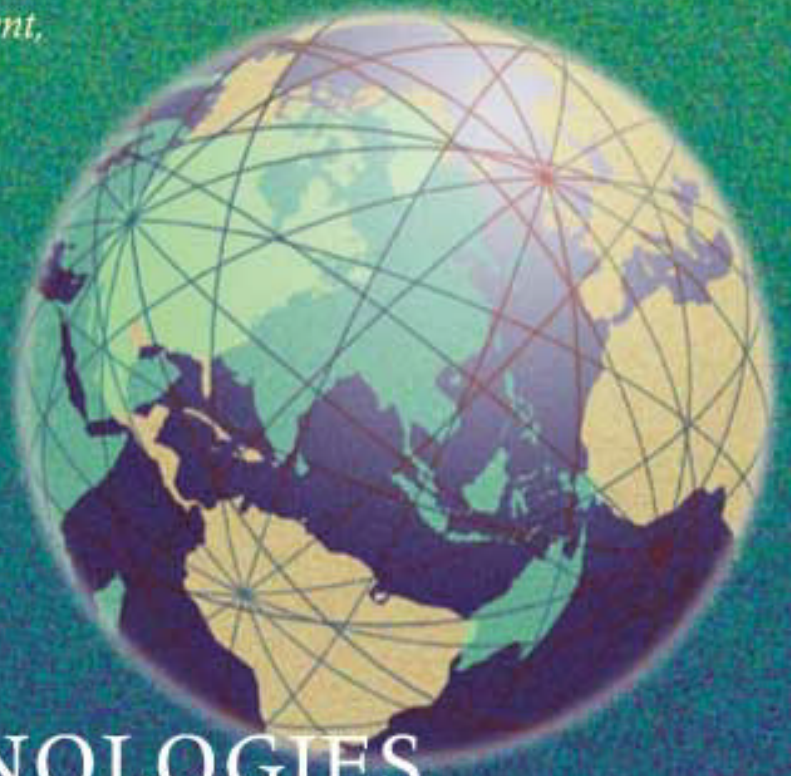


# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2001

*Press Kit*

*Technology networks are transforming  
the traditional map of development,  
expanding people's horizons  
and creating the potential  
to realize in a decade  
progress that required  
generations in the past*



**M**AKING  
**N**EW **T**ECHNOLOGIES  
**W**ORK FOR  
**H**UMAN **D**EVELOPMENT

**The *Human Development Report 2001* will be released on 10 July. The report and press kit are embargoed until 10:00 am GMT on that day.**

Dear Editor,

The ***Human Development Report 2001***, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme, offers a timely and provocative analysis of the potential of biotech and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for developing countries. It argues that these new technologies can play a huge role in reducing world poverty, and refutes the view that technology is primarily a luxury for people in rich countries.

In addition to assessing the technology achievements of 72 countries, the Report takes a fresh look at controversial issues including genetically-modified foods ("frankenfoods"), intellectual property rights (including rights to AIDS drugs) and the brain drain. In each case, it offers specific policy ideas that are likely to evoke strong reactions from both the right and the left.

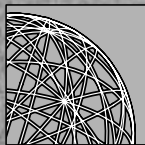
As in previous years, the Report ranks 162 countries according to their level of human development. It also includes a new analysis of the progress of countries towards meeting international development targets, including the goals agreed upon by world leaders at September's Millennium Summit.

I am confident that the Report will serve as a source for both news stories and editorials, and as an important reference over the coming year as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diallo', is written over the signature line.

Djibril Diallo  
Director, Communications Office  
Office of the Administrator



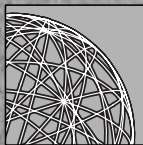
# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2001

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The HDI measures a country's achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income

