98.0	
									Panama	91.5				
									Iran	91.3	←			
									Azerbaijan	91.2				
									Botswana	91.1	←			
									Belize	91.0	→			
									Viet Nam	90.0	→			

References: ← Significant regression ← Slight regression || Stagnant → Slight progress → Significant progress

lowest possible of less than five deaths for every one thousand children born alive. These indicators are closely associated with capabilities that all members of a society should have and which mutually interact to enable higher levels of individual and collective development. They particularly emphasize capabilities that contribute to the welfare of the youngest members of society and thereby foster the future development of nations.

The utility of the BCI lies in that it has proven to be highly correlated with measures of other human capabilities related to the social development of countries. This index gives each country a score and thereby enables its comparison with other countries and to assess its evolution over time.

An index that approaches 100 does not necessarily imply a high level of social development. It only means that the country achieved a complete coverage of all minimum essential conditions that will enable its progress toward better well-being. It is a starting point, not an arrival.

At what stage of the journey are countries today?

The BCI 2007 was calculated for 161 countries, which were then grouped into categories for the purposes of analysis. The most severe situations are found in countries with *critical* BCI scores (less than 70 points). In the *very low* BCI category (70-79 points) are countries that also face significant obstacles to achieving the well-being of the population. Countries with *low* BCI scores (80-89 points) are at an intermediate level in the satisfaction of basic needs and their performance varies in some development dimensions. The countries that have succeeded in ensuring most or all of these basic capabilities for their populations are in the two categories with the highest BCI values: *medium* (90-97 points) and *acceptable* (98-99+ points). As has already been pointed out, belonging to these last two groups does not imply a high level of development, but only the fulfilment of basic well-being levels.

Recent evolution: growing gaps

The evolution of the BCI in each country since 2000² shows that almost half of the countries have achieved some progress. However, 34% (54 countries) have regressed.

Countries with larger BCI regressions are mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa. Basic capabilities have also regressed in some countries from East Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In seven cases, regression has been significant (more than 5% in the BCI score). This is worrisome since these countries are regressing from a *low*, *very low* and even *critical* BCI score. This means some countries keep falling back, which increases their gap with the rest of the world (Table 2).

2 The percent of change between the 2000 BCI and the BCI with latest available data was grouped in five categories: significant regression (more than 5%); slight regression (between 5% and 1%), stagnation (less than 1% change), slight progress (between 1% and 5%), and significant progress (more than 5%).

TECHNICAL NOTES: BCI DESIGN IN COUNTRIES

Indicators that make up the BCI:

- Percentage of children in the first grade who reach the fifth grade
- Mortality among children under five
- Percentage of births assisted by skilled health personnel

To increase the number of countries, values were assigned for the indicators where information was lacking. This was done by assigning the average value of that indicator for the group the country was in as defined by its current situation in the thematic area in question.

The BCI was calculated using the non-weighted average of the original values of the three indicators in question (in the case of infant mortality a lineal transformation was previously applied to the indicator). To simplify the calculations all three indicators were given the same weight.

Child health is represented as I1 = (100 - M), where M is the under-5 mortality rate (expressed as a percentage) or the probability of death in the first five years of life expressed as per 1,000 live births.

Education is represented as I2, where I2 is the rate of school retention or the percentage of children enrolled in the first grade who reach the fifth grade in the required number of years.

Reproductive health is shown as I3, where I3 is the percentage of births assisted by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives).

The Basic Capabilities Index value for a particular country is obtained by taking a simple average of the three components:

$$BCI = (I1 + I2 + I3) / 3$$

TABLE 2. Number of countries by present BCI level according to evolution since 2000

	Critical level	Very low level	Low level	Medium level	High level	Total
Significant regression ←	2	1	4	0	0	7
Slight regression ←	3	2	4	8	0	17
Stagnation	6	3	5	23	21	58
Slight progress →	10	6	3	11	22	52
Significant progress →	3	10	5	4	0	22
Total	24	22	21	46	43	156

TABLE 3. BCI change by region (%)

Region	BCI 2007	Change 2000-latest available data (%)
North America	99.0	3.6
Europe	98.6	0.8
Central Asia	93.3	1.0
Middle East & North Africa	91.2	1.3
Latin America & Caribbean	89.5	1.7
East Asia & Pacific	88.3	2.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	70.6	1.6
South Asia	66.3	4.8

Critical level

Countries with a critical BCI show serious difficulties in all of their social development dimensions. On average, only one every three women from this group of countries are assisted by skilled personnel upon giving birth. In the country with the worst situation, Ethiopia, only 5% of births have specialized medical care. On average, each year 142 out

of 1,000 children die before the age of five. Niger's situation is extreme, since each year one out of four children dies before the age of five. Education indicators show a similar scenario. In countries with a critical BCI, slightly more than half the children that start school remain in the education system until they reach fifth grade. Other indicators, such as enrolment rates, show other educational needs,

which compromise future chances of progressing toward higher development levels.

Regional disparities

World regions are deeply unequal in terms of living conditions. The BCI reflects these disparities. There is a very large gap between the region with the highest average BCI (North America, with 99) and the region with the lowest average (South Asia, with 66).

Recent evolution has been very important in South Asian countries. This evolution is taking place in a regional context which concentrates the highest deficiencies in terms of living conditions as measured by the BCI. Even with the progress of recent years (4.8%) their situation continues to be extremely critical (Table 3).

The situation of Sub-Saharan Africa is also critical since its BCI amounts to 70.6, while its average evolution does not forecast rapid improvement (1.6%).

The regions of Central Asia, Middle East & North Africa, Latin America & Caribbean, and East Asia & Pacific show worrisome average BCI scores. These regions have not fulfilled their minimum capabilities yet. The only regions with an acceptable level in this index are Europe and North America.

The 2015 deadline and the BCI's stopwatch: Far away from the starting point

Forecasts based on the current rate of progress show a discouraging scenario. By 2015 countries from South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa will barely reach, on average, a *very low* level, with a BCI score of 73 points. The other regions will be at a *medium* level, far from reaching the *acceptable* level (Table 4).

Stressing once again that an *acceptable* BCI level implies minimum conditions leading toward higher levels of development, it is extremely worrisome that at the current rate of progress, Sub-Saharan Africa would reach that 'starting point' only in 2108. That is, 93 years after 2015, the deadline set by world leaders in 2000 to achieve basic social development goals. South Asia, whose rate of progress is significantly higher, would be reaching that point 47 years after the Millennium Summit. And, except for Europe and North America, no other region will be able to reach that basic minimum level before 20 years from now, if the current rate of progress does not improve. This is a race with hurdles hard to overcome if the international community's commitments are not honoured. ■

TABLE 4. Year in which regions would reach an acceptable level

Region	BCI 2007	BCI 2015	ACCEPTABLE level reached in
Sub-Saharan Africa	71	73	2108
South Asia	66	73	2047
Middle East & North Africa	91	94	2032
Latin America & Caribbean	90	93	2032
East Asia & Pacific	88	92	2030
Central Asia	93	95	2030
North America	99		
Europe	99		

ON THE EVOLUTION OF THREE COUNTRIES WITH CRITICAL BCI: CHAD, ERITREA AND NEPAL

CHAD (BCI = 43) (% Change = -14.1%): the country with the worst BCI has also regressed more drastically

Poverty, food insecurity and lack of access to basic health and education services are setbacks against development in Chad, where more than 500,000 people suffer from food insecurity. The infant mortality rate is among the world's highest. Immunization coverage has not grown and children's critical situation is reflected in the percentage of children under five with malnourishment, which reached 37% in 2004. Maternal mortality rate has grown in the last decade, favoured by the undernourishment of pregnant women and the lack of access to health services. In 2004, only one in five women were attended by health personnel when giving birth, a proportion lower than one decade ago. The problems of access to education (aggravated by the inexistence of such services in many geographical areas) are compounded by a low survival rate in the education system. Overcrowding in schools (an average of 70 pupils per class) and a lack of resources cause eight out of ten children to take their classes standing up. The education budget has remained at around 2.5% of the GDP since 1995, while the average for Sub-Saharan Africa countries is 3.4% (UNDP Chad 2005).

ERITREA (BCI = 66.9) (% Change = +16.3%): a country with critical BCI and significant progress

The net primary school enrolment ratio rose from 30% in 1993-95 to 44% in 2001-03, an increase of 47%. These figures show that progress has been made in increasing primary school enrolments. The *Education Sector Development Programme* focuses on school construction, curriculum development, textbook production, teacher training and capacity building. Adequate allocation of resources for the programme and its effective implementation would be key to increasing enrolment. The infant mortality rate declined from 72 deaths per 1,000 births to 48 (1993-1995 to 2001-2003). These figures show that progress has been made in reducing child mortality. Continuation of the comprehensive malaria control programme launched by the government in 1999 is an important instrument for reducing child mortality (UNDP Eritrea 2005).

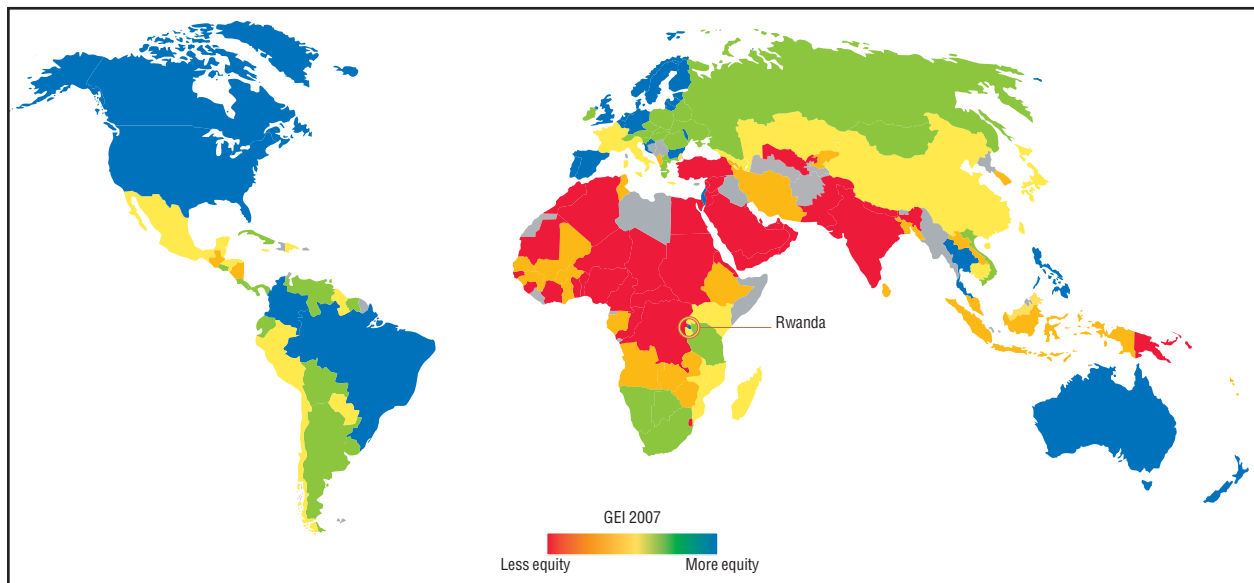
NEPAL (BCI = 54.8) (% Change = +10.5%), critical BCI and recovery: education policies and anti-discrimination

The government has been undertaking various policy reforms such as scholarship programmes for girls, compulsory female teachers in primary schools, tax exemptions for women when buying land, prohibition of socio-cultural discriminatory practices, affirmative action policies in the bureaucracy, and targeted and time-bound development programmes. In 1996, 42% of all Nepalese were living in poverty. Eight years later (in 2003-2004) this figure dropped to 31%. Probable reasons for this decline were: remittance-supported consumption, increased income from agricultural labour, a massive increment in the economically active population, rapid urbanization, and an increase in non-farm incomes (CBS/World Bank 2005, UNDP Nepal 2005).

GENDER EQUITY INDEX 2007

Inequity persists

The results of the 2007 Social Watch Gender Equity Index (GEI) clearly demonstrate that a country's level of wealth does not automatically determine its degree of equity. Rwanda, one of the world's least developed countries, ranks third on the list of GEI scores, after Sweden and Finland, thanks to intensive affirmative action efforts. In the meantime, a number of high-income countries rank far down on the list. The evolution of the GEI between 2004 and 2007 reveals a few global advances, but the general trend seen throughout the world is either very slow progress or no progress at all. The United States, a high-income country, is one of the 10 countries that have experienced the greatest regression. Obviously, the key to gender equity lies not in a country's economic power, but rather in its government's political will.



Gender-based inequity is a phenomenon that transcends borders, cultures, religions, nations and income levels. The achievement of gender equity is a challenge for the entire modern world because although its manifestations are diverse, the gap between women and men persists in all countries.

In most societies inequalities manifest in the division of responsibilities between men and women, in access to and control of resources and in decision-making processes.

In addition to affecting the life of everyone on the planet and in particular that of women, who comprise at least half of the population, this gap influences countries' economic and social development.

Social Watch Gender Equity Index

Gender equity is a complex, multifaceted concept and is difficult to measure. With the objective of making a contribution to the debate and to the consistent monitoring of women's situation, Social Watch has developed a Gender Equity Index. This index makes it possible to position and classify countries according to a selection of indicators relevant to gender inequity and based on internationally available and comparable information.

The GEI classifies 154 countries and conclusively verifies that in no country do women enjoy the same opportunities as men, that high income levels are not necessary for the elimination of gender disparities and that although over the years some aspects of women's situation have improved their opportunities in economic and political areas are still clearly limited.

The three dimensions included in the GEI are: economic activity, empowerment and education. The index's range of values is from 0 to 100, with lower values indicating greater inequity and higher values greater equity.

Sweden, Finland, Rwanda and Norway occupy the highest positions in the 2007 GEI. These countries register the least inequality between women and men. This good performance has been achieved by the application of affirmative action policies, particularly for political quota legislation and labour market equity.

The GEI presents information on 40 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, 36 in Europe, 28 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 19 in the Middle East and North Africa, 18 in East Asia and the Pacific, 6 in Central Asia, 5 in South Asia and 2 in North America. Together these countries represent more than 90% of the world's population.

The GEI was created in 2004. Here we present trends during the 2004-2007 period as well as the latest available data on individual countries.

Key data:

- There are currently only 12 women who have been elected as Head of State or Government amongst a total of approximately 200 such positions in the world.
- Women owned only 23% of companies in the European Union in 2004.
- Of the 550 million low-paid workers in the world, it is estimated that 330 million, or 60%, are women (ILO).
- In some countries the 2006 gender wage gap was as high as 30% or 40%. This means that women are paid between 30% and 40% less.
- Of the 17 million women aged 15 to 49 who live with HIV/AIDS, 98% live in developing countries and 77% in Sub-Saharan Africa (WHO).

TABLE 1. GEI VALUES IN 2007 AND RECENT GEI TRENDS (2004-2007)

Country	GEI	Evolution (%) (2004-2007)	Country	GEI	Evolution (%) (2004-2007)	Country	GEI	Evolution (%) (2004-2007)
Sweden	89	6	Switzerland	67	4	Iran	54	
Finland	84	5	Venezuela	67	7	Mauritius	54	4
Rwanda	84	18	Belarus	66	8	Indonesia	53	-1
Norway	83	8	Botswana	66	-10	Lao, PDR	53	-3
Barbados	80	3	Costa Rica	66	1	Angola	52	-21
Germany *	80		Cuba	66		Bangladesh	52	-9
Denmark	79	-3	Mongolia	66	-6	Guinea	52	
Iceland	79	5	Suriname	66		Mali	52	2
New Zealand	78	1	Viet Nam	66	1	Nicaragua	52	-5
Lithuania	77	2	Cyprus	65	5	Ethiopia	51	9
Netherlands	77	6	Dominican Republic	65	3	Gabon	51	-2
Spain	77	14	Georgia	65	-4	Samoa	51	
Australia	76	5	Mozambique	65	6	Tunisia	51	5
Latvia	76	0	Peru	65	9	Burkina Faso	50	1
Philippines	76	4	France	64	1	Gambia	50	-5
Bahamas	75	7	Kazakhstan	64	4	Guatemala	50	15
Canada	75	-2	Maldives	64		Sao Tomé and Príncipe	50	
Colombia	75	9	Uganda	64		Solomon Islands	50	
Belgium	74	9	Burundi	63	5	Guinea-Bissau	49	
Bulgaria	74	-4	Italy	63	0	Kuwait	49	0
Estonia	74	-1	Azerbaijan	62	2	Swaziland	49	2
Moldova	74	0	Belize	62	10	West Bank and Gaza	49	
United Kingdom	74	4	Chile	62	1	Algeria	48	4
United States of America	74	-7	Lesotho	62	12	Djibouti	48	
Brazil	73	4	Madagascar	62	-3	Lebanon	48	4
Croatia	73	5	Cambodia	61	-2	Qatar	48	
Israel	73	7	Cape Verde	61	15	Syria	48	5
Portugal	73	3	China	61	6	United Arab Emirates	48	1
Thailand	73	-3	Honduras	61	-3	Cameroon *	47	
Austria *	72		Jamaica	61	-3	Congo, DR *	47	
Ecuador	72	17	Mexico	61	1	Jordan	47	2
Namibia	72	3	Paraguay *	61		Niger	47	6
Poland	72	-4	Guyana	60		Turkey	47	-13
Slovenia	72	-1	Japan	60	-1	Bahrain	46	1
Tanzania	72		Kenya	60	-3	Egypt	45	-10
Ukraine	72	0	Luxembourg	60	1	Eritrea	45	-8
Romania	71	1	Malawi	60	4	Nigeria	45	
Russian Federation	71	-4	St. Vincent and Grenadines	60		Congo, Rep. *	44	
Argentina	70	5	Malta	59	8	Nepal	44	7
Hong Kong	70		Armenia	58	-5	Oman	43	5
Hungary	70	1	Ghana	58	-3	Morocco	42	-4
Slovakia *	70		Malaysia	58	-10	Pakistan	42	-2
South Africa	70	0	Sri Lanka	58	-5	Saudi Arabia	42	-4
Czech Republic *	69		Zambia	58	5	Benin	41	-4
El Salvador	69	10	Albania	57	-3	Central African Republic	41	-11
Ireland	69	6	Kyrgyzstan	57	-6	Chad	41	-4
Panama	69	11	Fiji	56	4	India	41	
Trinidad and Tobago	69	-1	Korea, Rep.	56	-1	Togo	41	4
Bolivia	68	6	St. Lucia	56		Côte d'Ivoire	39	4
Macedonia	68	0	Vanuatu	56		Sierra Leone	39	9
Uruguay *	68		Zimbabwe	56	-1	Yemen	31	11
Greece	67	6	Senegal	55	3			

* For these countries, GEI was calculated using the gaps in gross primary and secondary education enrolment rates as there was a lack of data on net rates. For methodological reasons GEI trends were not calculated in these cases. NOTE: For the measurement of GEI trends necessary values were imputed in order to ensure comparability.

Inequity: a problem both current and global

An analysis of the 2007 general values reveals first of all that the gender gap persists in all countries of the world.

Equity as policy

Nordic countries that have implemented affirmative action to eliminate gender inequalities occupy the upper GEI positions with higher equity levels. However, Rwanda is also amongst the top 10 countries, which demonstrates that it is not necessary to achieve high levels of economic growth or industrialization in order to implement effective policies that generate more equity.

After the 1994 Rwandan genocide, in which a million people died, civil society, the state and international stakeholders made a major effort for the reconstruction of the country that had been devastated by war. The initiatives undertaken incorporated gender equity, an essential dimension in a country where women had to develop strategies to maintain their families, take on responsibility in the community and support each other to overcome the physical and psychological consequences of the genocide.

Women joined forces in spontaneous and informal ways, as well as in an organized way, to help widows and orphans. Much effort was put into improving the situation of women in terms of economic independence, a more equitable distribution of responsibilities between the sexes, enhanced social service provision, juridical reforms and the protection of girls and adolescents.

The geography of inequity

GEI values range from 31 (Yemen) to 89 (Sweden). A majority of countries with the worst performance in relation to gender inequality are from Sub-Saharan Africa (Table 1).

GEI performance by region (Table 3) has North America in first place (74), Europe second (72), Latin America and the Caribbean third (65) and East Asia and the Pacific fourth (62). The regions with the lowest GEI values are, in descending order, Central Asia (60), Sub-Saharan Africa (54), South Asia (52) and the Middle East and North Africa (48). The GEI trends show that although North America has the highest GEI values it is the region that has most regressed in recent years.

Reading Table 4 we could say that a country's wealth is related to its level of gender inequality. However, upper-middle income countries have higher average GEI values than high-income countries that do not belong to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This may indicate the survival of inequitable social structures in countries with significant economic growth, such as several Arab countries. This data suggest that the modification of inequitable situations does not fundamentally depend on economic development but rather on the transformation of cultural patterns and power distribution.

Education and empowerment: decisive factors

Amongst the 10 countries with the highest GEI values the dimension with the greatest equity is education, where (except for Rwanda) the values are at, or close to, 100 (perfect equity) (Table 5).

THE CASE OF RWANDA: THE POWER OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Why does Rwanda occupy such a high GEI position? Its surprisingly good performance is related to the recent implementation of affirmative action policies involving legally binding regulations, sometimes of a constitutional nature, designed to promote change in social factors, including structural ones.

The following are examples of rapid changes that have taken place in this country over recent years:

- 30% of decision-making related positions were assigned to women.
- Local funds and micro-credits were provided for production projects led by women.
- In 2003 Article 187 of the new Rwandan Constitution formalized equity promotion structures such as the National Council of Women.
- A Gender Issues Monitoring Office was created, to facilitate the participation of women in public life and to ensure that development initiatives are egalitarian in generating benefits for both sexes.

As a result of these changes many women entered public life as political leaders. In the Chamber of Deputies seats held by women increased to 48.8%. There was also a significant increase in the participation of women at ministerial and local government levels.

The most interesting conclusion to be made is that a high level of economic development is not necessary in order to implement effective gender inequity reduction measures.

TABLE 2. GEI indicator values: Rwanda, 2004 and 2007

Empowerment					
Gaps	Professionals and technicians gap	Managers and directors gap	Parliamentarians gap	Ministerial gap	Empowerment gender gap
2004	no data	no data	96	05	50
2007	no data	no data	95	67	81
Economic activity					
Gaps	Activity rate gap		Income gap	Economic activity gender gap	
2004	88		no data	88	
2007	95		74	85	
Education					
Gaps	Literacy gap	Primary enrolment gap	Secondary enrolment gap	Tertiary enrolment gap	Education gender gap
2004	96	89	no data	50	78
2007	98	100	no data	62	87

TABLE 3. GEI average values by region

Region	GEI
North America	74
Europe	72
Latin America and the Caribbean	65
East Asia and the Pacific	62
Central Asia	60
Sub-Saharan Africa	54
South Asia	52
Middle East and North Africa	48

TABLE 4. GEI average values in relation to country income levels

Groups of countries by income	GEI
High income countries	73
Upper-middle income countries	64
High income countries (non OECD)	62
Lower-middle income countries	60
Low income countries	54

TABLE 5. GEI dimension values: the 10 most equitable countries

Country	Education	Economic activity	Empowerment	GEI
Sweden	100	84	84	89
Finland	100	79	75	84
Rwanda	87	85	81	84
Norway	100	81	67	83
Germany	99	67	75	80
Barbados	100	83	58	80
Denmark	100	79	59	79
Iceland	99	79	58	79
New Zealand	100	76	57	78
Netherlands	100	70	63	77

TABLE 6. GEI dimension values: the 10 least equitable countries

Country	Education	Economic activity	Empowerment	GEI
Saudi Arabia	96	19	13	42
Pakistan	74	34	19	42
Morocco	85	29	12	42
Benin	52	56	16	41
Central African Republic	43	70	11	41
Togo	57	50	17	41
Chad	39	75	9	41
Sierra Leone	52	53	14	39
Côte d'Ivoire	62	38	17	39
Yemen	52	35	7	31

In the least equitable countries the most inequitable dimension is empowerment, in which there are situations such as that in Yemen where the value is seven (Table 6).

Nearly insignificant progress

During the 2004-2007 period the general gender equity trend was for limited or non-existent progress.

Three regions registered progress: in first place, Latin America and the Caribbean, second Europe and third the Middle East and North Africa, but in all cases progress measured less than 6%.

East Asia and the Pacific along with Sub-Saharan Africa registered almost insignificant variations. Three regions suffered GEI regression: South Asia, Central Asia and North America. North America registered the most significant gender equity regression, basically because the United States' GEI performance fell by 7% (Table 7).

Income and equity are not directly related

Examining the variations in relation to income levels we find that low-income countries have not progressed. However, the differences between countries with high, middle and lower-middle incomes are not significant, which confirms that the relation between a country's income and gender equity is not direct.

Among the ten countries that most regressed are ones with a low, lower-middle, upper-middle and high income, for example in the latter category the United States.

TABLE 7. GEI change by geographical region - 2004-2007 (%)

Region	GEI 2004 - 2007: Percentage variation
Latin America and the Caribbean	5.13
Europe	2.52
Middle East and North Africa	2.23
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.86
East Asia and the Pacific	-0.33
South Asia	-2.62
Central Asia	-3.29
North America	-4.37

TABLE 8. GEI change by income group - 2004-2007 (%)

Income group	GEI 2004 - 2007: Percentage variation
High Income	3.21
High Income (no OECD)	3.00
Upper-Middle Income	1.32
Lower-Middle Income	2.78
Low Income	-0.27

Measuring variation as a percentage, the countries that registered the most progress during this period were in first place Rwanda, followed by Ecuador, Cape Verde and Guatemala. ■

TECHNICAL NOTES: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GEI

1. Dimensions and indicators

- Empowerment (% of women in technical positions, % of women in management and government positions, % of women in parliaments, % of women in ministerial posts).
- Economic activity (income gap, activity rate gap).
- Education (literacy rate gap, primary school enrolment rate gap, secondary school enrolment rate gap, tertiary education enrolment rate gap).

2. Gaps

To construct the gaps in the indicators that did not register them originally, two transformations were carried out. First the percentages for men were calculated, then the differences for women:

% of men in technical positions,
% of men in management and government positions,
% of men in parliaments,
% of men in ministerial posts.

Secondly, for each country the weight of the female population in relation to the male was calculated for the relevant age ranges (over 19 years old, except for the economically active population indicator, for which over 14 years old was used).

Weight of female population = % female population / % male population

The gap was calculated for each indicator for each country, with the rate for women as the numerator and the rate for men as the denominator, weighted by the inverse of the weight of the female population.¹

% female rate * (weight of female population)⁻¹ / % male rate

3. The construction of the components of the index in each dimension

For each dimension the average of the indicators of the gaps was calculated, but no values were given for countries for which information was available for less than half the indicators of the dimension in question.

4. Construction of the index

The index was calculated as an average of the values obtained in the three dimensions (the average of the gaps in each dimension).

¹ The value 0 was re-codified as 0.01 to allow algebraic calculations. At the other end of the scale, values greater than 1 were re-codified as 1, since this is the normative limit employed for the purposes of the index.

How to read the thematic area tables

FOOD SECURITY

Insurmountable gaps?

