

This snapshot analyzes UNDP's 2009 Human Development Report (HDR), which is an annual publication on the general state of development throughout the world. The 2009 report focuses on the effects and relationship between migration and development. The snapshot covers the four main indices in the HDR: the Human Development Index, the Gender Development Index, the Gender Empowerment Index, and the Human Poverty Index. The 2009 HDR reports the 2007 values for all four indices, all of which have varying degrees of country coverage. The analysis in this snapshot is restricted to the 94 countries that received at least \$2 million in obligations from USAID in fiscal year 2008.

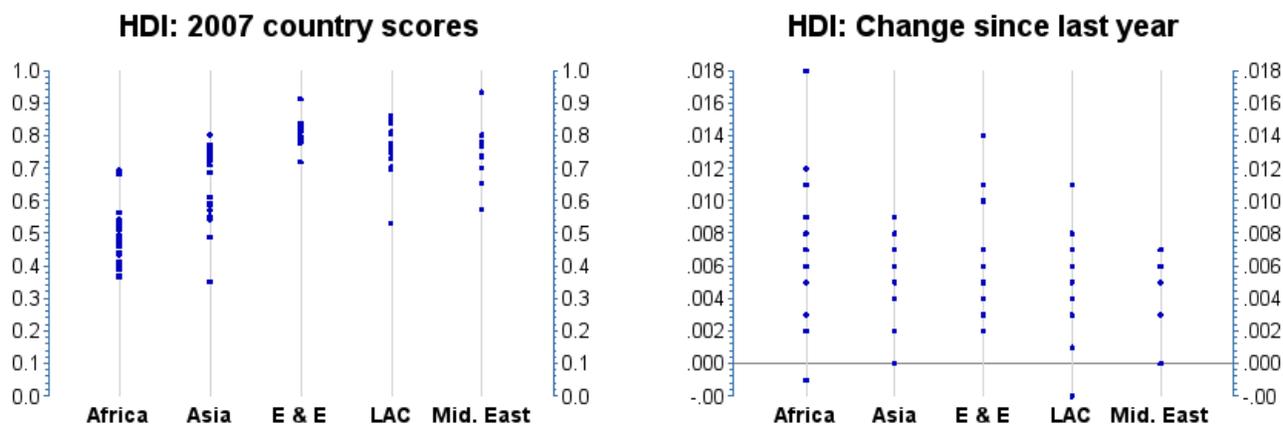
Human Development Index – Despite low scores, Sub-Saharan Africa making strides

Every edition of the report is anchored by the Human Development Index (HDI)-a measure, ranging from 0 to 1 (higher being better), of countries' achievements in life expectancy, literacy and enrolment, and GDP per capita.

HDI 2007: Top Scores

1. Israel	0.935	6. Venezuela	0.844	11. Serbia	0.826	16. Bosnia & Herz.	0.812
2. Cyprus	0.914	7. Bulgaria	0.840	12. Albania	0.818	17. Colombia	0.807
3. Cuba	0.863	8. Panama	0.840	13. Macedonia	0.817	18. Ecuador	0.806
4. Costa Rica	0.854	9. Montenegro	0.834	14. Russia	0.817	19. Peru	0.806
5. Mexico	0.854	10. Belarus	0.826	15. Brazil	0.813	20. Kazakhstan	0.804

Apart from Israel and Kazakhstan, all the top twenty countries are either in Europe and Eurasia or Latin America and the Caribbean. After Israel, Lebanon is the next highest Middle Eastern country at 21st place. The highest scoring Asian country after Kazakhstan is China (P.R.C.), at 28th place. The highest scoring Sub-Saharan African country is Botswana at 49th place.



While no Sub-Saharan country achieved a top-twenty score in 2007, the region did contribute seven of the largest ten 2006-2007 improvements (the other top improving countries are from Latin America, Europe and Eurasia, and Asia). There is no relationship between the top improvers and the top 2007 scorers. However, there is a relationship between the top improvers and the bottom scorers. Five of the top improvers are among the ten lowest scoring countries. Aside from Afghanistan, the other four lowest scoring countries are in Sub-Saharan Africa. To see all data from the HDR, including the bottom scores, visit the Economic and Social Database on the USAID Allnet at <http://esdb.eads.usaidallnet.gov/>.