HDI rank	HDI rank	HDI rank
High human development	Medium human development	Low human development
1 Norway	49 Trinidad and Tobago	89 Tunisia
2 Australia	50 Latvia	90 Iran, Islamic Rep. of
3 Canada	51 Mexico	91 Cape Verde
4 Sweden	52 Panama	92 Kyrgyzstan
5 Belgium	53 Belarus	93 Guyana
6 United States	54 Belize	94 South Africa
7 Iceland	55 Russian Federation	95 El Salvador
8 Netherlands	56 Malaysia	96 Samoa (Western)
9 Japan	57 Bulgaria	97 Syrian Arab Republic
10 Finland	58 Romania	98 Moldova, Rep. of
11 Switzerland	59 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	99 Uzbekistan
12 Luxembourg	60 Macedonia, TFYR	100 Algeria
13 France	61 Venezuela	101 Viet Nam
14 United Kingdom	62 Colombia	102 Indonesia
15 Denmark	63 Mauritius	103 Tajikistan
16 Austria	64 Suriname	104 Bolivia
17 Germany	65 Lebanon	105 Egypt
18 Ireland	66 Thailand	106 Nicaragua
19 New Zealand	67 Fiji	107 Honduras
20 Italy	68 Saudi Arabia	108 Guatemala
21 Spain	69 Brazil	109 Gabon
22 Israel	70 Philippines	110 Equatorial Guinea
23 Greece	71 Oman	111 Namibia
24 Hong Kong, China (SAR)	72 Armenia	112 Morocco
25 Cyprus	73 Peru	113 Swaziland
26 Singapore	74 Ukraine	114 Botswana
27 Korea, Rep. of	75 Kazakhstan	115 India
28 Portugal	76 Georgia	116 Mongolia
29 Slovenia	77 Maldives	117 Zimbabwe
30 Malta	78 Jamaica	118 Myanmar
31 Barbados	79 Azerbaijan	119 Ghana
32 Brunei Darussalam	80 Paraguay	120 Lesotho
33 Czech Republic	81 Sri Lanka	121 Cambodia
34 Argentina	82 Turkey	122 Papua New Guinea
35 Slovakia	83 Turkmenistan	123 Kenya
36 Hungary	84 Ecuador	124 Comoros
37 Uruguay	85 Albania	125 Cameroon
38 Poland	86 Dominican Republic	126 Congo
39 Chile	87 China	
40 Bahrain	88 Jordan	
41 Costa Rica		
42 Bahamas		
43 Kuwait		
44 Estonia		
45 United Arab Emirates		
46 Croatia		
47 Lithuania		
48 Qatar		
		127 Pakistan
		128 Togo
		129 Nepal
		130 Bhutan
		131 Lao People's Dem. Rep.
		132 Bangladesh
		133 Yemen
		134 Haiti
		135 Madagascar
		136 Nigeria
		137 Djibouti
		138 Sudan
		139 Mauritania
		140 Tanzania, U. Rep. of
		141 Uganda
		142 Congo, Dem. Rep. of the
		143 Zambia
		144 Côte d'Ivoire
		145 Senegal
		146 Angola
		147 Benin
		148 Eritrea
		149 Gambia
		150 Guinea
		151 Malawi
		152 Rwanda
		153 Mali
		154 Central African Republic
		155 Chad
		156 Guinea-Bissau
		157 Mozambique
		158 Ethiopia
		159 Burkina Faso
		160 Burundi
		161 Niger
		162 Sierra Leone





# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2001

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## New technologies key to reducing world poverty

*But market failures impede progress*

**Mexico City, 10 July 2001**—At last year's G8 Summit, protestors mocked international efforts to channel technology towards the needs of the poor. "We can't eat computers," complained the leader of a group campaigning for debt relief. "People are dying." To underscore the point, members of the group set fire to a laptop computer on an Okinawa beach. And within international development circles, some have worried that the technology "fad" might distract donors and draw resources from more traditional development goals.

But this year's ***Human Development Report***, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and released today, argues that information and communications technology and biotechnology can actually make major contributions to reducing world poverty. UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown warns, "Ignoring technological breakthroughs in medicine, agriculture and information will mean missing opportunities to transform the lives of poor people."

Breakthrough medical technologies have already raised life expectancies quickly and dramatically—even in poor countries without much health infrastructure. For instance, a new oral rehydration therapy (ORT) and improved vaccines reduced the number of deaths from major childhood illnesses in developing countries by about three million between 1980 and 1990—an especially impressive achievement given that it came during a "lost decade" when income growth in most of those countries was stagnant or negative.<sup>1</sup> The development of vaccines for HIV, malaria and tuberculosis, as well as lesser known diseases such as sleeping sickness and river blindness, could also save the lives of millions of people each year in developing countries.<sup>2</sup>

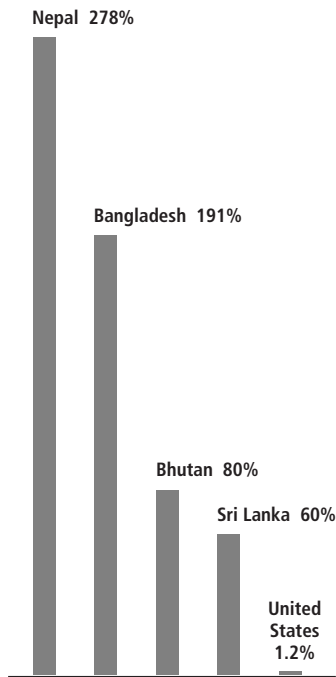
The Report concludes that information and communications technology (ICT) can also make an important development impact, because it can overcome barriers of social, economic and geographical isolation, increase access to information and education, and enable poor people to participate in more of the decisions that affect their lives. In assessing the potential of ICT, the Report notes new opportunities for poor people in terms of political empowerment (such as the global e-mail campaign that helped topple Philippine President Estrada in January); health networks (as in Gambia and Nepal); long distance learning (as in Turkey); and job creation (as in Costa Rica, India and South Africa). Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, the lead author of the Report, argues that this is just the beginning: "ICT is truly a breakthrough technology for democracy and expansion of knowledge for poor people." The Report points to low-cost computers and low-literacy touch-screens as examples of technologies now under devel-

<sup>1</sup> For more on ORT and vaccines, see HDR 2001 pages 28-29.

<sup>2</sup> For more on the potential of biotech, see HDR 2001 page 34.

FIGURE 4.1  
**The cost of being connected**

Monthly Internet access charge  
 as a percentage of average monthly income



Source: Human Development Report Office calculations based on ITU 2000 and World Bank 2001h.