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

1 Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour)

2 Evolution: EVOLUTION (arrow/line)

3 Countries: COUNTRIES* (BCI value, 0-100)

4 Undernourishment: UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)

5 Estimated low birth weight: ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT* (%)

6 Under-5 children malnutrition: UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)

7 References: CURRENT SITUATION (Refer situation, Above average, Below average, Worse situation, Insufficient data), EVOLUTION (Stable like 1990 or highest available year, Significant progress, Slight progress, Stagnant, Slight regression, Significant regression)

Countries	Undernourishment (%)	Estimated low birth weight (%)	Under-5 children malnutrition (%)
Alghanistan (—)	—	—	39
Albania (95)	—	5	14
Algeria (95)	5	7	10
Angola (—)	38	12	31
Antigua and Barbuda (—)	—	8	—
Argentina (94)	—	8	4
Armenia (96)	29	7	4
Azerbaijan (91)	10	12	7
Bahamas (—)	—	7	—
Bahrain (99)	—	8	9
Bangladesh (57)	30	36	48
Barbados (99)	—	11	—
Belarus (97)	3	5	—
Belize (91)	—	6	—
Benin (73)	14	16	23
Bhutan (89)	—	15	19
Bolivia (80)	23	7	8
Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	9	4	4
Botswana (91)	30	10	13
Brazil (99)	8	8	6
Brunei Darussalam (97)	—	10	—
Bulgaria (97)	9	10	—
Burkina Faso (71)	17	19	38
Burundi (56)	67	16	45
Cambodia (59)	33	11	45
Cameroun (70)	25	13	18
Cape Verde (92)	—	13	—
Central African Republic (—)	45	14	24
Chad (43)	33	22	37
China (99)	4	6	1
China (93)	12	4	8
Colombia (89)	14	9	7
Comoros (72)	—	25	25
Congo, DR (—)	72	12	31
Congo, Rep. (80)	34	—	15
Cook Islands (—)	—	3	—
Costa Rica (96)	4	7	5

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour)

Evolution: EVOLUTION (arrow/line)

Countries: COUNTRIES* (BCI value, 0-100)

Undernourishment: UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)

Estimated low birth weight: ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT* (%)

Under-5 children malnutrition: UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)

Countries	Undernourishment (%)	Estimated low birth weight (%)	Under-5 children malnutrition (%)
Sri Lanka (—)	22	22	29
St. Kitts and Nevis (99)	—	9	—
St. Lucia (96)	—	10	—
St. Vincent and Grenadines (96)	—	10	—
Sudan (81)	27	—	41
Suriname (85)	10	13	13
Swaziland (77)	19	9	10
Syrian Arab Republic (87)	4	6	7
Tajikistan (86)	61	15	—
Tanzania (70)	44	10	22
Thailand (—)	21	9	18
Timor-Leste (—)	—	12	46
Togo (79)	25	18	25
Tonga (94)	—	0	—
Trinidad and Tobago (96)	11	23	6
Tunisia (95)	—	7	4
Turkey (92)	3	16	4
Turkmenistan (—)	8	6	12
Tuvalu (89)	—	5	—
Uganda (83)	19	12	23
Ukraine (97)	3	5	1
United Arab Emirates (96)	—	15	14
Uruguay (99)	3	9	5
Uzbekistan (—)	26	7	8
Vanuatu (85)	—	6	—
Venezuela (94)	18	9	5
Viet Nam (90)	17	9	27
West Bank and Gaza (96)	—	9	5
Yemen (64)	37	32	46
Zambia (75)	47	12	20
Zimbabwe (76)	45	11	17

8 Definition of indicators:

Undernourishment (%) Percentage of undernourished in the total population. Undernourishment is the result of food intake that is insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements continuously. The World Health Organization recommended that the average person needs to take in a minimum of 2000 kcal per day to maintain body functions, health and normal activity. This global minimum requirement of calories is broken down into country-specific differentials that are a function of the age-specific structure and body mass of the population (2001-2003, evolution since 1990-1991).

Estimated low birth weight (%) Percentage of newborns weighing less than 3,000 grams, with measurement taken within the first hours of life, before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred (1990-2005).

Under-5 child malnutrition (underweight for age, %) Percentage of children under five whose weight for age is less than minus two standard deviations from the median for the international reference population ages 0 to 59 months. The reference population adopted by the WHO in 1983 is based on children from the United States, who are assumed to be well-nourished (1980-2005, evolution since 1980).

Notes: * Due to changes in the methodology of the source the construction of data series presents comparability problems.
* OECD countries are not included.
* The State of the World's Children 2007, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/stateof07).

Source: Social Watch / 91

The thematic area tables present the statistical information available for each indicator. But in addition, they include a group of tools – both quantitative and qualitative – aimed at enriching the analysis and evaluation of the statistical information in the context of the corresponding area of development.

- 1. Current situation in the area:** Illustrates the current situation of the countries in the corresponding dimension through a summarizing measurement that evaluates countries based on their performance on the set of indicators included for which information is available (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”). The different categories are colour coded (see References: 7). The categories are: Countries in better situation, Countries above average, Countries below average, Countries in worse situation.
- 2. Evolution in the area:** Presents the evolution of country situations as an average of the evolution in indica-

tors for which sufficient information is available (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”). The categories are indicated by symbols (see References: 7). Categories are: Significant regression, Slight regression, Stagnant, Slight progress, Significant progress.

3. Basic Capabilities Index (BCI) value: Presents the values of the BCI for each country, a measurement designed by Social Watch that evaluates country status with regard to the basic conditions of development (for more information, see the box “Technical notes: BCI design in countries” in the “Basic Capabilities Index 2007” article in this Report). Countries with the highest BCI scores are listed first.

4. Indicator: Each thematic area includes indicators that are pertinent to evaluating the dimension in question and for which information is available from a large number of countries. This makes it possible to visualize the situation in each country while comparing the distances between them. The defi-

nitions of each indicator can be found at the foot of the corresponding table (see 8).

5. Current situation: This column presents the latest data available for each country according to the source consulted. These figures allow us to evaluate and compare the present situation in the countries of the world. Given that in many cases, the latest available figures are not up to date, it is important to take into account the time period to which the data correspond.

6. Evolution: Based on current and initial data,¹ the rate of progress or regression over the intervening time period is calculated for each country, taking into consideration the evolution of all of the countries in this indicator (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”). The result is expressed

graphically (see References: 7), facilitating the reading and evaluation of performance in the indicator during this period. The categories are: Significant regression, Slight regression, Stagnant, Slight progress, Significant progress.

7. References: Shows the categories of the current situation in a country in the area and the recent evolution for each indicator and for the area. These variables are constructed by Social Watch to facilitate the evaluation of countries in each area based on the information available (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”).

8. Definitions, Notes and Sources: The definition of each indicator as well as the source(s) of the information used are provided at the foot of the corresponding table. The information used for the indicators is obtained from recognized international organizations that compile the statistics produced by the countries. Notes have been added with information needed to read the tables.

¹ Initial data or starting point: Presents the available information from as close as possible to 1990 (the year that is taken as the starting point in the international commitments that set quantitative goals in different aspects of social development).

Methodological notes: thematic tables





Measurement of the current situation of countries and the rate of change

The **situation** a country is in, according to each indicator, is given by the latest available value for that indicator.

Each country is assigned a value from 1 to 4 (1 indicates the worst situation and 4 indicates the best situation) according to the distribution of values on each indicator,¹ and an average of these values is then given for all the indicators in that area. In this way a self-referential ranking is obtained, independent of distance from goals or from specific conceptually defined levels.

This ranking was only applied to those countries with information available for at least half the indicators that make up each overall thematic area.

To avoid giving a false impression that the data are exact values, the average values were rescaled² to create four country categories:

<i>Countries in better situation</i>	
<i>Countries above average</i>	
<i>Countries below average</i>	
<i>Countries in worse situation</i>	

Countries for which sufficient information to be included in the ranking is lacking (*Countries with insufficient data to summarize the area*) are also shown.

Recent evolution

For each country, evolution in each indicator is evaluated between 1990 (or the closest year for which information is available) and the most recent year for which information is available.






In order to assess the evolution of each indicator, two aspects were taken into account: initial and final levels, and the rate of change of progress or regression.

The **rate of change** for each country is obtained by considering the variation in the values of the indicator over the time period within which the measurements were made. The ratio between the variation in the indicator and the time period reflects the rate of change for the item in question.

In the case of information from a specific period (e.g. 1990-1994) rather than a specific year, the criterion adopted was to use the data for the middle of the interval (e.g. 1992) as a means of calculating the rate of change.

The values for this rate of change have also been rescaled in sections (using a reference scale of 1 to 5), and in the tables these appear in a column to the right of the current indicator value. A series of symbols are used to illustrate changes in order to make the information easier to read (numerical values are not used because they would tend to give the impression that the information is exact, which in this case it is not).

The categories defined in this rescaling are as follows:

	<i>Significant progress</i>
	<i>Slight progress</i>
	<i>Stagnant</i>
	<i>Slight regression</i>
	<i>Significant regression</i>

Significant progress applies to those countries which are progressing at rates above the average for all countries making progress.

Slight progress applies to those countries which are progressing at rates below the average for all countries making progress.

Stagnant refers to those countries where no changes (or quantitatively insignificant changes) have been recorded over the period in question.

Slight regression applies to those countries which are regressing at rates below the average for all countries regressing (i.e. they are regressing more slowly).

Significant regression applies to those countries which are regressing at rates above the average for all countries regressing (i.e. they are regressing more rapidly).

In addition, an average of progress and regression of the indicators is built for each dimension for which information on recent evolution is available. The average appears in the column "Recent evolution" of the area, and values are also rescaled to obtain the aforementioned five categories.³

1 For this, the variable was normalized (by subtracting the mean and dividing by the standard deviation) and then the mean positive values and the mean negative values for the normalized indicator were calculated. The four categories were established according to the values above and below the mean positive values for the normalized indicator, and the values above and below the mean negative values for the normalized indicator.

2 The possible range for the average of the area was divided into four groups as follows: group 1 (between 4 and 3.26); group 2 (between 3.25 and 2.6); group 3 (between 2.5 and 1.76); group 4 (between 1.75 and 1).

3 The five groups were divided as follows: significant regression (1 to 1.8), slight regression (1.81 to 2.59), stagnant (2.6 to 3.39), slight progress (3.4 to 4.19), significant progress (4.2 to 5).

FOOD SECURITY

Insurmountable gaps?

References

CURRENT SITUATION

(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION

(since 1990 or closest available year)

- Significant progress
- Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ← Slight regression
- ← Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES ¹ (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT ² (%)	UNDER-5 CHILD MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)
—	Afghanistan (—)			39
—	Albania (95)	6	5	14
	Algeria (95)	5	7	10
	Angola (—)	38 →	12	31 ←
—	Antigua and Barbuda (—)		8	
—	Argentina (94)		8	4
—	Armenia (96)	29	7	4
—	Azerbaijan (91)	10	12	7
—	Bahamas (—)		7	
—	Bahrain (99)		8	9
→	Bangladesh (57)	30 →	36	48 →
—	Barbados (99)		11	
—	Belarus (97)	3	5	
—	Belize (91)		6	
→	Benin (73)	14 →	16	23 →
—	Bhutan (69)		15	19
→	Bolivia (80)	23 →	7	8 →
—	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	9	4	4
←	Botswana (91)	30 ←	10	13
→	Brazil (89)	8 →	8	6
—	Brunei Darussalam (97)		10	
—	Bulgaria (97)	9	10	
	Burkina Faso (71)	17 →	19	38 ←
←	Burundi (56)	67 ←	16	45 ←
→	Cambodia (59)	33 →	11	45
	Cameroon (70)	25 →	13	18 ←
—	Cape Verde (92)		13	
→	Central African Republic (—)	45 →	14	24
→	Chad (43)	33 →	22	37
→	Chile (99)	4 →	6	1
→	China (93)	12 →	4	8 →
→	Colombia (89)	14 →	9	7 →
—	Comoros (72)		25	25
←	Congo, DR (—)	72 ←	12	31
→	Congo, Rep. (80)	34 →		15 →
—	Cook Islands (—)		3	
	Costa Rica (96)	4	7	5

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES ¹ (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT ² (%)	UNDER-5 CHILD MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)		
	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	14	→	17	←	
—	Croatia (97)	7		6		
—	Cuba (99)			5		
—	Djibouti (78)			16		
—	Dominica (94)			11		
→	Dominican Republic (85)	27		11	5	→
→	Ecuador (81)	5	→	16	12	→
→	Egypt (90)	3		12	6	→
→	El Salvador (80)	11		7	10	→
—	Equatorial Guinea (59)			13	19	
	Eritrea (67)	73		14	40	
—	Estonia (99)	3		4		
→	Ethiopia (50)	46		15	38	→
—	Fiji (99)			10		
→	Gabon (82)	5	→	14	12	
←	Gambia (70)	27	←	17	17	
—	Georgia (95)	13		7	3	
→	Ghana (66)	12	→	16	22	→
—	Grenada (92)			8		
→	Guatemala (72)	23	←	12	23	→
→	Guinea (68)	24	→	16	26	
—	Guinea-Bissau (—)			22	25	
→	Guyana (81)	9	→	13	14	→
→	Haiti (—)	47	→	21	17	→
	Honduras (76)	22		14	17	
→	India (71)	20	→	30	47	→
→	Indonesia (85)	6	→	9	28	→
	Iran (91)	4		7	11	
—	Iraq (79)			15	12	
—	Israel (99+)			8		
→	Jamaica (95)	10	→	10	4	→
←	Jordan (99)	7	←	12	4	
—	Kazakhstan (95)	8		8	4	
→	Kenya (68)	31	→	10	20	→
—	Kiribati (88)			5		
—	Korea, DR (—)	35		7	23	
→	Kuwait (99)	5	→	7	10	
—	Kyrgyzstan (96)	4		7	11	
→	Lao, PDR (58)	21	→	14	40	→
—	Latvia (99)	3		5		
	Lebanon (96)	3		6	4	
	Lesotho (69)	12	→	13	20	←
←	Liberia (—)	49	←		26	
—	Libya (—)			7	5	
—	Lithuania (97)			4		
—	Macedonia, FYR (97)			6	6	

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES ¹ (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT ² (%)	UNDER-5 CHILD MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)
←	Madagascar (63)	38	17	42
→	Malawi (63)	34	16	22
→	Malaysia (98)	3	9	11
—	Maldives (86)		22	30
	Mali (66)	28	23	33
—	Malta (99+)		6	
—	Marshall Islands (94)		12	
→	Mauritania (75)	10		32
→	Mauritius (99)	6	14	15
→	Mexico (94)	5	8	8
—	Micronesia (—)		18	
—	Moldova (96)	11	5	4
→	Mongolia (96)	28	7	7
	Morocco (78)	6	15	10
→	Mozambique (61)	45	15	24
→	Myanmar (73)	5	15	32
→	Namibia (86)	23	14	24
→	Nepal (55)	17	21	48
→	Nicaragua (74)	27	12	10
→	Niger (55)	32	13	40
→	Nigeria (63)	9	14	29
—	Niue (—)		0	
—	Oman (97)		8	18
	Pakistan (60)	23	19	38
—	Palau (—)		9	
—	Panama (91)	25	10	8
—	Papua New Guinea (73)		11	
→	Paraguay (85)	15	9	5
→	Peru (86)	12	11	8
→	Philippines (77)	19	20	28
—	Qatar (97)		10	6
—	Romania (96)		8	3
—	Russian Federation (97)	3	6	3
→	Rwanda (51)	36	9	23
—	Samoa (97)		4	
—	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)		20	13
	Saudi Arabia (95)	4	11	14
→	Senegal (72)	23	18	17
—	Serbia and Montenegro (—) ³	10	4	2
←	Sierra Leone (—)	50	23	27
—	Singapore (—)		8	3
—	Slovakia (—)	6	7	
—	Slovenia (99)	3	6	
—	Solomon Islands (—)		13	
—	Somalia (—)			26
—	South Africa (87)		15	12

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES ¹ (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT ² (%)	UNDER-5 CHILD MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)
→	Sri Lanka (—)	22 →	22	29 →
—	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)		9	
—	St. Lucia (96)		10	
—	St. Vincent and Grenadines (95)		10	
←	Sudan (81)	27 →	31	41 ←
→	Suriname (85)	10 →	13	13
←	Swaziland (77)	19 →	9	10
→	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	4	6	7 →
←	Tajikistan (86)	61 ←	15	
	Tanzania (70)	44 →	10	22 →
—	Thailand (—)	21	9	18
—	Timor-Leste (—)		12	46
→	Togo (70)	25 →	18	25
—	Tonga (94)		0	
	Trinidad and Tobago (98)	11	23	6
→	Tunisia (95)		7	4 →
→	Turkey (92)	3	16	4 →
—	Turkmenistan (—)	8	6	12
—	Tuvalu (89)		5	
→	Uganda (63)	19 →	12	23
—	Ukraine (97)	3	5	1
—	United Arab Emirates (98)		15	14
→	Uruguay (95)	3 →	8	5
—	Uzbekistan (—)	26	7	8
—	Vanuatu (85)		6	
	Venezuela (94)	18 →	9	5 →
→	Viet Nam (90)	17 →	9	27 →
—	West Bank and Gaza (96)		9	5
←	Yemen (64)	37 →	32	46 ←
→	Zambia (75)	47	12	20 →
←	Zimbabwe (76)	45	11	17 →

- Notes:** (1) OECD countries are not included.
(2) Due to changes in the methodology of the sources the construction of data series presents comparability problems.
(3) Prior to separation.

Source: The State of the World's Children 2007, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc07).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Undernourishment (%): Percentage of undernourished in the total population. Undernourishment is the result of food intake that is insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements continuously. The World Health Organization recommended that the average person needs to take in a minimum of 2300 kcal per day to maintain body functions, health and normal activity. This global minimum requirement of calories is broken down into country-specific differentials that are a function of the age-specific structure and body mass of the population. Last available data: 2001-2003; evolution since 1990-1991.

Estimated low birth weight (%): Percentage of newborns weighing less than 2.500 grams, with measurement taken within the first hours of life, before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred. Last available data: 1998-2005.

Under-5 child malnutrition (underweight for age, %): Percentage of children under five whose weight for age is less than minus two standard deviations from the median for the international reference population ages 0 to 59 months. The reference population adopted by the WHO in 1983 is based on children from the United States, who are assumed to be well nourished. Last available data: 1995-2005; evolution since 1990.

FOOD SECURITY Insurmountable gaps?

There are hundreds of millions of hungry people in the world, and this cannot be explained by lack of resources, since enough quality food is produced on the planet for the whole of the world's population. Nevertheless, every five seconds a child dies from hunger-related causes.¹ Food is a human right, and states are under the obligation to ensure access to sufficient quantities of appropriate supplies for all their citizens. This is a basic right, and failure to fulfil it puts all other rights at risk, starting with the right to life itself.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), "The Right to Food is the right of every person to have regular access to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and culturally acceptable food for an active, healthy life. It is the right to feed oneself in dignity, rather than the right to be fed."² The challenge that countries face when it comes to fulfilling the right to food is not just to achieve food security but to achieve genuine food sovereignty.

The concept of food security is the notion that "all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs."³ This means food should be available, people should be able to acquire it, the supply should be stable, and the products should be of good quality, hygienic and safe.

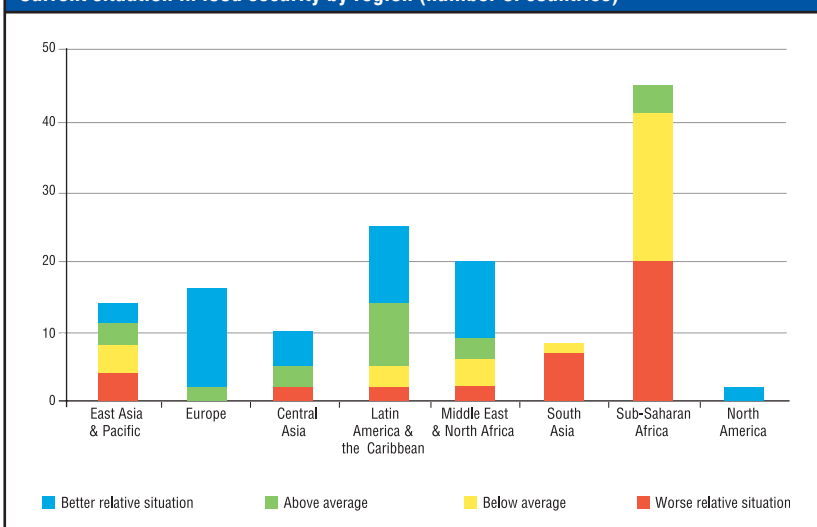
The problem of hunger goes beyond the serious effects of widespread famine; it also has an impact on people's future development. "Most poor people who battle hunger deal with chronic undernourishment and vitamin or mineral deficiencies, which result in stunted growth, weakness and heightened susceptibility to illness."⁴

There are enormous food security gaps between different countries in the world, and this can be summed up in one simple fact: in the countries in the better situation, one in 20 children under five suffers from malnutrition, whereas in the countries in the worse situation the ratio is one in three. In Bangladesh, India and Nepal, for example, nearly half of all children under five are the victims of malnutrition.

Hunger on the planet is not distributed randomly, as can be seen from the chart that shows food security in different geographical regions. There is a stark contrast between the reality in North America and Europe, which are in the better situation group, and what is happening in Sub-Saharan Africa and

		Under-5 child malnutrition (underweight for age) (%)	Undernourishment (%)	Estimated low birth weight (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	35	39	69
	Number of countries	30	27	30
Better relative situation	Average	6	7	7
	Number of countries	40	35	45
Total	Average	18	20	12
	Number of countries	125	109	129

Current situation in food security by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution in food security (number of countries)

	←	↩		→	➔	Total
Countries in worse situation	5	3	5	6	8	27
Countries below average	0	2	5	9	7	23
Countries above average	0	2	3	8	4	17
Countries in better situation	0	1	5	13	1	20
Total	5	8	18	36	20	87

above all in South Asia, where most of the countries are in the worse relative situation in terms of food security. In the other regions of the world countries are very different as regards their capability to provide food security for their populations. It should be noted that for many of the more developed countries no information is available for the indicators that make up this dimension, and this is a relative classification, so the countries in the better relative situation group are not necessarily up to the level of the developed countries in terms of food security.

As to recent evolution, the countries that have made progress on these indicators form the predominant group, but the data also show a discouraging evolution in some places. There has been significant regression in five countries – Burundi, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tajikistan and Yemen – and all five are currently in the worse relative situation group. Another worrying aspect is that various countries have not improved in this respect, but rather have stagnated or even regressed slightly. ■

1 Black, R., Morris, S. and Bryce, J. (2003). "Where and Why Are 10 Million Children Dying Every Year?" *The Lancet*, Vol 361, 28 June. Available from: <www.cfwshops.org/download/child_survival.pdf>.

2 <www.fao.org/righttofood/index_en.htm>

3 FAO (1996). World Food Summit, Plan of Action, Para. 1. Rome, 13-17 November. Available from: <www.fao.org/wfs/index_en.htm>.

4 Bread for the World Institute (2004). *Are We On Track To End Hunger? Hunger Report 2004. 14th Annual Report on the State of World Hunger*. Washington, D.C.

EDUCATION

Information society vs. hundreds of millions of illiterate people

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- Significant progress
- Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ← Slight regression
- ← Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY (15-24 years old) (%)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net) (%)	CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net) (%)	TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATE (gross) (%)
—	Afghanistan (—)	34.3				1.1
→	Albania (95)	99.4 →	95.6		73.9 →	16.4 →
→	Algeria (95)	90.1 →	96.7 →	96.2 →	66.2 →	19.6 →
	Andorra (—)		88.5 ←		71.4 →	9.4 →
—	Angola (—)	72.2				0.8
—	Anguilla (—)		88.3		92.9	
→	Argentina (94)	98.9	98.8	84.3 ←	80.8 →	61.1 →
→	Armenia (96)	99.8	93.7 →		88.7 →	26.2 →
	Aruba (—)	99	96.6 ←	96.3	74.3 ←	28.6 →
→	Australia (99)		94.8 ←	98.7	85.3 →	72.2 →
—	Austria (99+)				89.2	48.7 →
	Azerbaijan (91)	99.9	83.8 ←		77 →	14.8 ←
—	Bahamas (—)		83.7 ←		73.8 ←	
→	Bahrain (99)	97	96.8	99.8 →	89.9 →	34.4 →
→	Bangladesh (57)		93.8	65.1 →	48 →	6.5
→	Barbados (99)		97.2 →	96.8 →	95.1 →	
→	Belarus (97)	99.8	89.9 →		87.3 →	60.5 →
→	Belgium (99+)		98.6		96.9 →	62.5 →
→	Belize (91)		95.2	91 →	71.4 →	2.6
	Benin (73)	45.3 →	82.6 →	69.4 ←		
—	Bermuda (—)			93.4 ←		62.3
—	Bhutan (69)			91 →		
→	Bolivia (80)	97.3 →	95.2	86.4 →	73.6 →	40.6 →
—	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	99.8				
→	Botswana (91)	94 →	82.1	91.2 →	60.9 →	6.2
→	Brazil (89)	96.8 →	92.1 →	83 ¹	74.5 →	20.1 →
	Brunei Darussalam (97)	98.9		93 ←		14.7 →
→	Bulgaria (97)	98.2	94.2 →		88.3 →	40.8 →
→	Burkina Faso (71)	31.2 →	40.5 →	75.8 →	9.5	1.7
→	Burundi (56)	73.3 →	57 →	63 →		2.3
→	Cambodia (59)	83.4 →	97.6 →	59.7 →	25.8 →	2.9
—	Cameroon (70)			63.7 ←		5.3
—	Canada (99)					57.2 ←
	Cape Verde (92)		91.8	91.2 ←	55 →	5.5 →
—	Cayman Islands (—)		87.2 ←	93.4 *	90.9 →	
—	Central African Republic (—)	58.5 →				
	Chad (43)	37.6 ←	56.9 →	45.8 ←	10.8 →	1.2
→	Chile (99)	99		99	77.8 →	43.2 →
—	China (93)	98.9 →		99 ³		19.1 →
→	Colombia (89)	98 →	83.2 →	77.5 →	54.9 →	26.9 →
—	Comoros (72)			62.7		2.3 →
—	Congo, DR (—)	70.4				

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY (15-24 years old) (%)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net) (%)	CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net) (%)	TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATE (gross) (%)
—	Congo, Rep. (80)			66.3		3.6
	Costa Rica (96)	97.6		92.4	→	19
→	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	60.7	→	56	→	87.6
→	Croatia (97)	99.6		87.3	→	85
→	Cuba (99)	100		96.2	→	97.7
→	Cyprus (99+)	99.8		96.1	→	99.2
→	Czech Republic (99)			98.4		90.4
→	Denmark (99+)			99.9		100
→	Djibouti (78)			32.8	→	87.7 ³
—	Dominica (94)			87.7	→	18.7
→	Dominican Republic (85)	94.2	→	86	→	90.4
	Ecuador (81)	96.4		97.7		49.3
→	Egypt (90)	84.9	→	94.3	→	52.2
→	El Salvador (80)			92.3	→	79.1
—	Equatorial Guinea (59)	94.9		85.3	→	48.1
	Eritrea (67)			46	→	23.6
→	Estonia (99)	99.8		94.6	→	80.3
→	Ethiopia (50)			56.3	→	87.9
→	Fiji (99)			96.2	→	27.8
→	Finland (99+)			96.2	→	82.6
→	France (99+)			99.5		15.3
—	Gabon (82)			99.1		94
→	Gambia (70)				98 *	95.3
	Georgia (95)				→	56
→	Ghana (66)	70.7	→	65	→	44.9
→	Greece (99+)	98.9		97.7	→	80.7
—	Grenada (92)			83.9	→	41.5
→	Guatemala (72)	82.2	→	93	→	37
→	Guinea (68)	46.6	→	63.8	→	84.5
—	Guyana (81)			93.5	→	72.2
→	Honduras (76)	88.9	→	90.6		9.6
	Hong Kong (China) (—)			93	→	2.2
→	Hungary (97)			89		9.1
→	Iceland (99+)			99		16.4
→	India (71)	76.4	→	87.4	→	77.7
→	Indonesia (85)	98.7	→	94.6		77.7
→	Iran, Islamic Rep. (91)			88.6	→	75.3
→	Iraq (79)	84.8	→	87.7	→	40.1
→	Ireland (99+)			96	→	70.4
→	Israel (99+)	99.8		98.1	→	88.3
→	Italy (99)	99.8		98.6		88.3
	Jamaica (95)			88.5	→	77.6
→	Japan (99+)			99.9		22.3
→	Jordan (99)	99.1		92.8	→	39.7
→	Kazakhstan (95)	99.8		92.6	→	37.1
—	Kenya (68)	80.3	→	76.4	→	87.4
—	Kiribati (88)				→	71
→	Korea, Rep. (99)			99.6		47.6
→	Kuwait (99)	99.7	→	86	→	23.1
—	Kyrgyzstan (96)	99.7		90.1	→	88.5
→	Lao, PDR (58)	78.5	→	84.4	→	77.6
→	Latvia (99)	99.8			→	22.3
→	Lebanon (96)			93.2	→	39.7
	Lesotho (69)			85.9	→	23.1
—	Libya (—)				→	56.2

