

◎ MEASURING PROGRESS



BASIC CAPABILITIES INDEX 2008

Alarmingly slow progress

At the current rate of progress, Sub-Saharan Africa would only reach the satisfaction of basic needs in 2353, Central Asia in 2042 and, except for Europe and North America, none of the other regions would reach the basic minimum level before 2022.

Poverty is and will continue to be the lack of access to goods and services which are basic to human welfare. Measuring it through monetary levels only provides an approximation to the phenomenon, the implication being that all of these needs can be satisfied by buying them on the open market. Poverty, therefore, becomes endogenous to the capitalist system itself, a system in which "money is all-powerful". Consequently, poverty continues, very conveniently, to be measured through the intermediation of money and not by means of the direct measurement of a person's welfare.

On the other hand, those of us who consider that poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and that many of the dimensions involved should be dealt with from a conceptual framework based on the rights of persons (and not on markets), also think that the welfare of a country's population can be assessed and monitored through observation of the levels of access to goods and services which these rights guarantee – independently of the means through which they are obtained.

Social Watch has been monitoring a major set of human welfare dimensions which are accessible through statistics available at international level. Although they are not all that we would wish, they do constitute a fairly comprehensive set. On the basis of the countries' situation in each and every one of these areas, it has been possible to determine levels and to monitor evolution.

The creation of the Basic Capabilities Index (BCI) has slightly simplified this task. This index, composed of basic indicators for which there is a

good deal of information in most countries, has enabled a closer follow-up of the performance of each country in connection with its citizens' minimum needs.

Reaching an acceptable BCI does not imply a high level of social development. It only means that a country has achieved universal coverage of those essential minimum needs indispensable for advancing towards greater welfare. As has been underlined since its inception, the maximum BCI level is a starting point and not the finishing line.

The BCI Tool

Social Watch has developed the BCI as a way to identify poverty not based on income.¹ The poverty-related indicators most widely used internationally are the World Bank estimates of the number of people living on less than one or two dollars a day, or the United Nations Development Programme ranking based on the Human Development Index, which combines income figures with health- and education-related indicators. The BCI is comparatively easier to construct and it is feasible to implement it at sub-national and municipal levels, without requiring expensive household surveys as income-based indices do. By not us-

ing income, the BCI is consistent with the definitions of poverty based on the deprivation of capabilities and the denial of human rights.

The BCI is based on three indicators: percentage of children who reach fifth grade, survival until the fifth year of age (based on mortality amongst children under five) and percentage of deliveries assisted by skilled health personnel. These indicators express different dimensions addressed by internationally agreed development goals (education, children's health and reproductive health). Likewise, research indicates that as a summary index, the BCI provides a general overview consistent with the health status and the basic educational performance of a given population.

The highest possible BCI score is reached when all women receive medical assistance during labour, no child leaves school before completing the fifth grade and infant mortality is reduced to its lowest possible level of less than five deaths for every thousand live births. These indicators are closely linked to the capabilities that members of society should have and which mutually reinforce one another to make it possible to achieve higher levels of individual and collective development. They focus especially on capabilities which incorporate the youngest members of society, thereby fostering future development.

The usefulness of the BCI lies in that it has proven to be closely correlated to measurements of other human capabilities related to the social development of countries. This index assigns a score to each country, thereby making it possible to compare it with other countries and to assess its evolution over time.

¹ The current formulation of the BCI was designed by the Social Watch Research Team, on the basis of an idea first developed as the "Quality of Life Index" by Action for Economic Reforms, for the Social Watch coalition in the Philippines. This, in turn, was inspired in the Capability Poverty Measure (CPM) proposed by Professor Amartya Sen and popularised by the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index (HDI).

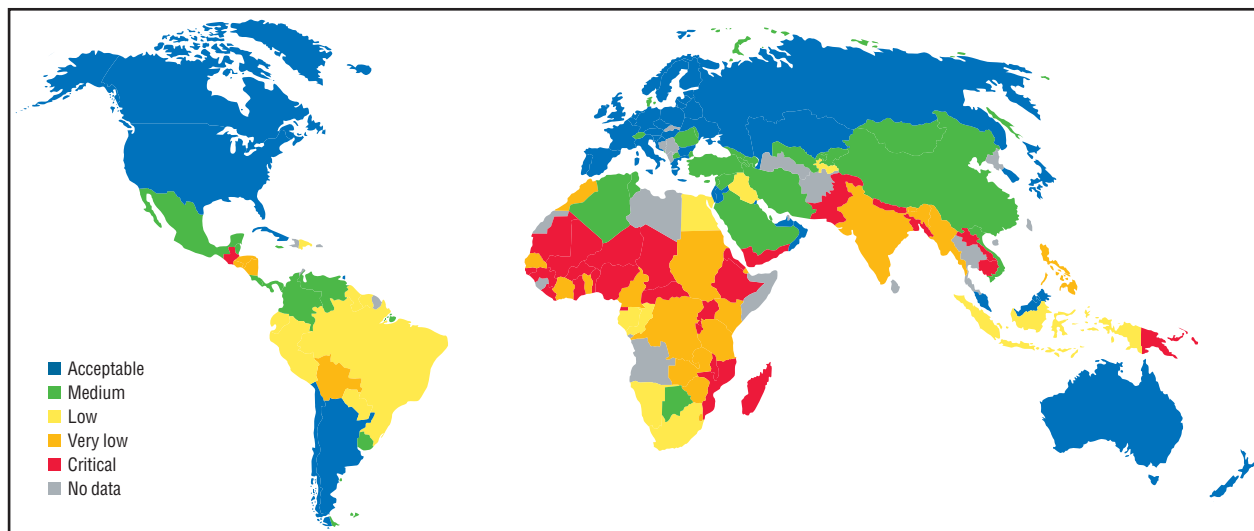


CHART 1. BCI and BCI evolution by countries' BCI level

CRITICAL LEVEL		VERY LOW LEVEL			LOW LEVEL			MEDIUM LEVEL			ACCEPTABLE LEVEL			
Country	BCI	BCI Evolution	Country	BCI	BCI Evolution	Country	BCI	BCI Evolution	Country	BCI	BCI Evolution	Country	BCI	BCI Evolution
Chad	42	←	Cameroon	70	←	Zimbabwe	80		Vietnam	90	→	Denmark	98	←
Afghanistan	52	←	Gambia	70	→	Bolivia	80	→	Colombia	90	→	Sri Lanka	98	→
Niger	52	←	Kenya	71	→	Guyana	81	←	Cook Islands	90	→	Kazakhstan	98	→
Rwanda	53	→	Togo	71		Solomon Islands	82	→	China	90	→	Argentina	98	→
Ethiopia	54	→	Senegal	71	→	Sao Tome & Prin.	82	→	Panama	91		New Zealand	98	
Bangladesh	57		India	71	→	Gabon	82	→	Singapore	92	→	St Lucia	98	
Burundi	58	→	Lesotho	72		Ecuador	83	→	Iran	92	←	Mauritius	98	
Lao, PDR	58	→	Nicaragua	72	→	Iraq	83	→	Brazil	92		Kuwait	98	→
Equatorial G.	59		Zambia	73	→	Indonesia	84	→	Grenada	92	←	Libya	98	→
Uganda	59		Tanzania	73	→	Tajikistan	85		Botswana	92		Russian Federation	98	→
Timor-Leste	60	→	Djibouti	75	→	Azerbaijan	85	←	Turkey	92	→	Ukraine	98	→
Guinea-Bissau	61	→	Sudan	76	←	Namibia	85	←	Cape Verde	93		Bulgaria	99	→
Sierra Leone	61	→	Burma/Myanmar	76	→	Paraguay	85	→	Belize	93	→	Fiji	99+	→
Madagascar	61		Swaziland	77		Suriname	86	←	St Vincent and Gren.	93		United Arab Em.	99+	
Yemen	61	←	Philippines	77	→	Peru	86	→	Marshall Islands	93	→	United States of Am.	99+	→
Angola	62	→	Honduras	78	→	Maldives	86	→	Syria	94	→	United Kingdom	99+	→
Malawi	62	←	Bhutan	78	→	Vanuatu	87	←	Algeria	94		Cuba	99+	
Nigeria	63		Comoros	79	→	Dominican Rep.	88		Albania	94	←	Belgium	99+	→
Pakistan	64	→	El Salvador	79	→	Kiribati	88		Mexico	94	→	Barbados	99+	→
Burkina Faso	64	→	Congo, Rep.	79	→	Egypt	88	→	Costa Rica	95	←	Bahamas	99+	→
Cent. African R.	65	→	Côte d'Ivoire	79	→	Tuvalu	89		Venezuela	95		Belarus	99+	→
Liberia	65	→	Morocco	79	→	South Africa	89	→	Tonga	95		Oman	99+	→
Nepal	65	→				Georgia	89	←	Trinidad and Tobago	95	←	Bahrain	99+	
Mozambique	66	→						Jamaica	95	→	Palau	99+	→	
Mauritania	66							Kyrgyzstan	95		Latvia	99+	→	
Guinea	66							St Kitts and Nevis	95		Malaysia	99+		
Ghana	66							Tunisia	95	→	Lithuania	99+	→	
Cambodia	66	→						Lebanon	95	→	Hungary	99+	→	
Eritrea	67	→						Mongolia	96		Croatia	99+	→	
Papua N. G.	68	→						Armenia	96	→	Canada	99+	→	
Benin	68	←						Romania	96	←	Portugal	99+	→	
Guatemala	68	→						Macedonia	96		France	99+		
Mali	69	→						Moldova	96		Japan	99+	→	
Congo, DR	69	→						Qatar	96		Slovenia	99+	→	
								Thailand	96		Cyprus	99+		
								Uruguay	96		Spain	99+	→	
								Saudi Arabia	97	→	Czech Republic	99+		
								Slovakia	97		Estonia	99+		
								Switzerland	97		Australia	99+	→	
								Samoa	97		Italy	99+		
								Dominica	97	→	Korea. Rep.	99+		
								Luxembourg	97	←	Greece	99+	→	
								Jordan	97		Poland	99+		
											Brunei Darussalam	99+	→	
											Malta	99+		
											Chile	99+		
											Netherlands	99+		
											Finland	99+		
											Israel	99+		
											Ireland	99+		
											Iceland	99+		
											Sweden	99+	→	
											Norway	99+		
											Germany	99+	→	

NOTE: Countries presenting a +99 value had already reached a BCI value of 99 by the year 2000.

References: ← Major regression ← Regression || Stagnant → Slight progress → Significant progress

The BCI 2008 was calculated for 176 countries, which were then grouped into various categories. The most serious situations are to be found in countries with *critical* BCI scores (less than 70 points). In the *very low* BCI category (70 to 79 points) there are countries that also face very significant obstacles in achieving the well-being of the population. Countries with *low* BCI scores (80 to 89 points) are at an intermediate level as regards the satisfaction of basic needs and their performance varies in some of the aspects of development. The countries which have succeeded in satisfying most or all of their populations' basic capabilities have been placed in the two categories with the highest BCI values (*medium*, 90 to 97 points, and *acceptable*, 98 to 99+ points). As has already been pointed out, belonging to these last two groups does not imply a high level of development, but only the fulfilment of basic levels of well-being.

Recent evolution

The 2008 BCI presents the situation on the basis of the latest available indicators (which date from around 2005). Its evolution is determined by means of a comparison with the values of the 2004 BCI (from around 2000).

A country-by-country analysis of the situation shows that close to half of the countries (76 of 153) have made progress since 2000. Figures show that 15% (24 countries) have regressed whereas 37% (56 countries) have not experienced significant changes during the period analysed.

Some countries in East Asia and the Pacific and in Latin America and the Caribbean have suffered a setback with regard to their basic capabilities, but the countries which have most regressed in their BCI are mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Regression has been major (over 5% of the BCI value) in seven cases. This is particularly disturbing since these countries are regressing from what are already *low*, *very low* or even *critical* BCI levels. This means that in some countries regression is getting worse, thus increasing the existing gap with the rest of the world (Chart 2).

Regional disparities

Different regional realities may be observed both in the index levels obtained and in the differential evolution of these levels. Regions in which basic capabilities are almost satisfied and concerns regarding social development involve targets which transcend the minimum levels indispensable for survival, coexist with others which are very distant from the minimum satisfaction of needs.

The magnitude of the gap shown by the BCI, with levels close to 99 in more advanced countries in Europe and North America and close to 70 in less advanced countries (in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, is already, in strictly numerical terms, extremely distressing: these numbers refer, precisely and exclusively, to the coverage of basic needs which any human being should enjoy. However, the real situation behind these differences is even harsher: critical BCI levels indicate serious difficulties in every dimension of social development. As an example, and with regard only to index components (directly related to

TECHNICAL NOTES: BCI DESIGN BY COUNTRY

Indicators that make up the BCI:

- Percentage of children in the first grade who reach the fifth grade.
- Mortality amongst children under five.
- Percentage of births assisted by skilled health personnel.

To increase the number of countries with sufficient information to construct the index, values were assigned for the indicators where information was lacking. This was done by assigning the average value of that indicator for the group the country was in as defined by its current situation in the thematic area in question.

The BCI was calculated by using the non-weighted average of the original values of the three indicators in question (in the case of infant mortality a lineal transformation was previously applied to the indicator). To simplify the calculations all three indicators were given the same weight.

Child health is represented as I1 = (100 - M), survival rate up to 5 years of age, where M is the under-5 mortality rate (expressed as a percentage) or the probability of death in the first five years of life expressed as per 1,000 live births.

Education is represented as I2, where I2 is the rate of school retention or the percentage of children enrolled in the first grade who reach the fifth grade in the required number of years.

Reproductive health is shown as I3, where I3 is the percentage of births assisted by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives).

The Basic Capabilities Index value for a particular country is obtained by taking a simple average of the three components:

$$BCI = (I1 + I2 + I3) / 3$$

CHART 2. Number of countries by present BCI level according to evolution since 2000

	Critical level	Very low level	Low level	Medium level	High level	Total
Major regression ←	2	1	4	0	0	7
Regression ←	3	1	2	8	0	14
Stagnation	8	4	4	18	22	56
Slight progress →	8	8	6	8	25	55
Significant progress →	5	8	3	4	1	21
Total	26	22	19	38	48	153

CHART 3. BCI change by region (%)

Region	BCI 2008	Change 2000-latest available data (%)
Sub-Saharan Africa	70	0.7
South Asia	71	6.6
East Asia & Pacific	88	1.9
Latin America & Caribbean	90	1.4
Middle East & North Africa	92	1.6
Central Asia	93	0.6
Europe	98	0.5
North America	99	3.1

all of the social development dimensions analysed by Social Watch), in some of these countries only 5% of births are assisted by skilled medical personnel or, every year, one in every four children under five dies and, with luck, a little over half of the children who start school will reach fifth grade.

Almost 20 points higher are East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and Central Asia, with

values between 88 and 93, figures which, although higher, are still worrying. These regions have not yet achieved the satisfaction of minimum capabilities. The only regions which have achieved acceptable levels are Europe and North America.

An analysis of the evolution of these levels is even more discouraging: except for South Asia, which has recently evolved very favourably, all of the regions display very irregular patterns of growth.

South Asia started off from a very low level with regard to deficiencies in conditions of life as measured by the BCI and despite the accelerated evolution of the last few years, the regional situation is still extremely critical, barely above that of Sub-Saharan Africa (Chart 3).

Likewise, the situation in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is already very low according to its 70 BCI, excludes any hope of short, medium or even long-term changes by displaying an average evolution of 0.7%.

A discouraging future

Targets were set in the 1990s in an attempt to improve all of the social development indicators (World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen); in 2000 some of these challenges were re-launched (even lowering some of the aspirations) during the Millennium Summit. Marketing operatives and campaigns launched to show the world that poverty is a concern have been successful; however, the steps which followed have proved disappointing. We reached the year 2000 without fulfilling what we had undertaken in 1990 and there is every indication that the goals will not be achieved by 2015. It is also reasonable to think that, once the failure to achieve

CHART 4. BCI forecasts per region							
FOR BCI 2008	BCI 2000	BCI 2008	BCI 2015	YEAR IN WHICH REGION WILL ACHIEVE BCI			
				BCI 70	BCI 80	BCI 90	BCI 98
Sub-Saharan Africa	69	70	70		2133	2256	2353
South Asia	64	71	85			2018	2022
Middle East & North Africa	90	92	93				2032
Latin America & the Caribbean	88	90	93				2027
East Asia & the Pacific	86	88	91				2031
Central Asia	92	93	94				2042
North America	96	99	99				
Europe	98	98	99				
	CRITICAL	VERY LOW	LOW		MEDIUM		ACCEPTABLE

the Millennium Goals is confirmed, we may witness, in 2014, the launching of an alternative campaign for 2015-2030. However, if substantial changes do not occur, current rates of progress will still not be enough. Chart 4 shows the BCI's forecasts for each region if current tendencies are maintained.

At the present rate of progress, Sub-Saharan Africa will only reach the starting point – the satisfaction of basic needs – towards the year 2353. The

scant progress registered during the last few years makes the date at which decent development may be achieved unthinkable – if not frankly ridiculous.