Top Ten Annual HDI Score Improvements

From 2006 to 2007		From 2005 to 2006	
Congo (Kinshasa)	0.018	Azerbaijan	0.018
Azerbaijan	0.014	Cuba	0.017
Angola	0.012	Pakistan	0.013
Ethiopia	0.012	Burundi	0.012
Armenia	0.011	Venezuela	0.011
Venezuela	0.011	Angola	0.011
Botswana	0.011	Ethiopia	0.011
Tanzania	0.011	Sudan	0.011
Georgia	0.010	Uganda	0.011
China (P.R.C.)	0.009	Armenia	0.010
Cambodia	0.009	Botswana	0.010
Malawi	0.009	Nepal	0.010
Uganda	0.009		

For most of the top ten improving countries, HDI progress was driven by gains in all of the index's components. The primary driver, however, was GDP for all but two countries, Congo (Kinshasa) and Botswana. Life expectancy led Botswana's HDI improvement. Congo's (Kinshasa) education improvements spurred the increase in its HDI from 2006 to 2007. Its improvement from 2005 to 2006 was 0.001, making it a bottom ten improver of that period (see table below). GDP growth was great enough in Angola and Azerbaijan to offset a decline in education. Azerbaijan and Venezuela were the only two countries to demonstrate consistently high improvement over both periods.

Bottom Ten Annual HDI Score Improvements

From 2006 to 2007		From 2005 to 2006	
Jamaica	-0.002	Timor-Leste	-0.004
Chad	-0.001	Guyana	-0.001
West Bank/Gaza	0.000	Chad	-0.001
Turkmenistan	0.000	Lebanon	0.000
Ecuador	0.001	Burma (Myanmar)	0.001
El Salvador	0.001	West Bank/Gaza	0.001
Burma (Myanmar)	0.002	Eritrea	0.001
Moldova	0.002	Congo (Kinshasa)	0.001
Central African Rep.	0.002	Cote d'Ivoire	0.002
Cote d'Ivoire	0.002	Senegal	0.002
Guinea	0.002	South Africa	0.002
Senegal	0.002		
Afghanistan	0.002		

While GDP drove the top improvements, education hurt the least improving countries. The values of the education indicators for the countries in the list of bottom performers decreased except the three countries (Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar) and West Bank/Gaza) for which new data on education was not available. Backsliding in education in Turkmenistan, El Salvador, and Moldova outweighed their significant GDP growth, which was greater than some of the top performing countries. Several countries with poor improvement from 2005 to 2006 continued their poor improvement through 2007. Chad was the only country whose score decreased in both periods.

Note about rankings: Tied values are given the same rank. As a result, more than ten countries may be listed.

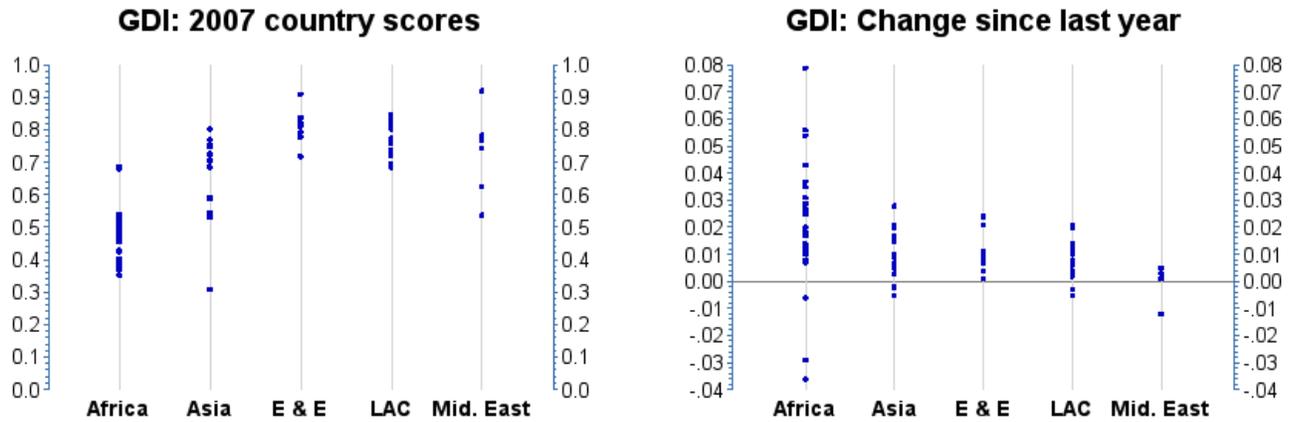
Gender Development Index – Greater gains than the HDI, especially in Sub-Sahara Africa

The Gender Development Index (GDI) measures the degree of equality between female and male life expectancy, education, and income.