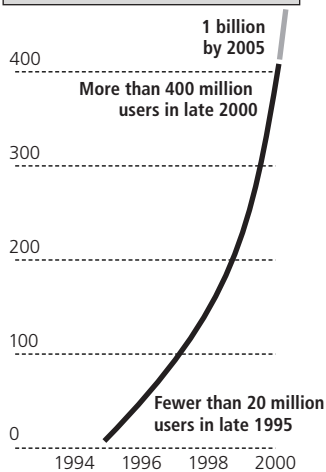
**Internet users**  
 (as percentage of population)

	1998	2000
United States	26.3	54.3
High-income OECD (excl. US)	6.9	28.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.8	3.2
East Asia and the Pacific	0.5	2.3
Eastern Europe and CIS	0.8	3.9
Arab States	0.2	0.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.1	0.4
South Asia	0.04	0.4
<b>World</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>

Source: Human Development Report Office calculations based on data supplied by Nua Publish 2001 and UN 2001c.

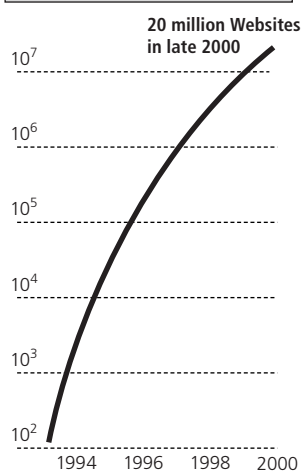
### Rapid Advances in Information and Communications Technology

**More people have access . . .**  
 Millions of Internet users



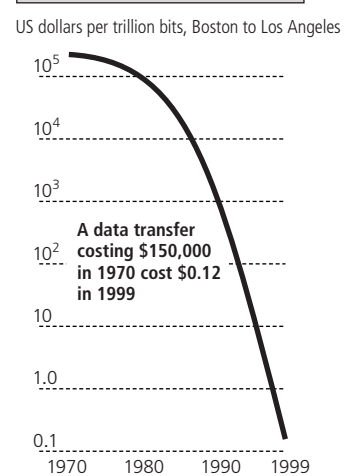
Source: Nua Publish 2001.

**. . . to more information . . .**  
 Number of Websites



Source: Robert Hobbes Zakon. 2000. Hobbes Internet Timeline

**. . . at a lower cost**  
 Transmission cost



Source: Cox and Alm. 1999. The New Paradigm

opment that have great potential for empowering the poor.<sup>3</sup>

But the Report also concludes that many of the most important technology opportunities for poor people have so far been missed because of lack of market demand and inadequate public funding. Technology creators in the private sector respond to the needs of high-income consumers, rather than the needs of those who have little purchasing power. Public sector funding and incentives for research and development could compensate for these market failures but, says the Report, governments in both developing and developed countries have so far failed to provide the support needed.

As a result, only 10 percent of global health research focuses on the illnesses that constitute 90 percent of the global disease burden. For instance, in 1998 global spending on health research was US\$70 billion, but just \$300 million was dedicated to vaccines for HIV/AIDS and about \$100 million to malaria research. The Report concludes that agricultural and energy research focused on the specific needs of developing countries is also being neglected.<sup>4</sup>

The diffusion of technology has been just as uneven. Developed (OECD) countries have 80 percent of the world's Internet users. The total international bandwidth for all of Africa is less than in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. The total bandwidth for all of Latin America is roughly equal to that of Seoul, Korea.<sup>5</sup>

Much older technologies have yet to reach the world's poor either. Electricity, in widespread use since the invention of the light bulb in the 1870s, is still not accessible for some two billion people, a third of the world's population. Two billion people also do not have access to low cost essential medicines such as penicillin that were mostly developed decades ago.<sup>6</sup>

**ABOUT THIS REPORT:** Every year since 1990, the United Nations Development Programme has commissioned the **Human Development Report** ([www.undp.org/hdro](http://www.undp.org/hdro)) by an independent team of experts to explore major issues of global concern. The Report looks beyond per capita income as a measure of human progress by also assessing it against such factors as average life expectancy, literacy and overall well-being. It argues that human development is ultimately "a process of enlarging people's choices."

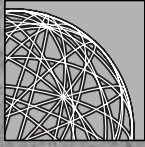
The **Human Development Report** is published in English by Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Rd., Cary, NC 27513, USA. Telephone (919) 677-0977; toll free in the USA (800) 451-7556; fax (919) 677-1303.

<sup>3</sup> For more on using ICT to empower the poor, see HDR 2001 pages 32-33.

<sup>4</sup> For more on disparities in R&D, see HDR 2001 pages 39,109-110.

<sup>5</sup> For more on the digital divide, see HDR 2001 pages 39-42.

<sup>6</sup> For more on unequal access to older technologies, see HDR 2001 page 41.



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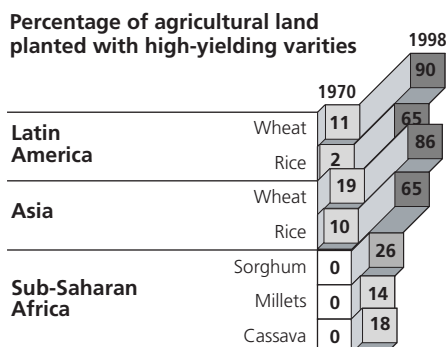
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## Although controversial, GMOs could be breakthrough technology for developing countries

**Mexico City, 10 July 2001**—The *Human Development Report 2001*, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and released today, concludes that many developing countries might reap great benefits from genetically-modified foods, crops, and other organisms (GMOs). While acknowledging that there are environmental and health risks that need to be addressed, it stresses the unique potential of GM techniques for creating virus resistant, drought—tolerant and nutrient—enhanced crops. These crops could significantly reduce malnutrition, which still affects more than 800 million people worldwide, and would be especially valuable for poor farmers working marginal lands in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>1</sup>

The Report thus urges far greater public investment in research and development to ensure that biotechnology meets the agricultural needs of the world's poor. "We can't count on the private sector alone to do the job," says Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, the lead author of the Report, noting that for-profit research mostly caters to the needs of high-income consumers, rather than those in developing countries who have little purchasing power. The Report points out in particular that there is an urgent need to develop modern varieties of millet, sorghum and cassava, which are staple foods for poor people in many developing countries.