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY (15-24 years old) (%)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net) (%)	CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net) (%)	TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATE (gross) (%)
—	Liechtenstein (—)		88.2		65.2	25.1
→	Lithuania (97)	99.7	92.4		94.1	69
←	Luxembourg (97)		90.3	92	80	12.4
→	Macao (China) (—)	99.6	89.2	99.7	76.8	68.8
	Macedonia, FYR (97)	98.7	90.9		81.1	27.4
→	Madagascar (63)	70.2	88.8	57		2.5
→	Malawi (63)	76	95.3	43.8	24.7	
→	Malaysia (98)	97.2	93.2	98.4	69.9	28.8
	Maldives (86)	98.2	89.7		51.3	
	Mali (66)	24.2	46.5	78.6		2.1
	Malta (99+)	96	94.3	99.3	85.9	29.9
—	Marshall Islands (94)		89.6		74.4	17
→	Mauritania (75)	61.3	74.3	81.6	14.1	3.5
→	Mauritius (99)	94.5	94.5	98.9	82.5	17.2
→	Mexico (94)	97.6	97.6	92.6	62.4	22.5
←	Moldova (96)	99.5	77.5		68.7	31.7
→	Mongolia (96)	97.7	84.2		82.3	38.9
—	Montserrat (—)		94.3		100	
→	Morocco (78)	70.5	86.1	75.6	35.1	10.6
→	Mozambique (61)		71	49.2	4	1.2
→	Myanmar (73)	94.5	87.6	69.9	37.6	11.3
→	Namibia (86)	92.3	73.7	88.1	37.5	6.1
—	Nauru (—)			30.8		
→	Nepal (55)	70.1	79.2	60.8		5.6
→	Netherlands (99+)		99.2	99.6	88.9	58
	Netherlands Antilles (—)			88.5	76.9	23.6
→	New Zealand (99+)		99.3		92.3	71.6
→	Nicaragua (74)	86.2	87.9	58.8	40.7	17.9
→	Niger (55)	36.5	39.2	73.6	6.8	0.8
—	Nigeria (63)		60.1	72.6	27.3	10.2
→	Norway (99+)		99.5	99.6	95.4	80.3
→	Oman (97)	97.3	77.9	97.6	74.7	12.9
→	Pakistan (60)	65.5	66.2		21.8	3.2
—	Palau (—)			84.2 *		40.2
→	Panama (91)	96.1	98.2	84.3	63.7	45.8
—	Papua New Guinea (73)	66.7		67.8		
→	Paraguay (85)			81.5	51.1	25.9
	Peru (86)	96.8	97.9	89.7	69.2	31.5
→	Philippines (77)	95.1	93.8	75.3	59.2	29.4
→	Poland (99+)		97.9	99.7	91.5	59.5
→	Portugal (99+)		98.9		82.3	55.5
→	Qatar (97)	95.9	96.1		87.2	17.8
→	Romania (96)	97.8	90		81.1	36.3
	Russian Federation (97)	99.7	89.1		75.6	68.2
→	Rwanda (51)	77.6	73.2	45.8		2.7
	Samoa (97)		90.4	93.8	65.7	
—	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)		98.2	66.5	26	
→	Saudi Arabia (95)	95.9	53.1	93.6	52.4	27.7
→	Senegal (72)	49.1	66.1	78.2	15.3	4.9
←	Seychelles (—)	99.1	96.4	98.7	93.1	
—	Sierra Leone (—)	47.6				2.1
—	Singapore (—)	99.5				
—	Slovakia (—)				88	34
→	Slovenia (99)		96.4		95.3	70.1

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY (15-24 years old) (%)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net) (%)	CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net) (%)	TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATE (gross) (%)
—	Solomon Islands (—)		79.6		26.4 →	
→	South Africa (87)	93.9 →	88.8 ▬	84.1 →		15.3 →
→	Spain (99+)		99.5 ▬		94.8 →	65.7 →
—	Sri Lanka (—)	95.6 ▬	98.6			
—	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)		94	86.5	98.3	
→	St. Lucia (96)		97.6 ▬	90.1 ▬	62.6 →	14.4 →
→	St. Vincent and the Grenadines (95)		93.9 →	88 →	62.3 →	
—	Sudan (81)	77.2 →		91.9 →		
—	Suriname (85)	94.9	92.4 →		63.2 ▬	12.4
▬	Swaziland (77)	88.4 →	76.7 ▬	76.8 ←	29 ▬	5.2 ▬
→	Sweden (99+)		99.5 ▬		98.3 →	81.8 →
→	Switzerland (99+)		94.3 →		82.6 →	47 →
→	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	92.2 →	91.8 ▬	92.4 →	58.1 →	
→	Tajikistan (86)	99.8 ▬	96.7 →		79.4 →	16.4 ←
▬	Tanzania (70)	78.4 ←	91.4 →	75.8 ←		1.2 ▬
—	Thailand (—)	98 ▬				41 →
—	Timor-Leste (—)					10.2
→	Togo (70)	74.4 →	78.8 →	76 →		
▬	Tonga (94)	99.3	92.7 ▬	92.5	67.7 ▬	6.1 →
▬	Trinidad and Tobago (98)		92.2 ▬	100 ▬	71.9 ▬	11.9 →
→	Tunisia (95)	94.3 →	97.2 →	96.5 →	64 ←	26.2 →
→	Turkey (92)	95.6 →	89.5 ▬	94.6		28 →
—	Turkmenistan (—)	99.8				
—	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)		81.5 ←	45.9	77.7 ←	
—	Tuvalu (89)			69.9 ←		
→	Uganda (63)	76.6 →		63.6 →	13 →	3.4 ▬
▬	Ukraine (97)	99.8 ▬	82.1 ▬		83.5 ←	65.5 →
▬	United Arab Emirates (98)		71.2 ←	94.7 →	62.4 →	22.5 →
→	United Kingdom (99)		100 ▬		95.5 →	60.1 →
▬	United States of America (99)		93.9 ←		88.7 →	82.4 →
→	Uruguay (95)			88.4 ▬	73.2 →	37.8 →
—	Uzbekistan (—)					15.3 ←
→	Vanuatu (85)		93.9 →	72.1 ²	39.3 →	5 ▬
→	Venezuela (94)	97.2 ▬	92 →	91 ▬	61.2 →	39.3 →
→	Viet Nam (90)	93.9 ▬	92.9 →	86.8 →	64.8 →	10.2 →
—	Virgin Islands (UK) (—)		94.7 ▬	96.2	79.5 ▬	
→	West Bank and Gaza (96)	99	86.3 ←		89.4 →	37.9 →
▬	Yemen (64)		75.3 →	73.2 ←		9.4 ←
→	Zambia (75)	69.5 ←	79.8 →	98.5 →	23.7 →	
←	Zimbabwe (76)		81.9 ▬	69.7 ←	33.9 ←	3.7 ▬

Note: (*) Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

Sources: UNESCO Website Database (www.uis.unesco.org/), February 2007.

Except for:

- (1) Ministério da Educação e Cultura, 2006, Brazil.
- (2) Education for All - Global Monitoring Report 2006, UNESCO.
- (3) Education for All - Global Monitoring Report 2007, UNESCO.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Literacy (15-24 years old, %): Percentage of people aged 15-24 who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life.
Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990.

Primary school enrolment ratio (net, %): Number of children enrolled in primary school who belong to the age group that officially corresponds to primary schooling, as percentage of the total population of the same age group.
Last available data: 2003-2005; evolution since 1991.

Children reaching 5th grade of primary school (%): Percentage of children entering first grade of primary school who eventually reach grade five.
Last available data: 2000-2004; evolution since 1999.

Secondary school enrolment ratio (net, %): Number of children enrolled in secondary school who belong to the age group that officially corresponds to secondary schooling, as percentage of the total population of the same age group.
Last available data: 2003-2004; evolution since 1991.

Tertiary education enrolment ratio (gross): Ratio of total enrolment, regardless of age, to the population of the age group that officially corresponds to the level of education shown. Tertiary education, whether or not to an advanced research qualification, normally requires, as a minimum condition of admission, successful completion of education at secondary level.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1991.

EDUCATION

Information society vs. hundreds of millions of illiterate people

The paradox lingers on: while large swathes of the world's population are engaged in new educational challenges to join the information society, there are still millions of people on the planet who are illiterate.

Not only are there 77 million children who do not go to school, but there are 781 million adults who cannot read and write. Two thirds of these people are women, which goes to show how gender inequity in education is still very much with us. In fact, 30% of the countries in the world have not achieved gender equity even at the level of primary education.¹ But while a significant proportion of the world's population is deprived of this basic necessity, the number of years that people in the developed countries spend in education is increasing progressively.

Illiteracy is overwhelmingly concentrated in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. In recent years the total number of people in these regions who are illiterate has increased, so a greater global effort is needed to remedy this situation.

One essential factor for achieving universal literacy and primary education (global enrolment today stands at 86%) is the strong political will to channel national and international resources towards educational goals. There are serious challenges to be addressed to reach even these minimum targets, notably the school dropout rate and cultural differences within countries.

These resources should be supplemented with programmes geared to early childhood. As was stated by UNESCO in its 2007 Education For All Report, "Holistic early childhood programmes have a leading role to play in any strategy to attain basic education for all and to reduce poverty, the overarching objective of the Millennium Development Goals. Programmes of good quality improve health and nutrition, combat HIV/AIDS and prepare children for a smooth transition to primary school."²

Taking the world's population as a whole, progress has been made, especially as regards enrolments in primary education, but the most pressing inequalities in literacy, school dropout, educational quality and enrolment at all levels have to be tackled to be able to reach an acceptable level from which to make progress towards fulfilment of rights for all.

The group of countries in the better relative situation are well established on the road to the full exercise of the right to education. Literacy stands at nearly 100%, enrolment in primary education and the proportion of children who reach the 5th grade are

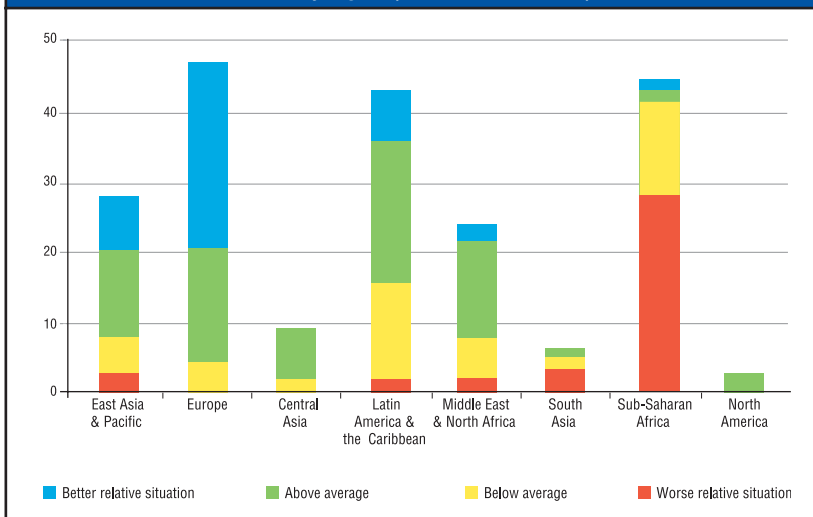
1 UNESCO (2007). "Highlights of the EFA Report 2007". Available from: <www.unesco.org/education/GMR/2007/highlights.pdf>.

2 UNESCO (2007). *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2007. Strong foundations - Early childhood care and education*. Available from: <unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147785E.pdf>.

Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in education

		Literacy (15-24 years old) (%)	Primary school enrolment rate (net) (%)	Children reaching 5th grade (%)	Secondary school enrolment rate (net) (%)	Tertiary education enrolment rate (gross) (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	59	69	69	25	4
	Number of countries	19	30	29	23	29
Better relative situation	Average	99	97	98	89	60
	Number of countries	13	33	25	34	32
Total	Average	88	87	84	66	29
	Number of countries	96	149	119	140	140

Current situation in education by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution in education (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	0	1	7	12	8	28
Countries below average	0	1	6	12	9	28
Countries above average	0	2	17	30	5	54
Countries in better situation	0	1	1	28	3	33
Total	0	5	31	82	25	143

both above 97%, enrolment in secondary education is just under 90%, and almost 60% of the population have tertiary education. But at the other end of the scale, in the group of countries in the worse situation, inequality is the rule rather than the exception. Only 60% of the people can read and write, and all the other indicators show a reality that falls far short of current world education development goals. These countries face deficiencies in all the dimensions covered by education indicators.

More than half the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse education situation group, and there is only one country from this region, the Seychelles, in the better relative situation group. In contrast, no North American, European or Central Asian country is in the worse relative situation group. The panorama in the other regions of the world is not homogenous, and the situation varies widely from country to country.

Most countries have made progress (107 of the 143 countries for which there is sufficient information available to calculate the evolution of education), but only 25 have made significant progress and a considerable number of countries have stagnated in this respect. There are also five countries that have recently regressed, and the worst case is Zimbabwe which is regressing and in the worse relative situation group. ■

INFORMATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Overlapping inequalities

References

CURRENT SITUATION

(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION

(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Slight regression
- ➔ Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (per million people)	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
—	Afghanistan (—)	1 ➔		3			
➔	Albania (95)	60 ➔	12 ➔	88 ➔			
➔	Algeria (95)	58 ➔	11 ➔	78 ➔		2.4	
—	American Samoa (—)			182			
➔	Angola (—)	11 ➔	2 ➔	6			
—	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	350 ➔		467 ➔			
➔	Argentina (94)	177 ➔	83 ➔	227 ➔	720 ➔	7.1 ➔	0.4
➔	Armenia (96)	53 ➔	66 ➔	192 ➔			0.3
➔	Australia (99)	698 ➔	683 ➔	564 ➔	3759 ➔	6.2	1.7
➔	Austria (99+)	486 ➔	607 ➔	450 ➔	2968 ➔	5.5	2.3
➔	Azerbaijan (91)	81 ➔	23 ➔	130 ➔			0.3
—	Bahamas (—)	319 ➔		439 ➔			
➔	Bahrain (99)	213 ➔	169 ➔	270 ➔			
➔	Bangladesh (57)	3 ➔	12 ➔	8 ➔		2.4	0.6
➔	Barbados (99)	594 ➔	148 ➔	500 ➔			
➔	Belarus (97)	347 ➔		336 ➔			0.6
➔	Belgium (99+)	458 ➔	348 ➔	461 ➔	3065 ➔	5.8	1.9
➔	Belize (91)	130 ➔	132 ➔	114 ➔			
➔	Benin (73)	50 ➔	4 ➔	9 ➔			
➔	Bermuda (—)	664 ➔	543 ➔	895 ➔			
➔	Bhutan (69)	39 ➔	20 ➔	51 ➔			
➔	Bolivia (80)	52 ➔	23 ➔	70 ➔	120 ➔	5.5 ➔	0.3
—	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	206 ➔		248 ➔			
➔	Botswana (91)	34 ➔	45 ➔	75 ➔			
➔	Brazil (89)	195 ➔	105 ➔	230 ➔	344	7.8 ➔	1
➔	Brunei Darussalam (97)	277 ➔	85 ➔	224 ➔	274		0
	Bulgaria (97)	206 ➔	59 ➔	321 ➔	1263 ➔	3.8	0.5
➔	Burkina Faso (71)	5 ➔	2	7 ➔			
➔	Burundi (56)	5 ➔	5 ➔	4			
➔	Cambodia (59)	3 ➔	3 ➔	3			
➔	Cameroon (70)	15 ➔	10 ➔	6		5 ➔	
➔	Canada (99)	520 ➔	700 ➔	566 ➔	3597 ➔	5.9	1.9
➔	Cape Verde (92)	49 ➔	97 ➔	141 ➔	127 ➔		
➔	Central African Republic (—)	3 ➔	3 ➔	2			
	Chad (43)	4 ➔	2	1			
➔	Chile (99)	172 ➔	141 ➔	211 ➔	444 ➔	6.1	0.6
➔	China (93)	85 ➔	41 ➔	269 ➔	708 ➔	5.3 ➔	1.4 ➔
➔	Colombia (89)	104 ➔	42 ➔	168 ➔	109 ➔	8.5	0.2
➔	Comoros (72)	33 ➔	9 ➔	28 ➔			
	Congo, Rep. (80)	13 ➔	4 ➔	4 ➔	30 ➔		
➔	Costa Rica (96)	254 ➔	219 ➔	321 ➔		7.7 ➔	0.4
➔	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	11 ➔	15 ➔	14 ➔			
➔	Croatia (97)	327 ➔	190 ➔	425 ➔	1296 ➔		1.1
➔	Cuba (99)	17 ➔	34 ➔	75 ➔			0.6

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (per million people)	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	
→	Cyprus (99+)	430 →	337 →	554 →	630 →		0.4	▬
→	Czech Republic (99)	270 →	240 →	314 →	1594 →	7.1 ▬	1.3	▬
→	Denmark (99+)	527 →	656 →	619 →	5016 →	6 ▬	2.6	→
→	Djibouti (78)	13 →	24 →	14 →				
→	Dominica (94)	361 →	182 →	293 →				
—	Dominican Republic (85)	169 →		101 →				
▬	Ecuador (81)	47 →	39 →	129 →	50 ←	3.2 ▬	0.1	▬
→	Egypt (90)	68 →	38 →	140 →		1.5 ▬	0.2	▬
→	El Salvador (80)	93 →	51 →	141 →	47 →			
→	Equatorial Guinea (59)	14 →	14 →	20 →				
→	Eritrea (67)	16 →	8 →	9 →				
→	Estonia (99)	513 →	483 →	328 →	2523 →		0.9	▬
→	Ethiopia (50)	2 →	3 →	9 →				
—	Faeroe Islands (—)	646 →		419				
→	Fiji (99)	77 →	52 →	122 →				
→	Finland (99+)	534 →	481 →	404 ←	7832 →	6.9 ←	3.5	→
→	France (99+)	430 →	575 →	586 →	3213 →	6.3 ▬	2.2	▬
→	French Polynesia (—)	214 →	109 →	208 →				
→	Gabon (82)	48 →	33 →	28 →				
→	Gambia (70)	33 →	16 →	29 →				
→	Georgia (95)	39 →	43 →	151 →			0.3	▬
→	Germany (99+)	455 →	545 →	667 →	3261 →	6.1 ▬	2.5	▬
→	Ghana (66)	18 →	5 →	15 →				
→	Greece (99+)	180 →	89 →	568 →	1413 →	4.1 ▬	0.6	▬
—	Greenland (—)	668 →		448 →				
→	Grenada (92)	182 →	151 →	309 →				
—	Guam (—)	383 →		506 →				
→	Guatemala (72)	79 →	19 →	99 →				
→	Guinea (68)	5 →	5 →	3 ▬				
—	Guinea-Bissau (—)	20 →		7 ▬				
→	Guyana (81)	213 →	39 →	147 →				
—	Haiti (—)	70 →		17 →				
→	Honduras (76)	36 →	16 →	69 →		4.6 ▬	0	▬
→	Hong Kong (—)	508 →	601 →	546 →	1564 →	8.9 →	0.6	▬
→	Hungary (97)	297 →	146 →	333 →	1472 →	5.8 ←	0.9	▬
→	Iceland (99+)	869 →	479 →	653 →	6807 →		3	→
→	India (71)	55 →	16 →	45 →	119 *	5.8 →	0.8	▬
→	Indonesia (85)	73 →	14 →	58 →	207	3.4 →	0.1	
→	Iran (91)	103 →	109 →	278 →	1279 →	2.5 →		
—	Iraq (79)	1 →	8	37 ▬				
→	Ireland (99+)	276 →	494 →	489 →	2674 →	4.4 ←	1.2	▬
→	Israel (99+)	470 →	740 →	424 →		8.3 ▬	4.5	→
→	Italy (99)	478 →	367 →	427 →	1213 ←	4.3 ▬	1.1	▬
→	Jamaica (95)	404 →	63 →	129 →		10.6 ▬	0.1	
→	Japan (99+)	668 →	542 →	460 →	5287 →	7.5 ←	3.1	▬
→	Jordan (99)	118 →	56 →	119 →	1927 *	8.4 ▬		
▬	Kazakhstan (95)	27 →		167 →	629 ←		0.2	▬
→	Kenya (68)	32 →	9 →	8 ▬		2.8 ▬		
→	Kiribati (88)	20 →	10 →	47 →				
—	Korea, DR (—)			44 →				
→	Korea, Rep. (99)	684 →	545 →	492 →	3187 →	6.9 ▬	2.6	▬
→	Kuwait (99)	276 →	237 →	201 →		1.4 ▬	0.2	▬
→	Kyrgyzstan (96)	54 →	19 →	85 →			0.2	▬
→	Lao, PDR (58)	4 →	17 →	13 →				
→	Latvia (99)	448 →	217 →	318 →	1434 →		0.4	▬

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (per million people)	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
→	Lebanon (96)	196 →	115 →	277 →			
—	Lesotho (69)	24 →		27 →			0
—	Liberia (—)	0		2			
—	Libya (—)	36 →	24	133 →	361		
—	Liechtenstein (—)	633 →		574 ←			
→	Lithuania (97)	358 →	155 →	235 →	2136 →		0.8
→	Luxembourg (97)	690 →	635 →	535 →	4301 →		1.8
→	Macao (—)	369 →	295 →	379 →	41		
→	Macedonia, FYR (97)	79 →	222 →	262 →	504 ←		0.3
	Madagascar (63)	5 →	5 →	4	15		0.1
→	Malawi (63)	4 →	2	8 →			
→	Malaysia (98)	435 →	197 →	172 →	299 →	7	0.7
→	Maldives (86)	59 →	112 →	98 →			
→	Mali (66)	4 →	3 →	6 →			
→	Malta (99+)	315 →	165 →	501 →	681 ←		0.3
→	Marshall Islands (94)	35 →	82 →	76 →			
→	Mauritania (75)	7 →	14 →	13 →			
→	Mauritius (99)	146 →	162 →	289 →			0.4
→	Mexico (94)	181 →	136 →	189 →	268 →	3.3	0.4
—	Micronesia (—)	127 →		113 →			
→	Moldova (96)	96 →	27 →	221 →			
—	Monaco (—)				41		
→	Mongolia (96)	105 →	133 →	61 →			0.3
→	Morocco (78)	153 →	25 →	44 →		6.3 →	0.6
→	Mozambique (61)	7 →	6 →	4			0.6
→	Myanmar (73)	2 →	8 →	9 →	17		0.1
→	Namibia (86)	37 →	110 →	64 →			
→	Nepal (55)	4 →	4 →	17 →	59		0.7
→	Netherlands (99+)	739 →	682 →	466	2482 →	6.3	1.8
—	Netherlands Antilles (—)	11 * →		461 →			
—	New Caledonia (—)	324 →		236 →			
→	New Zealand (99+)	672 →	474 →	422 ←	3945 →	9.8 ←	1.2
→	Nicaragua (74)	27 →	43 →	43 →			0
	Niger (55)	2 →	1	2			
→	Nigeria (63)	38 →	7 →	9 →		3.5	
→	Norway (99+)	735 →	573 →	460 ←	4587 →	5.1 ←	1.7
→	Oman (97)	111 →	47 →	103 →			
→	Pakistan (60)	67 →	4 →	34 →		6.9	0.2
	Panama (91)	64 →	46 →	136 →	97 ←	8.4 ←	0.3
→	Papua New Guinea (73)	23 →	64 →	11 →			
→	Paraguay (85)	34 →	78 →	54 →	79		0.1
→	Peru (86)	165 →	100 →	80 →		6.6	0.1
→	Philippines (77)	54 →	45 →	41 →	48 ←	7 →	0.1
→	Poland (99+)	262 →	193 →	309 →	1581 →	4.2	0.6
→	Portugal (99+)	279 →	134 →	401 →	1949 →	4.4	0.8
—	Puerto Rico (—)	221 →		285 →			
→	Qatar (97)	269 →	171 →	253 →			
→	Romania (96)	208 →	113 →	203 →	976 ←	3.6	0.4
	Russian Federation (97)	152 →	122 →	280 →	3319 ←	3.6	1.2
—	Rwanda (51)	6 →		3			
→	Samoa (97)	32 →	7 →	73 →			
—	San Marino (—)	536 →	857	741			
—	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	131 →		46 →			
→	Saudi Arabia (95)	70 →	376 →	164 →		2.3	
→	Senegal (72)	46 →	21 →	23 →		8.3 →	

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (per million people)	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
→	Seychelles (—)	249 →	189 →	253 →	19		0.1
—	Sierra Leone (—)	2 →		5			
→	Singapore (—)	571 →	621 →	425 →	4999 →	9.4	2.3 →
→	Slovakia (—)	464 →	358 →	222 →	1984 →	5.6	0.5
→	Slovenia (99)	545 →	404 →	408 →	2543 →	3.1 →	1.6
→	Solomon Islands (—)	8 →	46 →	16			
→	Somalia (—)	11 →	6 →	12 →			
→	South Africa (87)	109 →	85 →	101 →	307 ←	9.9 →	0.8
→	Spain (99+)	348 →	277 →	422 →	2195 →	3.7	1.1
→	Sri Lanka (—)	14 →	27 →	63 →	128 ←	5.5 →	0.1
→	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)	214 →	234 →	532 →			
→	St. Lucia (96)	339 →	160 →	321 →			0.4
→	St. Vincent and Grenadines (95)	84 →	135 →	189 →			0.2
→	Sudan (81)	77 →	90 →	18 →			0.3
—	Suriname (85)	71 →	46	180 →			
→	Swaziland (77)	32 →	32 →	31 →			
→	Sweden (99+)	764 →	763 →	717 →	5416 →	7.4	3.7
→	Switzerland (99+)	498 →	865 →	689 →	3601 →	7.5	2.6
→	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	58 →	42 →	152 →			
—	Tajikistan (86)	1		39 ←			
→	Tanzania (70)	9 →	7 →	4			
→	Thailand (—)	110 →	58 →	110 →	287 →	4.1 →	0.3
→	Togo (70)	49 →	30 →	10 →			
→	Tonga (94)	29 →	49 →	111 →			
→	Trinidad and Tobago (98)	123 →	79 →	248 →			0.1
→	Tunisia (95)	95 →	57 →	125 →	1013 →	5.8 →	0.6
→	Turkey (92)	222 →	52 →	263 →	341 →	7.9	0.7
—	Turkmenistan (—)	8 →		80 →			
→	Uganda (63)	17 →	9 →	3			0.8
→	Ukraine (97)	97 →	38 →	256 →		8	1.2
→	United Arab Emirates (98)	308 →	197 →	273 →		3.6	
→	United Kingdom (99)	474 →	600 →	528 →	2706 * →	7.3 ←	1.9
→	United States of America (99)	630 →	762 →	606 →	4605 →	8.8 ←	2.7
→	Uruguay (95)	193 →	125 →	290 →	366 →	7.9 →	0.3
—	Uzbekistan (—)	34 →		67			
→	Vanuatu (85)	38 →	15 →	33 →			
→	Venezuela (94)	125 →	82 →	136 →		3.9	0.3
→	Viet Nam (90)	129 →	13 →	191 →	115 ←	15.1 →	0.2
→	Yemen (64)	9 →	15 →	39 →			
→	Zambia (75)	20 →	10 →	8	51 *		

Notes: (*) Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

Figure 0 means a value under 0.5.

