

**Sustainability and Equity:
A Better Future for All**



Explanatory note on 2011 HDR composite indices

Afghanistan

HDI values and rank changes in the 2011 Human Development Report

Introduction

The 2011 Human Development Report presents 2011 Human Development Index (HDI) values and ranks for 187 countries and UN-recognized territories, along with the Inequality-adjusted HDI for 134 countries, the Gender Inequality Index for 146 countries, and the Multidimensional Poverty Index for 109 countries. Country rankings and values in the annual Human Development Index (HDI) are kept under strict embargo until the global launch and worldwide electronic release of the Human Development Report. The 2011 Report will be launched globally in November 2011.

It is misleading to compare values and rankings with those of previously published reports, because the underlying data and methods have changed, as well as the number of countries included in the HDI. The 187 countries ranked in the 2011 HDI represents a significant increase from the 169 countries included in the 2010 Index, when key indicators for many countries were unavailable.

Readers are advised in the Report to assess progress in HDI values by referring to Table 2 ('Human Development Index Trends') in the Statistical Annex of the report. Table 2 is based on consistent indicators, methodology and time-series data and thus shows real changes in values and ranks over time reflecting the actual progress countries have made.

For further details on how each index is calculated please refer to Technical Notes 1-4 in the 2011 Report and the associated background papers available on the Human Development Report website.

Human Development Index (HDI)

The HDI is a summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. As in the 2010 HDR a long and healthy life is measured by life expectancy, access to knowledge is measured by: i) mean years of adult education, which is the average number of years of education received in a life-time by people aged 25 years and older; and ii) expected years of schooling for children of school-entrance age, which is the total number of years of schooling a child of school-entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates stay the same throughout the child's life. Standard of living is measured by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita expressed in constant 2005 PPP\$.

To ensure as much cross-country comparability as possible, the HDI is based primarily on international data from the UN Population Division, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and the World Bank. As stated in the introduction, the HDI values and ranks in this year's report are not comparable to those in past reports (including the 2010 HDR) because of a number of revisions done to the component indicators by the mandated agencies. To allow for assessment of progress in HDIs, the 2011 report includes recalculated HDIs from 1980 to 2011.

Afghanistan's HDI value and rank

Afghanistan's HDI value for 2011 is 0.398—in the low human development category—positioning the country at 172 out of 187 countries and territories. Between 1980 and 2011, Afghanistan's HDI value increased from 0.198 to 0.398, an increase of 101.0 per cent or average annual increase of about 2.3 per cent.

The rank of Afghanistan's HDI for 2010 based on data available in 2011 and methods used in 2011 is 172 out of 187 countries. In the 2010 HDR, Afghanistan was ranked 155 out of 169 countries. However, it is misleading to compare values and rankings with those of previously published reports, because the underlying data and methods have changed, as well as the number of countries included in the HDI.

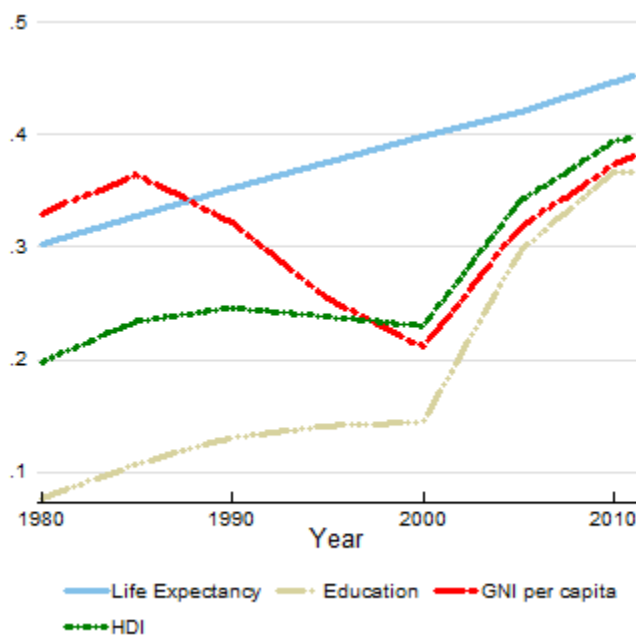
Table A reviews Afghanistan's progress in each of the HDI indicators. Between 1980 and 2011, Afghanistan's life expectancy at birth increased by 9.5 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2.6 years and expected years of schooling increased by 7.4 years. Afghanistan's GNI per capita increased by about 41.0 per cent between 1980 and 2011.

Table A: Afghanistan's HDI trends based on consistent time series data, new component indicators and new methodology

	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Means years of schooling	GNI per capita (2005 PPP\$)	HDI value
1980	39.2	1.7	0.8	1,002	0.198
1985	40.8	2.2	1.2	1,271	0.234
1990	42.3	2.6	1.5	948	0.246
1995	43.8	2.4	1.9	589	0.238
2000	45.3	2.2	2.2	435	0.230
2005	46.6	7.6	2.6	913	0.340
2010	48.3	9.1	3.3	1,351	0.394
2011	48.7	9.1	3.3	1,416	0.398

Figure 1 below shows the contribution of each component index to Afghanistan's HDI since 1980.