Mark Malloch Brown, the Administrator of UNDP, agrees, noting that such public investments are already producing impressive results. He points to a recent successful effort by UNDP, the Japanese Government and other international partners to develop new varieties of rice. "These varieties have 50 percent higher yields, mature 30 to 50 days earlier, are substantially richer in protein; are far more disease and drought tolerant, resist insect pests and can even out-compete weeds. And they will be especially useful because they can be grown without fertilizer or herbicides, which many poor farmers can't afford anyway. This initiative shows the enormous potential of biotech to improve food security in Africa, Asia and Latin America."<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> For more on biotech's potential for developing countries, see HDR 2001 pages 34-35,43-44,75.

<sup>2</sup> For more information about the New Rice for Africa, see <http://www.undp.org/dpa/frontpagearchive/2001/april/04apr01/index.html>

For three years, sales in Europe of GM corn, tomatoes, potatoes and cotton—often described in the media as “Frankenstein foods”—have been put on hold because of fears over potential health and environmental hazards. The **Human Development Report** argues that GMO risks can be managed, but that most developing countries will need help in doing so. It points out that problems with biotechnology and food safety are often the result of poor policies, inadequate regulation and lack of transparency. (For instance, poor management by European regulators led to the spread of mad cow disease). These challenges can be especially great in developing countries where resources are scarce and expertise is often lacking.<sup>3</sup> The Report points to Argentina and Egypt as examples of developing countries that are moving forward in creating national guidelines, approval procedures and research institutes to evaluate GMO risks.<sup>4</sup>

According to the Report, current debates in Europe and the United States over new biotechnologies mostly ignore the concerns and needs of the developing world. Western consumers naturally focus on potential allergic reactions and other food safety issues. People in developing countries, however, may be more interested in better crop yields, nutrition, or the reduced need to spray pesticides that can sicken farmers. Meanwhile, multinational biotech companies, eager for sales, tend to play down the difficulties that developing countries may have in managing the environmental risks posed by GMOs. “The voices of people in poor countries—who stand to gain or lose the most from these new technologies—have not yet been heard,” says Ms. Fukuda-Parr.<sup>5</sup>

Finally, the Report calls for more research into the long-term impacts of GMOs and advocates labeling genetically modified products so that consumers make informed choices. Australia, Brazil, Japan and the United Kingdom already require such labels, and surveys show that more than 80 percent of consumers in the United States want them as well.<sup>6</sup>

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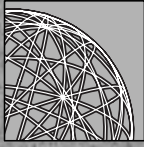
<sup>3</sup> See HDR 2001 page 73 for more details.

<sup>4</sup> For more on the steps taken by Argentina and Egypt, see HDR 2001 page 76.

<sup>5</sup> For more on this see HDR 2001 page 69.

<sup>6</sup> For more on public participation and labeling see HDR 2001 page 71-72.





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## Some developing countries become hi-tech leaders while others fall far behind

*Success depends on encouragement of innovation, skills and access*

**Mexico City, 10 July 2001**—The *Human Development Report 2001*, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and released today, includes a ranking indicating the world's leading hubs of technological innovation and achievement. Not surprisingly, many of these hubs are in Europe, Japan and the US. But there are also world-class hubs in developing countries—including Campinas and São Paulo, Brazil; Bangalore, India; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Gauteng, South Africa; and El Ghazala, Tunisia.

Each of these technology hubs brings together research institutes, business start-ups and venture capital. But the Report draws particular attention to the fact that, through information and communications technology, these hubs are increasingly linked to each other and to the global economy more generally. For instance, hubs are increasingly using the Internet to provide real-time services for clients all over the world. Technology-oriented businesses now typically have research facilities in several countries and outsource production worldwide.

This year's Report also includes, for the first time, a Technology Achievement Index (TAI). The index ranks 72 countries in terms of their overall achievement in creating and using technology. Finland is ranked first, followed by the US, Sweden and Japan. Finland's lead over the United States is largely because a higher percentage of its citizens are using the Internet and because it has a greater

TABLE 2.5  
Investing in domestic technology capacity

Country or group	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (percent)		Share of tertiary enrolment in science (percent) 1995-97
	1980	1997	
Korea, Rep. of	15	68	34.1
Singapore	8	43	62.0
Sweden	31	55 <sup>a</sup>	30.6
Thailand	15	22 <sup>a</sup>	20.9
United States	56	81 <sup>a</sup>	17.2
Developing countries	7	9 <sup>a</sup>	27.6
High-income OECD	39	64 <sup>a</sup>	28.2

a. Refers to earlier year.

Source: Human Development Report Office calculations based on UNESCO 1999 and 2001a and World Bank 2001h.