Top Ten Scores in 2007		Top Ten Improvements 2006-07		Bottom Ten Improvements 2006-07	
Israel	0.921	Liberia	0.079	Senegal	-0.036
Cyprus	0.911	Cote d'Ivoire	0.056	Mali	-0.029
Costa Rica	0.848	Namibia	0.054	Jordan	-0.012
Mexico	0.847	Sierra Leone	0.043	Ghana	-0.006
Cuba	0.844	Mozambique	0.037	Jamaica	-0.005
Bulgaria	0.839	Malawi	0.037	Pakistan	-0.005
Panama	0.838	Benin	0.035	Cuba	-0.003
Venezuela	0.827	Eritrea	0.031	El Salvador	-0.003
Belarus	0.824	Botswana	0.029	Kazakhstan	-0.002
Russia	0.816	Zambia	0.029	Iran	0.001
				Lebanon	0.001
				Cyprus	0.001

The GDI's top ten scoring countries are the same as the HDI's, with the exception of Russia replacing Montenegro. As with the HDI, Latin American and Caribbean and Europe and Eurasian countries dominate the GDI's top twenty scorers. All Sub-Saharan African countries scored in the bottom half of the GDI. Namibia and South Africa are the highest scoring Sub-Saharan African countries, at 43rd and 44th place, respectively.

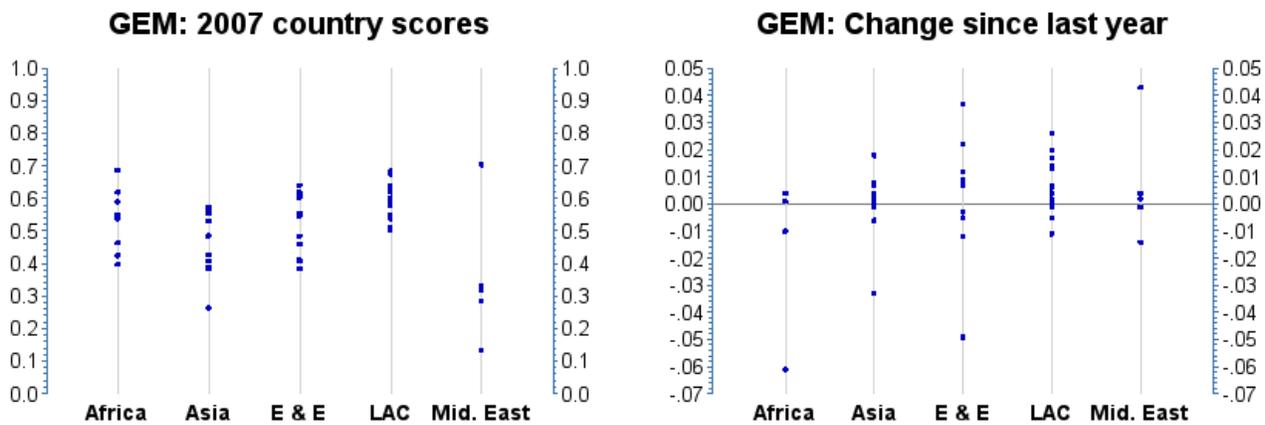
There is little similarity between the GDI and the HDI's top improvers, both in terms of countries and ranges of improvement. Only Botswana and Malawi make both lists. Additionally, countries made much stronger gains in the GDI than the HDI. Sub-Saharan African countries comprise the entire list of top ten GDI improvers. At the same time, the greatest deterioration also came from two Sub-Saharan African countries, Senegal and Mali, making it the region with the widest range in performance.



Gender Empowerment Measure – Middle East lagging behind other regions

The Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) measures economic participation, political participation, and power over economic resources to gauge gender equality.

Top Ten Scores in 2007		Top Ten Improvements 2006-07		Bottom Ten Improvements 2006-07	
Israel	0.705	Israel	0.043	Tanzania	-0.061
South Africa	0.687	Serbia	0.037	Azerbaijan	-0.049
Costa Rica	0.685	Mexico	0.026	Indonesia	-0.033
Cuba	0.676	Montenegro	0.022	Iran	-0.014
Macedonia	0.641	Colombia	0.020	Cyprus	-0.012
Peru	0.640	Cambodia	0.018	Dominican Republic	-0.011
Mexico	0.629	Sri Lanka	0.018	Ethiopia	-0.010
Ecuador	0.622	Ecuador	0.017	Pakistan	-0.006
Serbia	0.621	El Salvador	0.014	Moldova	-0.005
Namibia	0.620	Peru	0.013	Costa Rica	-0.005