Source: World Development Indicators 2006, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Internet users (per 1,000 people): People with access to the internet, per 1,000 people.
Last available data: 2001-2004; evolution since 1990.

Personal computers (per 1,000 people): Personal computers are self-contained computers designed to be used by a single individual, per 1,000 people.
Last available data: 2001-2005; evolution since 1990.

Telephone mainlines (per 1,000 people): Telephone lines connecting a customer's equipment to the public switched telephone network. Data are presented per 1,000 people for the entire country.
Last available data: 2001-2005; evolution since 1990.

Scientists and engineers in research and development (per million people): People trained to work in any field of science who are engaged in professional R&D (research and development) activity, per million people. Most such jobs require completion of tertiary education.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1996.

Information and communication technology expenditure (% of GDP): Includes external spending on information technology ('tangible' spending on information technology products purchased by businesses, households, governments, and education institutions from vendors or organizations outside the purchasing entity), internal spending on information technology ('intangible' spending on internally customized software, capital depreciation, and the like), and spending on telecommunications and

other office equipment. Expressed as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 2000.

Research and development expenditure (% of GDP): Expenditures for research and development are current and capital expenditures (both public and private) on creative work undertaken systematically to increase knowledge, including knowledge of humanity, culture, and society, and the use of knowledge for new applications. R&D covers basic research, applied research, and experimental development.
Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1996.

INFORMATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Overlapping inequalities

The expression 'to close the digital gap' sums up various objectives related to inequalities in access to information, science and technology in the world. The accelerated revolution resulting from new technologies and the growing importance of data management have brought the term 'information society' into our lives.

But this process has generated new inequities which are intertwined with the old. In order to understand inequality and implement policies to reduce it in the modern world, it is essential to have a grasp of how much access countries have to information and how far they participate in scientific and technical progress.

It is possible to take an optimistic view of how things have developed in recent years, and point out, for example, that between 2000 and 2007 internet connectivity in Africa increased by more than 600%. But it is impossible to ignore the gaps between different regions of the world: 7 out of 10 people in North America have access to the internet but in Africa the rate is only 1 in 30.¹

As was pointed out in *Global Information Society Watch 2007*, "increase in access to ICTs (Information and communication technologies) will not, by itself, reduce poverty or secure freedoms on a sustainable basis. But there is a real danger that lack of access to ICTs, and to the spaces where decisions are made about information and communications infrastructure, content and services, can deepen existing social exclusion and create new forms of exclusion."² Therefore it is essential for countries and communities to be able to access and autonomously utilize the new productive and cultural systems that scientific and technical progress have made available.

In 2005, the international community adopted the Tunis Commitment, which reaffirmed its will "to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism, and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, to achieve their full potential."³ It is important to note that, as this declaration suggests, these processes are closely linked to human rights and to the problems of poverty and gender inequity.

A comparison of the countries in the better situation with those in the worse situation sheds light on the vast gaps that exist, especially in access to personal computers, telephone mainlines and the

1 < www.internetworldstats.com.

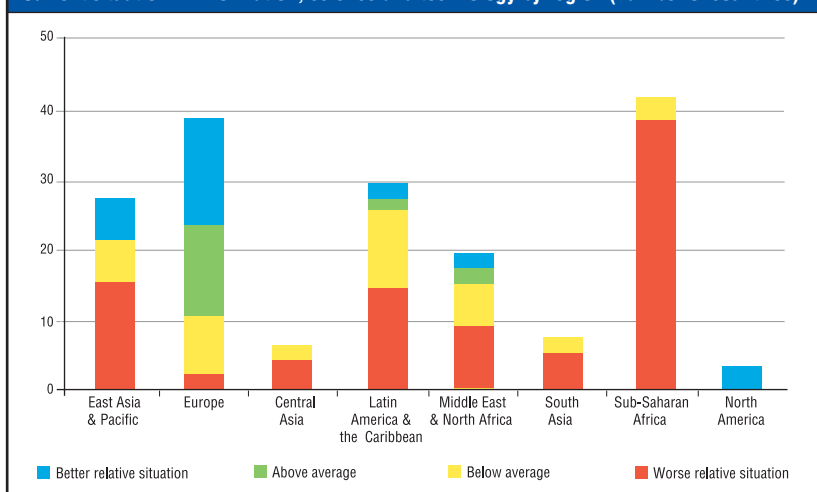
2 Esterhuysen, A. and Bissio, R. (2007). "Preface" in *Global Information Society Watch 2007. Focus on Participation*. Montevideo: APC / ITeM. Available from: <www.globaliswatch.org/en/preface2007>.

3 World Summit on the Information Society (2005). "Tunis Commitment". Document WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7-E, 18 November 2005. Available from: <www.itu.int/wsisc/docs2/tunis/off7.html>.

Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in information, science and technology

		Internet users (per 1,000 people)	Personal computers (per 1,000 people)	Telephone mainlines (per 1,000 people)	Scientists and engineers in R & D (per million people)	Information and communication technology expenditure (% of GDP)	R & D expenditure (% of GDP)
Worse relative situation	Average	40	30	57	141	6	0.3
	Number of countries	88	86	88	21	23	34
Better relative situation	Average	573	577	545	3,952	7	2.3
	Number of countries	27	27	27	22	19	23
Total	Average	191	162	205	1,719	6	1.0
	Number of countries	170	167	170	76	74	96

Current situation in information, science and technology by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution in information, science and technology (number of countries)

	←	↩		→	➡	Total
Countries in worse situation	0	0	7	72	5	84
Countries below average	0	0	2	22	14	38
Countries above average	0	0	0	9	8	17
Countries in better situation	0	0	0	13	13	26
Total	0	0	9	116	40	165

internet. There are almost 20 times more personal computers per capita in the group of countries in a better relative situation, and the gaps in telephone mainlines and opportunities for internet access are similarly enormous.

The indicators of public expenditure on education are more worrying still, and the same applies to investment in research and development. The inequities in these areas are so vast that they compromise the possibility of closing these gaps in the future since investment is a necessary condition for improvement in scientific and technological development and the possibility to join the information society. Investment in research and development is nearly eight times greater in the countries in the better situation than in those in the worse situation (2.3% and 0.3% of GDP, respectively).

An analysis of the current situation by region shows the gap very clearly indeed. Nearly all the

countries in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse situation. In Europe a good proportion of the countries are in the better relative situation but there are still some quite marked contrasts.

An analysis of recent evolution in this field shows that almost all countries have made progress. This is good news, but it does not necessarily mean that the science and technology gap between the two ends of the spectrum has narrowed, since the relative distance between the two groups may not have changed even though all countries have moved forward. In nine countries evolution in this area is stagnant, which amounts to a slow approach to the global information society. This has happened in Europe (Bulgaria) and also in Africa (Chad, Madagascar, Niger, the Republic of the Congo), in Central Asia (Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation) and in Latin America (Ecuador and Panama). ■

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

A tool to reduce inequity

References

CURRENT SITUATION (latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION (since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Slight regression
- ➔ Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (% of GNI)	MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
—	Afghanistan (—)	0.7 ➔			
➔	Albania (95)	3.0 ➔	2.9	1.0	1.4 ➔
➔	Algeria (95)	2.6		6.1 ➔	2.8
—	Andorra (—)		2.6		
	Angola (—)	1.5	2.6	7.8 ➔	5.0 ➔
➔	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	3.4	3.8 ➔		
➔	Argentina (94)	4.3 ➔	3.5	6.0	1.0
➔	Armenia (96)	1.4	3.2	2.8 ➔	2.7
—	Aruba (—)		5.1		
	Australia (99)	6.5 ➔	4.8		1.8
	Austria (99+)	7.8	5.5		0.7
➔	Azerbaijan (91)	0.9	2.5 ➔	2.2 ➔	2.1
	Bahamas (—)	3.4	3.6		0.7
	Bahrain (99)	2.7			4.3
	Bangladesh (57)	0.9	2.5	1.3	1.1
	Barbados (99)	4.5	6.9	3.3 ➔	0.9
➔	Belarus (97)	4.6	6.0	2.3 ➔	1.2
	Belgium (99+)	6.9 ➔	6.2		1.2
➔	Belize (91)	2.7	5.4	23.0 ➔	1.4 *
	Benin (73)	2.5	3.5 ➔	1.6	
—	Bermuda (—)		1.9 ➔		
➔	Bhutan (69)	3.0 ➔	5.6	0.8	
➔	Bolivia (80)	4.1 ➔	6.4 ➔	5.9 ➔	1.9
	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	4.1 ➔		2.6	1.8 ➔
➔	Botswana (91)	4.0 ➔	10.7 ➔	0.5 ➔	2.5 ➔
	Brazil (89)	4.8 ➔	4.1 ➔	8.1 ➔	1.6
	Brunei Darussalam (97)	2.6	4.4 ➔		6.6
➔	Bulgaria (97)	4.6 ➔	4.2	21.5 ➔	2.4
➔	Burkina Faso (71)	3.3 ➔	4.7 ➔	0.9	1.5
➔	Burundi (56)	0.8	5.1 ➔	5.0	0.0 ➔
➔	Cambodia (59)	1.7 ➔	1.9	0.5 ➔	1.8
➔	Cameroon (70)	1.5	1.8 ➔	4.9	1.3
	Canada (99)	6.8 ➔	5.2 ➔		1.1
	Cape Verde (92)	3.9 ➔	6.6 ➔	3.5 ➔	0.7
	Central African Republic (—)	1.5	1.9	0.4 ➔	1.1
➔	Chad (43)	1.5 ➔	2.1	1.4	0.9 ➔
	Chile (99)	2.9	3.7	7.3 ➔	3.8
	China (93)	1.8	1.9	1.2	2.0
	Colombia (89)	6.7 ➔	4.8 ➔	8.7	3.7 ➔
	Comoros (72)	1.6	3.9	1.0	
	Congo, Rep. (80)	1.2	2.2 ➔	3.0 ➔	1.4
➔	Costa Rica (96)	5.1	4.9 ➔	3.1 ➔	
➔	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	0.9	4.6 ➔	3.0 ➔	1.6

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (% of GNI)	MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)				
←	Croatia (97)	6.1	←	4.7		13.2	←	1.6	→
	Cuba (99)	5.5		9.8					
→	Cyprus (99+)	2.6		7.4	→			1.5	→
→	Czech Republic (99)	6.5	→	4.5	→	5.0		1.8	
	Denmark (99+)	7.1		8.4	→			1.4	
→	Djibouti (78)	4.4		7.9	→	2.3		4.3	→
←	Dominica (94)	4.2		5.0	←	6.6	←		
	Dominican Republic (85)	1.9		1.8		3.2		0.6	
	Ecuador (81)	2.2	→			12.0		2.4	
→	Egypt (90)	2.2				2.8	→	2.8	→
	El Salvador (80)	3.5		2.8		4.0		0.6	→
←	Equatorial Guinea (59)	1.2		0.6	←	1.0	→	2.1 *	←
→	Eritrea (67)	1.8	←	5.4	→	2.1	←	19.3	→
←	Estonia (99)	4.0		5.7	←	12.8	←	1.6	
→	Ethiopia (50)	2.7		5.0	→	0.8		3.1	→
→	Fiji (99)	2.9		6.4		0.6	→	1.2	
	Finland (99+)	5.7	→	6.5				1.2	
→	France (99+)	8.2	→	5.9				2.5	
→	Gabon (82)	3.1		3.9	→	1.5	→	1.4	→
	Gambia (70)	1.8		2.0	←	6.5	→	0.3	
→	Georgia (95)	1.5		2.9	→	2.9	←	3.1	←
	Germany (99+)	8.2		4.7				1.4	
→	Ghana (66)	2.8		5.4	→	2.7	→	0.7	
	Greece (99+)	4.2		4.0	→			4.5	
	Grenada (92)	5.0	→	5.2		7.5	←		
	Guatemala (72)	2.3				1.5	→	0.4	
	Guinea (68)	0.7		2.0		5.0		2.9	
←	Guinea-Bissau (—)	1.3		5.2		11.3	←	3.1	←
→	Guyana (81)	4.4		8.5	→	4.4	→	0.8 *	
	Haiti (—)	2.9	→			1.4		0.1 *	
→	Honduras (76)	4.0				4.8	→	0.6	
—	Hong Kong (—)			4.2	→				
→	Hungary (97)	5.7	→	5.9		22.9	←	1.3	
→	Iceland (99+)	8.3	→	8.1	→			0.0	
	India (71)	0.9		3.7		3.0		2.9	
	Indonesia (85)	1.0		0.9		6.5	→	0.9	
	Iran (91)	3.2	→	4.7		1.3		4.5	←
—	Iraq (79)	4.2	→						
→	Ireland (99+)	5.7	→	4.5				0.6	
	Israel (99+)	6.1		7.3				7.9	→
→	Italy (99)	6.5	→	4.9	→			1.8	
	Jamaica (95)	2.8	←	4.5		10.8	→	0.7	
←	Japan (99+)	6.3		3.7	←			1.0	
	Jordan (99)	4.7		4.9	←	4.7	→	7.7	→
←	Kazakhstan (95)	2.3		2.3	←	25.5	←	1.1	
→	Kenya (68)	1.8		6.7		1.3	→	1.5	
	Kiribati (88)	12.7	→	16.5	→				
—	Korea, DPR (—)	3.0							
	Korea, Rep. (99)	2.9	→	4.6				2.6	
→	Kuwait (99)	2.2		5.1				5.7	→
←	Kyrgyzstan (96)	2.3		4.4	←	5.4	←	2.8	←
→	Lao, PDR (58)	0.8		2.3	→	6.6	←	2.1	→
	Latvia (99)	4.0	→	5.3	→	19.8	←	1.7	
→	Lebanon (96)	3.2		2.6		16.5	←	3.8	→
→	Lesotho (69)	5.5	→	13.4	→	3.1		2.4	→

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (% of GNI)	MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
→	Liberia (—)	3.6 →		0.2 "	7.5 "
→	Libya (—)	2.8 →	2.7		1.9 →
←	Lithuania (97)	4.9 "	5.2 "	10.3 ←	1.8 "
→	Luxembourg (97)	7.2 →	3.6 "		0.9 "
—	Macao (—)		2.3 "		
←	Macedonia, FYR (97)	5.7 "	3.4 ←	4.2 ←	2.2 "
→	Madagascar (63)	1.8 →	3.2 "	1.6 →	1.4 "
→	Malawi (63)	9.6 →	5.8 →	4.7 →	0.7 "
→	Malaysia (98)	2.2 →	8.0 →	7.6 →	1.9 "
→	Maldives (86)	6.3 →	7.1 "	4.6 "	
→	Mali (66)	3.2 →	4.3 →	1.7 "	1.9 "
→	Malta (99+)	7.0 →	4.5 "		0.7 "
←	Marshall Islands (94)	14.7 →	11.8 ←		
→	Mauritania (75)	2.0 "	2.3 ←	3.5 →	1.0 →
"	Mauritius (99)	2.4 "	4.5 "	4.5 →	0.2 "
→	Mexico (94)	3.0 →	5.8 →	5.8 "	0.4 "
→	Micronesia (—)	6.5 →	7.3 "		
"	Moldova (96)	4.2 →	4.3 "	7.6 ←	0.3 "
—	Monaco (—)	7.5 →	4.4		
←	Mongolia (96)	4.0 ←	5.3 ←	2.5 →	1.7 →
→	Morocco (78)	1.7 "	6.7 →	5.3 →	4.3 "
"	Mozambique (61)	2.7 ←	3.7 →	1.5 →	1.4 →
→	Myanmar (73)	0.3 "	1.3 →		1.3 →
"	Namibia (86)	4.7 "	6.9 "		3.1 →
"	Nepal (55)	1.5 "	3.4 →	1.6 "	2.0 "
"	Netherlands (99+)	5.7 →	5.3 "		1.6 "
"	New Zealand (99+)	6.5 →	6.8 "		1.0 "
"	Nicaragua (74)	3.9 "	3.1 "	3.6 ←	0.7 →
"	Niger (55)	2.2 "	2.3 "	1.1 →	1.1 "
"	Nigeria (63)	1.4 "		10.2 →	0.9 "
"	Norway (99+)	8.1 →	7.7 "		1.6 "
"	Oman (97)	2.4 "	3.6 "	4.3 "	12.2 →
→	Pakistan (60)	0.4 "	2.3 "	2.3 →	3.4 →
→	Palau (—)	8.8 "	10.3 →		
←	Panama (91)	5.2 "	3.8 "	14.5 ←	1.0 * "
→	Papua New Guinea (73)	3.0 "		9.6 →	0.5 →
"	Paraguay (85)	2.6 ←	4.3 →	6.7 "	0.8 "
←	Peru (86)	1.9 ←	2.4 "	7.5 ←	1.2 "
"	Philippines (77)	1.4 "	3.2 "	9.2 "	0.8 "
→	Poland (99+)	4.3 →	5.6 "	11.6 ←	1.8 "
→	Portugal (99+)	7.0 →	5.9 →		2.1 "
←	Qatar (97)	1.8 "	1.6 ←		
"	Romania (96)	3.4 "	3.6 "	7.1 ←	2.1 →
"	Russian Federation (97)	3.7 "	3.7 "	5.6 ←	3.7 →
→	Rwanda (51)	4.3 →	3.8 →	1.1 "	2.2 →
←	Samoa (97)	4.1 ←	4.5 ←	5.9 ←	
—	San Marino (—)	5.8 ←			
"	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	9.9 →		14.4 ←	
→	Saudi Arabia (95)	2.5 ←	6.8 "		8.2 →
→	Senegal (72)	2.4 →	5.4 →	2.4 →	1.5 "
"	Seychelles (—)	4.6 →	5.4 "	8.4 ←	1.8 →
"	Sierra Leone (—)	1.9 "	3.8 ←	2.1 →	1.1 "
"	Singapore (—)	1.3 "	3.7 "		4.7 "
←	Slovakia (—)	5.3 "	4.4 "	13.2 ←	1.8 "

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)		PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)		TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (% of GNI)		MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	
	Slovenia (99)	6.6		6.0	→			1.7	
	Solomon Islands (—)	5.6	→	3.3		4.7			
—	Somalia (—)	1.2							
	South Africa (87)	3.5		5.4		2.0		1.4	→
	Spain (99+)	5.7	→	4.3				1.0	
	Sri Lanka (—)	2.0		3.1		1.9	→	2.7	
	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)	3.3		9.3	→	12.2	←		
←	St. Lucia (96)	3.3		5.8	←	4.2	←		
	St. Vincent and Grenadines (95)	3.9		8.2	→	6.0	←		
	Sudan (81)	1.5	→			1.5		2.3	
—	Suriname (85)	3.6							
→	Swaziland (77)	4.0	→	6.2		1.5	→	1.7	
	Sweden (99+)	7.7	→	7.5				1.6	
	Switzerland (99+)	6.7	→	6.1				1.0	
→	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	2.2				0.8	→	6.2	
←	Tajikistan (86)	1.0		3.5	←	3.5	←	2.2	←
	Tanzania (70)	1.7		2.2		1.1	→	1.1	
→	Thailand (—)	2.3		4.2		11.3	←	1.1	
—	Timor-Leste (—)	8.8	→						
	Togo (70)	1.1		2.6	←	0.8	→	1.5	→
→	Tonga (94)	5.0		4.8	←	1.5			
→	Trinidad and Tobago (98)	1.4		4.2		2.8	→	0.5 *	
→	Tunisia (95)	2.8		8.1	→	7.6	→	1.5	
→	Turkey (92)	5.2	→	4.0	→	11.6	←	3.2	←
←	Turkmenistan (—)	3.3				4.1	←	2.9 *	←
→	Uganda (63)	2.5	→	5.2	→	2.0		2.5	
←	Ukraine (97)	3.7	→	6.4		7.2	←	2.4	←
	United Arab Emirates (98)	2.0	←	1.3				1.9	→
	United Kingdom (99)	7.0	→	5.5				2.6	
	United States of America (99)	6.9	→	5.9				4.1	
	Uruguay (95)	3.6		2.2		13.7	←	1.4	→
	Uzbekistan (—)	2.4				5.7	←	0.5	→
→	Vanuatu (85)	3.1		9.6	→	0.7			
	Venezuela (94)	2.0	←			4.0	→	1.1	
→	Viet Nam (90)	1.5				1.9		2.6 *	→
	Yemen (64)	1.9		9.6	←	1.6	→	5.6	→
→	Zambia (75)	3.4	→	2.0		3.5	→	0.6	
←	Zimbabwe (76)	3.5		4.6	←	7.0		3.4	

Note: (*) Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

Source: World Development Indicators 2007 website (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Public health expenditure (% of GDP): Recurrent and capital spending from government (central and local) budgets, external borrowings and grants (including donations from international agencies and non-governmental organizations), and social (or compulsory) health insurance funds, as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).
Last available data: 2001-2005; evolution since 2000.

Public education expenditure (% of GDP): Public spending on public education plus subsidies to private education at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, as percentage of gross domestic product (based on World Bank and OECD GDP estimates).
Last available data: 2001-2005; evolution since 1991.

Total debt service (% of GNI): Sum of principal repayments and interest actually paid in foreign currency, goods, or services on long-term debt, interest paid on short-term debt, and repayments (repurchases and charges) to the IMF, as percentage of gross national income (GNI).
Last available data: 2001-2005; evolution since 1990.

Military expenditure (% of GDP): (Based on the NATO definition) Includes all current and capital expenditures on the armed forces, including peacekeeping forces; defence ministries and other government agencies engaged in defence projects; paramilitary forces, if these are judged to be trained and equipped for military operations; and military space activities. Expressed as percentage of Gross Domestic Product. Such expenditures include military and

civil personnel, including retirement pensions of military personnel and social services for personnel; operation and maintenance; procurement; military research and development; and military aid (in the military expenditures of the donor country). Excluded are civil defence and current expenditures for previous military activities, such as for veterans' benefits, demobilization, conversion, and destruction of weapons.
Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

A tool to reduce inequity

The real priorities of governments can be seen not just from their declarations and expressions of intent but also, and perhaps more clearly, from an analysis of the resources they allocate in the national budget to different sectors of state activity. Countries have to honour many commitments made in a wide range of international contexts such as the Millennium Summit and previous summit meetings on social matters. Commitments made internationally to take action to improve health and education services should be backed up with significant allocations of resources in national budgets.

In fact, by signing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, countries have committed themselves to taking a range of measures including allocating the greatest possible amount of resources to guaranteeing their citizens the free exercise of all their rights. The progressive allocation of resources to social development areas like education and health works towards achieving the commitments governments have made. However, the amount of resources that governments allocate to social programmes is limited by national budget allocations to service the external debt and by maintaining defence spending at a high level.

This is why public expenditure is a crucial aspect when it comes to analyzing social development. Decisions about where resources are to be allocated have repercussions throughout society, but their effect is felt more in the poorest sectors because these people depend directly on public services and tend to suffer more when there are budget cuts. Public expenditure is a tool that can increase or reduce inequity, and its redistributive consequences can make a powerful impact.

In recent years, the monitoring of commitments and goals that countries have assumed has begun to be accompanied by different proposals for analyzing the budget, which have come mainly from civil society organizations. In each different national context it is very interesting to compare the level of budget allocations for social development with other expenditure, and also to analyze how this has evolved in function of goals that have been set to enable the population to fully exercise their rights.

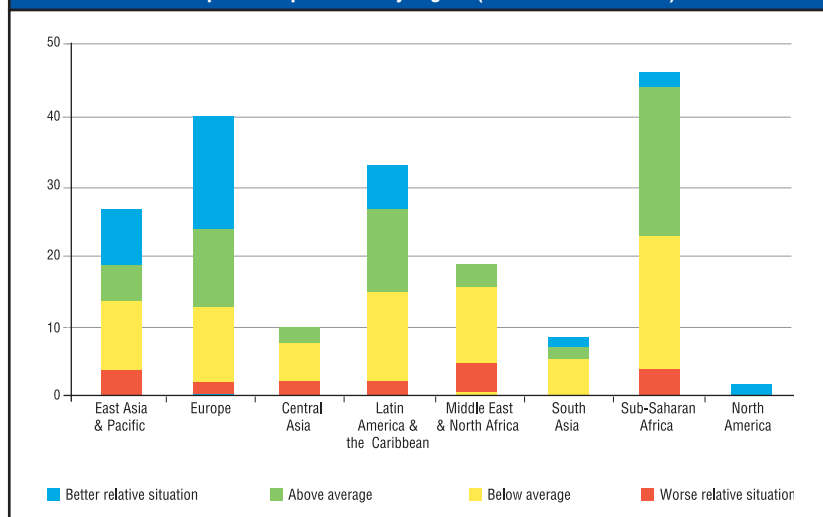
The biggest differences between the countries in the worse and better situations emerge in expenditure on health. On average, the countries in the worse situation allocate only 1.8% of GDP to this area, whereas the average for the countries in the better situation is 6.7%.

One area of expenditure that seriously compromises investment in development is debt servicing. The countries in the worse situation allocate an average of 8.3% of their budget to this, which is nearly three times higher than the average allocation in the countries in the better situation. In fact, the countries in the worse situation spend five times more on debt servicing than on health services.

Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in public expenditure

		Public health expenditure (% of GDP)	Public education expenditure (% of GDP)	Total debt service (% of GNI)	Military expenditure (% of GDP)
Worse relative situation	Average	1.8	3.0	8.3	3.6
	Number of countries	13	13	8	12
Better relative situation	Average	6.7	7.1	2.9	1.1
	Number of countries	33	29	11	25
Total	Average	3.8	4.9	5.4	2.2
	Cantidad de países	178	160	132	155

Current situation in public expenditure by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution in public expenditure (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	1	1	6	5	0	13
Countries below average	0	16	35	25	0	76
Countries above average	0	4	23	27	1	55
Countries in better situation	0	2	16	13	1	32
Total	1	23	80	70	2	176

A geographical analysis of this dimension shows that the countries that allocate the least resources to social development are not concentrated in any one particular region, as is the case with other social indicators. Nevertheless, it can be seen that in Europe a high proportion of the countries are in the better relative position, whereas not one country from the Middle East, North Africa or Central Asia is in this group. The situation in South Asia is unfavourable as most of the countries in that region are below the world average, but there is one exception, the Maldives, whose budget allocations place it in the better relative situation group.