Central Asia, whose rate of progress is significantly higher, would be reaching that point 42 years after the Millennium Summit. And, except for Europe and North America, no other region will be able to reach that basic minimum level before 2022, if the current rate of progress does not improve. ■

FOOD SECURITY

The high cost of basic rights

References

CURRENT SITUATION

(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION

(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- ⏸ Stagnant
- ➔ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDER- NOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (%)	UNDER-5 CHILD MALNUTRITION (underweight for age, %)
—	Afghanistan (52)			39
⏸	Albania (94)	6 ⏸	7	8
➔	Algeria (94)	4 ⏸	6	4 ➔
⏸	Angola (62)	35 ➔	12	31 ➔
—	Antigua and Barbuda (—)		5	
⏸	Argentina (98)	3 ⏸	7	4
➔	Armenia (96)	24 ➔	8	4
⏸	Australia (99)	<2.5 ⏸	7	
⏸	Austria (—)	<2.5 ⏸	7	
➔	Azerbaijan (85)	7 ➔	12	7
⏸	Bahamas (99)	8 ⏸	7*	
—	Bahrain (99)		8	9*
➔	Bangladesh (57)	30 ➔	22	48 ➔
⏸	Barbados (99)	<2.5 ⏸	13	
⏸	Belarus (99)	4 ⏸	4	1
⏸	Belgium (99)	<2.5 ⏸	8*	
➔	Belize (93)	4 ➔	6	7
➔	Benin (68)	12 ➔	16	23 ➔
—	Bhutan (78)		15	19
➔	Bolivia (80)	23 ➔	7	8 ➔
⏸	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	9 ⏸	5	2
➔	Botswana (92)	32 ➔	10	13
➔	Brazil (92)	7 ➔	8	6* ⏸
⏸	Brunei Darussalam (100)	4 ⏸	10	
⏸	Bulgaria (99)	8 ⏸	10	
⏸	Burkina Faso (64)	15 ➔	16	37 ➔
➔	Burma/Myanmar (76)	5 ➔	15	32 ⏸
➔	Burundi (58)	66 ➔	11	39 ⏸
➔	Cambodia (66)	33 ➔	11	36
⏸	Cameroon (70)	26 ➔	11	19 ➔
⏸	Canada (99)	<2.5 ⏸	6	
—	Cape Verde (93)		13*	
➔	Central African Republic (65)	44 ➔	13	29
➔	Chad (42)	35 ➔	22	37 ⏸
➔	Chile (100)	4 ➔	6	1 ⏸
➔	China (90)	12 ➔	2	7 ➔
➔	Colombia (90)	13 ➔	9	7 ⏸
➔	Comoros (79)	60 ➔	25	25
➔	Congo, DR (69)	74 ➔	12	31
➔	Congo, Rep. (79)	33 ➔	13	14 ➔
—	Cook Islands (90)		3	10*

NOTE:

(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

SOURCE:

The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08/).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Undernourishment (%): Percentage of undernourished in the total population. Undernourishment is the result of food intake that is insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements continuously. The World Health Organization recommended that the average person needs to take in a minimum of 2300 kcal per day to maintain body functions, health and normal activity. This global minimum requirement of calories is broken down into country-specific differentials that are a function of the age-specific structure and body mass of the population. Last available data: 2002/2004; evolution since 1990-1992.

Estimated low birth weight (%): Percentage of newborns weighing less than 2.500 grams, with measurement taken within the first hours of life, before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred. Due to changes in the methodology of the sources the construction of data series presents comparability problems. Last available data: 1999/2006.

Under-5 child malnutrition (underweight for age, %): Percentage of children under five whose weight for age is less than minus two standard deviations from the median for the international reference population ages 0 to 59 months. The reference population adopted by the WHO in 1983 is based on children from the United States, who are assumed to be well nourished. Last available data: 1999/2006; evolution since 1990.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDER- NOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (%)	UNDER-5 CHILD MALNUTRITION (underweight for age, %)
←	Costa Rica (94)	5	7	5* ←
	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	13 →	17	20 ←
→	Croatia (99)	7 →	6	1*
→	Cuba (99)	<2.5 →	5	4
	Czech Republic (99)	<2.5	7	
	Denmark (98)	<2.5	5	
→	Djibouti (75)	24 →	10	29
←	Dominica (97)	8 ←	10	
→	Dominican Republic (88)	29	11	5 →
→	Ecuador (83)	6	16	9 →
→	Egypt (88)	4	14	6 →
→	El Salvador (79)	11	7	10 →
	Equatorial Guinea (59)		13	19
←	Eritrea (67)	75 ←	14	40
→	Estonia (99)	<2.5 →	4	
→	Ethiopia (54)	46 →	20	38 →
→	Fiji (99)	5 →	10*	
	Finland (100)	<2.5	4	
	France (99)	<2.5	7*	
	French Polynesia (—)	4		
→	Gabon (82)	5 →	14	12
←	Gambia (70)	29 ←	20	20
→	Georgia (89)	9 →	7	3
	Germany (100)	<2.5	7	
→	Ghana (66)	11 →	9	18 →
	Greece (100)	<2.5	8	
	Grenada (92)	7	9	
→	Guatemala (68)	22 →	12	23 →
→	Guinea (66)	24 →	12	26
←	Guinea-Bissau (61)	39 ←	24	19
→	Guyana (81)	8 →	13	14 →
→	Haiti (—)	46 →	25	22 →
→	Honduras (78)	23	10	11 →
	Hungary (99)	<2.5	9	
	Iceland (100)	<2.5	4	
→	India (71)	20 →	30*	46 →
→	Indonesia (84)	6 →	9	28 →
	Iran (91)	4	7*	11*
	Iraq (83)		15	8
	Ireland (100)	<2.5	6	
	Israel (100)	<2.5	8	
	Italy (99)	<2.5	6*	
→	Jamaica (95)	9 →	12	4 →
	Japan (99)	<2.5	8	
	Jordan (97)	6	12	4
←	Kazakhstan (98)	6 ←	6	4
→	Kenya (71)	31 →	10	20 →
	Kiribati (88)	7	5*	13
←	Korea, DPR (—)	33 ←	7	23
	Korea, Rep. (100)	<2.5	4	

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→	Kuwait (98)	5 →	7*	10*
→	Kyrgyzstan (95)	4 →	5	3
→	Lao, PDR (58)	19 →	14	40 →
	Latvia (99)	3	5	
	Lebanon (95)	3	6	4
	Lesotho (72)	13 →	13	20 ←
←	Liberia (65)	50 ←		26
	Libya (98)	<2.5	7*	5*
	Lithuania (99)	<2.5	4	
	Luxembourg (97)	<2.5	8	
→	Macedonia (96)	5 →	6	2
←	Madagascar (61)	38 ←	17	42
→	Malawi (62)	35 →	13	19 →
→	Malaysia (99)	3	9	8 →
→	Maldives (86)	10 →	22	30
	Mali (69)	29	23	33
	Malta (100)	<2.5	6	
	Marshall Islands (93)		12	
→	Mauritania (66)	10 →		32 →
→	Mauritius (98)	5	14	15* →
→	Mexico (94)	5	8	5 →
←	Micronesia (—)		18	15*
←	Moldova (96)	11 ←	6	4
→	Mongolia (95)	27 →	6	6 →
	Montenegro (—)		4	3
	Morocco (79)	6	15	10
→	Mozambique (66)	44 →	15	24
→	Namibia (85)	24 →	14	24
→	Nepal (65)	17 →	21	39
	Netherlands Antilles (—)	13		
	New Caledonia (—)	10		
	New Zealand (98)	<2.5	6	
→	Nicaragua (72)	27 →	12	10
→	Niger (52)	32 →	13	44
→	Nigeria (63)	9 →	14	29 →
	Niue (—)		0	
	Norway (100)	<2.5	5	
	Oman (99)		8	18*
	Pakistan (64)	24	19*	38
	Palau (99)		9*	
	Panama (91)	23	10	8*
	Papua New Guinea (68)		11*	
→	Paraguay (85)	15 →	9	5
→	Peru (86)	12 →	11	8 →
→	Philippines (77)	18 →	20	28 →
	Poland (100)	<2.5	6	
	Portugal (99)	<2.5	8	
	Qatar (96)		10	6*
	Romania (96)	<2.5	8	3
	Russian Federation (98)	3	6	3*

NOTE:

(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

SOURCE:

The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08/).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Undernourishment (%): Percentage of undernourished in the total population. Undernourishment is the result of food intake that is insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements continuously. The World Health Organization recommended that the average person needs to take in a minimum of 2300 kcal per day to maintain body functions, health and normal activity. This global minimum requirement of calories is broken down into country-specific differentials that are a function of the age-specific structure and body mass of the population. Last available data: 2002/2004; evolution since 1990-1992.

Estimated low birth weight (%): Percentage of newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams, with measurement taken within the first hours of life, before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred. Due to changes in the methodology of the sources the construction of data series presents comparability problems. Last available data: 1999/2006.

Under-5 child malnutrition (underweight for age, %): Percentage of children under five whose weight for age is less than minus two standard deviations from the median for the international reference population ages 0 to 59 months. The reference population adopted by the WHO in 1983 is based on children from the United States, who are assumed to be well nourished. Last available data: 1999/2006; evolution since 1990.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDER- NOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (%)	UNDER-5 CHILD MALNUTRITION (underweight for age, %)
→	Rwanda (53)	33 →	6	23 →
→	Samoa (97)	4 →	4*	
→	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	10 →	8	9
	Saudi Arabia (97)	4	11*	14*
→	Senegal (71)	20 →	19	17 →
	Serbia (—)		5	2
→	Seychelles (—)	9 →		
←	Sierra Leone (61)	51 ←	24	30
	Singapore (91)		8	3
←	Slovakia (97)	7 ←	7	
	Slovenia (99)	3	6	
→	Solomon Islands (82)	21 →	13*	
	Somalia (—)		11	36
	South Africa (89)	<2.5	15*	12
	Spain (99)	<2.5	6*	
→	Sri Lanka (98)	22 →	22	29 →
→	St Kitts and Nevis (95)	10 →	9	
→	St Lucia (98)	5 →	12	
→	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)	10 →	5	
←	Sudan (76)	26 →	31	41 ←
→	Suriname (86)	8 →	13	13
←	Swaziland (77)	22 ←	9	10
	Sweden (100)	<2.5	4	
	Switzerland (97)	<2.5	6	
	Syria (94)	4	9	10
←	Tajikistan (85)	56 ←	10	17 →
	Tanzania (73)	44 ←	10	22 →
→	Thailand (96)	22 →	9	9
	Timor-Leste (60)	9	12	46
→	Togo (71)	24 →	12	26
	Tonga (95)		3	
→	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	10 →	19	6
→	Tunisia (95)	<2.5	7	4 →
→	Turkey (92)	3	16*	4 →
→	Turkmenistan (—)	7 →	4	11
	Tuvalu (89)		5	
→	Uganda (59)	19 →	12	20
	Ukraine (99)	<2.5	4	1
	United Arab Emirates (99)	<2.5	15*	14*
	United Kingdom (99)	<2.5	8	
	United States of America (99)	<2.5	8	2*
→	Uruguay (96)	<2.5 →	8	5
←	Uzbekistan (—)	25 ←	5	5
	Vanuatu (87)	11	6	
	Venezuela (95)	18 ←	9	5 →
→	Vietnam (90)	16 →	7	25 →
	West Bank and Gaza (—)	16	7	3
←	Yemen (61)	38 ←	32*	46 ←
→	Zambia (73)	46	12	20 →
←	Zimbabwe (80)	47	11	17 ←

NOTE:

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The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08/).

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Last available data: 2002/2004; evolution since 1990-1992.

Estimated low birth weight (%): Percentage of newborns weighing less than 2.500 grams, with measurement taken within the first hours of life, before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred. Due to changes in the methodology of the sources the construction of data series presents comparability problems.
Last available data: 1999/2006.

Under-5 child malnutrition (underweight for age, %): Percentage of children under five whose weight for age is less than minus two standard deviations from the median for the international reference population ages 0 to 59 months. The reference population adopted by the WHO in 1983 is based on children from the United States, who are assumed to be well nourished.
Last available data: 1999/2006; evolution since 1990.

FOOD SECURITY

The high cost of basic rights

Today, in the world, every 24 hours, 100,000 people die of hunger, 30,000 of them children under the age of 5. Another 854 million people do not have enough food to cover their basic nutritional needs. This situation of extreme and generalized want persists and is heightened due to the ongoing food crisis, which particularly affects the poorest regions of the world.

The Heads of State and of Government at the 1996 World Food Summit reaffirmed "the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger"¹ and committed themselves to achieving food security and making an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger.

But if we are still far from achieving this fundamental human right, the upcoming scenario is even more alarming, since from 2007 there have been huge hikes in food prices at world level. The reasons for this are the following: climate change, precarious crops in different parts of the world, especially in Australia, the growing demands from the Asian market and developed countries for the use of food as biofuel. On the other hand, the constant rise of the oil price brings about associated costs increases, such as fertilizers and the transport of goods.

These factors, together with the fall in world food reserves and the lack of stability produced by speculation in the stock market, have contributed to generate a situation unknown until now. In developed countries the price hike has become the main preoccupation of the working classes. According to the World Bank, some 100 million people could be at risk as a consequence of the crisis.

Climate change and the world demand for bio energy are challenges to food security. The impact of climate change on the yield of agriculture, given the alteration between the availability of water, land, biodiversity and land ecosystem services, causes great uncertainty in the entire food chain. According to FAO, climate change will have consequences on world food security and affect the availability of food for 9 billion people by 2050.

Greater competition over agricultural resources for the production of bio energy exerts, in the long run, an unsustainable pressure on natural resources. Therefore, it is necessary to produce approaches that take into account the interrelationship between food security and socioeconomic and environmental sustainability, and that ensure the development of policies that protect food security in the wider context of measures taken with respect to climate change and bio energy.

In much the same way the uneven demographic growth between developed and developing zones, migration and urbanization, the new structures of the

¹ FAO, Committee on World Food Security, "Fostering the political will to fight hunger". Twenty-seventh Session, Rome, 28 May - 1 June 2001.

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in food security

		Under-5 child malnutrition (underweight for age, %)	Undernourishment (%)	Estimated low birth weight (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	38.6	41.6	23
	Number of countries	5	5	5
Better relative situation	Average	15.1	8.1	8.2
	Number of countries	26	62	65
Total	Average	24.7	17.9	11.6
	Number of countries	75	123	126

CHART 2. Current situation in food security by region (number of countries)

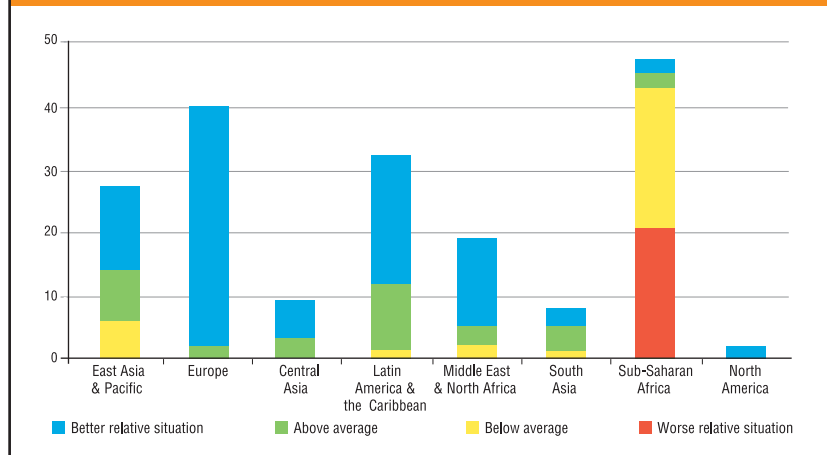


CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in food security (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Worse relative situation	1	2	0	1	1	5
Below average	3	5	4	9	7	28
Above average	2	4	10	8	4	28
Better relative situation	0	2	38	12	10	62
Total	6	13	52	30	22	123

agricultural food world market and new consumer patterns pose new challenges to the world food system.

In face of all these changes, the role of the State is crucial to ensure the articulation of agricultural production objectives, environmental sustainability and social redistribution of income; it is therefore the State's responsibility to promote development models that will ensure that goals are achieved in questions of food security.

The food gap

The study of the indicators in Chart 1 shows wide gaps in the food situation between countries in the better and worse relative situation. In the first group, on average, 8% of the population suffers undernourishment, while in the countries in the worse situation they are 40% of the population. In countries like Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of Congo the situation is intolerable: 75% of the population suffer undernourishment.

Also, in countries with greater deficiencies, 4 out of every 10 children under-5 suffer from mal-

nutrition, while in countries in the better relative situation, the relation is 3 for every 20. The more developed countries have zero cases for this indicator; therefore countries in the better relative situation do not necessarily reach the levels of countries in a developed state of food security.

Divergence by region

A geographic look at the world will show (Chart 2) that while in North America, Europe and Central Asia all the countries are in the better relative situation or above the world average, half those in Sub-Saharan Africa are in the most deficient situation or below the average.

Recent evolution (Chart 3) shows that more than 40% of countries register progress, while another 40% remains stagnant, although most show a satisfactory situation. The most worrying condition surfaces in countries with negative evolution, even in those that were in a poor situation to start with, such as Madagascar, Sierra Leone and Yemen. ■

EDUCATION

New technologies and old debts

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY (15-24 years old, %)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net, %)	CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net, %)	TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATE (gross, %)
	Afghanistan (52)	34.3				1.3
➔	Albania (94)	99.4 ➔	93.6		72.8* ➔	19.1 ➔
➔	Algeria (94)	90.1 ➔	96.6 ➔	95.6	66.3* ➔	21.3 ➔
	Andorra (—)		80.3 ➔		76.4* ➔	8.3 ➔
	Angola (62)	72.2				2.9
➔	Anguilla (—)		88.6 ➔	97.1	80.8* ➔	3.3
➔	Argentina (98)	98.9	98.6	96.9 ➔	78.9* ➔	64.7 ➔
	Armenia (96)	99.8	78.8 ➔		84.9*	28.0 ➔
	Aruba (—)	99.0	99.5	96.7	73.7* ➔	31.5 ➔
➔	Australia (99)		96.5 ➔		86.4* ➔	72.6 ➔
➔	Austria (—)		96.9 ➔			48.9 ➔
	Azerbaijan (85)	99.9*	84.8 ➔		77.8* ➔	14.8 ➔
➔	Bahamas (99)		90.2	99.1 ➔	83.8* ➔	
➔	Bahrain (99)	97.0	98.2	98.9 ➔	92.3* ➔	33.1 ➔
➔	Bangladesh (57)	63.6 ➔	88.9 ➔	65.1 ➔	41.0* ➔	6.0
➔	Barbados (99)		93.6 ➔	97.8 ➔	87.6* ➔	37.2* ➔
➔	Belarus (99)	99.8*	89.4 ➔		89.2* ➔	63.7 ➔
➔	Belgium (99)		97.6		96.7* ➔	62.4 ➔
➔	Belize (93)		99.5 ➔	92.2 ➔	71.3* ➔	2.6 ➔
➔	Benin (68)	45.3 ➔	77.7 ➔	51.6 ➔	17.1* ➔	3.0*
	Bermuda (—)		97.9	89.8		61.2* ➔
➔	Bhutan (78)		73.9 ➔	91.0 ➔	35.5* ➔	3.1*
➔	Bolivia (80)	97.3 ➔	95.0	84.8 ➔	72.7* ➔	40.6 ➔
—	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	99.8				
➔	Botswana (92)	94.0 ➔	86.2	90.5 ➔	61.1* ➔	5.1
➔	Brazil (92)	96.8 ➔	94.7 ➔		77.7* ➔	23.8 ➔
➔	Brunei Darussalam (100)	98.9	93.4	99.5 ➔	87.3* ➔	15.0 ➔
➔	Bulgaria (99)	98.2	92.9 ➔		89.1* ➔	43.7 ➔
➔	Burkina Faso (64)	33.0 ➔	44.1 ➔	75.5 ➔	11.0* ➔	2.2
➔	Burma/Myanmar (76)	94.5 ➔	99.0	69.9 ➔	43.0* ➔	11.9* ➔
➔	Burundi (58)	73.3 ➔	58.3 ➔	66.9 ➔		2.3
➔	Cambodia (66)	83.4 ➔	96.5 ➔	63.1 ➔	23.9* ➔	3.6 ➔
➔	Cameroon (70)			63.7 ➔		5.7
➔	Canada (99)		99.5*			62.4 ➔
➔	Cape Verde (93)	96.3 ➔	90.1	92.5	57.5* ➔	6.9 ➔
	Cayman Islands (—)		81.1 ➔	77.8 ➔	95.6* ➔	18.8* ➔
➔	Central African Republic (65)	58.5 ➔				1.6
	Chad (42)	37.6 ➔	60.2 ➔	33.2 ➔	10.5* ➔	1.2
➔	Chile (100)	99.0	89.7	99.7 ➔		47.8 ➔
➔	China (90)	98.9 ➔				21.6 ➔
➔	Colombia (90)	98.0 ➔	88.5 ➔	81.7 ➔	64.9* ➔	30.8 ➔
➔	Comoros (79)		55.1*	80.3 ➔		2.3 ➔
	Congo, DR (69)	70.4				1.3*
	Congo, Rep. (79)	97.4 ➔	52.9 ➔	66.3 ➔		3.7*
	Cook Islands (90)		77.4* ➔		64.4* ➔	

NOTE:
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SOURCE:
UNESCO Website Database (www.uis.unesco.org/), May 2008.