TABLE 2.6  
**Competing in global markets: the 30 leading exporters of high-tech products**

Rank	Country or area	Billions of US dollars, 1998–99	Index (1990=100)
1	United States	206	250
2	Japan	126	196
3	Germany	95	206
4	United Kingdom	77	255
5	Singapore	66	420
6	France	65	248
7	Korea, Rep. of	48	428
8	Netherlands	45	310
9	Malaysia	44	685
10	China	40	1,465
11	Mexico	38	3,846
12	Ireland	29	535
13	Canada	26	297
14	Italy	25	177
15	Sweden	22	314
16	Switzerland	21	231
17	Belgium	19	296
18	Thailand	17	591
19	Spain	11	289
20	Finland	11	512
21	Denmark	9	261
22	Philippines	9	1,561
23	Israel	7	459
24	Austria	7	172
25	Hungary	6	..
26	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	5	111
27	Brazil	4	364
28	Indonesia	3	1,811
29	Czech Republic	3	..
30	Costa Rica	3	7,324

Source: Human Development Report Office calculations based on data from Lall 2000 and UN 2001a.

percentage of citizens who are educated in advanced sciences. (The index does not measure technological might or global leadership.)

More recently industrialized countries are also prominent in the index—the Republic of Korea (fifth) is ahead of the UK (seventh), Canada (eighth), Singapore (10th), Germany (11th) and Norway (12th). Mexico, which ranked 32nd, is listed among the “emerging leaders” in technological achievement.

The TAI also shows that having a world-class technology hub is not sufficient to ensure the diffusion of technology across an entire country. India, home to one of the world’s most dynamic hubs, still ranks only 63rd in the TAI, behind Zimbabwe, Syria and Paraguay. This is because Bangalore, where much of India’s new technology is concentrated, is a small enclave in a country where the average adult receives only about five years of education. More than 40 percent of adults in India are illiterate, electricity consumption is half that in China, and there are just 29 telephones per 1,000 persons.<sup>1</sup>

The *Human Development Report 2001* stresses that in this network age, any country that fails to make effective use of technology is likely to find itself falling behind in human development and marginalized in the global economy. It concludes that all countries, even the poorest, need to implement policies that encourage innovation, advanced skills and access to new technologies.

“Not all countries can be at the cutting edge of technological advance” said Nancy Birdsall, Special Adviser to the Administrator of UNDP. “But in today’s knowledge-based global market, every country, no matter how poor, needs to build its own capacity to master and adapt global technologies to local needs. That means investing in secondary education and university research and creating incentives for firms to train their workers.”<sup>2</sup>

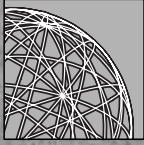
The Report notes that in every technologically advanced country today, governments have provided incentives and funding for education and training. But not enough resources have been mobilized, from either domestic or international sources, to do the same in many developing countries.

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<sup>1</sup> For more on technology inequalities within countries, see HDR 2001 page 38,40

<sup>2</sup> For more on such national policies, see HDR 2001 Chapter Four (pages 79-93)



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## HDR calls for R&D, differential pricing and IPR support to help developing countries bridge tech divide

**Mexico City, 10 July 2001**—This year's *Human Development Report (HDR)*, released today, urges global initiatives to ensure that new technologies address the most pressing needs of the world's poor people. It calls for greater international funding for research and development; differential pricing between rich and poor countries for medicine and other essential high-tech products; and fair implementation of global intellectual property rights (IPR), including compulsory licensing of patents.

Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, the lead author of the Report, states: "No government can single-handedly cope with global market failures and lack of public investment in new technologies designed to suit the needs of developing countries. And these issues are simply too important for the international community to ignore. Governments in both developed and developing countries need to recognise that technology policy affects a host of development issues including public health, education and job creation."

The Report cites an especially urgent need for research in the following areas:

- Vaccines for malaria, HIV and tuberculosis as well as lesser-known diseases like sleeping sickness and river blindness;
- High-yielding and drought-tolerant varieties of sorghum, cassava, maize and other staple foods of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia;
- Low-cost computers and wireless connectivity for poor people and isolated communities;
- Low-cost energy systems, including solar power, to bring electricity to the two billion people who currently have no access to it.

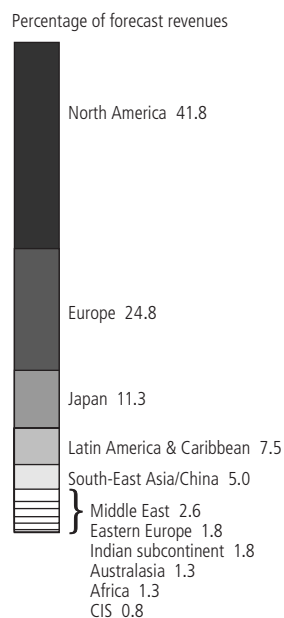
It suggests that rich countries and international financial institutions could support a global effort to create incentives and new partnerships for research and development. Noting recent contributions from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other private sources in the industrialized world, it also suggests that developing countries could introduce tax incentives to encourage their own billionaires to set up foundations. Rich individuals from Brazil to Saudi Arabia to India to Malaysia could help fund regionally relevant research.

The Report also endorses the proposal, made by the head of research at Novartis, that high-tech companies devote a percentage of their profits to research on non-commercial products.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For more on these suggested initiatives, see HDR 2001 pages 111-112.