Given that the distribution of public expenditure has effects that are felt over time, the recent evolution of these indicators shows a scenario that is very worrying. The structure of expenditure has evolved in a positive way in fewer than half of the world's countries (only 72 out of 176). Only two countries, Botswana and Malawi, have made significant progress, and 24 have regressed. The country that has regressed the most is Guinea-Bissau, which is in the worse relative situation. ■

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Distorted and insufficient figures

TRENDS IN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (% OF GNI) ^A								
Net Official Development Assistance from DAC Countries and Multilateral Organizations to Developing Countries								
	1989-90 AVERAGE ^B	1994-95 AVERAGE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 PRELIMINARY
Australia	0.36	0.34	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30
Austria	0.16	0.22	0.34	0.26	0.20	0.23	0.52	0.48
Belgium	0.46	0.35	0.37	0.43	0.60	0.41	0.53	0.50
Canada	0.44	0.40	0.22	0.28	0.24	0.27	0.34	0.30
Denmark	0.94	0.99	1.03	0.96	0.84	0.85	0.81	0.80
Finland	0.64	0.31	0.32	0.35	0.35	0.37	0.46	0.39
France	0.60	0.58	0.31	0.37	0.40	0.41	0.47	0.47
Germany	0.42	0.32	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.36	0.36
Greece			0.17	0.21	0.21	0.16	0.17	0.16
Ireland	0.16	0.27	0.33	0.40	0.39	0.39	0.42	0.53
Italy	0.36	0.21	0.15	0.20	0.17	0.15	0.29	0.20
Japan	0.31	0.28	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.19	0.28	0.25
Luxembourg	0.20	0.38	0.76	0.77	0.81	0.83	0.82	0.89
Netherlands	0.93	0.79	0.82	0.81	0.80	0.73	0.82	0.81
New Zealand	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.27	0.27
Norway	1.11	0.94	0.80	0.89	0.92	0.87	0.94	0.89
Portugal	0.24	0.29	0.25	0.27	0.22	0.63	0.21	0.21
Spain	0.17	0.26	0.30	0.26	0.23	0.24	0.27	0.32
Sweden	0.93	0.86	0.77	0.84	0.79	0.78	0.94	1.03
Switzerland	0.31	0.35	0.34	0.32	0.39	0.41	0.44	0.39
United Kingdom	0.29	0.30	0.32	0.31	0.34	0.36	0.47	0.52
United States	0.18	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.15	0.17	0.22	0.17
TOTAL DAC	0.32	0.28	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.26	0.33	0.3

Notes: A: Net disbursements at current prices and exchange rates. Sources: OECD, Website Database May 2007 (www.oecd.org).
B: Including debt forgiveness of non-ODA claims in 1990, except for total DAC.

Official development assistance (% of GNI): Grants or loans to countries and territories on Part I of the DAC List of Aid Recipients (developing countries) which are: (a) undertaken by the official sector; (b) with promotion of economic development and welfare as the main objective; (c) at concessional financial terms [if a loan, having a Grant Element (q.v.) of at least 25 per cent]. In addition to financial flows, Technical Co-operation (q.v.) is included in aid. Grants, loans and credits for military purposes are excluded. Transfer payments to private individuals (e.g. pensions, reparations or insurance payouts) are in general not counted. Expressed as percentage of gross national income (GNI).

In the 1970s the rich countries of the world made a commitment to allocating 0.7% of their gross domestic product (GDP) to official development assistance (ODA); this objective was subsequently changed to 0.7% of gross national income (GNI). At the ninth Social Development Summit in Copenhagen in 1995, this commitment was ratified. But in practice, most countries have not reached this goal: only Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden allocate at least 0.7% of GNI to ODA. The total combined amounts contributed by countries on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) do not come to even half of the target that was set. In 2006, the total percentage amounted to only 0.25% of the GNI of these countries. The gap between

promises and real effective assistance is USD 100 billion per year.

To make matters worse, in recent years these countries have started counting amounts allocated to debt relief programmes as development assistance, which distorts the concept and artificially inflates the putative totals. It is true that debt relief benefits countries, but forgiving these debts (which in any case are usually seen by the creditors as high risk debts that will not be repaid) cannot be compared to effective flows of capital. Contributions in the form of debt relief are not additional funds that can be used to extend development programmes. Therefore the figures for real assistance that is actually given are lower than what these countries claim. Furthermore, according to the OECD, assistance will be reduced in 2007 because debt forgive-

ness programmes that are computed as assistance will contribute less.

Official development assistance promises are a long way from being kept, and in any case, assistance is not a magic solution for the problems of development. As critics of the system have pointed out, the millions donated "...are not sufficient to rectify the enormous imbalances in the world economic order, in which the raw materials that the developing countries export have lost more than 50% of their commercial value in the last 15 years (and) for every dollar given as assistance, the banks retain another three in foreign debt interest payments from the Third World, so the poor countries end up paying even more to the rich countries than they receive." ¹ ■

¹ <www.canalsolidario.org>

ENVIRONMENT

The ongoing struggle for water and sanitation

References

CURRENT SITUATION

(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION

(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Slight regression
- ➔ Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)	Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)
EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)				EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)			
➔	Afghanistan (—)	34	➔ 39		Dominica (94)	84	97
	Albania (95)	91	96	➔	Dominican Republic (85)	78	➔ 95
➔	Algeria (95)	92	➔ 85	➔	Ecuador (81)	89	➔ 94
	Andorra (—)	100	100	➔	Egypt (90)	70	➔ 98
➔	Angola (—)	31	53	➔	El Salvador (80)	62	➔ 84
	Anguilla (—)	99	60		Equatorial Guinea (59)	53	43
	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	95	91	➔	Eritrea (67)	9	60
➔	Argentina (94)	91	➔ 96		Estonia (99)	97	100
	Armenia (96)	83	92	➔	Ethiopia (50)	13	➔ 22
	Aruba (—)		100	➔	Fiji (99)	72	➔ 47
	Australia (99)	100	100		Finland (99+)	100	100
	Austria (99+)	100	100		France (99+)		100
➔	Azerbaijan (91)	54	77		French Guiana (—)	78	84
	Bahamas (—)	100	97		French Polynesia (—)	98	100
➔	Bangladesh (57)	39	➔ 74	➔	Gabon (82)	36	88
	Barbados (99)	100	100		Gambia (70)	53	82
	Belarus (97)	84	100	➔	Georgia (95)	94	➔ 82
	Belize (91)	47	91		Germany (99+)	100	100
➔	Benin (73)	33	➔ 67	➔	Ghana (66)	18	➔ 75
	Bhutan (69)	70	62		Grenada (92)	96	95
➔	Bolivia (80)	46	➔ 85		Guadeloupe (—)	64	98
	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	95	97		Guam (—)	99	100
➔	Botswana (91)	42	➔ 95	➔	Guatemala (72)	86	➔ 95
➔	Brazil (89)	75	➔ 90	➔	Guinea (68)	18	➔ 50
	Bulgaria (97)	99	99	➔	Guinea-Bissau (—)	35	➔ 59
➔	Burkina Faso (71)	13	➔ 61		Guyana (81)	70	83
➔	Burundi (56)	36	➔ 79	➔	Haiti (—)	30	➔ 54
➔	Cambodia (59)	17	➔ 41	➔	Honduras (76)	69	➔ 87
➔	Cameroon (70)	51	➔ 66		Hungary (97)	95	99
	Canada (99)	100	100		Iceland (99+)	100	100
➔	Cape Verde (92)	43	➔ 80	➔	India (71)	33	➔ 86
➔	Central African Republic (—)	27	➔ 75	➔	Indonesia (85)	55	➔ 77
➔	Chad (43)	9	42		Iran (91)	83*	94
➔	Chile (99)	91	➔ 95		Iraq (79)	79	81
➔	China (93)	44	➔ 77		Israel (99+)		100
➔	Colombia (89)	86	➔ 93	➔	Jamaica (95)	80	➔ 93
➔	Comoros (72)	33	86		Japan (99+)	100	100
➔	Congo, Rep. (80)	27	58		Jordan (99)	93	97
➔	Cook Islands (—)	100	➔ 94		Kazakhstan (95)	72	86
	Costa Rica (96)	92	97	➔	Kenya (68)	43	➔ 61
➔	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	37	➔ 84	➔	Kiribati (88)	40	➔ 65
	Croatia (97)	100	100		Kyrgyzstan (96)	59	77
	Cuba (99)	98	91	➔	Lao, PDR (58)	30	➔ 51
	Cyprus (99+)	100	100		Latvia (99)	78	99
	Czech Republic (99)	98	100		Lebanon (96)	98	100
➔	Congo, DR (—)	30	➔ 46		Lesotho (69)	37	79
	Denmark (99+)		100	➔	Liberia (—)	27	➔ 61
➔	Djibouti (78)	82	➔ 73		Libya (—)	97	71*

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)	Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)
	Luxembourg (97)		100		Sierra Leone (—)	39	57
→	Madagascar (63)	32 →	46 →		Singapore (—)	100	100
→	Malawi (63)	61 →	73 →		Slovakia (—)	99	100
	Malaysia (98)	94	99		Solomon Islands (—)	31	70
←	Maldives (86)	59 →	83 ←		Somalia (—)	26	29
→	Mali (66)	46 →	50 →		South Africa (87)	65 ←	88 →
	Malta (99+)		100		Spain (99+)	100	100
←	Marshall Islands (94)	82 →	87 ←	→	Sri Lanka (—)	91 →	79 →
→	Mauritania (75)	34 →	53 →		St. Kitts and Nevis (99)	95	100
	Mauritius (99)	94	100		St. Lucia (96)	89	98
→	Mexico (94)	79 →	97 →	→	Sudan (81)	34	70 →
→	Micronesia (—)	28	94 →	→	Suriname (85)	94 →	92
	Moldova (96)	68	92		Swaziland (77)	48	62
	Monaco (—)	100	100		Sweden (99+)	100	100
	Mongolia (96)	59	62		Switzerland (99+)	100	100
	Montserrat (—)	100	100	→	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	90 →	93 →
→	Morocco (78)	73 →	81 →	←	Tajikistan (86)	51	59 ←
→	Mozambique (61)	32 →	43 →	→	Tanzania (70)	47	62
→	Myanmar (73)	77 →	78 →	→	Thailand (—)	99 →	99 →
→	Namibia (86)	25	87 →		Timor-Leste (—)	36	58
→	Nepal (55)	35 →	90 →		Togo (70)	35	52
	Netherlands (99+)	100	100	→	Tokelau (—)	78 ←	88 →
→	Nicaragua (74)	47	79 →		Tonga (94)	96	100
→	Niger (55)	13 →	46 →		Trinidad and Tobago (98)	100	91
→	Nigeria (63)	44 →	48	→	Tunisia (95)	85 →	93 →
	Niue (—)	100	100	→	Turkey (92)	88 →	96 →
→	Northern Mariana Islands (—)	95 →	99		Turkmenistan (—)	62	72
	Norway (99+)		100	←	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)	96	100 ←
→	Oman (97)	88 * →	82 *	→	Tuvalu (89)	90 →	100 →
→	Pakistan (60)	59 →	91 →	→	Uganda (63)	43 →	60
→	Palau (—)	80 →	85 →		Ukraine (97)	96	96
	Panama (91)	73	90		United Arab Emirates (98)	98	100
	Papua New Guinea (73)	44	39		United Kingdom (99)		100
→	Paraguay (85)	80 →	86 →		United States of America (99)	100	100
→	Peru (86)	63 →	83 →		Uruguay (95)	100	100
→	Philippines (77)	72 →	85		Uzbekistan (—)	67 ←	82 →
	Qatar (97)	100	100		Vanuatu (85)	50	60
	Romania (96)		57		Venezuela (94)	68	83
→	Russian Federation (97)	87	97 →	→	Viet Nam (90)	61 →	85 →
→	Rwanda (51)	42 →	74 →		Virgin Islands (UK) (—)	100	100
←	Samoa (97)	100	88 ←		Wallis and Futuna (—)	80	100
	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	25	79		West Bank and Gaza (96)	73	92
	Saudi Arabia (95)		92 *		Yemen (64)	43 ←	67 →
→	Senegal (72)	57 →	76 →	→	Zambia (75)	55 →	58 →
	Serbia and Montenegro (—) ¹	87	93	→	Zimbabwe (76)	53 →	81 →
	Seychelles (—)		88				

Notes: (*) Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in indicator definition.
(1) Prior to separation.

Source: Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply & Sanitation, UNICEF and WHO (www.wssinfo.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Population with access to sanitation (%): Percentage of the population with at least adequate excreta disposal facilities (private or shared, but not public) that can effectively prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta. Improved facilities range from simple but protected pit latrines to flush toilets with a sewerage connection. To be effective, facilities must be correctly constructed and properly maintained.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1990.

Population with access to improved water sources (%): Percentage of the population who use any of the following types of water supply for drinking: piped water, public tap, borehole or pump, protected well, protected spring or rainwater. Improved water sources do not include vendor-provided waters, bottled water, tanker trucks or unprotected wells and springs.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1990.

ENVIRONMENT

The ongoing struggle for water and sanitation

Lack of access to improved water sources and household sanitation facilities are basic deficiencies in the quality of people's lives, and prevent citizens from exercising their right to a decent life.

There are a billion people in the world who do not have access to a safe source of drinking water and are thus obliged to use water that is potentially harmful, making them vulnerable to many illnesses. Without a doubt, the most serious aspect of this problem is that 4,500 children in the world die every day from illnesses connected to water quality. Perhaps the paradigm case is child mortality caused by diarrhoea.

But illnesses are not the only consequence of lack of access to improved water sources: a wide range of other threats to social development are also involved. Some of these have been listed by UNICEF: "Children – and particularly girls – are denied their right to education because they are busy fetching water or are deterred by the lack of separate and decent sanitation facilities in schools. Women are forced to spend large parts of their day fetching water. Poor farmers and wage earners are less productive due to illness, and national economies suffer."¹

There are approximately 2.6 billion people in the world today who do not have access to adequate sanitation, and more than half of them live in China and India. Sanitation problems arise in the context of poverty and the growth of cities. Many millions of people live in precarious settlements where they do not have the minimum conditions for a decent life. It is shocking to think that more than 40% of the human race is living without even the minimum sanitation facilities required by society today.

On average, the countries in the better relative situation have achieved nearly universal access to improved water sources (more than 98%) and sanitation (more than 95%) for their populations. In the countries in the worse relative situation, however, an average of 44% of the population does not have access to improved water sources, and when it comes to sanitation, the situation is even more alarming: two out of three people do not have access to basic sanitation facilities.

In almost every region in the world there are some countries that are in some way deficient as regards water and sanitation, but the differences between regions are striking. There is not one country from South Asia in the better relative situation group, and most of the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse relative situation group.

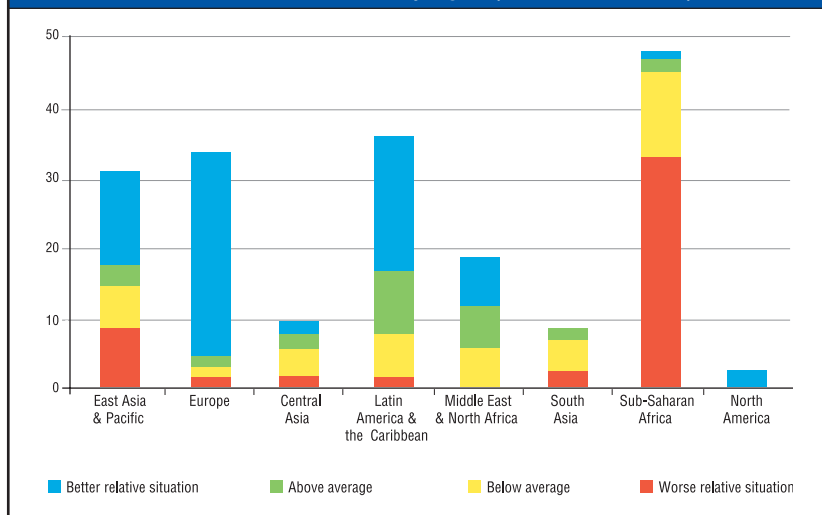
Although most of the European countries are in the better relative situation group, Romania is among the countries in the worse relative situation worldwide.

¹ UNICEF. "Water, environment and sanitation". Available from: <www.unicef.org/wes/index.html>.

Averages by environmental indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations

		Population with access to improved water sources (%)	Population with access to sanitation (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	56	33
	Number of countries	45	44
Better relative situation	Average	98	95
	Number of countries	75	67
Total	Average	83	69
	Number of countries	187	176

Current situation in water and sanitation by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution in environmental indicators (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	0	3	13	17	12	45
Countries below average	0	2	12	12	14	40
Countries above average	0	2	12	7	6	27
Countries in better situation	0	3	59	8	5	75
Total	0	10	96	44	37	187

In recent years no countries have regressed significantly in this area, but it is very noticeable that in most countries progress has stagnated. It is true that many of these countries have already achieved acceptable levels, but there are also many below the world average, such as the Comoros and Maldives, where the situation has worsened, and also countries in the worse relative situation, such as Burundi, Liberia and Tajikistan, that have regressed on these indicators. ■

HEALTH

A scenario of vulnerability

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Slight regression
- ➔ Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 1,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
➔	Afghanistan (—)	24.7	661 ➔		165	257
➔	Albania (95)		31 ➔		16 ➔	18 ➔
➔	Algeria (95)	<0.1	54 ➔	0.1	34 ➔	39 ➔
—	Andorra (—)		17 ➔		3	3
	Angola (—)	106.9 ➔	310 ➔	3.7	154	260
—	Antigua and Barbuda (—)		10 ➔		11	12
➔	Argentina (94)	<0.1	53 ➔	0.6	15 ➔	18 ➔
➔	Armenia (96)	<0.1	98 ➔	0.1	26 ➔	29 ➔
	Australia (99)		6	0.1	5	6 ➔
➔	Austria (99+)		11 ➔	0.3	4 ➔	5 ➔
	Azerbaijan (91)	0.1	90 ➔	0.1	74 ➔	89 ➔
➔	Bahamas (—)		50 ➔	3.3	13 ➔	15 ➔
➔	Bahrain (99)		50 ➔		9 ➔	11 ➔
➔	Bangladesh (57)	0.4	435 ➔	<0.1	54 ➔	73 ➔
➔	Barbados (99)		12 ➔	1.5	11 ➔	12 ➔
	Belarus (97)		68 ➔	0.3	10 ➔	12 ➔
➔	Belgium (99+)		10 ➔	0.3	4 ➔	5 ➔
➔	Belize (91)	3.7 ➔	59 ➔	2.5	15 ➔	17 ➔
➔	Benin (73)	122 ➔	142 ➔	1.8	89 ➔	150 ➔
➔	Bhutan (69)	1.7 ➔	184 ➔	<0.1	65 ➔	75 ➔
➔	Bolivia (80)	2.3	290 ➔	0.1	52 ➔	65 ➔
➔	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)		53 ➔	<0.1	13 ➔	15 ➔
➔	Botswana (91)	12.6 ➔	553 ➔	24.1 ➔	87 ➔	120 ➔
➔	Brazil (89)	2.1	77 ➔	0.5	31 ➔	33 ➔
	Brunei Darussalam (97)		63 ➔	<0.1	8	9
	Bulgaria (97)		36 ➔	<0.1	12	15
➔	Burkina Faso (71)	114.9 ➔	365 ➔	2 ➔	96 ➔	191 ➔
	Burundi (56)	274 ➔	564 ➔	3.3 ➔	114	190
➔	Cambodia (59)	5 ➔	709 ➔	1.6 ➔	98 ➔	143 ➔
	Cameroon (70)	46 ➔	227 ➔	5.4 ➔	87	149 ➔
	Canada (99)		4 ➔	0.3	5	6
➔	Cape Verde (92)	0.3	314 ➔		26 ➔	35 ➔
—	Cayman Islands (—)		6 ➔			
	Central African Republic (—)	24.7 ➔	549 ➔	10.7 ➔	115 ➔	193 ➔
➔	Chad (43)	47.7 ➔	566 ➔	3.5 ➔	124 ➔	208 ➔
➔	Chile (99)		16 ➔	0.3	8 ➔	10 ➔
➔	China (93)	<0.1	221 ➔	0.1	23 ➔	27 ➔
➔	Colombia (89)	3.7	75 ➔	0.6	17 ➔	21 ➔
➔	Comoros (72)	5.1 ➔	95 ➔	<0.1	53 ➔	71 ➔
➔	Congo, DR (—)	83.1 ➔	551 ➔	3.2 ➔	129	205
	Congo, Rep. (80)	5.3 ➔	464 ➔	5.3	81	108
➔	Cook Islands (—)		51 ➔		17 ➔	20 ➔
➔	Costa Rica (96)	0.2	15 ➔	0.3	11 ➔	12 ➔
➔	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	24.9 ➔	651 ➔	7.1	118 ➔	195 ➔
➔	Croatia (97)		65 ➔	<0.1	6 ➔	7 ➔
➔	Cuba (99)		12 ➔	0.1	6 ➔	7 ➔

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 1,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
→	Cyprus (99+)		4 →		4 →	5 →
→	Czech Republic (99)		11 →	0.1 =	3 →	4 →
→	Denmark (99+)		6 →	0.2 =	4 →	5 →
→	Djibouti (78)	7.2 =	1137 →	3.1 =	88 →	133 →
=	Dominica (94)		23 →		13 =	15 =
→	Dominican Republic (85)	0.1 =	118 →	1.1 =	26 →	31 →
→	Ecuador (81)	4 →	196 →	0.3 =	22 →	25 →
→	Egypt (90)	0 =	35 →	<0.1 =	28 →	33 →
→	El Salvador (80)	<0.1 =	74 →	0.9 =	23 →	27 →
←	Equatorial Guinea (59)		322 →	3.2 =	123 ←	205 ←
→	Eritrea (67)	17.4 →	437 →	2.4 =	50 →	78 →
→	Estonia (99)		49 →	1.3 =	6 →	7 →
=	Ethiopia (50)	8 ←	533 ←		109 →	164 →
→	Fiji (99)		41 →	0.1 =	16 =	18 →
=	Finland (99+)		7 →	0.1 =	3 =	4 =
→	France (99+)		10 →	0.4 =	4 =	5 →
—	French Polynesia (—)		56 →			
=	Gabon (82)	66.8 ←	339 →	7.9 ←	60 =	91 =
→	Gambia (70)	100.5 →	329 →	2.4 ←	97 →	137 →
=	Georgia (95)	0.1 =	89 →	0.2 =	41 =	45 =
→	Germany (99+)		6 →	0.1 =	4 =	5 →
→	Ghana (66)	169.8 ←	376 →	2.3 →	68 →	112 →
→	Greece (99+)		17 →	0.2 =	4 →	5 →
→	Grenada (92)		8 =		17 →	21 →
—	Guam (—)		91 →			
→	Guatemala (72)	2.5 =	107 →	0.9 =	32 →	43 →
→	Guinea (68)	109.5 ←	410 →	1.5 →	98 →	150 →
→	Guinea-Bissau (—)	134.6 ←	306 →	3.8 =	124 →	200 →
→	Guyana (81)	36.1 ←	185 →	2.4 =	47 →	63 →
→	Haiti (—)	1.2 =	387 →	3.8 →	84 →	120 →
→	Honduras (76)	1.5 →	97 →	1.5 =	31 →	40 →
→	Hungary (97)		30 →	0.1 =	7 →	8 →
→	Iceland (99+)		2 →	0.2 =	2 →	3 →
→	India (71)	1.7 =	312 →	0.9 =	56 →	74 →
→	Indonesia (85)	1 =	275 →	0.1 =	28 →	36 →
→	Iran (91)	0.2 =	35 →	0.2 =	31 →	36 →
←	Iraq (79)	<0.1 =	200 →		102 ←	125 ←
→	Ireland (99+)		9 →	0.2 =	5 =	6 →
→	Israel (99+)		7 →		5 →	6 →
→	Italy (99)		6 →	0.5 =	4 →	4 →
=	Jamaica (95)		9 →	1.5 =	17 =	20 =
=	Japan (99+)		39 →	<0.1 =	3 =	4 =
→	Jordan (99)		5 →		22 →	26 →
←	Kazakhstan (95)		160 →	0.1 =	63 ←	73 ←
=	Kenya (68)	3.9 →	888 →	6.1 →	79 ←	120 ←
→	Kiribati (88)		59 →		48 →	65 →
—	Korea, DR (—)	0.7 =	178 →			
→	Korea, Rep. (99)	<0.1 =	125 →	<0.1 =	5 =	5 →
→	Kuwait (99)		30 →		9 →	11 →
=	Kyrgyzstan (96)	0.1 =	137 →	0.1 =	58 →	67 →
→	Lao, PDR (58)	3.3 =	318 →	0.1 =	62 →	79 →
=	Latvia (99)		71 →	0.8 =	9 →	11 →
→	Lebanon (96)		12 →	0.1 =	27 →	30 →
←	Lesotho (69)		544 →	23.2 →	102 ←	132 ←
←	Liberia (—)	301.5 ←	447 →		157 =	235 =
→	Libya (—)		20 →		18 →	19 →
—	Liechtenstein (—)				3 →	4 →

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)		TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 1,000 people)		PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old)		INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)		UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	
	Lithuania (97)			67		0.2		7		9	→
→	Luxembourg (97)			9	→	0.2		4		5	→
→	Macedonia, FYR (97)			34	→	<0.1		15	→	17	→
→	Madagascar (63)	121.5	←	351	→	0.5		74	→	119	→
→	Malawi (63)	240.4	→	501	←	14.1		79	→	125	→
→	Malaysia (98)	0.2		133	→	0.5		10	→	12	→
→	Maldives (86)			57	→			33	→	42	→
→	Mali (66)	62.2	←	578	→	1.7		120	→	218	→
→	Malta (99+)			5	→	0.1		5	→	6	→
→	Marshall Islands (94)			59	→			51	→	58	→
→	Mauritania (75)	59.6	←	502	→	0.7		78	→	125	→
→	Mauritius (99)	<0.1		135	→	0.6		13	→	15	→
→	Mexico (94)	<0.1		43	→	0.3		22	→	27	→
→	Micronesia (—)			59	→			34	→	42	→
	Moldova (96)			214	←	1.1		14	→	16	→
	Monaco (—)			2				4		5	→
→	Mongolia (96)			209	→	<0.1		39	→	49	→
→	Morocco (78)	<0.1		105	→	0.1		36	→	40	→
	Mozambique (61)	269.7	←	635	←	16.1	←	100	→	145	→
→	Myanmar (73)	14.5	→	180	→	1.3		75	→	105	→
→	Namibia (86)	223.4	→	586		19.6	→	46	→	62	→
—	Nauru (—)			35	→			25		30	
→	Nepal (55)	0.4		257	→	0.5		56	→	74	→
→	Netherlands (99+)			6	→	0.2		4		5	→
—	New Caledonia (—)			117	→						
	New Zealand (99+)			11		0.1		5		6	→
→	Nicaragua (74)	1.2	→	80	→	0.2		30	→	37	→
→	Niger (55)	59.1	→	288	→	1.1		150	→	256	→
→	Nigeria (63)	21	←	531	←	3.9	→	100	→	194	→
—	Niue (—)			57	→						
—	Northern Mariana Islands (—)			68	→						
→	Norway (99+)			4	→	0.1		3	→	4	→
→	Oman (97)	<0.1	→	12	→			10	→	12	→
→	Pakistan (60)	0.8		329	→	0.1		79	→	99	→
→	Palau (—)			91	→			10	→	11	→
→	Panama (91)	2.9	←	45	→	0.9		19	→	24	→
→	Papua New Guinea (73)	12.3	→	448	→	1.8	←	55	→	74	→
→	Paraguay (85)	0.2		107	→	0.4		20	→	23	→
→	Peru (86)	2.9		216	→	0.6		23	→	27	→
→	Philippines (77)	0.5		463	→	<0.1		25	→	33	→
→	Poland (99+)			32	→	0.1		6	→	7	→
→	Portugal (99+)			35	→	0.4		4	→	5	→
—	Puerto Rico (—)			6	→						
	Qatar (97)			77				18		21	→
	Romania (96)			188	←	<0.1		16	→	19	→
	Russian Federation (97)			160	←	1.1		14	→	18	→
	Rwanda (51)	102.1	→	660	←	3.1	→	118	←	203	←
	Samoa (97)			43	←			24	→	29	→
→	San Marino (—)			5	→			3	→	3	→
→	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	393.5	→	253	→			75		118	
→	Saudi Arabia (95)	<0.1		55	→			21	→	26	→
	Senegal (72)	119.3	←	451	←	0.9		77	→	136	→
→	Seychelles (—)			83	→			12	→	13	→
←	Sierra Leone (—)	95.4	←	847	←	1.6		165	→	282	→
→	Singapore (—)			41	→	0.3		3	→	3	→
→	Slovakia (—)			23	→	<0.1		7	→	8	→
→	Slovenia (99)			17	→	<0.1		3	→	4	→

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 1,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
→	Solomon Islands (—)	189.9 →	59 →		24 →	29 →
→	Somalia (—)	2.4	673 →	0.9	133	225
←	South Africa (87)	0.3	670 ←	18.8 →	55 ←	68 ←
→	Spain (99+)		20 →	0.6	4 →	5 →
→	Sri Lanka (—)	0.6 →	91 →	<0.1	12 →	14 →
→	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)		15 →		18 →	20 →
→	St. Lucia (96)		21 →		12 →	14 →
	St. Vincent and Grenadines (95)		39 ←		17 →	20 →
→	Sudan (81)	91.8 →	370 →	1.6	62 →	90 →
→	Suriname (85)	33.7 ←	98 →	1.9	30 →	39 →
←	Swaziland (77)	34 ←	1120 ←	33.4 →	110 ←	160 ←
	Sweden (99+)		3	0.2	3	4
→	Switzerland (99+)		6 →	0.4	4	5 →
→	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	<0.1	51 →		14 →	15 →
→	Tajikistan (86)	0.9	277 ←	0.1	59 →	71 →
→	Tanzania (70)	289.7 →	479 ←	6.5 →	76 →	122 →
→	Thailand (—)	0.6 →	208 →	1.4	18 →	21 →
→	Timor-Leste (—)	40.9	692 →		52 →	61 →
→	Togo (70)	92.1 →	718 →	3.2 →	78 →	139 →
→	Tonga (94)		42 →		20 →	24 →
→	Trinidad and Tobago (98)		12 →	2.6	17 →	19 →
→	Tunisia (95)		24 →	0.1	20 →	24 →
→	Turkey (92)	0.1	45 ←		26 →	29 →
	Turkmenistan (—)	<0.1	83 →	<0.1	81	104 ←
—	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)		31 →			
→	Tuvalu (89)		57 →		31 →	38 →
	Uganda (63)	477.9 ←	646 ←	6.7 ←	79 →	136 →
	Ukraine (97)		151 ←	1.4	13 →	17 →
→	United Arab Emirates (98)		26 →		8 →	9 →
	United Kingdom (99)		9		5	6 →
→	United States of America (99)		4 →	0.6	6	7 →
	Uruguay (95)		33 ←	0.5	14 →	15 →
	Uzbekistan (—)	<0.1	156 ←	0.2	57 →	68 →
→	Vanuatu (85)	71.9 →	64 →		31 →	38 →
	Venezuela (94)	1.2	52 ←	0.7	18 →	21 →
→	Viet Nam (90)	0.5	232 ←	0.5	16 →	19 →
→	West Bank and Gaza (96)		36 →		21 →	23 →
→	Yemen (64)	13.2 ←	144 ←		76 →	102 →
	Zambia (75)	190.2 →	707 ←	17	102	182
←	Zimbabwe (76)	97.6 ←	673 ←	20.1 →	81 ←	132 ←

Sources: Malaria: World Malaria Report 2005, UNICEF and WHO (www.rbm.who.int/wmr2005/).
Tuberculosis: Communicable Disease Global Atlas Database, WHO (www.who.int/GlobalAtlas).