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Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY (15-24 years old, %)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net, %)	CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net, %)	TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATE (gross, %)
	Costa Rica (94)	97.6		86.6		25.3
→	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	60.7 →	54.9 →	87.6 →	19.8* →	6.5*
→	Croatia (99)	99.6	87.3 →		85.0* →	38.7* →
→	Cuba (99)	100.0	96.6	97.2 →	87.0* →	87.9 →
→	Cyprus (99)	99.8	99.3 →	99.1	94.1* →	33.2 →
→	Czech Republic (99)		92.5 →	98.4		47.8 →
→	Denmark (98)		95.8	93.3	91.2* →	80.8 →
→	Djibouti (75)		34.4 →	76.7* ←	21.5* →	2.2 →
	Dominica (97)		84.0 ←	92.7 →	91.8* →	
→	Dominican Republic (88)	94.2 →	77.5 →	68.4 ←	52.1* →	34.5 →
	Ecuador (83)	96.4	97.3	76.3 ←	55.4* →	
→	Egypt (88)	84.9 →	93.7 →	94.5 ←	82.7*	34.7 →
→	El Salvador (79)	88.5 →	94.5 →	69.4 →	54.9* →	20.1 →
	Equatorial Guinea (59)	94.9 →	87.1 ←	32.6	25.3*	2.7*
	Eritrea (67)		48.6 →	79.2 ←	24.1* →	1.0
→	Estonia (99)	99.8	94.7 ←	98.8	90.8* →	66.0 →
→	Ethiopia (54)	49.9 →	66.4 →		31.8* →	2.7
→	Fiji (99)		93.5 →	98.7 →	80.9* →	15.4 →
→	Finland (100)		98.5	99.5	95.3*	91.9 →
→	France (99)		98.6	98.0*	99.0* →	56.1 →
	Gabon (82)	96.0 →	88.0* ←	69.3		7.1*
→	Gambia (70)		72.4 →		43.3* →	1.1
	Georgia (89)		86.7 ←	79.4	80.2* →	46.1 →
	Ghana (66)	70.7 ←	63.6 →	63.3 ←	37.7* →	4.7 →
→	Greece (100)	98.9	99.6 →	99.0	91.1* →	90.4 →
→	Grenada (92)		84.6	79.0	79.3* →	
→	Guatemala (68)	82.2 →	93.5 →	68.0 →	35.4* →	9.5*
→	Guinea (66)	46.6	69.4 →	76.0 →	24.8* →	3.0
→	Guinea-Bissau (61)		45.1* →		8.7*	
	Guyana (81)			64.3 ←		10.8 →
→	Honduras (78)	88.9 →	93.2 →	70.1		17.2 →
	Hong Kong (—)		90.7 ←	99.5	77.1* →	32.1 →
→	Hungary (99)		88.8		89.9* →	65.3 →
→	Iceland (100)		98.1	99.7	88.7* →	70.4 →
→	India (71)	76.4 →	88.5 →	73.1 →		11.0 →
→	Indonesia (84)	98.7	94.5	89.5 →	57.4* →	17.0 →
→	Iran (91)	97.4 →	95.3 →	87.8	77.3* ←	24.1 →
→	Iraq (83)	84.8 →	88.6 →	80.6 →	38.4* →	15.8 →
→	Ireland (100)		94.6 →	99.8	86.7* →	58.2 →
→	Israel (100)		97.4 →	99.8	89.1* →	58.1 →
→	Italy (99)	99.8	98.6	99.8 →	92.5* →	65.3 →
→	Jamaica (95)		90.3 ←	90.3 →	78.3* →	19.0* →
→	Japan (99)		99.8		100.0* →	55.3 →
	Jordan (97)	99.0	91.3 ←	96.2 ←	78.8* →	39.9 →
→	Kazakhstan (98)	99.8*	91.0 →		88.8* →	52.0 →
→	Kenya (71)	80.3 ←	75.8 →	82.9 →	41.5* →	2.7
←	Kiribati (88)		97.4*	81.9 ←	67.6* ←	
→	Korea, Rep. (100)		97.6	99.1	93.9* →	91.0 →
	Kuwait (98)	99.7 →	83.5 →	95.8	78.3* ←	18.8 ←
	Kyrgyzstan (95)	99.7*	85.9 →		80.5* ←	42.7 →
→	Lao, PDR (58)	78.5 →	82.7 →	63.0 →	35.6* →	7.9 →
	Latvia (99)	99.8	90.1 ←			74.9 →
→	Lebanon (95)		81.9 →	90.9	73.0*	46.3 →
→	Lesotho (72)		75.2 →	73.3 →	24.0* →	3.4
→	Liberia (65)	67.4 →	66.2* →		17.1*	15.6* →

NOTE:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator's definition.

SOURCE:
UNESCO Website Database (www.uis.unesco.org), May 2008.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008
Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY (15-24 years old, %)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net, %)	CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net, %)	TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATE (gross, %)
→	Libya (98)	98.0 →				55.8* →
	Liechtenstein (—)		88.2 ←		65.2* ←	25.1 →
	Lithuania (99)	99.7	88.0 ←		94.2* →	76.5 →
	Luxembourg (97)		96.7	92.0 ←	83.3*	11.8 →
→	Macao (—)	99.6 →	96.3 →	99.7	77.5* →	57.4 →
→	Macedonia (96)	98.7	91.8		81.3* →	29.8 →
→	Madagascar (61)	70.2 ←	92.9 →	42.7 →	11.3*	2.6
→	Malawi (62)	76.0* →	92.8 →	42.1 ←	23.1* ←	
→	Malaysia (99)	97.2 →	99.2 →	98.4	72.0* →	30.6 →
→	Maldives (86)	98.2	97.6	92.1	64.1* →	
→	Mali (69)	24.2* ←	59.1 →	86.9 →		3.0
	Malta (100)	96.0* ←	86.3 ←	99.3	84.8* →	31.5 →
	Marshall Islands (93)		89.6 →		74.4*	17.0*
→	Mauritania (66)	61.3 →	76.7 →	52.9 ←	15.6* →	3.2
→	Mauritius (98)	94.5 →	95.0 →	97.0	81.7* →	16.9 →
→	Mexico (94)	97.6	97.7	93.8 →	68.6* →	25.3 →
—	Micronesia (—)					14.1*
←	Moldova (96)	99.7	82.6 ←		74.8* ←	35.9
→	Mongolia (95)	97.7	91.4		81.5* →	47.2 →
→	Montserrat (—)		96.3 →		95.8* →	
→	Morocco (79)	70.5 →	87.5 →	79.2 →	34.5* →	11.4
→	Mozambique (66)	47.0* ←	76.6 →	62.4 →	7.0* →	1.5
→	Namibia (85)	92.3 →	76.5 →	86.1 →	38.7* →	6.2 →
—	Nauru (—)			30.8		
→	Nepal (65)	70.1 →	79.2 →	78.5 →		5.6
→	Netherlands (100)		97.9	99.4	86.6* →	59.0 →
	Netherlands Antilles (—)	98.0	96.5*	84.2	81.0* ←	21.2* →
→	New Zealand (98)		99.2		91.9* →	82.2 →
→	Nicaragua (72)	86.2 →	87.0 →	53.5 →	42.8* →	18.1* →
→	Niger (52)	36.5 →	42.5 →	64.8	8.6*	1.1
→	Nigeria (63)	84.2 →	63.4 →	72.6 ←	25.5* →	9.7 →
→	Niue (—)		98.5*		93.4*	
→	Norway (100)		98.0	100.0	95.8* →	78.5 →
→	Oman (99)	97.3 →	74.1 →	100.0 →	77.3* →	18.3 →
→	Pakistan (64)	65.1 →	67.2 →	69.7	20.3* ←	4.5
←	Palau (99)		96.4* ←			40.2* ←
→	Panama (91)	96.1	98.5 →	85.3	63.8* →	43.9 →
	Papua New Guinea (68)	66.7		67.8		2.0*
→	Paraguay (85)	95.9	93.8	81.2 →		24.9 →
	Peru (86)	97.1	96.4 ←	90.3 →	70.2* →	33.9
→	Philippines (77)	95.1	92.9 ←	74.9 →	60.2* →	28.0
→	Poland (100)		96.7	99.3	92.9* →	64.1 →
→	Portugal (99)	99.6	98.0		81.6*	55.1 →
→	Qatar (96)	95.9 →	96.1 →		87.1* →	18.6 ←
→	Romania (96)	97.8	91.3 →		80.8* →	45.2 →
	Russian Federation (98)	99.7	92.5 ←			70.5 →
	Rwanda (53)	77.6 →	73.3 →	45.8 ←		2.6
	Samoa (97)	99.3	90.4 ←	93.8 →	66.0* ←	7.5* ←
→	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	95.4	96.2 →	76.3 →	32.6* →	
→	Saudi Arabia (97)	95.8 →	87.3 →	96.3 →	70.8* →	29.2 →
→	Senegal (71)	49.1 →	69.6 →	73.0 ←	17.5* →	5.5
	Seychelles (—)	99.1	99.4	98.7 →	97.1* ←	
	Sierra Leone (61)	47.9				2.1*
←	Singapore (91)		76.9* ←		64.4* ←	

NOTE:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator's definition.

SOURCE:
UNESCO Website Database (www.uis.unesco.org), May 2008.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008
Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	LITERACY (15-24 years old, %)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net, %)	CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (net, %)	TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATE (gross, %)
→	Slovakia (97)		92.0 →			40.7 →
→	Slovenia (99)	99.8	95.7		91.0*	79.5 →
→	Solomon Islands (82)		63.3		27.3* →	
→	South Africa (89)	93.9*	88.3	82.4 →	62.3* →	15.4 →
→	Spain (99)		99.6	100.0	93.9* →	66.2 →
←	Sri Lanka (98)	95.6	96.7 ←			
←	St Kitts and Nevis (95)		93.4 ←	86.5	86.1*	
	St Lucia (98)		97.9	95.9	69.4* →	7.1
→	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)		90.4	81.8	63.9* →	
→	Sudan (76)	77.2 →	41.2*	78.6 ←		6.2* →
→	Suriname (86)	94.9	94.4 →		74.7* →	12.4*
	Swaziland (77)	88.4 →	76.3	76.8	32.5*	4.5
→	Sweden (100)		97.1		99.3* →	81.6 →
→	Switzerland (97)		89.9 →		82.2*	45.4 →
→	Syria (94)	92.5 →	94.5* →	92.4 ←	61.8* →	
→	Tajikistan (85)	99.8	97.3 →		79.8* →	18.6 ←
→	Tanzania (73)	78.4 ←	97.8 →	85.0 →		1.4
→	Thailand (96)	98.0	94.2 →		71.0*	45.9 →
←	Timor-Leste (60)		68.1		22.8*	9.6*
→	Togo (71)	74.4 →	77.5 →	74.6 →	22.2* →	3.6*
	Tonga (95)	99.3*	95.4 →	88.6 ←	66.4*	6.0 →
	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	99.5	84.6 ←	91.0 ←	65.1* ←	11.4 →
→	Tunisia (95)	94.3 →	97.0 →	97.0 →	64.5* ←	30.1 →
→	Turkey (92)	95.6 →	90.2	96.9	66.0* →	31.0 →
—	Turkmenistan (—)	99.8*				
←	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)		78.0 ←	45.9	70.2* ←	
—	Tuvalu (89)			69.9 ←		
→	Uganda (59)	76.6 →		48.7 →	14.8* →	3.5
→	Ukraine (99)	99.8	90.2 →		83.8* ←	72.8 →
→	United Arab Emirates (99)	97.0 →	85.6 ←	96.8 →	77.2* →	23.2* →
→	United Kingdom (99)		98.7		95.3* →	59.4 →
	United States of America (99)		91.6 ←		88.4* →	82.2 →
	Uruguay (96)	98.6*	93.8 →	91.2 ←		42.0 →
—	Uzbekistan (—)					15.3 ←
→	Vanuatu (87)		92.5	77.7 →	38.1* →	4.8
→	Venezuela (95)	97.2	91.1 →	92.0 →	63.0* →	41.2 →
→	Vietnam (90)	93.9*	86.6 ←	86.8 →	68.8* →	15.9 →
→	Virgin Islands (UK) (—)		95.1		88.2* →	75.5 →
→	West Bank and Gaza (—)	99.0 →	76.0 ←		89.6* →	37.8 →
→	Yemen (61)	75.2 →	73.8 →	73.2 ←	33.5* →	9.4
→	Zambia (73)	69.5* →	92.0 →	94.2 →	28.1* →	2.3*
	Zimbabwe (80)	97.7 →	81.7	69.7 ←	34.4* ←	3.6*

NOTE:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator's definition.

SOURCE:
UNESCO Website Database (www.uis.unesco.org), May 2008.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics/2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Literacy (15-24 years old, %): Percentage of people aged 15-24 who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life.
Last available data: 2000/2005; evolution since 1990.

Primary school enrolment ratio (net, %): Number of children enrolled in primary school who belong to the age group that officially corresponds to primary schooling, as percentage of the total population of the same age group.
Last available data: 2003/2006; evolution since 1991.

Children reaching 5th grade of primary school (%): Percentage of children entering first grade of primary school who eventually reach grade five.
Last available data: 2000/2005; evolution since 1999.

Secondary school enrolment ratio (net, %): Number of children enrolled in secondary school who belong to the agegroup that officially corresponds to secondary schooling, as percentage of the total population of the same age group.
Last available data: 2003/2005; evolution since 1991.

Tertiary education enrolment ratio (gross): Ratio of total enrolment, regardless of age, to the population of the age group that officially corresponds to the level of education shown. Tertiary education, whether or not to an advanced research qualification, normally requires, as a minimum condition of admission, successful completion of education at secondary level.
Last available data: 2004/2006; evolution since 1991.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

EDUCATION

New technologies and old debts

We are currently in the midst of an intense debate over the importance of access to information and communication technologies (ICT) and to the cooperation that developed countries should provide developing countries so that progress in ICT does not end up reinforcing or increasing North-South inequalities. Nonetheless, although this is a crucial debate, any problem in the field of the 'digital gap' or 'information technologies' should not hide the fact that, well into the 21st century, many old problems are still unsolved.

According to UNESCO data, today one out of every five adults is illiterate and approximately 72 million children are outside the formal education system. Not only is this information alarming in itself, in view of the difficulties of access to education, the indispensable minimum on which to work on other inequalities, but it accounts for a lack of symmetry, particularly in the North-South relation and in the situation of women. A case in point is that, out of those 72 million children, almost two thirds are girls.

Recent trends show that between 1999 and 2006 there was a fall of 25% in the number of children excluded from formal education. Basically, this decrease is countered by improvements registered in Asia, by the policies carried out in India and, in Africa, by Ethiopia and Tanzania. Seventy-five per cent of the fall is due to girls joining the basic levels of formal education, a fact that confirms the extreme injustice of the original situation and fosters hope in the medium term, provided that efforts made by governments, particularly in the South, do not decrease.

The latest available information (Chart 1) shows that in the countries in the worse relative situation, around a third of the population between 15 and 24 years old is illiterate. At the other end of the spectrum, in countries where education is in the better situation, illiteracy has been practically eradicated, affecting barely 1% of the population.

Enrolment in primary education and the proportion of children who reach fifth grade reflect a similar situation. Countries with the greatest education deficiencies are, on average, 30% below the more advanced.

This prospect is an alert to the difficulties that may appear, in spite of the progress made in absolute terms, in order to overcome, in relative terms, the differences between countries in the better or worse situation.

Major difficulties can be detected when looking into indicators for superior levels of education. Enrolment in secondary school is barely 23% in countries in the worse relative situation while it reaches nearly 90% in countries in the better situation. In other words, enrolment in secondary school is four times higher in countries in the better relative situation.