**Pharmaceutical sales in the global market, 2002**



Source: IMS HEALTH 2000.

On the issue of differential pricing, the Report notes that, while an effective global market would encourage different prices in different countries for products such as pharmaceuticals, the current system does not. With high-tech products, where the main cost to the seller is usually research rather than production, such tiered pricing could lead to an identical product being sold in poor countries for just one-tenth—or one-hundredth—the price in Europe or the United States.

But drug companies and other technology producers fear that knowledge about such discounting could lead to a demand for lower prices in rich countries as well. They have tended to set global prices that are unaffordable for the citizens of poor countries (as with many AIDS drugs). “Part of the battle to establish differential pricing must be won through consumer education,” Ms. Fukuda-Parr states. “The citizens of rich countries must understand that it is only fair for people in developing countries to pay less for medicines and other critical technology products.” The Report suggests that the issue of differential prices should be focused on in upcoming international trade negotiations.<sup>2</sup>

The *Human Development Report 2001* also concludes that developing countries need help in implementing the World Trade Organization agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). For low-income countries, implementing and enforcing intellectual property rights put stress on scarce resources and administrative skills. “Without good advice on creating national legislation that makes the most of what TRIPS allows, many countries can legislate themselves into a disadvantageous position,” says Ms. Fukuda-Parr. “The high costs of disputes with the world’s leading nations are daunting, discouraging developing countries from asserting their legal rights.”

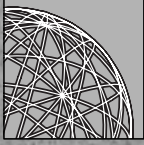
The Report notes, for example, that the TRIPS agreement includes safeguard provisions such as compulsory licensing and parallel importing to ensure access to high-tech products of overriding national importance. It notes that such provisions are already in widespread use in Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States for products including pharmaceuticals, computers and tow trucks. They are often justified as antitrust measures to prevent reduced competition and higher prices. But so far these provisions have not been used by developing countries.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For more on differential pricing, see HDR 2001 pages 7,107.

<sup>3</sup> For more on TRIPS, see HDR 2001 pages 102-109.



# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2001

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## “Brain drain” costs developing countries billions

*Human Development Report suggests ways to recoup some of the losses*

**Mexico City, 10 July 2001**—Rich nations have been opening their doors to developing country professionals—at a high cost to the home countries. For instance, about 100,000 Indian professionals each year, primarily in the computer industry, are expected to accept new visas recently issued by the United States. According to the *Human Development Report 2001*, released today, the average total costs to India of providing a university education to one of these professionals is about US\$15,000–\$20,000. This means India is losing as much as \$2 billion a year in resources as a result of this emigration to the United States.<sup>1</sup>

But the Report also notes that these diasporas can also be a valuable resource for the countries from which they originate. Nancy Birdsall, Special Adviser to the Administrator of UNDP, says that “In a global market, people with the right skills will naturally migrate to the high-tech, high-wage frontier, wherever it is. But we do see signs that when countries create the right conditions—including openness to new investment and new ideas—they can recapture some of what they have lost. The Indians in Silicon Valley are an important part of Bangalore’s success.”

The Report notes that contributions from Indians in Silicon Valley and other technology hubs have helped raise the endowments of some of India’s universities. Many Indian-launched firms who have “front offices” in the United States also have opened manufacturing plants back home, and are making increasing investments in hi-tech training for local workers.<sup>2</sup>

The Report suggests that, to further recoup their education investments, developing countries might follow the United States model, where individuals are taxed on the basis of nationality, not residence. (This would require negotiating bilateral tax treaties.) Alternatively, each university student could be required to take out a loan (equivalent to the subsidy provided by the state) that would have to be eventually repaid if the student left the country.<sup>3</sup>

The Republic of Korea has focused on encouraging skilled emigrants to return, rather than invest at home. Intensive recruiting programmes search out older professionals and scholars and offer them salaries competitive with overseas incomes, better working conditions, and help with housing and children’s schooling. Visiting professor programmes allow the Republic of Korea to tap the expertise of those uncertain about returning home for good. These initiatives, backed by the country’s improved economy, have produced strong results. In the 1960’s, just 16 percent of Korean scientists and engineers with doctorates from the United States returned to Korea. In the 1980s, that share jumped to about two-thirds.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For details see HDR 2001 page 92.

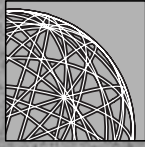
<sup>2</sup> See HDR 2001 page 91.

<sup>3</sup> See HDR 2001 page 92

<sup>4</sup> See HDR 2001 page 92

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## Most countries not on track to meet UN's 2015 goals

*Human Development Report data indicates need for new initiatives*

**Mexico City, 10 July 2001**—Last September at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed on a set of quantified and monitorable goals for development and poverty eradication to achieve by the year 2015.<sup>1</sup> But, according to new analysis in the *Human Development Report 2001*, many countries are not on track to achieve these goals.

- Ninety-three countries, with 62 percent of the world's population, are not on track to reduce under five mortality by two-thirds by 2015. Eleven million children below age five still die every year from preventable causes—about 30,000 a day.
- Similarly, 83 countries, with 70 percent of the world's population, are not on track to halve the share of their citizens without access to safe drinking water. Nearly one billion people still need such access.
- Seventy-four countries, with more than one-third of the world's population, are not on track to halve income poverty by 2015. Worldwide, there are still 1.2 billion people who live on less than \$1 a day.

