The next frontier: Human development and the Anthropocene

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What is human development?

• A paradigm that puts people at the centre of development, to:
  o Treat people as both the means and ends of development
  o Emphasize expanding people’s capabilities and opportunities
  o Help us make the most of our lives . . .
    ▪ . . . But not at the expense of future generations
  o Human development, sustainable development—cousins

• Progress can be measured by the human development index (HDI)

• Principal architects:
  o Mahbub Ul Haq—first head of UNDP’s Human Development Report Office
  o Amartya Sen—recipient of 1998 Nobel prize in economics
30th anniversary report

• Focuses on:
  o Renewing human development for the Anthropocene
  o Mechanisms to catalyze change
  o New human development metrics

• Key principles:
  o Stewardship
  o Equity
  o Innovation

• Key mechanisms:
  o Incentives and regulations
  o Nature-based systems
  o Social norms, values
The human development index (HDI)—What is it?

A measure of people’s abilities to live long, productive lives

If a country had the best scores on these 3 dimensions, its HDI would be 1.0

A multi-dimensional welfare indicator, going beyond income

Underlying data are collected from national sources by IMF, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDESA (not UNDP)
### HDI levels, progress in Kyrgyzstan, neighbouring countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HDI 2019</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>0.825</td>
<td>(51st)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>0.824</td>
<td>(52nd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>0.761</td>
<td>(85th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>0.720</td>
<td>(106th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>0.715</td>
<td>(112th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>0.697</td>
<td>(120th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>0.668</td>
<td>(125th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>0.511</td>
<td>(169th)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cumulative HDI growth (2000-2019):**

- **Very high human development:** 46%
- **High human development:** 29%
- **Medium human development:** 20%
- **Low human development:** 20%

**Source:** UNDP Human Development Report Office (2019 data).
**Inequalities—Gender disaggregated HDIs (Kyrgyzstan)**

- **Women’s HDI**—Well below men’s
  - Women: 0.677
  - Men: 0.707

- **Main cause—Income gaps**
  - Women’s labour market exclusion plays large role
  - Women: 45%
  - Men: 76%

- **Per-capita GNI** (in PPP terms, 2017 prices)
  - Women: $2,971
  - Men: $6,798

Source: UNDP Human Development Report Office (data for most recent year).
A new era needs new metrics—Adjusting the HDI for planetary pressures (PHDI)

- HDIs are adjusted for per-capita:
  - greenhouse gas emissions
  - material footprint

- Planetary pressures grow as human development increases
  - Gaps between country points and line of equality widen

- Is “decoupling” possible?
  - It’s easier for greenhouse gas emissions than for material footprints

Kyrgyzstan compares well on PHDI

Kyrgyzstan’s human development losses due to planetary pressures are relatively small.

Change in PHDI ranking compared to HDI ranking:
- Kazakhstan: -46
- Turkmenistan: -18
- China: -16
- Russia: -14
- Kyrgyzstan: 11
- Tajikistan: 12
- Uzbekistan: 15

Kyrgyzstan compares well—but will the gap widen as human development progresses?

UNDP Human Development Report Office data.
Is decarbonisation easier than waste management?

Changes in per-capita greenhouse gas emissions (2010-2017)

Many countries have decoupled human development from greenhouse gas emissions (but not Kyrgyzstan 😞)

World average (0%)

UNDP Human Development Report Office data.
It’s harder to decouple human development progress from material footprints . . . 😞

Changes in per-capita material footprints (2010-2017)

- Tajikistan: 35%
- China: 30%
- Russia: 28%
- Kyrgyzstan: 18%
- Turkmenistan: 16%
- Kazakhstan: 14%
- Uzbekistan: 7%

World average (11%)

UNDP Human Development Report Office data.
The way forward—Green economy suggestions

- HDR emphasizes: Incentives, regulations, social norms, values
- Incentives—reduce fossil fuel subsidies, to:
  - Finance reductions in inequality, via:
    - Investing in social protection, closing gaps in safety nets
    - Reductions in taxes on labour, to boost good job creation
  - Support investments in:
    - Waste management
    - Renewable energy
    - Water, energy efficiency
    - Ecotourism

*UNDP calculations, based on averages for 2015, 2017 IMF data.*
More green economy suggestions

• Regulation:
  o Green urban planning, that integrates
    ▪ Waste management
    ▪ Biodiversity protection
  o Strengthen enforcement of waste management regulations

• Social norms and values:
  o How to make “reduce, reuse, recycle” a household phrase?
  o Local community engagement, empowerment for nature-based solutions:
    ▪ Sustainable forestry
    ▪ Ecotourism
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