This perverse kind of logic by which inequality accumulates according to the level of education reaches its maximum expression in tertiary educa-

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in education

		Literacy (15-24 years old, %)	Primary school enrolment rate (net, %)	Children reaching 5th grade (%)	Secondary school enrolment rate (net, %)	Tertiary education enrolment rate (gross, %)
Worse relative situation	Average	62	66	67	23	4
	Number of countries	33	35	33	29	41
Better relative situation	Average	99	96	98	89	61
	Number of countries	27	55	31	46	50
Total	Average	87	87	83	64	29
	Number of countries	128	172	130	150	168

CHART 2. Current situation in education by region (number of countries)

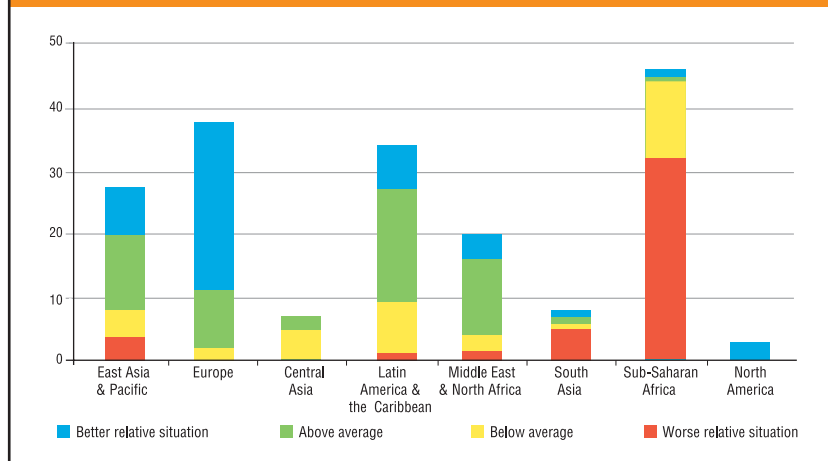


CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in education (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Worse relative situation	1	1	11	22	9	44
Below average	1	0	7	11	10	29
Above average	0	2	19	29	8	58
Better relative situation	0	4	8	39	2	53
Total	2	7	45	101	29	184

tion. Here the differences are simply distressing: while in countries in the better relative situation tertiary education reaches 30% of the population, in countries in the worse relative situation enrolment is barely 4%, so that chances of having access to a university education are eight times lower for countries in the worse relative situation. If we consider the subgroup of European countries within the best placed, matriculation levels are beyond 50%.

But the differences and inequalities in education do not matter only for what they mean in themselves, but because of their relation with other types of inequalities. An example of this is the gender differences in terms of access to education; another is the information presented in

Chart 2, which clearly shows the validity of the North-South criterion when it comes to global inequalities. However it is important to point out the progress made since the latest report in two zones, the Middle East and North Africa and Central Asia,

which have increased the number of countries that are in better relative situation with respect to the general average.

A diachronic reading, on the other hand, confirms that there is a positive trend, since more than 70% of countries have progressed, although in almost four out of five cases the progress detected is small. If to this we add that the proportion of stagnant countries is 24% while in the previous report they did not reach 22%, there are fewer reasons to believe that the minimum necessary capacities to make progress in terms of justice and equity are being generated.

Finally, it is easier to detect that significant progress in education tends to be more frequent when it involves countries in the below average situation, while it is very difficult to find countries that make progress at the extremes of the spectrum – that is, in the worse or better relative situation – or among those that are already above average. ■

INFORMATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The ruses of inequity: from the digital to the cognitive gap

References

CURRENT SITUATION

(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION

(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN R&D ¹ (per million people)	ICT ² EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	R&D ¹ EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
—	Afghanistan (52)	1		3			
➔	Albania (94)	60 ➔	12 ➔	88 ➔			
➔	Algeria (94)	58 ➔	11 ➔	78 ➔		2.4	
—	American Samoa (—)			182 ➔			
—	Andorra (—)	331 ➔		535 ➔			
➔	Angola (62)	11 ➔	2 ➔	6			
—	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	350 ➔		467 ➔			
➔	Argentina (98)	177 ➔	83 ➔	227 ➔	720 ➔	6.9 ➔	0.4
➔	Armenia (96)	53 ➔	66 ➔	192 ➔			0.3
➔	Australia (99)	698 ➔	683 ➔	564 ➔	3759 ➔	6.5	1.7
➔	Austria (—)	486 ➔	607 ➔	450 ➔	2968 ➔	5.5	2.3
➔	Azerbaijan (85)	81 ➔	23 ➔	130 ➔			0.3
—	Bahamas (99)	319 ➔		439 ➔			
➔	Bahrain (99)	213 ➔	169 ➔	270 ➔			
➔	Bangladesh (57)	3	12 ➔	8 ➔	51*	2.7 ➔	0.6
➔	Barbados (99)	594 ➔	148 ➔	500 ➔			
—	Belarus (99)	347 ➔		336 ➔			0.6
➔	Belgium (99)	458 ➔	348 ➔	461 ➔	3065 ➔	5.9	1.9
➔	Belize (93)	130 ➔	132 ➔	114 ➔			
➔	Benin (68)	50 ➔	4 ➔	9 ➔			
➔	Bermuda (—)	661 ➔	542 ➔	892 ➔			0.1*
➔	Bhutan (78)	39 ➔	20 ➔	51 ➔			
➔	Bolivia (80)	52 ➔	23 ➔	70 ➔	120 ➔	4.9	0.3
—	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	206 ➔		248 ➔			
➔	Botswana (92)	34 ➔	45	75 ➔			
➔	Brazil (92)	195 ➔	105 ➔	230 ➔	344*	6.4 ➔	1.0
➔	Brunei Darussalam (100)	277 ➔	85 ➔	224 ➔	274		0.0
➔	Bulgaria (99)	206 ➔	59 ➔	321 ➔	1263 ➔	3.5	0.5
➔	Burkina Faso (64)	5 ➔	2	7 ➔	17* ➔		0.2*
➔	Burma/Myanmar (76)	2	8 ➔	9 ➔	17 ➔		0.1
➔	Burundi (58)	5 ➔	5 ➔	4			
➔	Cambodia (66)	3 ➔	3 ➔	3			
➔	Cameroon (70)	15 ➔	10 ➔	6		5.1 ➔	
➔	Canada (99)	520 ➔	700 ➔	566 ➔	3597 ➔	5.7	1.9
➔	Cape Verde (93)	49 ➔	97 ➔	141 ➔	127 ➔		
	Central African Republic (65)	3	3 ➔	2	47* ➔		
	Chad (42)	4 ➔	2	1			
➔	Chile (100)	172 ➔	141 ➔	211 ➔	444 ➔	5.2 ➔	0.6
➔	China (90)	85 ➔	41 ➔	269 ➔	708 ➔	5.3 ➔	1.4 ➔
➔	Colombia (90)	105 ➔	42 ➔	171 ➔	109 ➔	8.0	0.2
➔	Comoros (79)	33 ➔	9 ➔	28 ➔			
—	Congo, DR (69)	2 ➔		0			
➔	Congo, Rep. (79)	13 ➔	4 ➔	4 ➔	30* ➔		
➔	Costa Rica (94)	254 ➔	219 ➔	321 ➔		7.3	0.4
➔	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	11 ➔	15 ➔	14 ➔			
➔	Croatia (99)	327 ➔	190 ➔	425 ➔	1296 ➔		1.1
➔	Cuba (99)	17 ➔	33 ➔	75 ➔			0.7

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN R&D ¹ (per million people)	ICT ² EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	R&D ¹ EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
→	Cyprus (99)	430 →	337 →	554 →	630 →		0.4
→	Czech Republic (99)	269 →	240 →	314 →	1594 →	7.4	1.3
→	Denmark (98)	527 →	656 →	619 →	5016 →	6.0	2.6 →
→	Djibouti (75)	13 →	24 →	14 →			
→	Dominica (97)	361 →	182 →	293 →			
—	Dominican Republic (88)	158 →		95 →			
→	Ecuador (83)	47 →	39 →	129 →	50 ←	3.0	0.1
→	Egypt (88)	68 →	38 →	140 →	493* →	1.4	0.2
→	El Salvador (79)	93 →	51 →	141 →	47* →		0.1*
→	Equatorial Guinea (59)	14 →	14 →	20 →			
	Eritrea (67)	16 →	8 →	9 →			
→	Estonia (99)	513 →	483 →	328 →	2523 →		0.9
→	Ethiopia (54)	2	3 →	9 →			
—	Faeroe Island (—)	642 →		419			
→	Fiji (99)	77 →	52 →	122 →			
→	Finland (100)	534 →	481 →	404 ←	7832 →	6.8 ←	3.5 →
→	France (99)	430 →	575 →	586 →	3213 →	6.4	2.2
→	French Polynesia (—)	214 →	109 →	208 →			
→	Gabon (82)	48 →	33 →	28 →			
→	Gambia (70)	33 →	16 →	29 →			
→	Georgia (89)	39 →	43 →	151 →			0.3
→	Germany (100)	455 →	545 →	667 →	3261 →	6.2	2.5
→	Ghana (66)	18 →	5 →	15 →			
→	Greece (100)	180 →	89 →	568 →	1413 →	4.0	0.6
—	Greenland (—)	668 →		448 →			
→	Grenada (92)	182 →	151 →	309 →			
—	Guam (—)	383 →		507 →			
→	Guatemala (68)	79 →	19 →	99 →			
→	Guinea (66)	6 →	5 →	3			
—	Guinea-Bissau (61)	20 →		7			
→	Guyana (81)	213 →	39 →	147 →			
—	Haiti (—)	70 →		17 →			
→	Honduras (78)	36 →	16 →	69 →		4.6	0.1
→	Hong Kong (—)	508 →	601 →	546 →	1564 →	8.8 →	0.6
→	Hungary (99)	297 →	146 →	333 →	1472 →	6.0 ←	0.9
→	Iceland (100)	869 →	479 →	653 →	6807 →		3.0 →
	India (71)	55 →	16 →	45 →	119* ←	6.1 →	0.9
→	Indonesia (84)	73 →	14 →	58 →	207 ←	3.1	0.1
→	Iran (91)	103 →	109 →	278 →	1279 →	2.4 →	0.7
	Iraq (83)	1	8	38			
→	Ireland (100)	276 →	494 →	489 →	2674 →	4.2 ←	1.2
→	Israel (100)	470 →	740 →	424 →		8.3	4.5 →
→	Italy (99)	478 →	367 →	427 →	1213 ←	4.4	1.1
→	Jamaica (95)	404 →	63 →	129 →		9.7 ←	0.1
→	Japan (99)	668 →	542 →	460 →	5287 →	7.9 ←	3.2
	Jordan (97)	119 →	57 →	121 →	1927*	8.0 ←	
→	Kazakhstan (98)	27 →		167 →	629 ←		0.2
	Kenya (71)	32 →	9 →	8		2.6	
→	Kiribati (88)	20 →	10 →	47 →			
—	Korea, DPR (—)	0		44 →			
→	Korea, Rep. (100)	684 →	545 →	492 →	3187 →	6.6	2.6
→	Kuwait (98)	276 →	237 →	201 →		1.4	0.2
	Kyrgyzstan (95)	54 →	19 →	85 →			0.2
→	Lao, PDR (58)	4 →	18 →	13 →			
→	Latvia (99)	448 →	217 →	318 →	1434 →		0.4
→	Lebanon (95)	175 →	102 →	247 →			
—	Lesotho (72)	24 →		27 →			0.0

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN R&D ¹ (per million people)	ICT ² EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	R&D ¹ EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
—	Liberia (65)	0		2			
→	Libya (98)	36 →	24	133 →	361*		
—	Liechtenstein (—)	633 →		574 ←			
→	Lithuania (99)	358 →	155 →	235 →	2136 →		0.8
→	Luxembourg (97)	690 →	635 →	535 →	4301 →		1.8
→	Macao (—)	369 →	295 →	379 →	41*		
→	Macedonia (96)	79 →	222 →	262 →	504 ←		0.3
→	Madagascar (61)	5 →	5 →	4	15* →		0.1
→	Malawi (62)	4 →	2	8 →			
→	Malaysia (99)	435 →	197 →	172 →	299 →	6.8 ←	0.7
→	Maldives (86)	59 →	112 →	98 →			
	Mali (69)	4 →	3 →	6 →			
→	Malta (100)	315 →	165 →	501 →	681 ←		0.3
→	Marshall Islands (93)	35 →	82 →	76 →			
→	Mauritania (66)	7 →	14 →	13 →			
→	Mauritius (98)	146 →	162 →	289 →			0.4 ←
→	Mexico (94)	181 →	136 →	189 →	268 →	3.3	0.4
—	Micronesia (—)	127 →		113 →			
→	Moldova (96)	103 →	29 →	240 →			0.8*
—	Monaco (—)				41* →		
→	Mongolia (95)	105 →	133 →	61 →			0.3
→	Morocco (79)	153 →	25 →	44 →		6.4 →	0.6
→	Mozambique (66)	7 →	6 →	4			0.6
→	Namibia (85)	37 →	109 →	64 →			
→	Nepal (65)	4 →	4 →	17 →	59		0.7
→	Netherlands (100)	739 →	682 →	466	2482 →	6.3	1.9
—	Netherlands Antilles (—)	11* →		461 →			
—	New Caledonia (—)	324 →		236 →			
→	New Zealand (98)	672 →	474 →	422 ←	3945 →	10.6 ←	1.2
→	Nicaragua (72)	27 →	43 →	43 →	73		0.1
	Niger (52)	2	1	2			
→	Nigeria (63)	35 →	6 →	9 →		3.4	
→	Norway (100)	735 →	573 →	460 ←	4587 →	5.3	1.8
→	Oman (99)	111 →	47 →	103 →			
→	Pakistan (64)	67 →	4 →	34 →	75*	6.8	0.2
→	Panama (91)	64 →	46 →	136 →	97 ←	8.2 ←	0.3
→	Papua New Guinea (68)	23 →	64 →	11 →			
→	Paraguay (85)	34 →	78 →	54 →	79 ←		0.1
	Peru (86)	164 →	100 →	80 →	226* ←	5.9 ←	0.1
→	Philippines (77)	54 →	45 →	41 →	48 ←	6.7 →	0.1
→	Poland (100)	262 →	193 →	309 →	1581 →	4.2	0.6
→	Portugal (99)	279 →	134 →	401 →	1949 →	4.4	0.8
—	Puerto Rico (—)	221 →		285 →			
→	Qatar (96)	269 →	171 →	253 →			
→	Romania (96)	208 →	113 →	203 →	976 ←	3.2	0.4
→	Russian Federation (98)	152 →	122 →	280 →	3319 ←	3.2	1.2
—	Rwanda (53)	6 →		3			
→	Samoa (97)	32 →	7 →	73 →			
—	San Marino (—)	536	857	741			
—	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	131 →		46 →			
→	Saudi Arabia (97)	70 →	376 →	164 →		2.3	
→	Senegal (71)	46 →	21 →	23 →		8.7	
→	Serbia (—)	203 →	52 →	360 →			
→	Seychelles (—)	249 →	189 →	253 →	19		0.1
—	Sierra Leone (61)	2		5			
→	Singapore (91)	571 →	621 →	425 →	4999 →	9.3	2.3 →
→	Slovakia (97)	464 →	358 →	222 →	1984 →	5.5	0.5

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN R&D ¹ (per million people)	ICT ² EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	R&D ¹ EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
→	Slovenia (99)	545 →	404 →	408 →	2543 →	3.1	1.6
→	Solomon Islands (82)	8 →	46 →	16			
→	Somalia (—)	11 →	6 →	12 →			
→	South Africa (89)	109 →	85 →	101 →	307 ←	10.0 →	0.8
→	Spain (99)	348 →	277 →	422 →	2195 →	3.6	1.1
→	Sri Lanka (98)	14 →	27 →	63 →	128* ←	5.4	0.1
→	St Kitts and Nevis (95)	214 →	234 →	532 →			
→	St Lucia (98)	339 →	160 →	321 →			0.4* ←
→	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)	84 →	135 →	189 →			0.2
→	Sudan (76)	77 →	90 →	18 →			0.3
→	Suriname (86)	71 →	46	180 →			
→	Swaziland (77)	32 →	32 →	31 →			
→	Sweden (100)	764 →	763 →	717 →	5416 →	7.2	3.7
→	Switzerland (97)	498 →	865 →	689 →	3601* →	7.7	2.6
→	Syria (94)	58 →	42 →	152 →	29*		
—	Tajikistan (85)	1		38 ←	660* ←		
→	Tanzania (73)	9 →	7 →	4			
→	Thailand (96)	110 →	58 →	110 →	287 →	4.0	0.3
→	Togo (71)	49 →	30 →	10 →			
→	Tonga (95)	29 →	49 →	111 →			
→	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	123 →	79 →	248 →			0.1
→	Tunisia (95)	95 →	57 →	125 →	1013 →	6.0 →	0.6
→	Turkey (92)	222 →	52 →	263 →	341 →	8.2	0.7
—	Turkmenistan (—)	8 →		80 →			
→	Uganda (59)	17 →	9 →	4			0.8
→	Ukraine (99)	97 →	38 →	256 →		7.8	1.2
→	United Arab Emirates (99)	308 →	197 →	273 →		3.6	
→	United Kingdom (99)	473 →	600 →	528 →	2706* →	7.0 ←	1.9
→	United States of America (99)	630 →	762 →	606 →	4605 →	8.7 ←	2.7
→	Uruguay (96)	202 →	130 →	304 →	366 →	7.8 →	0.3
—	Uzbekistan (—)	34 →		67			
→	Vanuatu (87)	38 →	14 →	33 →			
→	Venezuela (95)	125 →	82 →	136 →		3.7	0.3
→	Vietnam (90)	129 →	13 →	191 →	115 ←	15.2 →	0.2
—	Virgin Islands (USA) (—)	276 →		652 →			
→	West Bank and Gaza (—)	67 →	48 →	96 →			
→	Yemen (61)	9 →	15 →	39 →			
→	Zambia (73)	20 →	10 →	8	51* →		0.0*
→	Zimbabwe (80)	77 →	92 →	25 →		4.5	

NOTES: (*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading. Figure 0 means a value under 0.5
(1) Research and Development.
(2) Information and Communication Technology.

SOURCE: World Development Indicators 2008, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Internet users (per 1,000 people): People with access to the internet, per 1,000 people.
Last available data: 2001-2004; evolution since 1990.

Personal computers (per 1,000 people): Personal computers are self-contained computers designed to be used by a single individual, per 1,000 people.
Last available data: 2001-2005; evolution since 1990.

Telephone mainlines (per 1,000 people): Telephone lines connecting a customer's equipment to the public switched telephone network. Data are presented per 1,000 people for the entire country.
Last available data: 2001-2005; evolution since 1990.

Scientists and engineers in research and development (per million people): People trained to work in any field of science who are engaged in professional R&D (research and development) activity, per million people. Most such jobs require completion of tertiary education.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1996.