Four countries with top scores in the GEM also have top scores in the HDI and GDI: Israel, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Mexico. While a correlation between the GDI and HDI is not surprising due to similarities in methodology, the GEM differs from the other two indices considerably, making these four countries noteworthy. Unlike the GDI

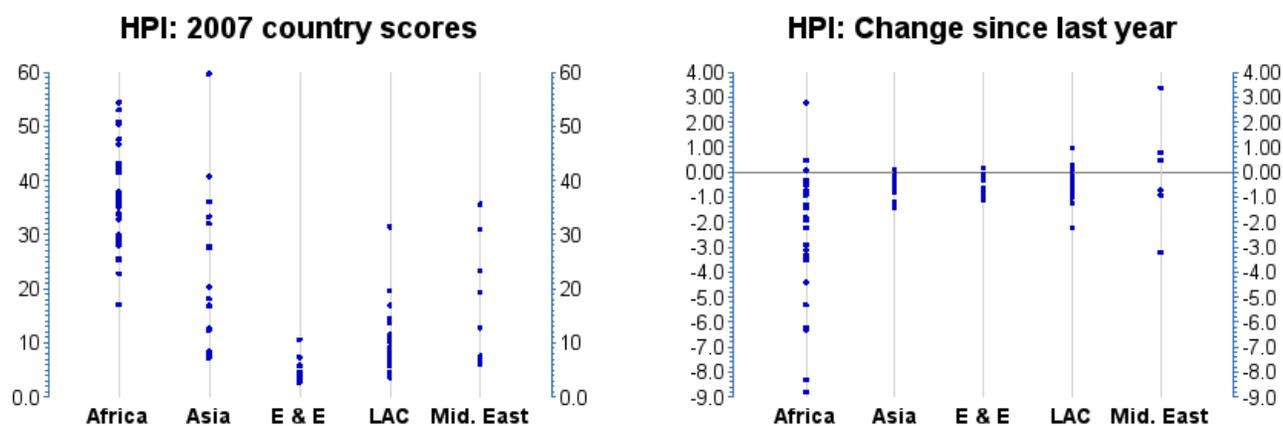
and HDI, Sub-Saharan Africa countries are in the top twenty scorers of the GEM. Similar to the HDI, Asian countries still lag. However, with the marked exception of Israel, the Middle East severely lags other regions. The other Middle East countries comprise four of the bottom five GEM scores.

Human Poverty Index – Sub-Saharan Africa again makes greatest gains

The Human Poverty Index's (HPI) purpose is to measure deprivation: a short life, lack of basic education, and lack of access to public and private resources. It runs in a manner opposite that of the previous indexes and ranges from 100 to 0. Therefore the data in this section should be interpreted as lower scores being better.

Best Ten Scores in 2007		Best Ten Improvements 2006-07		Worst Ten Improvements 2006-07	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.8	Namibia	-8.8	Egypt	3.4
Montenegro	3.1	Botswana	-8.3	South Africa	2.8
Serbia	3.1	Zambia	-6.3	Nicaragua	1.0
Macedonia	3.2	Malawi	-6.2	El Salvador	1.0
Armenia	3.7	Zimbabwe	-6.2	Iran	0.8
Costa Rica	3.7	Liberia	-5.3	Jordan	0.5
Albania	4.0	Rwanda	-4.4	Senegal	0.5
Belarus	4.3	Sierra Leone	-3.5	Ecuador	0.3
Cuba	4.6	Uganda	-3.4	Ukraine	0.2
Georgia	4.7	Angola	-3.3	Kazakhstan	0.1
				Jamaica	0.1
				Ghana	0.1

Costa Rica and Cuba are again top ten scorers, making them the only two countries to do so across all four indices. No 2007 HPI score was calculated for Israel. Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe and Eurasia again lead the regions. Despite Sub-Saharan Africa's significant improvement since the last year, only Namibia scores in the top half of HPI scores. The two largest deteriorations were Egypt and South Africa. Egypt's backsliding was due to a decrease in literacy; whereas South Africa's was due to lower probability of surviving to age forty. In contrast, the probability of surviving to age forty doubled in Iraq, driving Iraq's significant HPI improvement.



For more data...

To access the complete country dataset from the UNDP Human Development Report 2009, visit the Economic and Social Database (ESDB) on the USAID AllNet at <http://esdb.eads.usaidallnet.gov/>. The ESDB also offers related datasets, country profiles, and specialized charts and graphs.