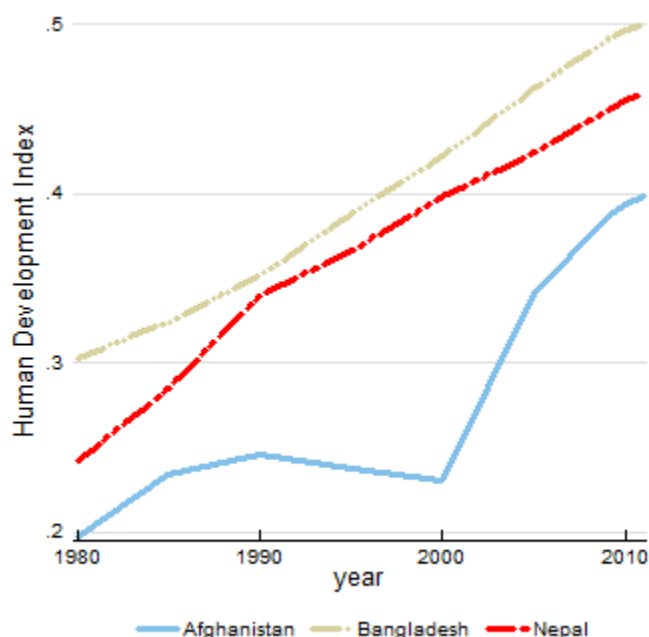
Figure 1: Trends in Afghanistan's HDI component indices 1980-2011



Assessing progress relative to other countries

Long-term progress can be usefully assessed relative to other countries—both in terms of geographical location and HDI value. For instance, during the period between 1980 and 2011 Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh experienced different degrees of progress toward increasing their HDIs (See Figure 2).

Figure 2: Trends in Afghanistan's HDI 1980-2011



Afghanistan's 2011 HDI of 0.398 is below the average of 0.456 for countries in the low human development group and below the average of 0.548 for countries in South Asia. From South Asia, countries which are close to Afghanistan in 2011 HDI rank and population size are Nepal and Bangladesh which have HDIs ranked 157 and 146 respectively (see Table B).

Table B: Afghanistan's HDI indicators for 2011 relative to selected countries and groups

	HDI value	HDI rank	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	GNI per capita (PPP US\$)
Afghanistan	0.398	172	48.7	9.1	3.3	1,416
Nepal	0.458	157	68.8	8.8	3.2	1,160
Bangladesh	0.500	146	68.9	8.1	4.8	1,529
South Asia	0.548	—	65.9	9.8	4.6	3,435
Low HDI	0.456	—	58.7	8.3	4.2	1,585

Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI)

The HDI is an average measure of basic human development achievements in a country. Like all averages, the HDI masks inequality in the distribution of human development across the population at the country level. The 2010 HDR introduced the 'inequality adjusted HDI (IHDI)', which takes into account inequality in all three dimensions of the HDI by 'discounting' each dimension's average value according to its level of inequality. The HDI can be viewed as an index of 'potential' human development and IHDI as an index of actual human development. The 'loss' in potential human development due to inequality is given by the difference between the HDI and the IHDI, and can be expressed as a percentage. (For more

details see the technical note 2). Due to a lack of relevant data, the IHDI has not been calculated for this country.

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity. Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and adolescent fertility rates; empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by each gender and attainment at secondary and higher education by each gender; and economic activity is measured by the labour market participation rate for each gender. The GII replaced the previous Gender-related Development Index and Gender Empowerment Index. The GII shows the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in the three GII dimensions. (For more details on GII please see Technical note 3 in the Statistics Annex.)

Afghanistan has a GII value of 0.707, ranking it 141 out of 146 countries in the 2011 index. In Afghanistan, 27.6 per cent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 5.8 per cent of adult women have reached a secondary or higher level of education compared to 34.0 per cent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 live births, 1,400 women die from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent fertility rate is 118.7 births per 1000 live births. Female participation in the labour market is 33.1 per cent compared to 84.5 for men.

In comparison Nepal and Bangladesh are ranked at 113 and 112 respectively on this index.

Table D: Afghanistan's GII for 2011 relative to selected countries and groups

	GII value	GII Rank	Maternal mortality ratio	Adolescent fertility rate	Female seats in parliament (%)	Population with at least secondary education (%)		Labour force participation rate (%)	
						Female	Male	Female	Male
Afghanistan	0.707	141	1,400	118.7	27.6	5.8	34.0	33.1	84.5
Nepal	0.558	113	380	103.4	33.2	17.9	39.9	63.3	80.3
Bangladesh	0.550	112	340	78.9	18.6	30.8	39.3	58.7	82.5
South Asia	0.601	—	252	77.4	12.5	27.3	49.2	34.6	81.2
Low HDI	0.606	—	532	98.2	18.2	18.7	32.4	54.6	82.7

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

The 2010 HDR introduced the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which identifies multiple deprivations in the same households in education, health and standard of living. The education and health dimensions are based on two indicators each while the standard of living dimension is based on six indicators. All of the indicators needed to construct the MPI for a household are taken from the same household survey. The indicators are weighted, and the deprivation scores are computed for each household in the survey. A cut-off of 33.3 percent, which is the equivalent of one-third of the weighted indicators, is used to distinguish between the poor and nonpoor. If the household deprivation score is 33.3 percent or greater, that household (and everyone in it) is multidimensionally poor. Households with a deprivation score greater than or equal to 20 percent but less than 33.3 percent are *vulnerable* to or at risk of becoming multidimensionally poor. Due to a lack of relevant data, the MPI has not been calculated for this country.