Information and communication technology expenditure (% of GDP): Includes external spending on information technology ('tangible' spending on information technology products purchased by businesses, households, governments, and education institutions from vendors or organizations outside the purchasing entity), internal spending on information technology ('intangible' spending on internally customized software, capital depreciation, and the like), and spending on

telecommunications and other office equipment. Expressed as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 2000.

Research and development expenditure (% of GDP): Expenditures for research and development are current and capital expenditures (both public and private) on creative work undertaken systematically to increase knowledge, including knowledge of humanity, culture, and society, and the use of knowledge for new applications. R&D covers basic research, applied research, and experimental development. Expressed as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1996.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

INFORMATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The ruses of inequity: from digital to cognitive gap

As the appearance of new information and digital technologies has consolidated what is known as the third industrial revolution, their impact has become an object of debate over the so-called “knowledge society”. In the UNESCO World Report Towards Knowledge Societies, Director General Koichiro Matsuura asks, “Which types of knowledge are we talking about? Do we have to endorse the hegemony of the techno-scientific model in defining legitimate and productive knowledge? And what of the imbalances that mark access to knowledge and the obstacles confronting it, both locally and globally?”¹

On the other hand, knowledge societies add new inequities without resolving those inherent to the “society model”. To the well established problem of the “digital gap”, that is, the socioeconomic difference between communities that have access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and those that do not, a more profound and more subtle gap is added: the “cognitive gap”, which is related to the differences in the ability to assimilate and use ICTs effectively, due to their different levels of literacy and technological capacity.

The cognitive gap determines that even if parity is reached in the access to knowledge and information, the ability to assimilate this information and knowledge will be differential, and certainly smaller, in societies and sectors that lack the minimum necessary elements to assimilate the new tools. Consequently, any attempt to bridge the digital gap between societies will lead to an increase of inequities if, apart from the chances to access them, the opportunities for incorporating them are not equalled.

Contradictory trends

This occurs in a paradoxical context, in which two opposite tendencies coexist: on the one hand, the new technologies facilitate access to information; on the other, there is a growing tendency, under the excuse that it is a necessary (military, scientific, commercial, professional, etc.) secret, to exclude increasingly larger sectors of the population from a significant part of the information generated.

Maybe one of the more obvious manifestations of the second tendency is observed in the huge imbalance between the societies of the North and those of the South regarding copyright, or even the “brain drain”, two processes that not only reinforce the imbalance between North and South, but also within each zone, within regions and within societies. In this respect, the UNESCO document states that “Knowledge societies will be knowledge societies for all only on the condition that we can actually get beyond this asymmetric opposition between producers and users of knowledge contents.”²

1 UNESCO (2005). *Towards Knowledge Societies*. UNESCO Publishing. Available at: <unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001418/141843e.pdf>.

2 *Ibid.*

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in information, science and technology

		Internet users (per 1,000 people)	Personal computers (per 1,000 people)	Telephone mainlines (per 1,000 people)	Scientists and engineers in R & D (per million people)	ICT expenditure (% of GDP)	R & D expenditure (% of GDP)
Worse relative situation	Average	37	27	58	120	5	0.3
	Number of countries	61	61	61	21	13	24
Better relative situation	Average	514	535	517	3,187	7	1.9
	Number of countries	28	28	28	24	20	26
Total	Average	190	162	204	1,567	6	0.9
	Number of countries	169	168	169	84	74	100

CHART 2. Current situation in information, science and technology by region (number of countries)

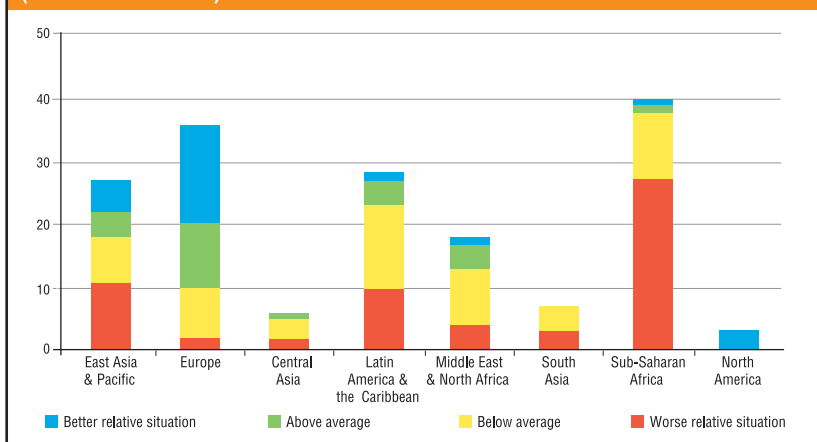


CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in information, science and technology (number of countries)

	←	↶		↷	→	Total
Worse relative situation	0	0	6	50	3	59
Below average	0	0	4	38	13	55
Above average	0	0	0	6	18	24
Better relative situation	0	0	0	6	21	27
Total	0	0	10	100	55	165

The gap in numbers

If we analyze the table “Information, science and technology: The ruses of inequity: from the digital to the cognitive gap”, where the five indicators are disaggregated, the persistence of very significant distances between countries becomes more evident. Chart 1 summarizes the gaps between countries in the better and worse situation. For example, the number of scientists and engineers per million inhabitants is almost 30 times higher for the group of countries in the better relative situation. When considering the indicators related not only to the development capacity of countries, but also to the access to its products, such as the number of Internet users, we see that, although the difference is still vast, the “gap”, in terms related to the first indicator, is half as large. There are 14 times less Internet users in countries in the worse relative situation.

When considering the worse situations according to region of the countries in Chart 2, it is easy to see the asymmetry according to geographic zones.

While around two out of three countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse relative situation, the situation is diametrically opposite to Europe, and is excellent in North America where there are only countries that belong to the most privileged group.

However, even in the most excluded zones there is significant evolution. Chart 3 shows a trend towards a positive evolution that is not only true for most countries but also has speeded up, since there is an increase in the group of countries with significant progress with respect to the 2007 Social Watch Report. This trend is particularly encouraging for Latin America and the Caribbean, where more than 50% of the countries show significant progress. This is in contrast to less positive zones, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, where some of the worse situations are found as well as the stagnant: this region includes 6 of the 10 countries with no recent evolution at all. ■

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

The need to invest in people

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (% of GNI)	MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
—	Afghanistan (52)	0.7 ➔			
➔	Albania (94)	3.0 ➔	2.9	1.0	1.4 ➔
➔	Algeria (94)	2.6		6.2 ➔	2.8
	Andorra (—)	4.9	2.6		
	Angola (62)	1.5	2.6	7.8 ➔	5.0 ➔
➔	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	3.4	3.9 ➔		
	Argentina (98)	4.4 ➔	3.8	6.0	1.0
	Armenia (96)	1.4	3.2	2.8 ➔	2.7
—	Aruba (—)		5.1		
	Australia (99)	6.5 ➔	4.8		1.8
	Austria (—)	7.8	5.5		0.7
➔	Azerbaijan (85)	0.9	2.5 ➔	2.1 ➔	2.0 ➔
	Bahamas (99)	3.4	3.6*		0.7
	Bahrain (99)	2.7			4.3
	Bangladesh (57)	0.9	2.5	1.3	1.1
	Barbados (99)	4.5	6.9	3.3 ➔	0.9
	Belarus (99)	4.6	6.0	2.3 ➔	1.2
	Belgium (99)	6.9 ➔	6.1		1.2
➔	Belize (93)	2.7	5.4	23.0 ➔	1.4*
	Benin (68)	2.5	3.5 ➔	1.6	
—	Bermuda (—)		1.9 ➔		
	Bhutan (78)	3.0 ➔	5.6	0.8	
➔	Bolivia (80)	4.1 ➔	6.4 ➔	5.8 ➔	1.9
	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	4.1 ➔		2.6	1.8 ➔
➔	Botswana (92)	4.0 ➔	10.7 ➔	0.5 ➔	2.5 ➔
	Brazil (92)	4.8 ➔	4.4 ➔	7.4 ➔	1.4
	Brunei Darussalam (100)	2.6			6.6
	Bulgaria (99)	4.6 ➔	4.2	21.1 ➔	2.4
➔	Burkina Faso (64)	3.3 ➔	4.7 ➔	0.8	1.3
➔	Burma/Myanmar (76)	0.3	1.3 ➔		1.3 ➔
➔	Burundi (58)	0.8	5.1 ➔	5.1	0.0 ➔
➔	Cambodia (66)	1.7 ➔	1.9	0.5 ➔	1.8
	Cameroon (70)	1.5	1.8 ➔	4.9	1.3
	Canada (99)	6.8 ➔	5.2 ➔		1.1
	Cape Verde (93)	3.9 ➔	6.6 ➔	3.4 ➔	0.7
	Central African Republic (65)	1.5		0.4 ➔	1.1
	Chad (42)	1.6 ➔	2.1	1.3	0.8 ➔
	Chile (100)	2.9	3.5	7.0 ➔	3.7
	China (90)	1.8	1.9*	1.2	2.0
➔	Colombia (90)	6.7 ➔	4.8 ➔	8.7 ➔	3.7 ➔
	Comoros (79)	1.6	3.9	1.0	
	Congo, DR (69)	1.1 ➔		3.1	2.1
	Congo, Rep. (79)	1.2	2.2 ➔	2.7 ➔	1.4
➔	Costa Rica (94)	5.1	4.9 ➔	3.2 ➔	
➔	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	0.9	4.6 ➔	3.1 ➔	1.6

NOTES:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator's definition.
(†) Prior to separation.

SOURCE:
World Development Indicators 2008
website (www.worldbank.org)

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008
Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (% of GNI)	MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
←	Croatia (99)	6.1 ←	4.7 =	13.1 ←	1.6 →
=	Cuba (99)	5.5 =	9.8 =		
→	Cyprus (99)	2.6 =	6.3 →		1.5 →
=	Czech Republic (99)	6.5 →	4.4 =	5.0 =	1.8 =
=	Denmark (98)	7.1 =	8.6 →		1.4 =
→	Djibouti (75)	4.4 =	7.9 →	2.4 =	4.3 →
←	Dominica (97)	4.2 =	5.0* ←	6.6 ←	
=	Dominican Republic (88)	1.9 =	1.8 =	3.3 =	0.6 =
=	Ecuador (83)	2.2 →	1.0 ←	12.0 =	2.4 =
→	Egypt (88)	2.2 =		2.8 →	2.8 →
=	El Salvador (79)	3.5 =	2.8 =	4.0 =	0.6 →
←	Equatorial Guinea (59)	1.2 =	0.6 ←	0.1 →	2.1* ←
=	Eritrea (67)	1.8 ←	5.4 →	2.1 ←	19.3 →
←	Estonia (99)	4.0 =	5.3 ←	12.2 ←	1.5 =
→	Ethiopia (54)	2.7 =	6.1 →	0.8 =	3.1 →
→	Fiji (99)	2.9 =	6.4 =	0.6 →	1.2 =
=	Finland (100)	5.7 →	6.5 =		1.2 =
→	France (99)	8.2 →	5.9 =		2.5
→	Gabon (82)	3.1 =	3.9* →	1.6 →	1.3 →
=	Gambia (70)	1.8 =	2.0 ←	6.5 →	0.3 =
=	Georgia (89)	1.5 =	2.9 →	3.0 ←	3.1 ←
=	Germany (100)	8.2 =	4.6 =		1.4 =
→	Ghana (66)	2.8 =	5.5 →	2.7 →	0.8 =
=	Greece (100)	4.2 =	4.3 →		4.5 =
→	Grenada (92)	5.0 →	5.2 =	2.8 =	
=	Guatemala (68)	2.3 =		1.5 →	0.4 =
=	Guinea (66)	0.7 =	2.0 =	4.9 →	2.9 =
←	Guinea-Bissau (61)	1.3 =	5.3*	11.3 ←	3.1 ←
→	Guyana (81)	4.4 =	8.5 →	4.4 →	0.8* =
=	Haiti (—)	2.9 →		1.3 =	0.1* =
→	Honduras (78)	4.0 =		4.8 →	0.6 =
—	Hong Kong (—)		4.2 →		
=	Hungary (99)	5.7 →	5.5 =	22.7 ←	1.3 =
→	Iceland (100)	8.3 →	8.1 =		0.0 =
=	India (71)	0.9 =	3.8 =	3.0 =	2.9 =
=	Indonesia (84)	1.0 =	1.0 =	6.6 →	0.9 =
=	Iran (91)	3.2 →	4.7 =	1.4 =	4.5 ←
—	Iraq (83)	4.2 →			
=	Ireland (100)	5.7 →	4.8 =		0.6 =
=	Israel (100)	6.1 =	6.9 =		7.9 →
→	Italy (99)	6.5 →	4.7 →		1.8 =
=	Jamaica (95)	2.8 ←	5.3 =	10.6 →	0.7 =
=	Japan (99)	6.3 =	3.6 =		1.0 =
=	Jordan (97)	4.7 =	4.9* ←	4.7 →	7.7 →
←	Kazakhstan (98)	2.3 =	2.3 ←	25.5 ←	1.1 =
→	Kenya (71)	1.8 =	6.7 =	1.2 →	1.4 =
→	Kiribati (88)	12.7 →	16.5 →		
—	Korea, DPR (—)	3.0 =			
=	Korea, Rep. (100)	2.9 →	4.6 =		2.6 =
→	Kuwait (98)	2.2 =	5.1 =		5.7 →
←	Kyrgyzstan (95)	2.3 =	4.5 ←	5.3 ←	2.9 ←
=	Lao, PDR (58)	0.8 =	2.3 →	6.6 ←	2.1 →
=	Latvia (99)	4.0 →	5.3 →	19.7 ←	1.7 =
=	Lebanon (95)	3.2 =	2.6 =	17.0 ←	3.8 →

NOTES:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator's definition.
(1) Prior to separation.

SOURCE:
World Development Indicators 2008
website (www.worldbank.org)

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008
Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (% of GNI)	MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
→	Lesotho (72)	5.5 →	13.4 →	3.1 =	2.4 →
→	Liberia (65)	3.6 →		0.2 =	7.5 =
→	Libya (98)	2.9 →	2.7*		1.9 →
←	Lithuania (99)	4.9 =	5.2 =	10.8 ←	1.8 =
=	Luxembourg (97)	7.2	3.6* =		0.9 =
—	Macao (—)		2.3 =		
←	Macedonia (96)	5.7 =	3.5 ←	4.2 ←	2.2 =
→	Madagascar (61)	1.8 →	3.2 =	1.6 →	1.4 =
→	Malawi (62)	9.6 →	5.8 →	4.7 →	0.7 =
→	Malaysia (99)	2.2 →	6.3 =	7.5 →	1.9 =
=	Maldives (86)	6.3 →	7.1 =	4.7 =	
→	Mali (69)	3.3 →	4.3 →	1.7 =	1.9 =
→	Malta (100)	7.0 →	4.5 =		0.7 =
←	Marshall Islands (93)	14.7 →	11.8 ←		
→	Mauritania (66)	2.0 =	2.3 ←	3.5 →	1.0 →
=	Mauritius (98)	2.4 =	4.5 =	4.5 →	0.2 =
→	Mexico (94)	3.0 →	5.4 →	5.8 =	0.4 =
→	Micronesia (—)	6.5 →	7.3* =		
=	Moldova (96)	4.2 →	4.3 =	7.3 ←	0.3 =
	Monaco (—)	7.5 →	4.5		
←	Mongolia (95)	4.0 ←	5.4 ←	2.2 →	1.7 →
→	Morocco (79)	1.8 =	6.8 →	5.3 →	4.3 =
=	Mozambique (66)	2.7 ←	3.7 →	1.5 →	1.3 →
=	Namibia (85)	4.7 =	6.9 =		3.0 →
=	Nepal (65)	1.5 =	3.4 →	1.6 =	2.0 =
=	Netherlands (100)	5.7 →	5.4 =		1.6 =
=	New Zealand (98)	6.5 →	6.5 =		1.0 =
=	Nicaragua (72)	3.9 =	3.1 =	3.6 ←	0.7 →
=	Niger (52)	2.2 =	2.3 =	1.1 →	1.1 =
=	Nigeria (63)	1.4 =		10.5 →	0.9 =
=	Norway (100)	8.1 →	7.7 =		1.7 =
=	Oman (99)	2.4 =	3.6 =	4.3 =	12.3 →
→	Pakistan (64)	0.4 =	2.3 =	2.2 →	3.3 →
→	Palau (99)	8.9 =	10.3 →		
←	Panama (91)	5.2 =	3.8 =	14.5 ←	1.0* =
→	Papua New Guinea (68)	3.0 =		8.5 →	0.5 →
=	Paraguay (85)	2.6 ←	4.3 →	6.7 =	0.8 =
←	Peru (86)	1.9 ←	2.4 =	7.5 ←	1.3 =
=	Philippines (77)	1.4 =	2.7 =	9.3 =	0.8 =
=	Poland (100)	4.3 =	5.4 =	11.7	1.8 =
=	Portugal (99)	7.0 →	5.7 =		2.2 =
←	Qatar (96)	1.8 =	1.6 ←		
=	Romania (96)	3.4 =	3.4 =	7.2 ←	2.1 →
=	Russian Federation (98)	3.7 =	3.6 =	5.6 ←	3.7 →
→	Rwanda (53)	4.3 →	3.8 →	1.1 =	2.2 →
←	Samoa (97)	4.1 ←	4.5 ←	5.9 ←	
—	San Marino (—)	5.9 ←			
—	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	9.9 →			
=	Saudi Arabia (97)	2.5 ←	6.8 =		8.2 →
→	Senegal (71)	2.4 →	5.4 →	2.4 →	1.5 =
=	Serbia and Montenegro (—) ¹	7.3 →	3.3* ←	4.9 ←	2.7 →
=	Seychelles (—)	4.6 →	5.4 =	8.1 ←	1.7 →
=	Sierra Leone (61)	2.0 =	3.8 ←	2.1 →	1.1 =
=	Singapore (91)	1.3 =			4.7 =

NOTES:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator's definition.
(1) Prior to separation.