### Millennium Declaration goals for development and poverty eradication: how are countries doing?

Goal (for 2015)	Progress Status					Number of countries far behind or slipping			
	Achieved	On track	Lagging	Far behind	Slipping	Total	LDCs	Sub-Saharan Africa	
<b>Gender equality</b>									
Eliminate disparity in primary education	15	57	2	13	1	14	9	9	
Eliminate disparity in secondary education	39	25	3	16	2	18	10	12	
<b>Infant and child mortality</b>									
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES									
Reduce infant mortality rates by two-thirds <sup>a</sup>	63	14	73	9	82	27	35		
Reduce under-five mortality rates by two-thirds	66	17	66	10	76	26	34		
<b>Maternal mortality</b>									
Reduce maternal mortality ratios by three-quarters	13	49	46	37	37	27	31		
<b>Basic amenities</b>									
Halve the proportion of people without access to safe water	18	32	42	41	41	27	26		
<b>Hunger</b>									
Halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger	6	37	3	23	17	40	16	21	
<b>Universal education</b>									
Enrol all children in primary school	5	27	4	13	9	22	9	10	
Achieve universal completion of primary schooling	8	32	28	15	15	11	11		
<b>Extreme income poverty</b>									
Halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty	Business-as-usual growth pattern		11	4	39	31	70	14	17
	Pro-poor growth pattern		29	6	19	31	50	9	13

/Note: This analysis excludes high-income OECD countries. See technical note 3 for an explanation of the assessments of progress and for information on the data sources used. LDCs are least developed countries.  
a. International development goal.

<sup>1</sup> For the text of the Millennium Declaration, see <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>



TABLE 1.1 Serious deprivations in many aspects of life	
<b>Developing countries</b>	
<i>Health</i>	
968 million people without access to improved water sources (1998)	
2.4 billion people without access to basic sanitation (1998)	
34 million people living with HIV/AIDS (end of 2000)	
2.2 million people dying annually from indoor air pollution (1996)	
<i>Education</i>	
854 million illiterate adults, 543 million of them women (2000)	
325 million children out of school at the primary and secondary levels, 183 million of them girls (2000)	
<i>Income poverty</i>	
1.2 billion people living on less than \$1 a day (1993 PPP US\$), 2.8 billion on less than \$2 a day (1998)	
<i>Children</i>	
163 million underweight children under age five (1998)	
11 million children under five dying annually from preventable causes (1998)	
<b>OECD countries</b>	
15% of adults lacking functional literacy skills (1994–98)	
130 million people in income poverty (with less than 50% of median income) (1999)	
8 million undernourished people (1996–98)	
1.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS (2000)	

Source: Smeeding 2001b; UNAIDS 2000a, 2000b; UNESCO 2000b; World Bank 2000d, 2001b, 2001c, 2001f; WHO 1997, 2000b; OECD and Statistics Canada 2000.

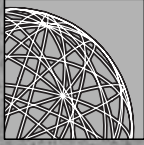
“Without accelerated progress in addressing the needs of the world’s poorest people, these goals will not be achieved,” said Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, lead author of the Report.

On the hopeful side, the majority of developing countries for which data exists are expected to meet Millennium goals for universal primary education and gender equity in education. “Because education is important for so many areas of development, the major advances in this area give us hope that the other goals can be achieved as well,” Ms. Fukuda-Parr noted.

For more on how countries are doing in meeting the Millennium goals, please see **Human Development Report 2001** pages 21-25.

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## Norway is now first, US sixth in human development

*Many countries in Africa, former Soviet Union continue to fall backward*

**Mexico City, 10 July 2001**—The annually updated Human Development Index (HDI) ranks 162 countries by a composite measure that includes life expectancy, educational enrolment and adult literacy, and income per person.

Norway is now ranked first in the world and Australia second. Both moved narrowly ahead of Canada, the leader for the previous six years, as a result of new figures for life expectancy and educational enrolment. Canada fell in the rankings even though its per capita income rose by 3.75 percent.

The United States dropped from third to sixth place. The US ranks high in per capita income, second only to Luxembourg. But it is only 12th in educational enrolment and 24th in life expectancy. In life expectancy, the US is not only behind Japan (which is the only country in the world where the average child born today can expect to live over 80 years) but also Spain, Greece and Cyprus.

Sierra Leone, where a child born today will probably die before reaching the age of 39, and only 32 percent of the adults can read, is ranked last. The bottom 28 countries on the Index are all in Africa.

In most countries the HDI has been on the rise over the past 25 years; some such as Egypt, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Portugal have achieved particularly large increases. But in 20 countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union it has been falling.

**The Human Development Report 2001** also measures inequalities between men and women. For instance, it notes that in 27 countries—including Honduras, Mozambique and Russia—a decreasing percentage of girls are attending secondary school.

TABLE 1.2

### Countries suffering setbacks in the human development index

HDI lower than in 1975	HDI lower than in 1980	HDI lower than in 1985	HDI lower than in 1990	HDI lower than in 1995
Zambia	Romania Russian Federation Zimbabwe	Botswana Bulgaria Burundi Congo Latvia Lesotho	Belarus Cameroon Kenya Lithuania Moldova, Rep. of South Africa Swaziland Ukraine	Malawi Namibia

Source: Indicator table 2.