People living with HIV/AIDS: 2007 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS.

Infant mortality: The State of the World's Children 2007, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc07).

Under-5 mortality: The State of the World's Children 2007, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc07).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Malaria (cases per 1,000 people): Total number of malaria cases reported to the World Health Organization by countries in which malaria is endemic, per 1,000 people. Many countries report only laboratory-confirmed cases, but many in Sub-Saharan Africa report clinically diagnosed cases as well.
Last available data: 2003; evolution since 1990.

Tuberculosis (cases per 100,000 people): Total number of tuberculosis cases reported to the World Health Organization per 100,000 people. A tuberculosis case is defined as a patient in whom tuberculosis has been bacteriologically confirmed or diagnosed by a clinician.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1990.

People living with HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %): Percentage of adults (15-49 years) living with HIV/AIDS.
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 2001.

Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births): Number of infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 live births in a given year.
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births): Probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age expressed per 1,000 live births.
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

HEALTH

A scenario of vulnerability

The asymmetries and contradictions of today's world are especially visible in the sphere of health. Thanks to scientific and technical progress millions of people can live longer and have a better quality of life, but at the same time there are glaring inequalities in many parts of the world that impede progress and have even caused regression in the field of health. As the World Health Organization (WHO) has pointed out, the new viruses that have appeared are just one more element in the complicated situation, and avian influenza or 'bird flu', for example, is just one aspect of a world scenario plagued by new problems and challenges. Economic globalization, the increase in trade and capital flows and the increasing mobility and movement of people have contributed to helping illnesses to spread faster and faster.

These inequalities are present in a scenario of universal vulnerability stemming from deficiencies in habitat and the distribution of resources, and people's eating habits and lifestyles. But the capabilities of different countries to deal with these problems are markedly different depending on the level of social development in each case.

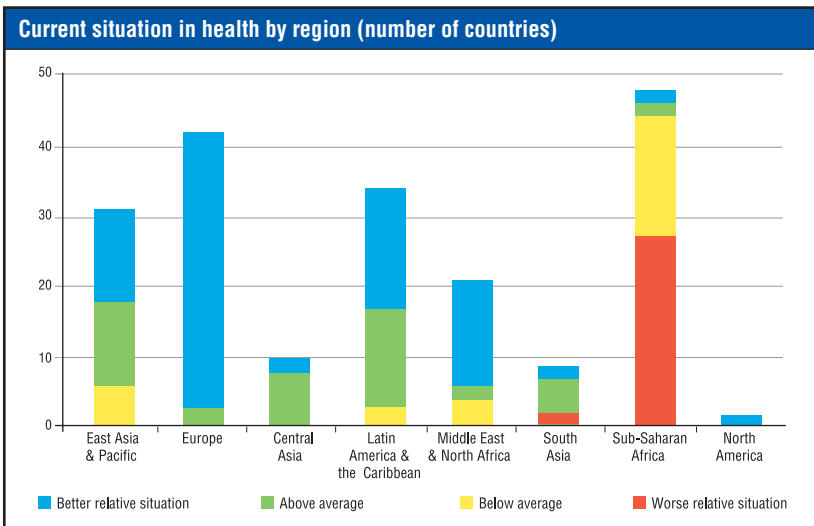
The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a still a crucial problem for health services in the world, although in 2006 progress was made in expanding treatment coverage in low- and middle-income countries. At the end of last year, more than two million people with HIV/AIDS were receiving treatment in these countries, which amounts to an increase of more than 50% over the 1.3 million who were being treated a year before.¹

As initiatives like Global Health Watch have made clear, the biggest health epidemic threatening the global community is poverty. There is no doubt that poverty lies behind the most serious statistics on maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, deaths due to HIV/AIDS, and vulnerability to illnesses in general. This whole scenario is made worse by the fact that national health systems are often ineffective when it comes to improving care for the population.

The root of this problem is not that there are insufficient resources in the world to rectify extreme deficiencies or premature death. What is needed is change to existing structures, actors, laws and policies so that national health systems will be able to function effectively. There would have to be a suitably robust international cooperation policy to help provide solid foundations for these changes.

The gap separating the group of countries in the better situation from those in the worse situation is highly significant. For example, malaria is concentrated in the countries in the worse situation, where on average it affects 149 people per 1,000, but it is hardly present at all in the countries in the better position. The situation with regard to tuberculosis is

		Malaria (cases per 1,000 people)	Tuberculosis (cases per 100,000 people)	People living with HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old) (%)	Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)
Worse relative situation	Average	149	565	9	110	178
	Number of countries	25	27	23	27	27
Better relative situation	Average	0.7	37	0.4	12	14
	Number of countries	11	91	52	91	91
Total	Average	60	197	3	41	60
	Number of countries	88	190	127	190	190



	←	↩		→	➔	Total
Countries in worse situation	1	8	8	8	2	27
Countries below average	0	3	5	11	8	27
Countries above average	0	1	10	12	22	45
Countries in better situation	0	0	19	62	7	88
Total	1	12	42	93	39	187

Central African Republic	10.7
Malawi	14.1
Mozambique	16.1
Zambia	17.0
South Africa	18.8
Namibia	19.6
Zimbabwe	20.1
Lesotho	23.2
Botswana	24.1
Swaziland	33.4

similar, although in this case the gap is not so wide. As to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in the countries where this is most prevalent more than 9% of people in the 15 to 49 age bracket are infected, whereas in the countries that are more developed in terms of health care, the figure is less than half of a percentage point. The 10 countries in the worst situation with respect to this pandemic are all in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Infant mortality is a key indicator for measuring a country's development, and there is a huge gap between the best and worst average rates. Children born in countries in the better situation are 10 times less likely to die in the first year of life and 13 times less likely to die before the age of five than those born in the most disadvantaged countries.

The latest data available shows that the health situation in the world varies widely from one region to another. Most of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse relative situation group, which highlights the fact that they are in an ongoing emergency in terms of health. The most high-profile aspect of this situation is the HIV/AIDS pandemic. On the other hand, all the countries in Central Asia, Europe and North America are above the world average.

Progress in this area is a matter of life and death, yet nearly one third of the countries in the world have made no recent progress at all. Most of these have stagnated, but in 13 the health care situation has worsened, and one of these countries, Equatorial Guinea, has regressed significantly. ■

1 World Health Organization (2007). "Towards universal access: scaling up priority HIV/AIDS interventions in the health sector". Progress report, April. Geneva: WHO / UNAIDS / UNICEF. Available from: <www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/WHATWEDO/hiv/Towards_Universal_Access_Part_one.pdf>.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Good policies can make the difference

References

CURRENT SITUATION

(latest available data)

■ Better situation

■ Above average

■ Below average

■ Worse situation

■ Insufficient data

EVOLUTION

(since 1990 or closest available year)

➔ Significant progress

➔ Slight progress

|| Stagnant

➔ Slight regression

➔ Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births) ¹	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	Afghanistan (—)	52	14	1900	5
	Albania (95)	81	94	55	75
	Algeria (95)	79	92	140	64 ➔
	American Samoa (—)		100		
	Angola (—)		47	1700	6
	Anguilla (—)		100		
	Antigua and Barbuda (—)		100		
	Argentina (94)		99	82	
	Armenia (96)	82	97	55	61
	Aruba (—)		96		
	Australia (99)		99	8	
	Austria (99+)			4	51 *
	Azerbaijan (91)	70	84	94	55
	Bahamas (—)		99	60	
➔	Bahrain (99)	63 *	99	28	62 * ➔
➔	Bangladesh (57)	39 ➔	13 ➔	380	58 ➔
	Barbados (99)	89	100	95	
	Belarus (97)		100	35	50 *
	Belgium (99+)			10	
	Belize (91)		84 * ➔	140	
➔	Benin (73)	88	66 ➔	850	19 ➔
	Bhutan (69)		24 ➔	420	
➔	Bolivia (80)	80 + ➔	61 ➔	420	58 ➔
	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	99	100	31	48
➔	Botswana (91)	99 ➔	94 ➔	100	40 ➔
	Brazil (89)	84 *	88 *	260	77 * ➔
	Brunei Darussalam (97)		100	37	
	Bulgaria (97)		99	32	42 *
➔	Burkina Faso (71)	72 ➔	57 ➔	1000	14 ➔
➔	Burundi (56)	93	25 ➔	1000	16 ➔
	Cambodia (59)	44	32	450	24 ➔
➔	Cameroon (70)	84 + ➔	62	730	26 ➔
	Canada (99)		98	6	75 *
	Cape Verde (92)		89 *	150	53 *
	Cayman Islands (—)		100		
	Central African Republic (—)		44	1100	28 ➔
➔	Chad (43)	44 + ➔	14	1100	3 +
	Chile (99)		100	31	
➔	China (93)		83	56	84 *
➔	Colombia (89)	94 + ➔	91 ➔	130	78 + ➔
	Comoros (72)	87 *	62	480	26 ➔
	Congo, DR (—)	72	61	990	31
	Congo, Rep. (80)	88 +	84 +	510	44 +
	Cook Islands (—)		98		63 *
	Costa Rica (96)		98	43	80 * ➔
➔	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	84 * ➔	63 ➔	690	15 * ➔
	Croatia (97)		100	8	
➔	Cuba (99)		100	33	73 ➔

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births) ¹	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	Cyprus (99+)			47	
	Czech Republic (99)		100	9	72 * →
	Denmark (99+)			5	
	Djibouti (78)		61	730	
	Dominica (94)		100		
→	Dominican Republic (85)	99+ →	99 →	150	70 →
	Ecuador (81)	56* ←	69* →	130	66* →
→	Egypt (90)	71+ →	74+ →	84	59+ →
→	El Salvador (80)		69 →	150	67 →
	Equatorial Guinea (59)		65	880	
	Eritrea (67)	72+	28	630	8
	Estonia (99)		100	63	
→	Ethiopia (50)	29+ →	6+	850	15+ →
	Fiji (99)		99	75	
	Finland (99+)		100	6	
	France (99+)			17	75*
	French Guiana (—)		100		
	French Polynesia (—)		99*		
	Gabon (82)	94	86	420	33
	Gambia (70)	92	55	540	10
	Georgia (95)	91*	96*	32	41
	Germany (99+)			8	
→	Ghana (66)	90 →	47 →	540	25 →
	Greece (99+)			9	
	Grenada (92)		100		
	Guadeloupe (—)		100		
	Guam (—)		99		
→	Guatemala (72)	86* →	41 →	240	43 →
→	Guinea (68)	84+ →	38+ →	740	9+ →
	Guinea-Bissau (—)	89	35	1100	8
	Guyana (81)	88	86	170	37 →
→	Haiti (—)	79 →	24 ←	680	28 →
→	Honduras (76)	92+ →	67+ →	110	65+ →
	Hong Kong (—)		100		
	Hungary (97)		100	16	
	Iceland (99+)			0	
	India (71)	65*	43	540	48* →
→	Indonesia (85)	97 →	66 →	230	60 →
	Iran (91)		90	76	73* →
	Iraq (79)		72	250	
	Ireland (99+)		100	5	
	Israel (99+)			17	
	Italy (99)			5	60*
	Jamaica (95)		95*	87	66* →
	Japan (99+)		100*	10	56
→	Jordan (99)	99 →	100 →	41	56 →
	Kazakhstan (95)	82*	99*	210	66* →
	Kenya (68)	88 →	42 ←	1000	39 →
	Kiribati (88)		89 →		
	Korea, DR (—)	98	97	67	
→	Korea, Rep. (99)		100		20 81* →
	Kuwait (99)	83*	100 →	5	50*
	Kyrgyzstan (96)	88*	98*	110	60*
	Lao, PDR (58)	44	19	650	32 →
	Latvia (99)		100		42 48*
	Lebanon (96)		93 →	150	61*
→	Lesotho (69)	91+	55	550	37+ →
	Liberia (—)		51 ←	760	
	Libya (—)		94*	97	45*

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births) ¹	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	Lithuania (97)		100	19	47 *
	Luxembourg (97)		100	28	
	Macao (—)		100		
	Macedonia, FYR (97)		98	23	
	Madagascar (63)	84 + →	45 + ←	550	27 →
→	Malawi (63)	95 + →	57 +	1800	33 + →
	Malaysia (98)		97	41	
	Maldives (86)	98	70	110	42 *
→	Mali (66)	53 →	41 →	1200	8 →
	Malta (99+)			21	
	Marshall Islands (94)		95		
	Martinique (—)		100		
	Mauritania (75)	63	57 →	1000	8
	Mauritius (99)		99 *	24	
→	Mexico (94)		86 * →	83	68 * →
	Micronesia (—)		88		
←	Moldova (96)	98 +	100 +	36	68 + ←
	Mongolia (96)		99	110	67
	Montserrat (—)		98		
→	Morocco (78)	68 + →	63 →	220	63 →
→	Mozambique (61)	85 + →	48 →	1000	17 →
	Myanmar (73)		56 *	360	37 →
→	Namibia (86)	85 →	76 →	300	44 →
	Nepal (55)	49	11	740	39 →
	Netherlands (99+)		100 *	16	
	New Zealand (99+)		100 *	7	75 *
→	Nicaragua (74)	85 →	67 →	230	69 →
→	Niger (55)	39 * →	16	1600	14 →
	Nigeria (63)	61	35	800	13 →
	Niue (—)		100		
	Northern Mariana Islands (—)		100		
	Norway (99+)			16	
→	Oman (97)	77 * →	95 →	87	24 * →
→	Pakistan (60)	36 * →	23 →	500	28 →
	Palau (—)		100		
	Panama (91)		93 →	160	
	Papua New Guinea (73)		53 *	300	26 *
→	Paraguay (85)		77 →	170	73 →
→	Peru (86)	85 →	71 ←	410	69 →
→	Philippines (77)	94 →	60 →	200	49 →
	Poland (99+)		100	13	
	Portugal (99+)		100	5	
	Puerto Rico (—)		100	25	78 *
	Qatar (97)	62 *	100	7	43 * →
	Reunion (—)			41	
	Romania (96)	89 *	98 *	49	64 * →
	Russian Federation (97)	96 *	99	67	
	Rwanda (51)	95 +	28 +	1400	17 + ←
	Samoa (97)		100		
	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	91	79		29
	Saudi Arabia (95)	77 * →	93 →	23	32 *
→	Senegal (72)	94 + →	52 + →	690	12 + →
	Sierra Leone (—)	82	42	2000	4
	Singapore (—)		100	30	62 *
	Slovakia (—)		99	3	
	Slovenia (99)		100	17	
	Solomon Islands (—)		85 *	130	
	Somalia (—)		34 *	1100	
	South Africa (87)	89 *	84 *	230	56 *
	Spain (99+)			4	81 *
→	Sri Lanka (—)		97 →	92	70 →

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births) ¹	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)		100		
	St. Lucia (96)		99		
	St. Vincent and Grenadines (95)		100		
	Sudan (81)		57 *	←	590
	Suriname (85)	91	85		110
	Swaziland (77)		70		370
	Sweden (99+)				2
	Switzerland (99+)				7
	Syrian Arab Republic (87)		70		160
	Tajikistan (86)	75	71		100
→	Tanzania (70)	97 * →	46	←	1500
→	Thailand (—)		99	→	44
	Timor-Leste (—)		24		660
	Togo (70)	78 * →	49	→	570
	Tokelau (—)		100 *		
	Tonga (94)		91		
	Trinidad and Tobago (98)	96		96	
→	Tunisia (95)		90	→	120
→	Turkey (92)	67 *	83	→	70
	Turkmenistan (—)	87	97		31
	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)		100		
	Tuvalu (89)		100		
→	Uganda (63)	92 →	39		880
	Ukraine (97)	90	99 *		35
	United Arab Emirates (98)	97 *	100		54
	United Kingdom (99)		99 *		13
	United States of America (99)		98		17
	Uruguay (95)		99		27
	Uzbekistan (—)	95 *	96		24
	Vanuatu (85)		87	←	
	Venezuela (94)		94		96
	Viet Nam (90)	70	85		130
	Virgin Islands (UK) (—)		100		
	West Bank and Gaza (96)		97		100
→	Yemen (64)	34 * →	22 *	←	570
	Zambia (75)	94		43	←
	Zimbabwe (76)	82 * ←	73 *	→	1100

Notes: (1) Due to changes in the model of estimation, 1995 and 2000 data are not comparable.

(*) Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

Sources: Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy: Global Health Atlas, WHO (www.who.int/GlobalAtlas). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys).

Births attended by skilled health personnel: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductive-health/). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys).

Maternal mortality ratio: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductive-health/).

Contraceptive use among currently in union women aged 15-49: World Development Indicators 2007 website, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (%): Percentage of women aged 15-49 years attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives). Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990.

Births attended by skilled health personnel (%): Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives). Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990 or closest possible year.

Estimated maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births): Annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births. Due to changes in the model of estimation, 1995 and 2000 data are not comparable (2000).

Contraceptive use among women currently in union aged 15-49 (%): Percentage of women in union aged 15-49 years currently using contraception. Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Good policies can make the difference

The subject of reproductive health was put on the world agenda thanks to the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). Since that time, attention has been focused on reproductive health, particularly as regards its connection with human rights, the pursuit of gender equity, the fight against HIV/AIDS and the struggle to reduce infant and maternal mortality.

However, there is a long way to go before these problems can be solved. The reproductive health situation is still critical in many parts of the world, and this applies especially to specific regions. The situation at the start of the 21st century is not encouraging: 19 out of 20 adult deaths linked to reproduction took place in developing countries. In recent years the quality and coverage of health services have improved in the world as a whole but there are still inequalities. To tackle this problem it is important not only to undertake a redistribution of resources in the world but also to implement local and national management policies.

There are a number of success stories that could serve as a model for formulating policies. One of these is Bangladesh, whose reproductive health indicators show considerable progress, as can be seen in the previous table. In this country, the focus was put on the connection between reproductive health and poverty, and an attempt was made to gear the main effort to the most disadvantaged sectors of the population. The quality of health services was improved and special attention was paid to adolescent and maternal health, and progress in these areas was linked to family planning initiatives and the implementation of sex education programmes for adolescents. For example, specialized field workers visited newly married couples and established a dialogue with them, and this has led to a considerable fall in unplanned pregnancies in these population groups. In initiatives of this kind, local community participation and the involvement of the male population are crucial.

A comparison of the situation in the countries in the better relative situation group with the countries at the other end of the scale speaks volumes. In the former, average maternal mortality is 42 per 100,000 births, but in the latter group of countries the figure is 940 per 100,000 births, which is a staggering difference. For every case of maternal mortality in the first group, there are 22 mothers who die in the last group.

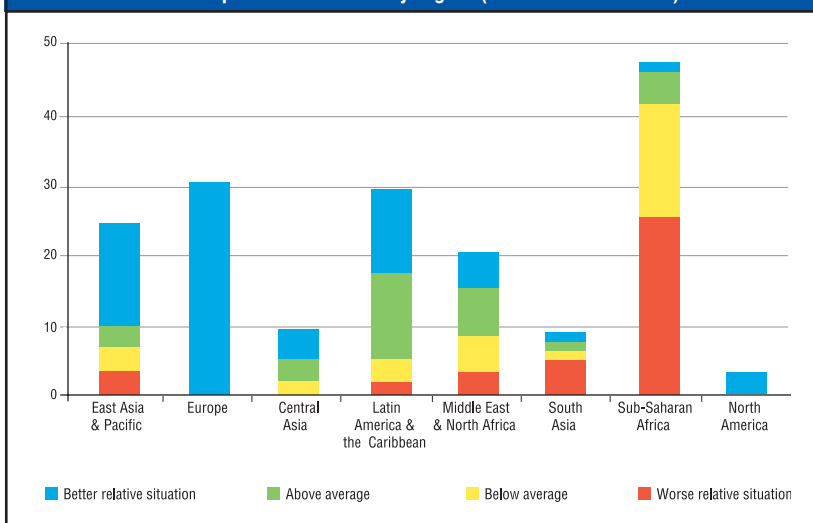
In this area there are marked differences between different regions of the world. All the European and North American countries are in the better situation group, while almost half the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse relative situation, and the same applies to the countries in South Asia.