SOURCE:
World Development Indicators 2008
website (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics/2008
Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE (% of GNI)	MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)
←	Slovakia (97)	5.3	4.3	12.9	1.7
	Slovenia (99)	6.6	6.0		1.7
	Solomon Islands (82)	5.6	3.3*	4.7	
—	Somalia (—)	1.2			
	South Africa (89)	3.5	5.4	2.0	1.4
	Spain (99)	5.7	4.3		1.0
	Sri Lanka (98)	2.0		1.9	2.7
	St Kitts and Nevis (95)	3.3	9.4	12.2	
←	St Lucia (98)	3.3	5.8	4.3	
	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)	3.9	8.2	6.0	
	Sudan (76)	1.5		1.5	2.2
—	Suriname (86)	3.6			
→	Swaziland (77)	4.0	6.2	1.6	1.7
	Sweden (100)	7.7	7.4		1.6
	Switzerland (97)	6.7	6.0		1.0
→	Syria (94)	2.2		0.7	6.3
←	Tajikistan (85)	1.0	3.5	3.5	2.2
	Tanzania (73)	1.7	2.2*	1.0	1.0
	Thailand (96)	2.3	4.2	11.3	1.2
—	Timor-Leste (60)	8.8			
	Togo (71)	1.1	2.6	0.8	1.6
	Tonga (95)	5.0	4.8	1.9	
→	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	1.4	4.2	2.4	0.5*
	Tunisia (95)	2.8	7.3	7.7	1.5
	Turkey (92)	5.2	4.0	11.6	3.2
←	Turkmenistan (—)	3.3		4.1	2.9*
→	Uganda (59)	2.5	5.2	2.0	2.5
←	Ukraine (99)	3.7	6.4	6.9	2.4
	United Arab Emirates (99)	2.0	1.3		1.9
	United Kingdom (99)	7.0	5.4		2.6
	United States of America (99)	6.9	5.9		4.1
	Uruguay (96)	3.6	2.6	13.9	1.4
	Uzbekistan (—)	2.4		5.4	0.5
→	Vanuatu (87)	3.2	9.6	0.7	
	Venezuela (95)	2.0		3.9	1.1
→	Vietnam (90)	1.5		1.9	2.7*
—	West Bank and Gaza (—)	7.8			
	Yemen (61)	1.9	9.6	1.4	5.0
→	Zambia (73)	3.5	2.0	3.5	0.6
←	Zimbabwe (80)	3.5	4.6*	7.0	3.4

NOTES:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator's definition.
(†) Prior to separation.

SOURCE:
World Development Indicators 2008
website (www.worldbank.org)

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at:
www.socialwatch.org/statistics/2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Public health expenditure (% of GDP): Recurrent and capital spending from government (central and local) budgets, external borrowings and grants (including donations from international agencies and non-governmental organizations), and social (or compulsory) health insurance funds. Expressed as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).
Last available data: 2001/2005; evolution since 2000.

Public education expenditure (% of GDP): Public spending on public education plus subsidies to private education at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Expressed as percentage of gross domestic product (based on World Bank and OECD GDP estimates).
Last available data: 2001/2006; evolution since 1991.

Total debt service (% of GNI): Sum of principal repayments and interest actually paid in foreign currency, goods, or services on long-term debt, interest paid on short-term debt, and repayments (repurchases and charges) to the IMF. Expressed as percentage of gross national income (GNI).
Last available data: 2004/2005; evolution since 1990.

Military expenditure (% of GDP): (Based on the NATO definition) Includes all current and capital expenditures on the armed forces, including peacekeeping forces; defence ministries and other government agencies engaged in defence projects; paramilitary forces, if these are judged to be trained and equipped for military operations; and military space activities. Such expenditures include military and civil personnel, including retirement pensions of military

personnel and social services for personnel; operation and maintenance; procurement; military research and development; and military aid (in the military expenditures of the donor country). Excluded are civil defence and current expenditures for previous military activities, such as for veterans' benefits, demobilization, conversion, and destruction of weapons. Expressed as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).
Last available data: 2000/2005; evolution since 1990.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

The need to invest in people

The public budget is the basic framework on which the socioeconomic development model of a country is built, since it establishes criteria for distributing income and determines political priorities. Commitments made by governments on social development goals and, specifically, on the reduction of poverty, should have a counterpart in the allocation of resources in the budget for the implementation of policies.

Since the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 there has been agreement between most governments over the importance of social development and human welfare in economic growth: investments in human capital stimulate economic development while promoting social equity and helping fight poverty.

As a framework for action the countries that attended the summit proposed placing human beings at the very core of development and guide the economy to satisfy their needs. They committed themselves to “enhancing social development throughout the world so that all men and women, especially those living in poverty, may exercise the rights, utilize the resources and share the responsibilities that enable them to lead satisfying lives and contribute to the well-being of their families, their communities, and humankind.”¹

Likewise, in the Millennium Declaration (2000), Heads of State and of Government expressed their concern over making the right to development a reality, particularly for those who live in extreme poverty. In this sense, it mentions that the adoption of policies and measures applicable to the needs of each national reality together with good management and transparency in public affairs may contribute to the attainment of this goal as well as the Millennium Development Goals.

Therefore, the allocation of resources for the efficient running of public services will have a positive impact, above all, on the lives of people with the greatest deficiencies, helping make their rights a reality.

The analysis of the structure of public expenditure is, therefore, a valuable tool when evaluating the social development of countries. The budget allocated to health and education policies leads directly to the attainment of agreed social goals, while the expenditure allocated to maintaining the military and servicing the external debt and its interests reduces budget availability for the social development area.

According to the systematization of information contained in the table “Public expenditure: The need to invest in people”, averages presented in Chart 1 show that public expenditure in health of countries in the better relative situation is four times as much as those in the worse situation; the latter allocate on average 1.8% of their GDP to public health policies, while those in the better situation allocate 6.8%.

1 World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen Declaration.

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in public expenditure

		Public health expenditure (% of GDP)	Public education expenditure (% of GDP)	Total debt service (% of GNI)	Military expenditure (% of GDP)
Worse relative situation	Average	1.8	2.6	8.7	3.3
	Number of countries	17	14	10	16
Better relative situation	Average	6.8	7.3	3.1	1.0
	Number of countries	29	26	9	22
Total	Average	3.8	4.8	5.3	2.2
	Number of countries	180	159	133	157

CHART 2. Current situation in public expenditure by region (number of countries)

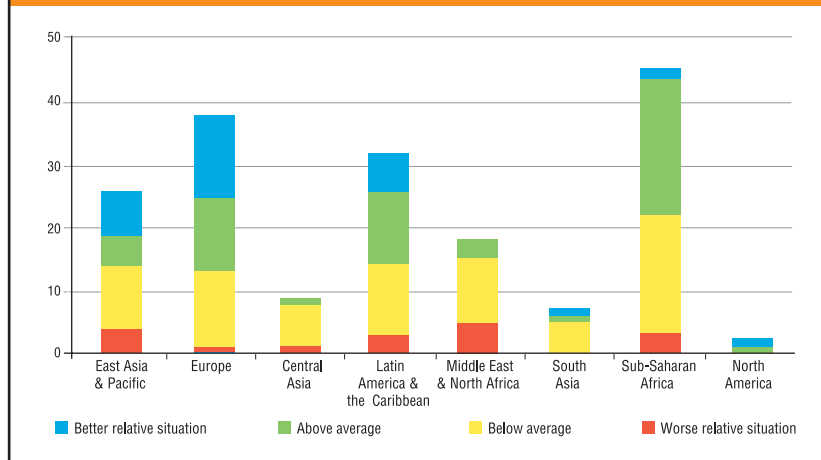


CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in public expenditure (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Worse relative situation	1	2	12	2	0	17
Below average	0	15	43	17	0	75
Above average	0	4	29	23	1	57
Better relative situation	0	1	19	8	1	29
Total	1	22	103	50	2	178

This marked difference is repeated in the public budget allocation for education: the countries in the better situation allocate on average 7.3% of GDP while those in the worse position allocate 2.6%.

Resources allocated to the payment of external debt and military expenses are high in countries in the worse relative situation (8.7% and 3.2%) and lower in the better positioned countries (3.1% and 1%). Even the average external debt service of countries with the greatest deficiencies registers an average increase of 0.4% in relation to the 2007 Social Watch Report. This group spends almost five times as many resources for debt payment than for the health assistance of their citizens. This relation is in inverse proportion in countries in the better relative situation, which dedicate more than double the expense on public debt to health policies.

Europe is the region with the largest number of countries (13) with an efficient allocation of public expenditure, although the proportion of countries in the region below world average is also high, including Georgia, which is in the worse relative situation.

As to the number of countries in a better relative situation, the regions that follow Europe, though at a distance, are East Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively with seven and six countries in the most favourable position. There are no countries in Central Asia or in the Middle East and North Africa in this position.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the largest number of countries below the world average or in the worse relative situation, excepting Malawi, which is not only among those countries in the better relative situation, but which in a short period of time has allocated significantly progressive resources to the health area.

The evolution of public expenditure (Chart 3) shows a discouraging scenario: less than one third of countries evince some progress in budget assignment. Most of them register neither progress nor regression; among these, more than half remain stationary below average or even in the worse situation. A further 23 countries regressed in their expenditure structure, with Guinea-Bissau in the worst relative situation. ■

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The more help, the more rights

TRENDS IN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (% OF GNI) ^A										
Net Official Development Assistance from DAC Countries and Multilateral Organizations to Developing Countries										
	1989-1990 AVERAGE ^B	1994-1995 AVERAGE	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	0.36	0.34	0.27	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.30
Austria	0.16	0.22	0.23	0.34	0.26	0.20	0.23	0.52	0.47	0.49
Belgium	0.46	0.35	0.36	0.37	0.43	0.60	0.41	0.53	0.50	0.43
Canada	0.44	0.40	0.25	0.22	0.28	0.24	0.27	0.34	0.29	0.28
Czech Republic			0.03	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.11
Denmark	0.94	0.99	1.06	1.03	0.96	0.84	0.85	0.81	0.80	0.81
Finland	0.64	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.35	0.35	0.37	0.46	0.40	0.40
France	0.60	0.58	0.30	0.31	0.37	0.40	0.41	0.47	0.47	0.39
Germany	0.42	0.32	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.36	0.36	0.37
Greece	—	—	0.20	0.17	0.21	0.21	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.16
Hungary	—	—	—	—	—	0.03	0.07	0.11	0.13	0.07
Iceland	—	—	0.10	0.13	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.27	0.25
Ireland	0.16	0.27	0.29	0.33	0.40	0.39	0.39	0.42	0.54	0.54
Italy	0.36	0.21	0.13	0.15	0.20	0.17	0.15	0.29	0.20	0.19
Japan	0.31	0.28	0.28	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.19	0.28	0.25	0.17
Korea, Rep.	—	—	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.05	0.07
Luxembourg	0.20	0.38	0.71	0.76	0.77	0.81	0.83	0.86	0.84	0.90
Netherlands	0.93	0.79	0.84	0.82	0.81	0.80	0.73	0.82	0.81	0.81
New Zealand	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.27	0.27	0.27
Norway	1.11	0.94	0.76	0.80	0.89	0.92	0.87	0.94	0.89	0.95
Poland	—	—	0.02	0.02	—	0.01	0.05	0.07	0.09	0.09
Portugal	0.24	0.29	0.26	0.25	0.27	0.22	0.63	0.21	0.21	0.19
Slovakia	—	—	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.12	0.10	0.09
Spain	0.17	0.26	0.22	0.30	0.26	0.23	0.24	0.27	0.32	0.41
Sweden	0.93	0.86	0.80	0.77	0.84	0.79	0.78	0.94	1.02	0.93
Switzerland	0.31	0.35	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.39	0.41	0.44	0.39	0.37
Thailand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.04	—
Turkey	—	—	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.11	0.17	0.18	—
United Kingdom	0.29	0.30	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.34	0.36	0.47	0.51	0.36
United States of America	0.18	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.13	0.15	0.17	0.23	0.18	0.16
Total DAC	0.32	0.28	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.26	0.33	0.31	0.28

NOTES: A: Net disbursements at current prices and exchange rates. B: Including debt forgiveness of non-ODA claims in 1990, except for total DAC. **SOURCE:** OECD, Website Database (www.oecd.org); June 2008.

Official Development Assistance (% of GNI): Grants or loans to countries and territories on Part I of the DAC List of Aid Recipients (developing countries) which are: (a) undertaken by the official sector; (b) with promotion of economic development and welfare as the main objective; (c) at concessional financial terms (if a loan, having a Grant Element [q.v.] of at least 25%). In addition to financial flows, Technical Co-operation q.v. is included in aid. Grants, loans and credits for military purposes are excluded. Transfer payments to private individuals (e.g. pensions, reparations or insurance payouts) are in general not counted. Expressed as percentage of gross national income (GNI).

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims the equal and inalienable rights of each person, "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." The effective exercise of human rights must be guaranteed by the creation of economic, civil, political, social and cultural conditions that will foster them.

Economic and social development, however, show a very heterogeneous world, in which situations of great opulence coexist with manifestations of distressing poverty. International cooperation, one of the international instruments of human rights, is fundamental for the poorer countries in their quest for growth and development.

Since the 1970s, developed countries have committed themselves to allocating a fixed amount

to Official Development Assistance (ODA), a commitment ratified in the final declaration of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995. AOD, as a percentage, was fixed at 0.7% of the gross national income (GNI) of donor countries in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Also, the Millennium Development Goals propose to foster a global partnership for development, with the commitment of financial assistance by the more developed countries and the responsibility of the recipients to allocate it to social development and to the reduction of poverty in particular.

However by 2007 international assistance was only 0.28% of donor countries' GNI, thus highlighting the downward trend in recent years and moving

further away from the commitments undertaken. The only countries that complied with the UN goal, going over 0.7% of the GNI for ODA, were Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

At the same time, the assistance granted counts up sums allocated to public debt relief, so the flow of capital available for development programmes ends up being less than what the donor countries declare.

Recent ODA trends predict a disheartening scenario to which the ongoing financial crisis adds new concerns. While it is necessary to keep fighting to reach the sums committed for assistance and to improve the loans granted to developing countries, it is essential to understand ODA as a north-south 'horizontal' process in which it is the needs and priorities of recipient countries that channel assistance, free from the restrictive conditioning of donor countries. ■

WATER AND SANITATION

The clean water gap

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➡ Significant progress
- ➡ Slight progress
- ⏸ Stagnant
- ↩ Regression
- ↩ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)	Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)
➡	Afghanistan (52)	34 ➡	22* ➡	➡	Ecuador (83)	89 ➡	95* ➡
⏸	Albania (94)	91 ⏸	97* ⏸	➡	Egypt (88)	70 ➡	98* ➡
↩	Algeria (94)	92 ➡	85* ↩	➡	El Salvador (79)	62 ➡	84* ➡
⏸	Andorra (—)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸	⏸	Equatorial Guinea (59)	53 ⏸	43* ⏸
➡	Angola (62)	31 ⏸	51* ➡	➡	Eritrea (67)	9 ⏸	60* ➡
⏸	Anguilla (—)	99 ⏸	60 ⏸	⏸	Estonia (99)	97 ⏸	100* ⏸
⏸	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	95 ⏸	91 ⏸	➡	Ethiopia (54)	13 ➡	42* ➡
➡	Argentina (98)	91 ➡	96* ➡	➡	Fiji (99)	72 ➡	47* ⏸
➡	Armenia (96)	83 ⏸	98* ➡	⏸	Finland (100)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸
⏸	Aruba (—)		100 ⏸	⏸	France (99)		100* ⏸
⏸	Australia (99)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸	⏸	French Guiana (—)	78 ⏸	84 ⏸
⏸	Austria (—)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸	⏸	French Polynesia (—)	98 ⏸	100 ⏸
➡	Azerbaijan (85)	54 ⏸	78* ➡	➡	Gabon (82)	36 ⏸	87* ➡
⏸	Bahamas (99)	100 ⏸	97 ⏸	➡	Gambia (70)	53 ⏸	86* ➡
➡	Bangladesh (57)	39 ➡	80* ➡	➡	Georgia (89)	94 ↩	99* ➡
⏸	Barbados (99)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸	⏸	Germany (100)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸
⏸	Belarus (99)	84 ⏸	100* ⏸	➡	Ghana (66)	18 ➡	80* ➡
⏸	Belize (93)	47 ⏸	91 ⏸	⏸	Greece (100)		100* ⏸
➡	Benin (68)	33 ➡	65* ⏸	⏸	Grenada (92)	96 ⏸	95 ⏸
➡	Bhutan (78)	70 ⏸	81* ➡	⏸	Guadeloupe (—)	64 ⏸	98 ⏸
➡	Bolivia (80)	46 ➡	86* ➡	⏸	Guam (—)	99 ⏸	100 ⏸
⏸	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	95 ⏸	99* ⏸	➡	Guatemala (68)	86 ➡	96* ➡
➡	Botswana (92)	42 ➡	96* ➡	➡	Guinea (66)	18 ➡	70* ➡
➡	Brazil (92)	75 ➡	91* ➡	➡	Guinea-Bissau (61)	35 ➡	57* ⏸
⏸	Bulgaria (99)	99 ⏸	99* ⏸	➡	Guyana (81)	70 ⏸	93* ➡
➡	Burkina Faso (64)	13 ➡	72* ➡	➡	Haiti (—)	30 ➡	58* ➡
➡	Burma/Myanmar (76)	77 ➡	80* ➡	➡	Honduras (78)	69 ➡	84* ⏸
↩	Burundi (58)	36 ↩	71* ⏸	⏸	Hungary (99)	95 ⏸	100* ⏸
➡	Cambodia (66)	17 ➡	65* ➡	⏸	Iceland (100)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸
➡	Cameroon (70)	51 ➡	70* ➡	➡	India (71)	33 ➡	89* ➡
⏸	Canada (99)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸	➡	Indonesia (84)	55 ➡	80* ➡
➡	Cape Verde (93)	43 ➡	80 ⏸	⏸	Iran (91)	83* ⏸	94 ⏸
➡	Central African Republic (65)	27 ➡	66* ➡	↩	Iraq (83)	79 ⏸	77* ↩
➡	Chad (42)	9 ⏸	48* ➡	⏸	Israel (100)		100* ⏸
➡	Chile (100)	91 ➡	95* ➡	➡	Jamaica (95)	80 ➡	93* ⏸
➡	China (90)	44 ➡	88* ➡	⏸	Japan (99)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸
➡	Colombia (90)	86 ➡	93* ⏸	⏸	Jordan (97)	93 ⏸	98* ⏸
↩	Comoros (79)	33 ⏸	85* ↩	➡	Kazakhstan (98)	72 ⏸	96* ➡
➡	Congo, DR (69)	30 ➡	46* ➡	➡	Kenya (71)	43 ➡	57* ➡
➡	Congo, Rep. (79)	27 ⏸	71* ➡	➡	Kiribati (88)	40 ➡	65* ➡
➡	Cook Islands (90)	100 ➡	95* ⏸	⏸	Korea, DPR (—)	59 ⏸	100* ⏸
➡	Costa Rica (94)	92 ⏸	98* ➡	⏸	Korea, Rep. (100)		92 ⏸
➡	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	37 ➡	81* ➡	➡	Kyrgyzstan (95)	59 ⏸	89* ➡
⏸	Croatia (99)	100 ⏸	99* ⏸	➡	Lao, PDR (58)	30 ➡	60* ➡
⏸	Cuba (99)	98 ⏸	91* ⏸	⏸	Latvia (99)	78 ⏸	99* ⏸
⏸	Cyprus (99)	100 ⏸	100* ⏸	⏸	Lebanon (95)	98 ⏸	100* ⏸
⏸	Czech Republic (99)	98 ⏸	100* ⏸	⏸	Lesotho (72)	37 ⏸	78* ⏸
⏸	Denmark (98)		100* ⏸	↩	Liberia (65)	27 ↩	64* ➡
➡	Djibouti (75)	82 ➡	92* ➡	➡	Libya (98)	97 ⏸	71 ⏸
⏸	Dominica (97)	84 ⏸	97 ⏸	⏸	Luxembourg (97)		100* ⏸
➡	Dominican Republic (88)	78 ➡	95* ➡	➡	Macedonia (96)		100* ⏸

