How to read the thematic area tables

FOOD SECURITY

Insurmountable gaps?

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

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 indicators 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 definitions 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).