While most countries have made progress in this dimension in recent years, there are some that are in the same situation as a decade ago. The most worrying aspect of this scenario is that there are countries in the worse relative situation, like Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda, whose evolution has stagnated. ■

Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse situations in reproductive health

		Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (%)	Contraceptive use among women currently in union aged 15-49	Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	Estimated maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)
Worse relative situation	Average	66	19	35	940
	Number of countries	27	30	35	35
Better relative situation	Average	92	65	98	42
	Number of countries	18	43	63	67
Total	Average	80	46	75	342
	Number of countries	89	127	159	161

Current situation in reproductive health by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution in reproductive health (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	0	0	3	9	6	18
Countries below average	0	0	5	5	7	17
Countries above average	0	1	0	4	7	12
Countries in better situation	0	2	0	4	4	10
Total	0	3	8	22	24	57

GENDER EQUITY

A worldwide gap

Gender and education

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

References

CURRENT SITUATION (latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION (since 1990 or closest available year)

- Significant progress
- Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ← Slight regression
- ← Significant regression

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY RATIO GAP (women/men)	NET PRIMARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	NET SECONDARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	GROSS TERTIARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)
	—	Afghanistan (—)	0.36			0.28
→	97	Albania (95)	1.00 →	1.00	0.98 →	1.57
→	127	Algeria (95)	0.92 →	0.98 →	1.05	1.08
	—	Andorra (—)		0.97 ←	1.01	1.00
	109	Angola (—)	0.75			0.66 ←
	39	Argentina (94)	1.00	0.99	1.07	1.51
	92	Armenia (96)	1.00	1.04	1.03 →	1.21
	—	Aruba (—)	1.00	0.99	1.02	1.51
	13	Australia (99)		1.00	1.01	1.23
	30	Austria (99+)				1.19 →
	73	Azerbaijan (91)	1.00 *	0.98	0.98 ←	0.87 →
	16	Bahamas (—)		1.03	1.02	
	138	Bahrain (99)	1.00	1.01	1.07	1.84
→	109	Bangladesh (57)		1.03	1.11 →	0.50
	5	Barbados (99)		0.99	1.05	2.47
	55	Belarus (97)	1.00 *	0.97	1.01	1.39
→	19	Belgium (99+)		1.00	1.00	1.21 →
	73	Belize (91)		1.01	1.05	2.43
→	148	Benin (73)	0.56 →	0.78 →	0.49 →	0.25 →
	—	Bermuda (—)				1.18
→	49	Bolivia (80)	0.98 →	1.01	0.99 →	
	—	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	1.00			
	55	Botswana (91)	1.04	1.03	1.10	0.85 →
	25	Brazil (89)	1.02		1.07	1.32
	—	Brunei Darussalam (97)	1.00			2.03
	19	Bulgaria (97)	1.00	0.99	0.98	1.16
→	118	Burkina Faso (71)	0.65 →	0.77 →	0.68 →	0.29
→	71	Burundi (56)	0.92 →	0.89 →		0.37
→	78	Cambodia (59)	0.90 →	0.96 →	0.73 →	0.46 →
	133	Cameroon (70)				0.64
	16	Canada (99)		1.00	0.99 *	1.36
→	78	Cape Verde (92)		0.99 →	1.12	1.10 →
←	—	Cayman Islands (—)		0.95 ←	1.10	3.01
→	148	Central African Republic (—)	0.67 →			0.19 →
	148	Chad (43)	0.42 ←	0.68 →	0.33 →	0.14
→	73	Chile (99)	1.00			0.95 →
→	78	China (93)	0.99 →			0.85 →
	16	Colombia (89)	1.00	1.01	1.11	1.09
→	—	Comoros (72)		0.85 →		0.77 →
	133	Congo, DR (—)	0.81 →			
	142	Congo, Rep. (80)				0.19 ←
	—	Cook Islands (—)		0.99	1.09	

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY RATIO GAP (women/men)		NET PRIMARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)		NET SECONDARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)		GROSS TERTIARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	
	55	Costa Rica (96)	1.00						1.25	
→	153	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	0.74	→	0.80	→	0.57	→	0.36	
	25	Croatia (97)	1.00		0.99		1.02		1.19	
	55	Cuba (99)	1.00		0.97	←	1.02		1.00	
	62	Cyprus (99+)	1.00		1.00		1.03		0.98	
	44	Czech Republic (99)							1.10	→
	7	Denmark (99+)			1.01		1.03		1.42	
→	127	Djibouti (78)			0.79	→	0.70	→	0.82	→
	—	Dominica (94)			1.01		1.03			
	62	Dominican Republic (85)	1.03		1.02		1.21		1.64	
	30	Ecuador (81)	1.00		1.01		1.01			
→	139	Egypt (90)	0.88	→	0.97	→	0.94			
	44	El Salvador (80)			1.00		1.03		1.22	
	—	Equatorial Guinea (59)	1.00	→	0.85	←	0.59	←	0.43	→
←	139	Eritrea (67)			0.86	←	0.66	←	0.15	
	19	Estonia (99)	1.00		1.00		1.03		1.68	
→	114	Ethiopia (50)			0.94	→	0.64		0.34	→
	99	Fiji (99)			0.99		1.06		1.20	
	2	Finland (99+)			1.00		1.01		1.20	
	67	France (99+)			1.00		1.02		1.28	
	114	Gabon (82)			0.99				0.54 *	
→	118	Gambia (70)			1.06	→	0.83	→	0.23	←
	62	Georgia (95)			0.99		1.00		1.03	
→	92	Ghana (66)	0.86		0.99	→	0.90	→	0.48	→
	52	Greece (99+)	1.00		0.99		1.04		1.17	
	—	Grenada (92)			0.99		1.10			
→	118	Guatemala (72)	0.91	→	0.95	→	0.92		0.72	
→	109	Guinea (68)	0.57		0.84	→	0.51	→	0.20	→
→	123	Guinea-Bissau (—)			0.71	→	0.55		0.18	
	85	Guyana (81)			0.98				1.91	
	78	Honduras (76)	1.05		1.02				1.46	→
	39	Hong Kong (China) (—)			0.95	←	0.97	←	0.97	→
	39	Hungary (97)			0.99		0.99		1.40	
	7	Iceland (99+)			0.97		1.03		1.85	
→	148	India (71)	0.80	→	0.94	→			0.66	→
→	107	Indonesia (85)	1.00	→	0.98		0.99	→	0.79	→
→	105	Iran, Islamic Rep. (91)			0.99	→	0.94		1.11	→
→	—	Iraq (79)	0.91	→	0.86		0.71	→	0.59	→
	44	Ireland (99+)			1.00		1.06		1.28	→
	25	Israel (99+)	1.00		1.01		1.00		1.33	
	71	Italy (99)	1.00		1.00		1.02		1.34	→
→	78	Jamaica (95)			1.01		1.03		2.29	→
→	85	Japan (99+)			1.00		1.01		0.89	→
	133	Jordan (99)	1.00		1.02		1.02		1.10	
	67	Kazakhstan (95)	1.00 *		0.99		0.99		1.38	
→	85	Kenya (68)	1.01	→	1.00		1.01		0.60	
	—	Kiribati (88)			1.01 *		1.18			
	99	Korea, Rep. (99)			1.00		1.00		0.62	→
	123	Kuwait (99)	1.00		1.03	→	1.05		2.72	
	97	Kyrgyzstan (96)	1.00 *		0.99				1.19	
→	107	Lao, PDR (58)	0.90	→	0.94	→	0.85	→	0.63	→
	13	Latvia (99)	1.00						1.72	
	127	Lebanon (96)			0.99				1.12	
	73	Lesotho (69)			1.06		1.54		1.51	

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY RATIO GAP (women/men)		NET PRIMARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)		NET SECONDARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)		GROSS TERTIARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	
	—	Liberia (—)			0.78		0.57		0.76	
	—	Libya (—)							1.09	→
	—	Liechtenstein (—)			1.03		1.11		0.37	
	10	Lithuania (97)	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.56	
	85	Luxembourg (97)			1.00		1.07		1.18	
→	—	Macao (China) (—)	1.00	→	0.97		1.08		0.65	→
	49	Macedonia, FYR (97)	0.99		1.00		0.97		1.39	
→	73	Madagascar (63)	0.94	→	1.00		1.03 *		0.90	→
→	85	Malawi (63)	0.86 *	→	1.05	→	0.86	→	0.54	→
	92	Malaysia (98)	1.00		1.00		1.14		1.41	
	67	Maldives (86)	1.00		1.01		1.15		2.37	
→	109	Mali (66)	0.52 *	→	0.85	→			0.47	→
	91	Malta (99+)	1.04 *		1.00		1.06		1.34	→
	—	Marshall Islands (94)			0.99		1.06		1.30	
→	—	Mauritania (75)	0.82	→	0.99	→	0.82	→	0.31	→
→	105	Mauritius (99)	1.02		1.02		1.01		1.39	→
→	78	Mexico (94)	1.00		1.00	→	1.03		0.98	→
	19	Moldova (96)	1.00		0.99		1.04		1.36	
	55	Mongolia (96)	1.01		1.01		1.14		1.64	
→	145	Morocco (78)	0.75	→	0.94	→	0.86	→	0.87	→
→	62	Mozambique (61)			0.90	→	0.78	→	0.46	
	—	Myanmar (73)	0.98		1.02	→	0.98		1.76	
	30	Namibia (86)	1.03		1.08		1.35		1.15	
→	142	Nepal (55)	0.75	→	0.87				0.40	→
	10	Netherlands (99+)			0.99		1.01		1.08	→
	—	Netherlands Antilles (—)					1.10		1.49	
	9	New Zealand (99+)			1.00		1.04		1.47	
	109	Nicaragua (74)	1.06		0.99		1.13		1.11	→
→	133	Niger (55)	0.44	→	0.71	→	0.68	→	0.40	→
	139	Nigeria (63)			0.89		0.91 *		0.55	
	—	Niue (—)			1.00 *		1.05 *			
	4	Norway (99+)			1.00		1.01		1.54	
→	144	Oman (97)	0.99	→	1.02	→	1.01		1.37	→
→	145	Pakistan (60)	0.72	→	0.73		0.73		0.80	→
	—	Palau (—)			0.96				2.15	
	44	Panama (91)	0.99		1.00		1.10		1.66	
	—	Papua New Guinea (73)	0.93	→					0.55 *	
	78	Paraguay (85)							1.37	
	62	Peru (86)	0.98		1.00		1.00	→	1.03	
	13	Philippines (77)	1.01		1.02		1.20		1.28	
	30	Poland (99+)			1.00		1.03		1.41	
	25	Portugal (99+)			0.99		1.11		1.32	
	127	Qatar (97)	1.03		0.99		0.98		3.69	
	37	Romania (96)	1.00		0.99		1.03		1.26	→
	37	Russian Federation (97)	1.00		1.01				1.36	
→	2	Rwanda (51)	0.98	→	1.04				0.62	→
	114	Samoa (97)			1.00		1.14		0.93	←
	118	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	0.99		1.00		1.07			
→	145	Saudi Arabia (95)	0.96	→	0.91	→	0.96	→	1.50	→
→	104	Senegal (72)	0.70	→	0.95	→	0.72			
	—	Serbia and Montenegro (—) ¹	1.00		1.00				1.20	
→	—	Seychelles (—)	1.00		1.01	→	1.07			
	153	Sierra Leone (—)	0.63						0.40	
	—	Singapore (—)	1.00							

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY RATIO GAP (women/men)		NET PRIMARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)		NET SECONDARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)		GROSS TERTIARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	
	39	Slovakia (—)							1.23	▬
▬	30	Slovenia (99)			1.00	▬	1.00	▬	1.38	▬
	118	Solomon Islands (—)			0.96		0.86	→		
▬	39	South Africa (87)	1.00 *	▬	1.01	▬	1.12	▬	1.17	→
▬	10	Spain (99+)			0.99	▬	1.04	▬	1.22	▬
	92	Sri Lanka (—)	1.01	▬	1.00					
	—	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)			1.08		1.03			
▬	99	St. Lucia (96)			0.97	▬	1.09	▬	2.85	▬
→	85	St. Vincent and the Grenadines (95)			0.97	→	1.09	▬		
→	—	Sudan (81)	0.84	→	0.83	→			0.92	→
▬	55	Suriname (85)	0.98		1.07	▬	1.38	▬	1.62	
→	123	Swaziland (77)	1.03	▬	1.01	▬	1.24	▬	1.08	→
▬	1	Sweden (99+)			1.00	▬	1.03	▬	1.55	▬
→	52	Switzerland (99+)			1.00	▬	0.93	▬	0.80	→
→	127	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	0.96	→	0.95	→	0.93	→		
←	—	Tajikistan (86)	1.00	▬	0.96	▬	0.85	←	0.33	←
→	30	Tanzania (70)	0.94	→	0.98	▬			0.41	→
▬	25	Thailand (—)	1.00	▬					1.11	▬
	—	Timor-Leste (—)							1.48	
→	148	Togo (70)	0.76	→	0.85	→	0.48	→	0.20	→
←	—	Tonga (94)	1.00 *		0.97 *	←	1.23	▬	1.67	
→	44	Trinidad and Tobago (98)			0.99	▬	1.05	▬	1.26	→
→	114	Tunisia (95)	0.96	→	1.00	→	1.04	▬	1.36	→
→	133	Turkey (92)	0.95	→	0.95	▬			0.73	→
	—	Turkmenistan (—)	1.00 *							
	—	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)			1.08	▬	1.00	▬		
→	67	Uganda (63)	0.86	→			0.87	→	0.62	→
▬	30	Ukraine (97)	1.00	▬	1.00	▬	1.00	▬	1.19	▬
▬	127	United Arab Emirates (98)			0.97	▬	1.06	▬	3.24	▬
→	19	United Kingdom (99)			1.00	→	1.03	▬	1.37	→
▬	19	United States of America (99)			0.96	←	1.03	▬	1.39	▬
	49	Uruguay (95)							2.04	▬
	—	Uzbekistan (—)							0.80	
▬	99	Vanuatu (85)			0.98	←	0.86	→	0.58	→
▬	52	Venezuela (94)	1.02	▬	1.01	▬	1.15	▬	1.08	▬
▬	55	Viet Nam (90)	0.99 *	▬	0.94	→			0.77	▬
→	—	Virgin Islands (USA) (—)			1.00	▬	1.11	→		
→	123	West Bank and Gaza (96)	1.00		1.00	▬	1.05	▬	1.04	→
→	155	Yemen (64)			0.73	→	0.46		0.38	→
▬	92	Zambia (75)	0.91 *	→	1.00	→	0.78	←	0.46	▬
→	99	Zimbabwe (76)			1.01	▬	0.93	→	0.63	→

Notes: (*) Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.
(1) Prior to separation.

Source: UNESCO Website Database, February 2007 (www.uis.unesco.org/).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Literacy ratio gap (women/men): Ratio of female literacy ratio (15-24 years old) to male literacy ratio (15-24 years old). Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1991.

Net primary enrolment ratio gap (women/men): Ratio of female net primary enrolment ratio to male net primary enrolment ratio. Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990.

Net secondary enrolment ratio gap (women/men): Ratio of female net secondary enrolment ratio to male net secondary enrolment ratio. Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1991.

Gross tertiary enrolment ratio gap (women/men): Ratio of female gross tertiary enrolment ratio to male gross tertiary enrolment ratio. Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1991.

GENDER EQUITY

Gender gap in economic activity and earned income

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Slight regression
- ➔ Significant regression

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	ACTIVITY RATE GAP (women/men)	ESTIMATED EARNED INCOME RATIO (women/men)	
	97	Albania (95)	0.7		0.5
➔	127	Algeria (95)	0.5	➔	0.3
	109	Angola (—)	0.8		0.6
➔	39	Argentina (94)	0.7	➔	0.5
	92	Armenia (96)	0.8		0.6
➔	13	Australia (99)	0.8	➔	0.7
➔	30	Austria (99+)	0.8	➔	0.4
	73	Azerbaijan (91)	0.9		0.6
➔	16	Bahamas (—)	0.9	➔	0.7
	138	Bahrain (99)	0.3		0.3
➔	109	Bangladesh (57)	0.6	➔	0.5
➔	5	Barbados (99)	0.9	➔	0.6
➔	55	Belarus (97)	0.9	➔	0.6
➔	19	Belgium (99+)	0.8	➔	0.6
➔	73	Belize (91)	0.5	➔	0.4
	148	Benin (73)	0.6		0.5
➔	—	Bhutan (69)	0.6	➔	0.6
➔	49	Bolivia (80)	0.8	➔	0.6
➔	—	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	0.9	➔	0.7
➔	55	Botswana (91)	0.7	➔	0.4
➔	25	Brazil (89)	0.7	➔	0.6
	—	Brunei Darussalam (97)	0.6		0.6
➔	19	Bulgaria (97)	0.8	➔	0.7
	118	Burkina Faso (71)	0.9		0.7
	71	Burundi (56)	1.0		0.8
	78	Cambodia (59)	0.1		0.7
➔	133	Cameroon (70)	0.7	➔	0.5
➔	16	Canada (99)	0.9	➔	0.6
➔	78	Cape Verde (92)	0.5	➔	0.4
	148	Central African Republic (—)	0.8		0.6
➔	148	Chad (43)	0.9	➔	0.7
➔	—	Channel Islands (—)	0.8	➔	0.7
➔	73	Chile (99)	0.5	➔	0.4
	78	China (93)	0.9		0.6
➔	16	Colombia (89)	0.8	➔	0.6
➔	—	Comoros (72)	0.7	➔	0.5
	133	Congo, DR (—)	0.7		0.5
	142	Congo, Rep. (80)	0.7		0.5
➔	55	Costa Rica (96)	0.6	➔	0.5
➔	153	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	0.5	➔	0.3
➔	25	Croatia (97)	0.8	➔	0.7
➔	55	Cuba (99)	0.6	➔	0.6

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	ACTIVITY RATE GAP (women/men)	ESTIMATED EARNED INCOME RATIO (women/men)	
→	62	Cyprus (99+)	0.8	→	0.6
←	44	Czech Republic (99)	0.8	←	0.5
	7	Denmark (99+)	0.9		0.7
←	127	Djibouti (78)	0.7	←	0.5
→	62	Dominican Republic (85)	0.6	→	0.4
→	30	Ecuador (81)	0.8	→	0.6
←	139	Egypt (90)	0.3	←	0.2
	44	El Salvador (80)	0.6		0.4
	—	Equatorial Guinea (59)	0.6		0.4
	139	Eritrea (67)	0.7		0.4
←	19	Estonia (99)	0.9	←	0.6
	114	Ethiopia (50)	0.8		0.6
→	99	Fiji (99)	0.7	→	0.5
→	2	Finland (99+)	0.1	→	0.7
→	67	France (99+)	0.9	→	0.6
	—	French Polynesia (—)	0.7		
	114	Gabon (82)	0.8		0.6
←	118	Gambia (70)	0.7	←	0.5
←	62	Georgia (95)	0.7	←	0.4
→	5	Germany (99+)	0.9	→	0.6
	92	Ghana (66)	0.1		0.7
→	52	Greece (99+)	0.7	→	0.6
	—	Guam (—)	0.7		
→	118	Guatemala (72)	0.4	→	0.3
	109	Guinea (68)	0.9		0.7
	123	Guinea-Bissau (—)	0.7		0.5
→	85	Guyana (81)	0.5	→	0.4
	—	Haiti (—)	0.7		0.5
→	78	Honduras (76)	0.6	→	0.5
→	39	Hong Kong (China) (—)	0.8	→	0.5
→	39	Hungary (97)	0.8	→	0.6
→	7	Iceland (99+)	0.9	→	0.7
←	148	India (71)	0.4	←	0.3
	107	Indonesia (85)	0.6		0.5
→	105	Iran, Islamic Rep. (91)	0.5	→	0.4
→	—	Iraq (79)	0.3	→	
→	44	Ireland (99+)	0.8	→	0.5
→	25	Israel (99+)	0.9	→	0.6
→	71	Italy (99)	0.7	→	0.5
←	78	Jamaica (95)	0.8	←	0.6
	85	Japan (99+)	0.7		0.4
→	133	Jordan (99)	0.4	→	0.3
→	67	Kazakhstan (95)	0.9	→	0.6
←	85	Kenya (68)	0.8	←	0.8
←	—	Korea, DR (—)	0.6	←	
→	99	Korea, Rep. (99)	0.7	→	0.5
→	123	Kuwait (99)	0.6	→	0.4
←	97	Kyrgyzstan (96)	0.8	←	0.6
	107	Lao, PDR (58)	0.7		0.5
	13	Latvia (99)	0.9		0.7
	127	Lebanon (96)	0.4		0.3
	73	Lesotho (69)	0.7		0.5

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	ACTIVITY RATE GAP (women/men)		ESTIMATED EARNED INCOME RATIO (women/men)
	—	Liberia (—)	0.7		
→	—	Libya (—)	0.4	→	
→	10	Lithuania (97)	0.9	→	0.7
→	85	Luxembourg (97)	0.7	→	0.5
→	—	Macao (China) (—)	0.8	→	
	49	Macedonia, FYR (97)	0.7		0.5
	73	Madagascar (63)	0.9		0.7
	85	Malawi (63)	0.1		0.7
	92	Malaysia (98)	0.6		0.4
→	67	Maldives (86)	0.7	→	
→	109	Mali (66)	0.9	→	0.7
→	91	Malta (99+)	0.5	→	0.5
	—	Mauritania (75)	0.7		0.5
→	105	Mauritius (99)	0.6	→	0.4
→	78	Mexico (94)	0.5	→	0.4
	19	Moldova (96)	0.9		0.6
←	55	Mongolia (96)	0.7	←	0.5
→	145	Morocco (78)	0.3	→	0.3
	62	Mozambique (61)	1.0		0.8
	—	Myanmar (73)	0.8		
	30	Namibia (86)	0.8		0.6
→	142	Nepal (55)	0.7	→	0.5
→	10	Netherlands (99+)	0.8	→	0.6
	—	Netherlands Antilles (—)	0.8		
	—	New Caledonia (—)	0.6		
→	9	New Zealand (99+)	0.9	→	0.7
	109	Nicaragua (74)	0.4		0.3
	133	Niger (55)	0.8		0.6
	139	Nigeria (63)	0.5		0.4
→	4	Norway (99+)	0.9	→	0.8
→	144	Oman (97)	0.3	→	0.2
→	145	Pakistan (60)	0.4	→	0.3
→	44	Panama (91)	0.7	→	0.6
	—	Papua New Guinea (73)	0.1		0.7
→	78	Paraguay (85)	0.8	→	0.4
→	62	Peru (86)	0.7	→	0.4
→	13	Philippines (77)	0.7	→	0.6
	30	Poland (99+)	0.8		0.6
→	25	Portugal (99+)	0.9	→	0.6
→	—	Puerto Rico (—)	0.7	→	
→	127	Qatar (97)	0.4	→	
	37	Romania (96)	0.8		0.7
	37	Russian Federation (97)	0.9		0.6
	2	Rwanda (51)	0.1		0.7
	114	Samoa (97)	0.5		0.4
←	118	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	0.4	←	
→	145	Saudi Arabia (95)	0.2	→	0.2
	104	Senegal (72)	0.7		0.5
	153	Sierra Leone (—)	0.6		0.5
→	—	Singapore (—)	0.7	→	0.5
←	39	Slovakia (—)	0.8	←	0.6
→	30	Slovenia (99)	0.9	→	0.6

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	ACTIVITY RATE GAP (women/men)	ESTIMATED EARNED INCOME RATIO (women/men)	
	118	Solomon Islands (—)	0.7		0.5
	—	Somalia (—)	0.6		
←	39	South Africa (87)	0.6	←	0.5
→	10	Spain (99+)	0.7	→	0.5
←	92	Sri Lanka (—)	0.5	←	0.4
→	99	St. Lucia (96)	0.7	→	0.5
→	85	St. Vincent and the Grenadines (95)	0.7	→	0.5
	—	Sudan (81)	0.3		0.3
	55	Suriname (85)	0.5		
←	123	Swaziland (77)	0.4	←	0.3
	1	Sweden (99+)	0.1		0.8
→	52	Switzerland (99+)	0.9	→	0.6
→	127	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	0.5	→	0.3
	—	Tajikistan (86)	0.8		0.6
	30	Tanzania (70)	0.1		0.7
←	25	Thailand (—)	0.8	←	0.6
→	—	Timor-Leste (—)	0.7	→	
←	148	Togo (70)	0.6	←	0.4
→	—	Tonga (94)	0.6	→	0.5
→	44	Trinidad and Tobago (98)	0.6	→	0.5
→	114	Tunisia (95)	0.4	→	0.3
←	133	Turkey (92)	0.4	←	0.4
	—	Turkmenistan (—)	0.9		0.6
→	67	Uganda (63)	0.9	→	0.7
	30	Ukraine (97)	0.9		0.5
→	127	United Arab Emirates (98)	0.4	→	0.2
→	19	United Kingdom (99)	0.9	→	0.7
→	19	United States of America (99)	0.9	→	0.6
→	49	Uruguay (95)	0.8	→	0.6
	—	Uzbekistan (—)	0.8		0.6
	99	Vanuatu (85)	0.9		0.7
→	52	Venezuela (94)	0.7	→	0.5
	55	Viet Nam (90)	0.9		0.7
	—	Virgin Islands (USA) (—)	0.8		
	155	Yemen (64)	0.4		0.3
	92	Zambia (75)	0.8		0.6
←	99	Zimbabwe (76)	0.8	←	0.6

Sources: Activity rate gap (women/men): The UN Statistics Division Website (unstats.un.org/unsd/), February 2007.

Estimated earned income ratio (women/men): Human Development Report 2006, UNDP.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Activity rate gap (women/men): Female economic activity rate (the share of the female population ages 15 and older who supply, or are available to supply, labour for the production of goods and services) as a percentage of the male economic activity rate.
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

Estimated earned income ratio (women/men): Ratio of estimated female earned income to estimated male earned income.

Because of the lack of gender-disaggregated income data, female and male earned income are crudely estimated by UNDP on the basis of data on the ratio of the female non-agricultural wage to the male non-agricultural wage, the female and male shares of the economically active population, the total female and male population and GDP per capita (purchasing power parity in USD).
Last available data: 1991-2004.

GENDER EQUITY

Women's empowerment

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Slight regression
- ➔ Significant regression

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	FEMALE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (%)	FEMALE LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)	WOMEN IN DECISION- MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (%)	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT HELD BY WOMEN (%)
—	—	Afghanistan (—)			10	27
←	97	Albania (95)			5	7
➔	127	Algeria (95)			11	6
—	—	Andorra (—)			33	29
➔	109	Angola (—)			6	15
←	—	Antigua and Barbuda (—)			15	11
➔	39	Argentina (94)	55	25	8	35
	92	Armenia (96)			0	5
➔	13	Australia (99)	55	37	20	25
➔	30	Austria (99+)	46	28	35	32
➔	73	Azerbaijan (91)			15	11
	16	Bahamas (—)		40	27	20
—	138	Bahrain (99)			9	3
➔	109	Bangladesh (57)	12	23	8	15
➔	5	Barbados (99)	52	43	29	13
—	55	Belarus (97)			10	29
➔	19	Belgium (99+)	48	30	21	35
	73	Belize (91)	52	31	6	7
➔	148	Benin (73)			19	7
←	—	Bhutan (69)			0	3
➔	49	Bolivia (80)	40	36	7	17
—	—	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)			11	14
➔	55	Botswana (91)	53	31	27	11
➔	25	Brazil (89)	53	34	11	9
—	—	Brunei Darussalam (97)			9	
➔	19	Bulgaria (97)	61	33	24	22
➔	118	Burkina Faso (71)			15	12
—	71	Burundi (56)			11	31
➔	78	Cambodia (59)	33	14	7	0
	133	Cameroon (70)			11	9
➔	16	Canada (99)	56	36	23	21
➔	78	Cape Verde (92)			19	15
➔	148	Central African Republic (—)			10	11
—	148	Chad (43)			12	
➔	73	Chile (99)	52	24	17	15
➔	78	China (93)			6	20
➔	16	Colombia (89)	50	38	36	8
—	—	Comoros (72)				3
—	133	Congo, DR (—)			13	8
➔	142	Congo, Rep. (80)			15	9
➔	55	Costa Rica (96)	40	26	25	39
➔	153	Cote d'Ivoire (77)			17	9
—	25	Croatia (97)	52	23	33	23
➔	55	Cuba (99)			16	36
➔	62	Cyprus (99+)	45	15	0	14
➔	44	Czech Republic (99)	52	28	11	16

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	FEMALE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (%)	FEMALE LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)	WOMEN IN DECISION- MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (%)	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT HELD BY WOMEN (%)
→	7	Denmark (99+)	52	25	33	37
→	127	Djibouti (78)			5	11
←	—	Dominica (94)			0	13
→	62	Dominican Republic (85)	50		14	20
—	30	Ecuador (81)	49	34	14	25
→	139	Egypt (90)	30	9	6	2
—	44	El Salvador (80)	45	33	35	33
→	—	Equatorial Guinea (59)			5	18
—	139	Eritrea (67)			18	22
→	19	Estonia (99)	67	35	15	19
→	114	Ethiopia (50)			6	22
—	99	Fiji (99)			9	—
→	2	Finland (99+)	54	28	47	38
→	67	France (99+)			18	12
—	—	French Polynesia (—)				10
—	114	Gabon (82)			12	13
—	118	Gambia (70)			20	9
→	62	Georgia (95)	63	26	22	9
→	5	Germany (99+)	50	35	46	32
—	92	Ghana (66)			12	11
→	52	Greece (99+)	49	27	6	13
→	—	Grenada (92)			40	27
	118	Guatemala (72)			25	8
→	109	Guinea (68)			15	19
→	123	Guinea-Bissau (—)			38	14
—	85	Guyana (81)			22	—
→	—	Haiti (—)			25	22
—	78	Honduras (76)	36	22	14	—
—	39	Hong Kong (China) (—)	40	27		29
→	39	Hungary (97)	61	34	12	4
—	7	Iceland (99+)	55	29	27	26
←	148	India (71)			3	11
→	107	Indonesia (85)			11	10
→	105	Iran, Islamic Rep. (91)	33	13	7	13
	—	Iraq (79)			19	4
→	44	Ireland (99+)	51	29	21	8
—	—	Isle of Man (—)				33
—	25	Israel (99+)	54	29	17	—
→	71	Italy (99)	45	21	8	14
→	78	Jamaica (95)			18	17
→	85	Japan (99+)	46	10	13	6
→	133	Jordan (99)			11	12
→	67	Kazakhstan (95)			18	9
	85	Kenya (68)			10	10
—	—	Kiribati (88)			0	10
—	—	Korea, DR (—)				20
←	99	Korea, Rep. (99)	38	7	6	0
→	123	Kuwait (99)			0	13
→	97	Kyrgyzstan (96)			13	7
←	107	Lao, PDR (58)			0	2
→	13	Latvia (99)	64	42	24	23
→	127	Lebanon (96)			7	25
→	73	Lesotho (69)			28	5
—	—	Liberia (—)			14	5
—	—	Libya (—)				13
—	—	Liechtenstein (—)			20	6
→	10	Lithuania (97)	68	42	15	24
→	85	Luxembourg (97)			14	25