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)	Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)
→	Madagascar (61)	32 →	47* →		Seychelles (—)		88
→	Malawi (62)	61 →	76* →	←	Sierra Leone (61)	39	53* ←
	Malaysia (99)	94	99*		Singapore (91)	100	100
←	Maldives (86)	59 →	83* ←		Slovakia (97)	99	100*
→	Mali (69)	46 →	60* →		Solomon Islands (82)	31	70*
	Malta (100)		100*		Somalia (—)	26	29*
←	Marshall Islands (93)	82 →	87 ←		South Africa (89)	65 ←	93* →
→	Mauritania (66)	34 →	60* →		Spain (99)	100	100*
	Mauritius (98)	94	100*	→	Sri Lanka (98)	91 →	82* →
→	Mexico (94)	79 →	95* →		St Kitts and Nevis (95)	95	99*
→	Micronesia (—)	28	94* →		St Lucia (98)	89	98*
←	Moldova (96)	68	90* ←	→	Sudan (76)	34	70* →
	Monaco (—)	100	100	→	Suriname (86)	94 →	92*
→	Mongolia (95)	59	72* →	←	Swaziland (77)	48	60* ←
	Montenegro (—)		98		Sweden (100)	100	100*
	Montserrat (—)	100	100		Switzerland (97)	100	100*
→	Morocco (79)	73 →	83* →	→	Syria (94)	90 →	89* →
→	Mozambique (66)	32 →	42* →	→	Tajikistan (85)	51	67* →
→	Namibia (85)	25	93* →	→	Tanzania (73)	47	55* →
→	Nepal (65)	35 →	89* →	→	Thailand (96)	99 →	98* →
	Netherlands (100)	100	100*	→	Timor-Leste (60)	36	62*
	New Zealand (98)		97*	→	Togo (71)	35	59* →
→	Nicaragua (72)	47	79* →	→	Tokelau (—)	78 →	88 ←
→	Niger (52)	13 →	42* →		Tonga (95)	96	100*
→	Nigeria (63)	44 →	47*		Trinidad and Tobago (95)	100	94*
	Niue (—)	100	100*	→	Tunisia (95)	85 →	94* →
→	Northern Mariana Islands (—)	95 →	99	→	Turkey (92)	88 →	97* →
	Norway (100)		100*		Turkmenistan (—)	62	72
→	Oman (99)	88* →	82	←	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)	96 ←	100
→	Pakistan (64)	59 →	90* →	→	Tuvalu (89)	90 →	93* →
→	Palau (99)	80 →	89* →	→	Uganda (59)	43	64* →
	Panama (91)	73	92*		Ukraine (99)	96	97*
	Papua New Guinea (68)	44	40*		United Arab Emirates (99)	98	100*
→	Paraguay (85)	80 →	77* →		United Kingdom (99)		100*
→	Peru (86)	63 →	84* →		United States of America (99)	100	99*
→	Philippines (77)	72 →	93* →		Uruguay (96)	100	100*
	Portugal (99)		99*	→	Uzbekistan (—)	67 →	88* ←
	Qatar (96)	100	100*		Vanuatu (87)	50	60
→	Romania (96)		88*		Venezuela (95)	68	83
→	Russian Federation (98)	87	97*	→	Vietnam (90)	61 →	92* →
→	Rwanda (53)	42 →	65* →		Virgin Islands (UK) (—)	100	100
←	Samoa (97)	100	88* ←		Wallis and Futuna (—)	80	100
→	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	25	86* →		West Bank and Gaza (—)	73	92
	Saudi Arabia (97)		93		Yemen (61)	43 →	66* ←
→	Senegal (71)	57 →	77* →	→	Zambia (73)	55 →	58* →
	Serbia (—)		99	→	Zimbabwe (80)	53 →	81* →

NOTE: (*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

SOURCE: Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply & Sanitation, UNICEF and WHO (www.wssinfo.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Population with access to sanitation (%): Percentage of the population with at least adequate excreta disposal facilities (private or shared, but not public) that can effectively prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta. Improved facilities range from simple but protected pit latrines to flush toilets with a sewerage connection. To be effective, facilities must be correctly constructed and properly maintained.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1990.

Population with access to improved water sources (%): Percentage of the population who use any of the following types of water supply for drinking: piped water, public tap, borehole or pump, protected well, protected spring or rainwater. Improved water sources do not include vendor provided waters, bottled water, tanker trucks or unprotected wells and springs.
Last available data: 2004/2006; evolution since 1990.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

WATER AND SANITATION

The clean water gap

Access to drinkable water and adequate sanitation facilities are fundamental components of sustainable human development and the reduction of poverty and hunger in the world. In the world today, according to United Nations, a child dies every 20 seconds due to lack of adequate sanitation and 2.6 billion people – including almost one million children – live without access to sanitation facilities.

Although water is a crucial component for a decent and healthy life, more than one billion people have no access to improved water sources; the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warns that, by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with severe limitations in the access to water. A restricted access to water in adequate quantity and quality diminishes the capacity to produce food, energy and industrial products, while also conspiring against the hygienic conditions indispensable for reducing the impact of diseases.

Furthermore, the restrictions of access to basic sanitation facilities have negative impacts on human health and wellbeing; the lack of sanitation is linked to various diseases that cause illness and death to millions of people, among them cholera, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition.

The poor and the lack of access to water

The poorest of the world are those without access to basic services and, therefore, the most exposed to suffer the consequences. In rural areas, it is impossible for many to ensure the daily production of subsistence food and income. Both in rural and in urban areas poor people are more prone to contracting diseases due to the use of water – including water contaminated by the absence of sanitation – unfit for human consumption.

The information in the Table “The clean water gap” summarized in Chart 1 shows the huge gap in access to water and sanitation between countries that are in a better or worse situation. The former have, on average, reached high levels of access to improved water sources (98.2%) and sanitation (95%). At the other extreme, the average situation indicates that more than 40% of the population in these countries do not have access to improved water sources, while almost 70% lack basic sanitation services.

The vast majority (91%) of the countries where there are severe restrictions to the population’s access to these services are countries with a low level of income according to the World Bank’s classification.

Access by region

The shortage of water and adequate sanitation affects practically all regions (Chart 2). The worst relative situation is in Sub-Saharan Africa, where there are more than 30 countries with a severe lack of access to these basic services. In East Asia and

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in water and sanitation

		Population with access to improved water sources (%)	Population with access to sanitation (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	58.5	32.9
	Number of countries	43	43
Better relative situation	Average	98.4	95.6
	Number of countries	81	67
Total	Average	84.4	68.6
	Number of countries	195	177

CHART 2. Current situation in water and sanitation by region (number of countries)

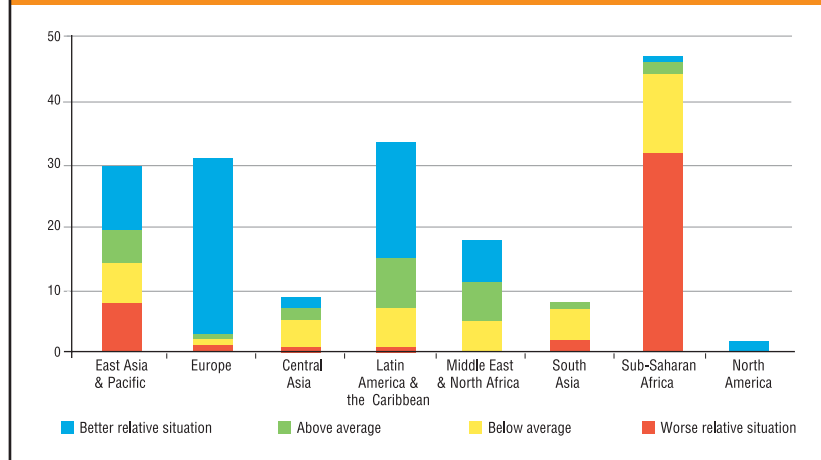


CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in water and sanitation (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Worse relative situation	0	4	6	19	12	43
Below average	0	4	7	19	14	43
Above average	0	1	10	8	6	28
Better relative situation	0	3	59	11	5	76
Total	0	12	82	57	37	190

the Pacific there is also a high number of countries with in a deficient situation, although the majority of countries in the region do not suffer a significant shortage in the region. In South Asia there is no country in the better relative situation.

Europe is the region with the highest number of countries practically without restrictions in the population’s access to these services. Romania, however, is among the countries in worse situation and still shows unacceptable limitations (43%) in access to improved water sources. Also in Europe, Moldova is below the world average and a high percentage of the population (32%) has no basic sanitation facilities.

Although the data shows no major regressions (Chart 3) in access to water and sanitation, the existence of some regression in this area is alarming. The figures for Algeria, Maldives, Marshall Islands and Uzbekistan register regression in access to drinkable water, while Burundi and Liberia register regression in access to sanitation.

Most countries are stagnant in their coverage of these services; although services reached acceptable levels, many countries are stagnant in a scenario of rigid limitations to the access of drinkable water and sanitation.

HEALTH

Globalization and its pathologies

References

CURRENT SITUATION (latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION (since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 100,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
➔	Afghanistan (52)	24.7	231 ➔	<0.1	165	257
➔	Albania (94)		26 ➔		15 ➔	17 ➔
➔	Algeria (94)	<0.1	56 ➔	<0.1	33 ➔	38 ➔
	Andorra (—)		17 ➔		3	3
	Angola (62)	106.9 ➔	344 ➔	3.3	154	260
—	Antigua and Barbuda (—)		9 ➔		10	11
➔	Argentina (98)	<0.1	48 ➔	0.5	14 ➔	16 ➔
➔	Armenia (96)	<0.1	80 ➔	0.1	21 ➔	24 ➔
	Australia (99)		7 ➔	<0.1	5	6 ➔
➔	Austria (—)		10 ➔	0.2	4 ➔	5 ➔
	Azerbaijan (85)	0.1	87 ➔	<0.1	73 ➔	88 ➔
➔	Bahamas (99)		40 ➔	2.8	13 ➔	14 ➔
➔	Bahrain (99)		45 ➔		9 ➔	10 ➔
➔	Bangladesh (57)	0.4	391 ➔	<0.1	52 ➔	69 ➔
➔	Barbados (99)		11 ➔	1.2	11 ➔	12 ➔
	Belarus (99)		71 ➔	0.2	12 ➔	13 ➔
➔	Belgium (99)		11 ➔	0.2	4 ➔	4 ➔
➔	Belize (93)	3.7 ➔	56 ➔	2.1	14 ➔	16 ➔
➔	Benin (68)	122.0 ➔	135 ➔	1.6	88 ➔	148 ➔
➔	Bhutan (78)	1.7 ➔	96 ➔	<0.1	63 ➔	70 ➔
➔	Bolivia (80)	2.3	266 ➔	0.1	50 ➔	61 ➔
➔	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)		57 ➔	<0.1	13 ➔	15 ➔
➔	Botswana (92)	12.6 ➔	454 ➔	23.6 ➔	90 ➔	124 ➔
➔	Brazil (92)	2.1	55 ➔	0.5	19 ➔	20 ➔
	Brunei Darussalam (100)		99 ➔	<0.1	8	9
	Bulgaria (99)		41 ➔	<0.1	12	14 ➔
	Burkina Faso (64)	114.9 ➔	476 ➔	2.0 ➔	122	204
➔	Burma/Myanmar (76)	14.5 ➔	169 ➔	1.0	74 ➔	104 ➔
	Burundi (58)	274.0 ➔	714 ➔	3.1 ➔	109 ➔	181 ➔
➔	Cambodia (66)	5.0 ➔	665 ➔	1.5 ➔	65 ➔	82 ➔
	Cameroon (70)	46.0 ➔	237 ➔	4.9 ➔	87	149 ➔
	Canada (99)		4 ➔	0.2	5	6
➔	Cape Verde (93)	0.3	324 ➔		25 ➔	34 ➔
	Central African Republic (65)	24.7 ➔	528 ➔	10.0 ➔	115	175
➔	Chad (42)	47.7 ➔	570 ➔	3.1 ➔	124 ➔	209 ➔
➔	Chile (100)		16 ➔	0.2	8 ➔	9 ➔
➔	China (90)	<0.1	201 ➔	<0.1	20 ➔	24 ➔
➔	Colombia (90)	3.7	59 ➔	0.5	17 ➔	21 ➔
➔	Comoros (79)	5.1 ➔	86 ➔	0.5	51 ➔	68 ➔
➔	Congo, DR (69)	83.1 ➔	645 ➔	2.9 ➔	129	205
➔	Congo, Rep. (79)	5.3 ➔	566 ➔	4.7	79 ➔	126 ➔
➔	Cook Islands (90)		24 ➔		16 ➔	19 ➔
➔	Costa Rica (94)	0.2	17 ➔	0.2	11 ➔	12 ➔
➔	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	24.9 ➔	747 ➔	6.4	90 ➔	127 ➔

SOURCES:
Malaria: World Malaria Report 2005, UNICEF and WHO (www.rtm.who.int/wmr2005/).
Tuberculosis: Communicable Disease Global Atlas Database, WHO (www.who.int/globalAtlas).
People living with HIV/AIDS: 2007 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS.
Infant mortality: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08).
Under-5 mortality: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08).
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Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 100,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
→	Croatia (99)		64 →	<0.1	5 →	6 →
→	Cuba (99)		10 →	<0.1	5 →	7 →
→	Cyprus (99)		6 →		3 →	4 →
→	Czech Republic (99)		10 →	<0.1	3 →	4 →
→	Denmark (98)		7 →	0.1	4	5 →
→	Djibouti (75)	7.2	1300 →	3.0	86 →	130 →
=	Dominica (97)		16 →		13	15
→	Dominican Republic (88)	0.1	118 →	1.0	25 →	29 →
→	Ecuador (83)	4.0 →	195 →	0.2	21 →	24 →
→	Egypt (88)	<0.1	31 →	<0.1	29 →	35 →
→	El Salvador (79)	<0.1	64 →	0.8	22 →	25 →
←	Equatorial Guinea (59)		404 →	2.9	124 →	206 →
→	Eritrea (87)	17.4 →	218 →	2.2	48 →	74 →
→	Estonia (99)		40 →	0.9	5 →	7 →
→	Ethiopia (54)	8.0	641 →	3.0 →	77 →	123 →
→	Fiji (99)		30 →	0.5	16	18 →
=	Finland (100)		4 →	<0.1	3	4
→	France (99)		11 →	0.3	4	4 →
=	Gabon (82)	66.8	428 →	6.8	60	91
→	Gambia (70)	100.5 →	423 →	2.1	84 →	113 →
=	Georgia (89)	0.1	84 →	0.2	28 →	32 →
→	Germany (100)		5 →	<0.1	4	4 →
=	Ghana (66)	169.8	379 →	2.2 →	76	120
→	Greece (100)		16 →	<0.1	4 →	4 →
→	Grenada (92)		8 →		16 →	20 →
→	Guatemala (68)	2.5	103 →	0.8	31 →	41 →
=	Guinea (66)	109.5	466 →	1.5 →	98 →	161 →
→	Guinea-Bissau (61)	134.6	313 →	3.5	119 →	200 →
=	Guyana (81)	36.1	215 →	2.1	46 →	62 →
→	Haiti (—)	1.2	402 →	3.4 →	60 →	80 →
→	Honduras (78)	1.5 →	95 →	1.4	23 →	27 →
→	Hungary (99)		21 →	<0.1	6 →	7 →
=	Iceland (100)		3 →	0.5	2	3 →
→	India (71)	1.7	299 →	0.7	57 →	76 →
→	Indonesia (84)	1.0	253 →	0.1	26 →	34 →
→	Iran (91)	0.2	28 →	0.1	30 →	34 →
→	Iraq (83)	<0.1	78 →		37 →	46 →
→	Ireland (100)		11 →	0.2	4 →	5 →
→	Israel (100)		6 →		4 →	5 →
→	Italy (99)		6 →	0.3	4 →	4 →
=	Jamaica (95)		8 →	1.4	26	31
=	Japan (99)		29 →	<0.1	3	4
→	Jordan (97)		6 →		21 →	25 →
→	Kazakhstan (98)		142 →	0.1	26 →	29 →
=	Kenya (71)	3.9 →	334 →	6.1 →	79 →	121 →
→	Kiribati (88)		402 →		47 →	64 →
—	Korea, DPR (—)	0.7	180 →		42	
→	Korea, Rep. (100)	<0.1	123 →	<0.1	5	5 →
→	Kuwait (98)		25 →		9 →	11 →
→	Kyrgyzstan (95)	0.1	137 →	0.1	36 →	41 →
→	Lao, PDR (58)	3.3	292 →	0.1	59 →	75 →
=	Latvia (99)		60 →	0.5	8 →	9 →
→	Lebanon (95)		12 →	0.1	26 →	30 →
←	Lesotho (72)		513 →	22.7 →	102 →	132 →

SOURCES:
Malaria: World Malaria Report 2005, UNICEF and WHO (www.who.int/wmm2005/).