TABLE 1.3

**Countries where girls' net secondary enrolment ratio declined, 1985–97**

Arab States	Asia and the Pacific	Eastern Europe and the CIS	Latin America and the Caribbean	Sub-Saharan Africa
Bahrain Iraq Kuwait Qatar Syrian Arab Republic	Mongolia	Bulgaria Croatia Estonia Georgia Kyrgyzstan Latvia Romania Russian Federation	Bolivia Ecuador Haiti Honduras	Angola Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Côte d'Ivoire Equatorial Guinea Guinea Lesotho Mozambique

Note: Refers to declines of 5 percent or more.

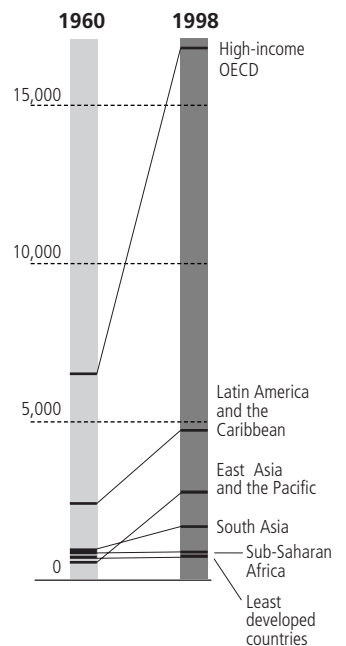
Source: UNIFEM 2000.

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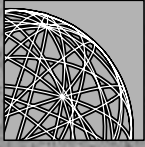
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FIGURE 1.6  
**Widening income gap between regions**

GDP per capita (1985 PPP US\$)



Source: Human Development Report Office calculations based on World Bank 2001g.



# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2001

## About UNDP: Partnerships to Fight Poverty

*The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's principal provider of development advice, advocacy and grant support. With 132 country offices, it has long enjoyed the trust and confidence of governments and NGOs in many parts of the developing as well as the developed world. It is typically regarded as a partner rather than an adversary, and its commitment to a universal presence has proven especially useful in post-conflict situations and with states that had been otherwise isolated from the international community.*

Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator

Last September, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders pledged to cut poverty in half by 2015. UNDP is now charged with helping to make this happen. Its focus is on providing developing countries with knowledge-based consulting services and building national, regional and global coalitions for change. UNDP has specialized expertise in the following areas:

- ❖ **Democratic Governance:** Democracy has made impressive gains worldwide over the past 25 years. But the challenge remains to develop political, legal and regulatory frameworks that are more responsive to the needs of ordinary people, including the poor. Developing-country governments in every region have asked UNDP to help them meet this challenge.
- ❖ **Poverty Reduction:** UNDP is helping developing countries plan and implement nationally-owned strategies and solutions for reducing poverty. The goal is to address the multi-dimensional roots of poverty, including through the creation of economic opportunity; the empowerment of women and the protection of human rights; participatory approaches to government budgeting; and the better delivery of social services. UNDP also helps monitor progress toward the 2015 Millennium Summit goals.
- ❖ **Energy and Environment:** Environmental degradation hits the poor the hardest since they are especially vulnerable to problems such as water contamination, land degradation, air pollution. The poor are also the ones in greatest need

of access to clean affordable energy. UNDP is leading the United Nations effort in building national capacity for environmentally sustainable development, by promoting global best practices and supporting catalytic interventions.

- ❖ **Peace-Building and Disaster Mitigation:** Many countries are now presented with violent conflicts or recurrent natural disasters that can erase decades of development progress and further entrench poverty and inequality. UNDP supports innovative approaches to crisis prevention, early warning and conflict resolution; assists in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance; and helps bridge the gap between emergency relief and long-term development.
- ❖ **HIV/AIDS:** Because AIDS kills mostly people in the 15-49 year age group, it is uniquely devastating in terms of increasing poverty. UNDP is helping developing countries prepare, fund and implement strategic HIV/AIDS plans that mobilize all sectors of government and civil society. As an active supporter of South-South cooperation, it is facilitating access to knowledge and best practices from around the world.

- ❖ **Information and Communications Technology:** UNDP is helping developing countries craft viable National Information Infrastructure Policies to encourage greater connectivity and greater competition, thereby cutting transaction costs for delivering public services to the poor and helping them to become entrepreneurs in their own right. And as a provider of knowledge-based consulting services, UNDP employs ICT solutions in every aspect of its work.

In each country office, the UNDP Resident Representative normally also serves as the Resident Coordinator of development activities for the United Nations system as a whole. Through such coordination, UNDP seeks to ensure the most effective use of UN and international aid resources.

UNDP also engages in extensive advocacy work about poverty issues. Its widely-cited Human Development Report ranks every country each year in areas such as per-capita income, literacy, life expectancy and respect for women's rights. The goal is to put people back at the centre of the development process.



In addition, UNDP has helped more than 120 developing countries produce their own National Human Development Reports, which provide a basis for informed local debate about priorities and policies. These Reports also help donor governments to measure the impact of their aid dollars, and to communicate the way in which aid is making a positive difference both to direct beneficiaries and to electorates at home.

UNDP is now hiring a new generation of practitioners who want to contribute to the fight against poverty and can offer strategic approaches to long-standing problems. Information about these job opportunities, and UNDP more generally, can be found at <http://www.undp.org> ■

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