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	FEMALE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (%)	FEMALE LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)	WOMEN IN DECISION- MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (%)	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT HELD BY WOMEN (%)
—	—	Macao (China) (—)				19 →
—	49	Macedonia, FYR (97)	53	28	17	3
→	73	Madagascar (63)			6 →	22 →
—	85	Malawi (63)			14 →	
→	92	Malaysia (98)	40	23	9 →	17 →
→	67	Maldives (86)	40	15	12 =	7 →
→	109	Mali (66)			19 →	28 →
→	91	Malta (99+)	39	16	15 →	10 →
—	—	Marshall Islands (94)			0	23 →
→	—	Mauritania (75)			9 →	35 →
→	105	Mauritius (99)			8 =	18 →
—	—	Mayotte (—)				14 →
→	78	Mexico (94)	42	25	9 →	12 →
—	—	Micronesia, Fed. Sts. (—)				0 =
→	19	Moldova (96)	66	39	11 →	21 →
—	—	Monaco (—)			0	11 →
—	55	Mongolia (96)	66	30	6 =	
—	145	Morocco (78)			6 →	
—	62	Mozambique (61)			13 =	
—	—	Myanmar (73)				9 →
→	30	Namibia (86)	55	30	19 →	9 =
—	—	Nauru (—)			0	38 =
→	142	Nepal (55)			7 →	37 →
→	10	Netherlands (99+)	48	26	36 →	15 →
→	9	New Zealand (99+)	52	36	23 →	17 →
—	109	Nicaragua (74)			14 →	12
→	133	Niger (55)			23 →	27 →
—	139	Nigeria (63)			10 →	
—	—	Niue (—)				6
—	—	Northern Mariana Islands (—)				7 =
—	4	Norway (99+)	50	29	44 =	
←	144	Oman (97)			10 →	0 ←
→	145	Pakistan (60)	26	2	6 →	32 →
—	—	Palau (—)			13	29 →
—	44	Panama (91)	51	39	14 →	2
—	—	Papua New Guinea (73)				15 →
→	78	Paraguay (85)			31 →	20 =
—	62	Peru (86)	44	19	12 =	21
→	13	Philippines (77)	61	58	25 =	17 →
←	30	Poland (99+)	61	34	6 ←	0 =
—	25	Portugal (99+)	52	32	17 =	
—	—	Puerto Rico (—)				1 =
—	127	Qatar (97)			8 →	
—	37	Romania (96)	57	29	13 →	
—	37	Russian Federation (97)	64	38	0 ←	0
—	2	Rwanda (51)			36 →	
—	114	Samoa (97)			8 =	
—	—	San Marino (—)			13	
—	118	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (—)			14 →	
—	145	Saudi Arabia (95)	6	31	0 =	31
—	104	Senegal (72)			21 →	
—	—	Serbia and Montenegro (—) ¹			0	
—	—	Seychelles (—)			13 ←	
—	153	Sierra Leone (—)			13 →	
—	—	Singapore (—)	45	26	0 ←	26
—	39	Slovakia (—)	61	32	0 ←	32
—	30	Slovenia (99)	57	34	6	34
—	118	Solomon Islands (—)			0 =	

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	GEI RANKING	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	FEMALE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (%)	FEMALE LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)	WOMEN IN DECISION- MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (%)	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT HELD BY WOMEN (%)
—	39	South Africa (87)			41 →	
→	10	Spain (99+)	47	32	50 →	36 →
→	92	Sri Lanka (—)	46	21	10 =	24 →
←	—	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)			0 ←	7 →
—	99	St. Lucia (96)			8 →	8
—	85	St. Vincent and the Gren. (95)			20 ←	
—	—	Sudan (81)			3 =	
—	55	Suriname (85)	51	28	12 ←	28
—	123	Swaziland (77)			13 →	
—	1	Sweden (99+)	51	31	52 →	31
→	52	Switzerland (99+)	46	27	14 →	25 →
—	127	Syrian Arab Republic (87)			6 →	
—	—	Tajikistan (86)			3 =	
—	30	Tanzania (70)	32	49	15 →	49
—	25	Thailand (—)	53	28	8 →	28
—	—	Timor-Leste (—)			22	
—	148	Togo (70)			20 →	
—	44	Trinidad and Tobago (98)	54	38	18 →	38
—	114	Tunisia (95)			7 →	
—	133	Turkey (92)	31	7	4 =	7
—	—	Turkmenistan (—)			10 →	
—	—	Tuvalu (89)			0	
—	67	Uganda (63)			23 →	
—	30	Ukraine (97)	60	43	6 →	43
→	127	United Arab Emirates (98)	25	8	6 →	23 →
→	19	United Kingdom (99)	46	33	29 →	20 →
—	19	United States of America (99)	55	42	14	42
—	49	Uruguay (95)	53	35	0 ←	35
—	—	Uzbekistan (—)			4 =	
—	99	Vanuatu (85)			8 →	
—	52	Venezuela (94)	61	27	14 →	27
—	55	Viet Nam (90)			12 →	
—	123	West Bank and Gaza (96)	35	11	3	21 →
—	155	Yemen (64)	15	4	→	4
—	92	Zambia (75)			25 →	
—	99	Zimbabwe (76)			15 →	

Note: (1) Prior to separation.

Sources: Female professional and technical workers: Human Development Report 2006, UNDP.
Female legislators, senior officials and managers: Human Development Report 2006, UNDP.

Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level: Human Development Report 1997, UNDP and Human Development Report 2006, UNDP.
Seats in parliament held by women: IPU Database, January, 2007. (www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm)

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Female professional and technical workers (as % of total positions): Women's share of positions defined according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) to include physical, mathematical and engineering science professionals (and associate professionals), life science and health professionals (and associate professionals), teaching professionals (and associate professionals) and other professionals and associate professionals.
Latest available data taken from ILO Laborsta Database (March, 2006) as published by Human Development Report 2006, UNDP.

Female legislators, senior officials and managers (% of total positions): Women's share of positions defined according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) to include legislators, senior government officials, traditional chiefs and heads of villages, senior officials of special interest organizations, corporate managers, directors and chief executives, production and operations department managers and other department and general managers.
Latest available data taken from ILO Laborsta Database (March, 2006) as published by Human Development Report 2006, UNDP.

Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level (% of total positions): Women as a percentage of total decision-making positions in government. Data were provided by states based on their definition of national executive and may therefore include women serving as ministers and vice ministers and those holding other ministerial positions, including parliamentary secretaries.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1995.

Seats in parliament held by women (% of seats): Seats held by women in a lower or single house, where relevant, as percentage of total seats.
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1997.

GENDER

A worldwide gap

The Gender Equity Index (GEI) designed by Social Watch to monitor the evolution of the situation of women around the world encompasses three basic dimensions: education, economic activity and empowerment. The index makes explicit the gaps between men and women, reveals what deficiencies there are, and shows the evolution of the situation in different countries. The overall picture is that at the present time no country has achieved gender equity, and that progress everywhere is slow.

Education

It is true that good progress has been made in narrowing the gender gap in this dimension, to the point that in many countries there is now no literacy gap and no inequity in enrolment in the different levels of education. But taking the world as a whole there is still a long way to go before equality can be established. Two out of every three people who are illiterate are women, and most children who do not go to school or who drop out are girls. In countries where the level of enrolment in primary education is low, it is common for parents to send their sons to school at the expense of their daughters.

In the countries in the better relative situation the impediments to females entering formal education have been overcome, and indeed there are now more girls enrolled in the system than boys. This difference is seen in primary and secondary education, and is even more marked in tertiary education. The higher the level of education, the more females there are in the system. However, the situation is very different in the group of countries where inequity is greater. Literacy rates for men are higher – on average, for every 100 men who can read and write, there are 68 women who can do so – and the higher the level of education, the wider the gap in favour of men. At the tertiary level, there are only 40 women enrolled for every 100 men.

At the present time the regions in a more favourable situation as regards gender equity in education are North America, Europe, Latin America and to a lesser extent Central Asia. For example, all the countries in Latin America, apart from Guatemala, are in the better relative positions. The regions with the most countries in the worse relative situation group in this respect are Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

As to the evolution of this dimension at a global level, in more than half the countries of the world, progress towards the goal of achieving gender equity in education has stagnated. On the other hand, more than 60 countries (out of 156 for which information is available) have progressed to some extent. There are also some worrying cases where inequity is on the rise, namely Eritrea, the Cayman Islands, Tajikistan and Tonga, and of these Eritrea is the most alarming case, as it has regressed so much that it is now among the worst in the world in this respect.

Empowerment

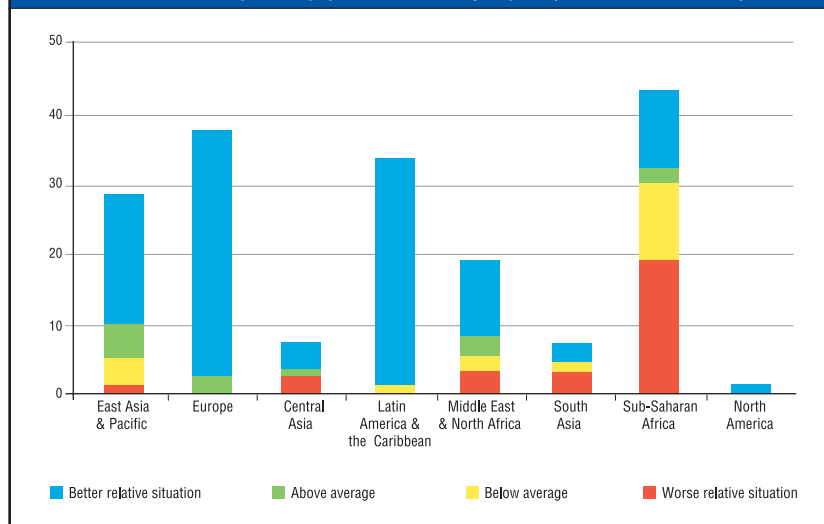
The spheres of political power and decision making in economic and social affairs are still mostly dominated by men. Some progress has been made in these areas, above all in implementing quotas for women's participation in legislative

bodies, but equity between men and women is still far away. In mid-2007, on average only 17.9%¹ of representatives in parliaments were women. This figure shows there is marked inequity in politics, but beyond that it also reflects a serious weakness in democracy. There is deep-rooted and widespread inequality, as can be seen from the fact that there are hardly any women heads of state in the world and very few women in executive and management positions. Some progress has been made, but inequity is still very much a fact of modern life.

The averages of each indicator in the GEI are very significant. Even in countries in the better

¹ In countries that have a two-tier system, these data are just for the lower house (members of parliament or representatives). If both houses were considered the proportion of women would probably be even lower. See: <www.ipu.org/english/home.htm>.

Current situation of the gender gap in education by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution of the gender gap in education (number of countries)

	←	↶		↷	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	0	1	2	6	14	23
Countries below average	0	1	2	5	8	16
Countries above average	0	0	3	5	3	11
Countries in better situation	0	2	81	21	2	106
Total	0	4	88	37	27	156

Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations of the gender gap in education

		Literacy ratio gap (women/men)	Net primary enrolment ratio gap (women/men)	Net secondary enrolment ratio gap (women/men)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio gap (women/men)
Worse relative situation	Average	0.68	0.82	0.61	0.40
	Number of countries	18	23	19	25
Better relative situation	Average	1.01	1.01	1.07	1.42
	Number of countries	64	109	104	101
Total	Average	0.93	0.97	0.98	1.12
	Number of countries	106	164	148	157

Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in women's empowerment		Female professional and technical workers (%)	Female legislators, senior officials and managers (%)	Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level (%)	Seats in parliament held by women (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	31.8	11.4	8.2	9.1
	Number of countries	14	14	24	33
Better relative situation	Average	56.7	39	29.2	26.1
	Number of countries	8	9	15	14
Total	Average	48.2	28.3	16.5	17.9
	Number of countries	81	81	132	144

relative situation, women occupy only a quarter of the seats in parliament and less than a third of decision-making positions at ministerial level. Thus even in the more advanced countries women are nowhere near being equal. Decisions should be taken and concrete measures implemented to reduce inequity in access to positions of power not just in a given group of countries but in all the countries and regions of the world.

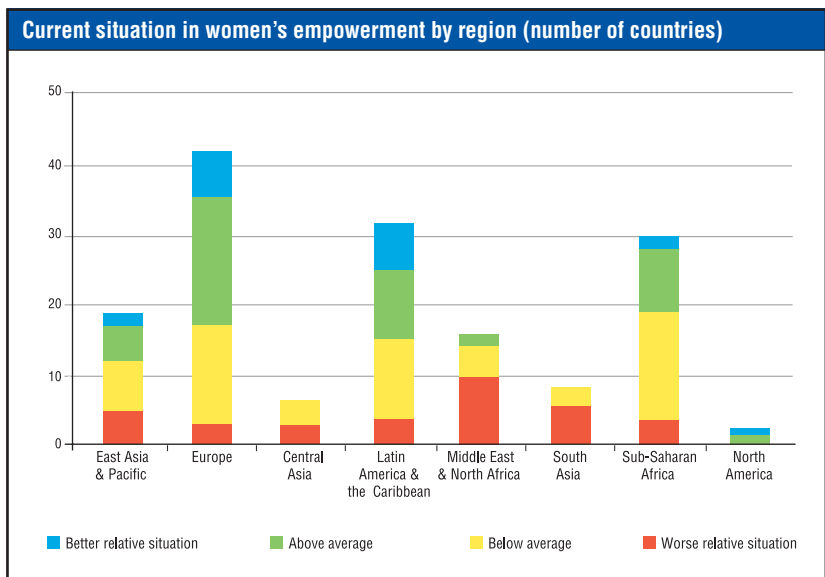
A country does not have to be rich in economic resources or have high levels of general well-being to be able to take measures to empower women. Indeed, the situation in the wealthiest regions of the world shows that economic development does not necessarily lead to gender equity. North America and Europe do not present a homogenous panorama in terms of the empowerment of women, as some of these countries are in the better relative situation but many others are in a worse condition. When it comes to gender equity, political will can make the difference.

In short, there are a variety of situations in all the regions. The most problematic regions are the Middle East and North Africa, where no country is in the better relative situation group.

In recent years the general situation has been improving, with progress observed in 82 of the 99 countries for which information is available. However, there has been slight regression in nine countries and one, Albania, regressed significantly. Progress in this area is fragile, as is clear from the fact that the indicators tend to fluctuate. Most of the changes from one year to another are due to changes in executive and parliamentary posts at election time, which has an immediate effect on the percentage of women in decision-making spaces. Several countries, most notably Rwanda and also Spain, have moved towards greater equity by taking concrete measures like the setting of political quotas.

Economic activity

Gender inequity in economic activity is one of the causes of the feminization of poverty. It is true that an increasing number of women are coming into the world of remunerated work, but this cannot hide the fact that their access to employment is restricted or that there is a wide pay gap since women earn considerably less than men. This difference in levels in remuneration is not confined to



Current situation and evolution in women's empowerment (number of countries)

	←	↶		↷	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	0	1	2	6	14	23
Countries below average	0	1	2	5	8	16
Countries above average	0	0	3	5	3	11
Countries in better situation	0	2	81	21	2	106
Total	0	4	88	37	27	156

Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse situations of the gender gap in economic activity

		Activity rate gap (women/men)	Estimated earned income ratio (women/men)
Worse relative situation	Average	0.45	0.33
	Number of countries	41	36
Better relative situation	Average	0.89	0.67
	Number of countries	54	53
Total	Average	0.70	0.53
	Number of countries	183	160

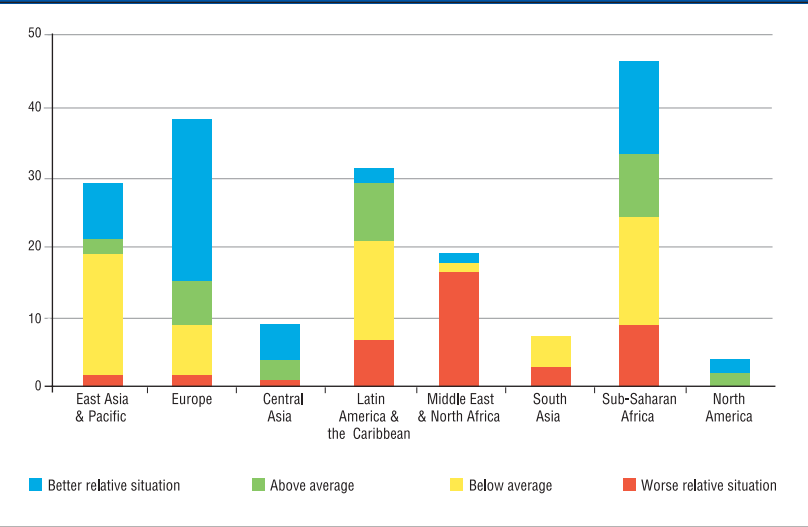
the countries in the worse relative situation group. In the European Union progress in gender equity has been made, but according to the European Commission women's earnings are still on average 15% lower than men's.

The gap between men's and women's remuneration can be summed up as follows: in the group of countries with the greatest inequity, women's pay is on average one third of what men receive, and in the more equitable countries, they earn two thirds of what men earn. It is clear that even in the better cases, equity is still a long way off. When it comes to economic activity rates, in the countries in the better relative situation group, the gap is 0.89 (where 1 would mean equality), whereas in the worse relative situation group of countries, the figure is 0.45.

In the economic activity dimension the most worrying situation is again to be found in the Middle East and North Africa, where in all the dimensions considered, gender inequity is a serious problem. The overwhelming majority of the countries in these regions are in the worse relative situation, and there are very few exceptions like Israel and to a lesser extent Djibouti, where the situation is better. The countries of South Asia are also among the least equitable. An overall view of the situation shows that there is almost no region in which all the countries are above the world average. This clearly indicates that gender inequity in economic activity is a worldwide and persistent phenomenon.

In the economic activity dimension of gender inequity, more countries are stagnant or regressing than are progressing. Among those that have regressed there are some in the worse relative situation, which is cause for serious concern. They are Botswana, Egypt, Georgia, Sao Tome and Principe, and Sri Lanka. The overall picture is that most countries are not advancing towards a solution to this problem. ■

Current situation of the gender gap situation in economic activity by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution of the gender gap in economic activity (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	5	5	10	14	14	41
Countries below average	3	7	21	5	10	58
Countries above average	2	2	14	5	1	30
Countries in better situation	1	3	25	21	20	54
Total	11	17	70	37	45	183

Status of ratifications of fundamental ILO Conventions

Up to July 2007

C87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948.

C98: Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949.

C100: Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951.

C105: Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957.

C111: Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958.

C138: Minimum Age Convention, 1973.

C182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999.

Republic; Chad; Chile; Colombia; Comoros; Congo, DR; Congo, Rep.; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Equatorial Guinea; Estonia; Ethiopia; Fiji; Finland; France; Gambia; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guyana; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland; Indonesia; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lesotho; Libya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Mozambique; Netherlands; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; San Marino; Sao Tome and Principe; Senegal; Serbia; Seychelles; Slovakia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; St Kitts and Nevis; St Vincent and Grenadines; Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syria; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Togo; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Uruguay; Venezuela; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

Countries that have ratified all these conventions:

Albania; Algeria; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahamas; Barbados; Belarus; Belgium; Belize; Benin; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Cameroon; Central African

	FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING		ELIMINATION OF FORCED AND COMPULSORY LABOUR	ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION			ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR		FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING		ELIMINATION OF FORCED AND COMPULSORY LABOUR	ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION			ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR
	C 87	C 98		C 100	C 111	C 138			C 182	C 87		C 98	C 105	C 100	
Afghanistan	□	□	■	■	■	□	□	Malaysia	□	■	●	■	□	■	■
Australia	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Mexico	■	□	■	■	■	□	■
Bahrain	□	□	■	□	■	□	■	Morocco	□	■	■	■	■	■	■
Bangladesh	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Myanmar	■	□	□	□	□	□	□
Brazil	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Namibia	■	■	■	□	■	■	■
Canada	■	□	■	■	■	□	■	Nepal	□	■	□	■	■	■	■
Cape Verde	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	New Zealand	□	■	■	■	■	□	■
China	□	□	□	■	■	■	■	Oman	□	□	■	□	□	■	■
Cuba	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	Qatar	□	□	■	□	■	■	■
Eritrea	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	Samoa	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Gabon	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Saudi Arabia	□	□	■	■	■	□	■
Ghana	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Sierra Leone	■	■	■	■	■	□	□
Guinea-Bissau	□	■	■	■	■	□	□	Singapore	□	■	●	■	□	■	■
Haiti	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Solomon Islands	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
India	□	□	■	■	■	□	□	Somalia	□	□	■	□	■	□	□
Iran	□	□	■	■	■	□	■	St Lucia	■	■	■	■	■	□	■
Iraq	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Sudan	□	■	■	■	■	■	■
Japan	■	■	□	■	□	■	■	Suriname	■	■	■	□	□	□	■
Jordan	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Thailand	□	□	■	■	□	■	■
Kenya	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Timor-Leste	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Kiribati	■	■	■	□	□	□	□	Turkmenistan	■	■	■	■	■	□	□
Korea, Rep.	□	□	□	■	■	■	■	United Arab Emirates	□	□	■	■	■	■	■
Kuwait	■	□	■	□	■	■	■	United States of America	□	□	■	□	□	□	■
Lao, PDR	□	□	□	□	□	■	■	Uzbekistan	□	■	■	■	■	□	□
Lebanon	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Vanuatu	■	■	■	■	■	□	■
Liberia	■	■	■	□	■	□	■	Viet Nam	□	□	□	■	■	■	■

Source: ILOLEX. ILO website Database (www.ilo.org/).

- Convention ratified
- Convention not yet ratified
- Convention denounced

Status of ratifications of human rights international treaties

Up to July 2007

- A:** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 1966. Entry into force: 3 January 1976.
B: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), 1966. Entry into force: 23 March 1976.
C: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 1965. Entry into force: 4 January 1969.
D: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979. Entry into force: 3 September 1981.
E: Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), 1984. Entry into force: 26 June 1987.
F: Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989. Entry into force: 2 September 1990.
G: Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948. Entry into force: 12 January 1951.
H: Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951. Entry into force: 22 April 1954.
I: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC), 1990. Entry into force: 1 July 2003.

	UN Member since	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		UN Member since	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
Afghanistan	1946	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Cuba	1945			●	●	●	●	●			
Albania	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Cyprus	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Algeria	1962	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Czech Republic	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Andorra	1993		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Denmark	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Angola	1976	●	●		●		●		●		Djibouti	1977	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Antigua and Barbuda	1981			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Dominica	1978	●	●		●		●		●		
Argentina	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Dominican Republic	1945	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●		
Armenia	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ecuador	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Australia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Egypt	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Austria	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	El Salvador	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Azerbaijan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Equatorial Guinea	1968	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		
Bahamas	1973			●	●		●	●	●		Eritrea	1993	●	●	●	●		●				
Bahrain	1971		●	●	●	●	●	●			Estonia	1991	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Bangladesh	1974	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		○	Ethiopia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Barbados	1966	●	●	●	●		●	●			Fiji	1970			●	●		●	●	●		
Belarus	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Finland	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Belgium	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	France	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Belize	1981	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Gabon	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Benin	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	○	Gambia	1965	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	
Bhutan	1971			○	●		●				Georgia	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Bolivia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Germany	1973	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ghana	1957	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Botswana	1966		●	●	●	●	●	●			Greece	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Brazil	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Grenada	1974	●	●	○	●		●				
Brunei Darussalam	1984				●		●				Guatemala	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bulgaria	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Guinea	1958	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Burkina Faso	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Guinea-Bissau	1974	●	○	○	●	○	●		●	○	
Burundi	1962	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Guyana	1966	●	●	●	●	●	●				○
Cambodia	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	Haiti	1945		●	●	●		●	●	●		
Cameroon	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		Holy See				●		●		●			
Canada	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Honduras	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cape Verde	1975	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		Hungary	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Central African Republic	1960	●	●	●	●		●		●		Iceland	1946	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Chad	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		India	1945	●	●	●	●	○	●	●			
Chile	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Indonesia	1950	●	●	●	●	●	●				○
China	1945	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Iran	1945	●	●	●			●	●	●		
Colombia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Iraq	1945	●	●	●	●		●	●			
Comoros	1975			●	●	○	●	●		○	Ireland	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Congo, DR	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Israel	1949	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Congo, Rep.	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Italy	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Cook Islands					●		●				Jamaica	1962	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	
Costa Rica	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Japan	1956	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Côte d'Ivoire	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Jordan	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Croatia	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Kazakhstan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	

	UN Member since	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		UN Member since	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		
Kenya	1963	●	●	●	●	●	●		●			Qatar	1971			●		●	●				
Kiribati	1999				●		●					Romania	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Korea, DPR	1991	●	●		●		●	●				Russian Federation	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Korea, Rep.	1991	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Rwanda	1962	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Kuwait	1963	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				Samoa	1976				●		●		●		
Kyrgyzstan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		San Marino	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Lao, PDR	1955	●	○	●	●		●	●				Sao Tome and Principe	1975	○	○	○	●	○	●		●	○	
Latvia	1991	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Saudi Arabia	1945			●	●	●	●	●			
Lebanon	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				Senegal	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Lesotho	1966	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Serbia	2000		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	
Liberia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○		Seychelles	1976	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Libya	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Sierra Leone	1961	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	
Liechtenstein	1990	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Singapore	1965				●		●	●			
Lithuania	1991	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Slovakia	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Luxembourg	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Slovenia	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Macedonia	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Solomon Islands	1978	●		●	●		●		●		
Madagascar	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●			Somalia	1960	●	●	●		●	○		●		
Malawi	1964	●	●	●	●	●	●		●			South Africa	1945	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Malaysia	1957				●		●	●				Spain	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Maldives	1965	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				Sri Lanka	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Mali	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		St. Kitts and Nevis	1983			●	●		●		●		
Malta	1964	●	●		●	●	●	●	●			St. Lucia	1979			●	●		●		●		
Marshall Islands	1991				●		●					St. Vincent and Grenadines	1980	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Mauritania	1961	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Sudan	1956	●	●	●		○	●	●	●		
Mauritius	1968	●	●	●	●	●	●					Suriname	1975	●	●	●	●		●		●		
Mexico	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Swaziland	1968	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		
Micronesia	1991				●		●					Sweden	1946	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Moldova	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Switzerland	2002	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Monaco	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Syria	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Mongolia	1961	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				Tajikistan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Montenegro	2006	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○		Tanzania	1961	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Morocco	1956	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Thailand	1946	●	●	●	●		●		●		
Mozambique	1975	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Timor-Leste	2002	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Myanmar	1948				●		●	●				Togo	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	
Namibia	1990	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Tonga	1999			●			●	●			
Nauru	1999		○	○		○	●					Trinidad and Tobago	1962	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Nepal	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				Tunisia	1956	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Netherlands	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Turkey	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
New Zealand	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Turkmenistan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		
Nicaragua	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Tuvalu	2000				●		●		●		
Niger	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Uganda	1962	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Nigeria	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Ukraine	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Norway	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			United Arab Emirates	1971			●	●		●	●			
Oman	1971			●	●		●					United Kingdom	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Pakistan	1947	○		●	●		●	●				United States of America	1945	○	●	●	○	●	○	●			
Palau	1994						●					Uruguay	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Panama	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Uzbekistan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Papua New Guinea	1975			●	●		●	●	●			Vanuatu	1981				●		●				
Paraguay	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○		Venezuela	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Peru	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Viet Nam	1977	●	●	●	●		●	●			
Philippines	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Yemen	1947	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Poland	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Zambia	1964	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Portugal	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Zimbabwe	1980	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		

Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection Website, Database "Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General" (<http://untreaty.un.org/>).

- Signature not yet followed by ratification.
- Ratification, accession, approval, notification or succession, acceptance, consent to be bound or definitive signature.