Tuberculosis: Communicable Disease Global Atlas Database, WHO (www.who.int/globalatlas/).
People living with HIV/AIDS: 2007 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS.

Infant mortality: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08/).
Under-5 mortality: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08/).

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Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 100,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
←	Liberia (65)	301.5 ←	578 ←		157	235
→	Libya (98)		18 →		17 →	18 →
—	Liechtenstein (—)				3 →	3 →
→	Lithuania (99)		61 →	0.1	7	8 →
→	Luxembourg (97)		10 →	0.5	4 →	4 →
→	Macedonia (96)		33 →	<0.1	15 →	17 →
→	Madagascar (61)	121.5 ←	415 →	0.5 →	72 →	115 →
→	Malawi (62)	240.4 →	322 →	12.5 →	76 →	120 →
→	Malaysia (99)	0.2	125 →	0.4	10 →	12 →
→	Maldives (86)		54 →		26 →	30 →
→	Mali (69)	62.2 →	578 →	1.6	119 →	217 →
→	Malta (100)		5 →	0.5	5 →	6 →
→	Marshall Islands (93)		241 →		50 →	56 →
	Mauritania (66)	59.6 →	606 →	0.6	78 →	125 →
→	Mauritius (98)	<0.1	40 →	0.4	13 →	14 →
→	Mexico (94)	<0.1	25 →	0.2	29 →	35 →
→	Micronesia (—)		109 →		33 →	41 →
	Moldova (96)		154 →	0.8	16 →	19 →
→	Monaco (—)		2 →		3 →	4 →
→	Mongolia (95)		191 →	<0.1	34 →	43 →
—	Montenegro		49		9 →	10 →
→	Morocco (79)	<0.1	79 →	<0.1	34 →	37 →
	Mozambique (66)	269.7 ←	624 ←	14.4 ←	96 →	138 →
→	Namibia (85)	223.4 →	658 →	17.7 →	45 →	61 →
—	Nauru (—)		134 →		25	30
→	Nepal (65)	0.4	244 →	0.4	46 →	59 →
→	Netherlands (100)		6 →	0.1	4	5 →
→	New Zealand (98)		9 →	<0.1	5 →	6 →
→	Nicaragua (72)	1.2 →	74 →	0.2	29 →	36 →
→	Niger (52)	59.1 →	314 →	1.0	148 →	253 →
→	Nigeria (63)	21.0 →	615 ←	3.5 →	99 →	191 →
—	Niue (—)		85 →			
→	Norway (100)		4 →	<0.1	3 →	4 →
→	Oman (99)	<0.1 →	14 →		10 →	12 →
→	Pakistan (64)	0.8	263 →	<0.1	78 →	97 →
→	Palau (99)		51 →		10 →	11 →
→	Panama (91)	2.9 →	43 →	0.8	18 →	23 →
→	Papua New Guinea (68)	12.3 →	513 →	1.6 →	54 →	73 →
→	Paraguay (85)	0.2	100 →	0.3	19 →	22 →
→	Peru (86)	2.9	187 →	0.5	21 →	25 →
→	Philippines (77)	0.5	432 →	<0.1	24 →	32 →
→	Poland (100)		27 →	<0.1	6 →	7 →
→	Portugal (99)		24 →	0.4	3 →	5 →
	Qatar (96)		73 →		18	21 →
	Romania (96)		140 →	<0.1	16 →	18 →
	Russian Federation (98)		125 →	0.8	14 →	16 →
→	Rwanda (53)	102.1 →	562 ←	3.1 →	98 →	160 →
→	Samoa (97)		25 →		23 →	28 →
→	San Marino (—)		5 →		3 →	3 →
→	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	393.5 →	252 →		63	96 →
→	Saudi Arabia (97)	<0.1	62 →		21 →	25 →
	Senegal (71)	119.3 →	504 →	0.8	60 →	116 →
—	Serbia		41		7	8
→	Seychelles (—)		56 →		12 →	13 →

SOURCES:
Malaria: World Malaria Report 2005, UNICEF and WHO (www.rhm.who.int/wm/2005/).

Tuberculosis: Communicable Disease Global Atlas Database, WHO (www.who.int/globalatlas).
People living with HIV/AIDS: 2007 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS.

Infant mortality: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08).
Under-5 mortality: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08).

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Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 100,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
←	Sierra Leone (61)	95.4 ←	977 ←	1.4	159 →	270 →
→	Singapore (91)		25 →	0.2 =	2 →	3 →
→	Slovakia (97)		18 →	<0.1	7 →	8 →
→	Slovenia (99)		15 →	<0.1 =	3 →	4 →
→	Solomon Islands (82)	189.9 →	194 →		55 →	73 →
→	Somalia (—)	2.4 =	293 →	0.9	90 →	145 →
=	South Africa (89)	0.3 =	998 ←	16.6 →	56 ←	69 ←
→	Spain (99)		24 →	0.4 =	4 =	4 →
→	Sri Lanka (98)	0.6 →	80 →	<0.1 =	11 →	13 →
→	St Kitts and Nevis (95)		17 →		17 →	19 →
→	St Lucia (98)		22 →		12 →	14 →
→	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)		47 →		17 =	20 →
→	Sudan (76)	91.8 →	419 ←	1.5 =	61 →	89 →
→	Suriname (86)	33.7 ←	95 →	1.6 =	29 →	39 →
←	Swaziland (77)	34.0 ←	1084 ←	34.5 →	112 ←	164 ←
=	Sweden (100)		5 →	0.1 =	3 =	3 →
→	Switzerland (97)		5 →	0.3 =	4 =	5 →
→	Syria (94)	<0.1 =	40 →		12 →	14 →
→	Tajikistan (85)	0.9 =	298 ←	0.1	56 →	68 →
→	Tanzania (73)	289.7 →	459 ←	5.9 →	74 →	118 →
→	Thailand (96)	0.6 →	197 →	1.1 =	7 →	8 →
→	Timor-Leste (60)	40.9	789 →		47 →	55 →
→	Togo (71)	92.1 →	787 ←	2.9 →	69 →	108 →
→	Tonga (95)		34 →		20 →	24 →
=	Trinidad and Tobago (95)		10 →	2.5 =	33 =	38 ←
→	Tunisia (95)		28 →	0.1 =	19 →	23 →
→	Turkey (92)	0.1 =	32 →		24 →	26 →
→	Turkmenistan (—)	<0.1 =	78 →	<0.1	45 →	51 →
→	Tuvalu (89)		504 →		31 →	38 →
=	Uganda (59)	477.9 ←	561 ←	6.3 ←	78 →	134 →
=	Ukraine (99)		114 ←	1.0 =	20 =	24 =
→	United Arab Emirates (99)		24 →		8 →	8 →
=	United Kingdom (99)		12 →	0.1 =	5 =	6 →
→	United States of America (99)		3 →	0.5 =	6 →	8 →
→	Uruguay (96)		31 →	0.4 =	11 →	12 →
→	Uzbekistan (—)	<0.1 =	145 ←	0.2 =	38 →	43 →
→	Vanuatu (87)	71.9 →	65 →		30 →	36 →
→	Venezuela (95)	1.2 =	52 →	0.6 =	18 →	21 →
→	Vietnam (90)	0.5 =	225 →	0.4 =	15 →	17 →
—	West Bank and Gaza (—)				20 →	22 →
→	Yemen (61)	13.2 ←	132 →		75 →	100 →
→	Zambia (73)	190.2 →	568 →	15.8 →	102 =	182 =
←	Zimbabwe (80)	97.6 ←	597 ←	19.2 →	68 ←	105 ←

SOURCES:
Malaria: World Malaria Report 2005, UNICEF and WHO (www.fdm.who.int/wmm2005/).

Tuberculosis: Communicable Disease Global Atlas Database, WHO (www.who.int/globalatlas).

People living with HIV/AIDS: 2007 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS.

Infant mortality: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08).

Under-5 mortality: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc08).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Malaria (cases per 1,000 people): Total number of malaria cases reported to the World Health Organization by countries in which malaria is endemic, per 1,000 people. Many countries report only laboratory-confirmed cases, but many in Sub-Saharan Africa report clinically diagnosed cases as well. Last available data: 2003; evolution since 1990.

Tuberculosis (cases per 100,000 people): Total number of tuberculosis cases reported to the World Health Organization per 100,000 people. A tuberculosis case is defined as a patient in whom tuberculosis has been bacteriologically confirmed or diagnosed by a clinician. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

People living with HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %): Percentage of adults (15-49 years) living with HIV/AIDS. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 2001.

Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births): Number of infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 live births in a given year. Last available data: 2006; evolution since 1990.

Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births): Probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age expressed per 1,000 live births. Last available data: 2006; evolution since 1990.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

HEALTH

Globalization and its pathologies

The 2007 World Health Organization (WHO) Report¹ highlights the efforts made to obtain relatively stable global sanitary safety during the last 57 years, as from the publication of the first legally binding regulations² to prevent the propagation of international diseases.

In spite of the efforts and knowledge accumulated since then, the present scenario evinces complexities unforeseeable over half a century ago. According to recent estimates, in 2006 some 2 billion passengers travelled by airplane. This indicator of the astonishing mobility that technological progress affords nowadays, is at the same time, and from a different angle, a potential threat to global sanitary safety. That number of passengers can allow an epidemic occurring in one part of the world to reach, in a matter of hours, the other side of the globe.

The Report also warns about other elements that challenged the world sanitary system. In the last 30 years diseases have been identified at an unprecedented rate. "There are now nearly 40 diseases that were unknown a generation ago. In addition, during the last five years, WHO has verified more than 1100 epidemic events worldwide."³

To the above elements can be added others derived from big accidents, climate change, reappearance of new and more resilient illnesses which were considered controlled or even eradicated, and the appearance of new diseases. Many of these are the unwanted consequences of progress at global level, even of achievements related to health.

Global risk, unequal problems

These scenarios are proof of the global reach of the different threats. The only way to effectively face the new challenges is by articulating the efforts made by each country separately with the implementation and development of global policies in which developed countries must help developing countries, in particular the poorest, not only to repair injustices between North and South but also because developed countries cannot achieve security in their territories if they disregard what is happening in the rest.

Nevertheless, the fact that the risk is global does not imply an egalitarian distribution of problems: once again, asymmetry, inequity and

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in health

		Malaria (cases per 1,000 people)	Tuberculosis (cases per 100,000 people)	People living with HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %)	Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)
Worse relative situation	Average	172	565	9	108	174
	Number of countries	19	21	19	21	21
Better relative situation	Average	0.6	41	0.3	12	14
	Number of countries	28	98	74	98	98
Total	Average	52	199	2	39	56
	Number of countries	103	185	148	185	185

CHART 2. Current situation in health by region (number of countries)

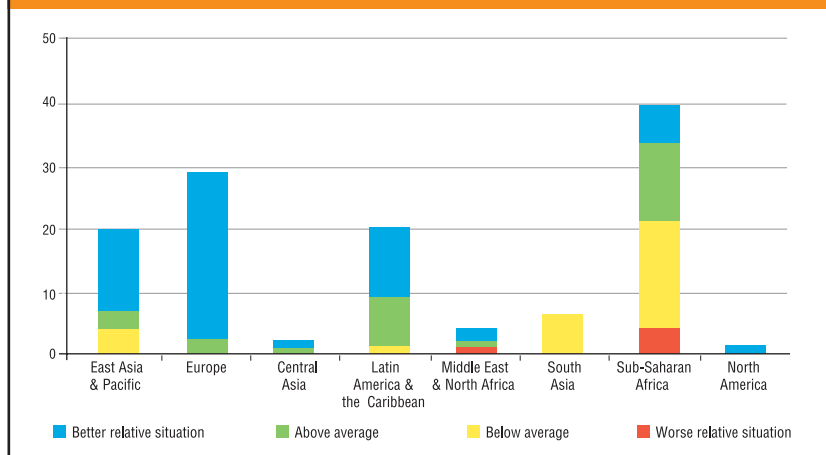


CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in health (number of countries)

	←	↩		→	→	Total
Worse relative situation	1	7	6	5	2	21
Below average	0	2	8	10	12	32
Above average	0	0	7	10	18	35
Better relative situation	0	0	16	70	11	97
Total	1	9	37	95	43	185

injustice between developed countries and the rest of the planet make global threats in the short run much more harmful to the more impoverished and more unequal societies. The summary in Chart 1 shows the averages for different illnesses in countries in the better and the worse sanitary situation. In the case of malaria, nearly one out of five people in the less favoured group have suffer illness, while in the more favoured group there is less than one case per 1,000 inhabitants. Tuberculosis is 15 times more prevalent in the countries in the worse relative situation than in the group of the more privileged countries.

Finally, a comparison of the trend for the HIV/AIDS pandemic between last year's and this year's report shows that the situation in the less advantaged countries has remained constant, with 9% of carriers in the 15 to 49 age bracket, whereas there was a slight improvement in countries in the better

relative situation, which moved from 0.4% to 0.3% for the reference population.

Other crucial indicators for understanding the global situation are infant mortality (under 1 year) and mortality in under -5. For many years the infant mortality rate was widely used as an indicator linked to the general development rate of a country. Lately, the implementation of focalized policies has led to a certain progress in infant mortality, with no correlation in progress to the general development of the country. But reducing mortality in children under the age of 5 tends to be more difficult, since this requires more long-term changes in access to health services and quality of life. This is why mortality in the first few years of life is still a useful indicator of the general sanitary situation of a country. Data for this variable show a relatively stagnant situation, if compared with last year's report. Also unchanged is the gap between countries in the

1 World Health Organization (WHO) (2007). *The World Health Report. A safer future: global public health security in the 21st century.*

2 International Health Regulations (IHR), adopted in 1951. A new expanded and revised IHR came into force in June 2007.

3 WHO, *op. cit.*

better and the worse situation: mortality in under fives is still 13 times greater in the latter group.

If the behaviour of countries in different geographical zones is analyzed for the indicators in that area, Chart 2 is more than eloquent in revealing

the distressing situation faced by Sub-Saharan Africa.

With respect to overall health progress, the comparison between the current situation and recent progress (Chart 3), the picture is more encouraging,

at least for the countries that can provide information. Of these 185 countries only 10 regressed, while 3 out of 4 evinced slight or significant progress. However the values for Equatorial Guinea show that there is still significant regression. ■

The figures for infant mortality in countries in the worse relative situation are alarming. In this subgroup, the average infant mortality is 108 children for every 1,000 live births, 9 times higher than for the subgroup in a better relative situation. There are also large differ-

ences within the less advantaged subgroup. Eleven countries double these values, with over 200 deaths for every 1,000 live births: 1 infant dies out of 5 live births.

Countries	Infant mortality (per 1.000 live births)	Countries	Infant mortality (per 1.000 live births)	Countries	Infant mortality (per 1.000 live births)
Sierra Leone	270	Liberia	235	Congo, DR	205
Angola	260	Mali	217	Burkina Faso	204
Afghanistan	257	Chad	209	Guinea-Bissau	200
Niger	253	Equatorial Guinea	206	Average for the 185 countries	39

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

A matter of life and death

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births)	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	Afghanistan (52)	52*	14*	1800	10* ➔
➔	Albania (94)	81*	100* ➔	92	60* ➔
	Algeria (94)	79*	95	180	61 ➔
➔	Angola (62)		45* ➔	1400	6* ➔
	Antigua and Barbuda (—)		100		53*
	Argentina (98)		99*	77	65*
	Armenia (96)	93*	98* ➔	76	53* ➔
	Australia (99)		100*	4	
	Austria (—)			4	51*
	Azerbaijan (85)	70*	97 ➔	82	55* ➔
	Bahamas (99)		99	16	
	Bahrain (99)		99*	32	
➔	Bangladesh (57)	49* ➔	20 ➔	570	58* ➔
	Barbados (99)	89*	100*	16	55
➔	Belarus (99)		100*	18	73* ➔
	Belgium (99)		99*	8	
➔	Belize (93)		91 ➔	52	56* ➔
➔	Benin (68)	88*	74 ➔	840	17
➔	Bhutan (78)		51* ➔	440	31* ➔
➔	Bolivia (80)	79* ➔	60,8* ➔	290	58* ➔
➔	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	99*	100	3	36 ➔
➔	Botswana (92)	99* ➔	99* ➔	380	44*
➔	Brazil (92)		97*	110	77* ➔
	Brunei Darussalam (100)		100*	13	
➔	Bulgaria (99)		99	11	42* ➔
➔	Burkina Faso (64)	73* ➔	54 ➔	700	17 ➔
➔	Burma/Myanmar (76)		68* ➔	380	34* ➔
	Burundi (58)	93*	34* ➔	1100	9* ➔
	Cambodia (66)	69*	43,8*	540	40* ➔
➔	Cameroon (70)	83*+ ➔	63	1000	29 ➔
	Canada (99)		100*	7	
	Cape Verde (93)		89*	210	53*
➔	Central African Republic (65)		54 ➔	980	19 ➔
➔	Chad (42)	43*+ ➔	15* ➔	1500	3* ➔
➔	Chile (100)		100*	16	61* ➔
➔	China (90)		98 ➔	45	90* ➔
➔	Colombia (90)	94*+ ➔	96* ➔	130	78* ➔
➔	Comoros (79)		62* ➔	400	26* ➔
	Congo, DR (69)		61*	1100	31* ➔
	Congo, Rep. (79)	87*+ ➔	83* ➔	740	44*
	Cook Islands (90)		100*		
➔	Costa Rica (94)		94 ➔	30	96* ➔
➔	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	84*	57 ➔	810	13

NOTE:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

SOURCES:
Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy: Global Health Atlas, WHO (www.who.int/globalatlas), Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys).

Births attended by skilled health personnel:
Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductivehealth/), Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys).

Maternal mortality ratio: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductivehealth/).

Contraceptive use among currently in union women aged 15-49: World Development Indicators 2008 website, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data, see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births)	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	Croatia (99)		100	7	69*
	Cuba (99)		100	45	73
	Cyprus (99)		100*	10	
←	Czech Republic (99)		100	4	72*
—	Denmark (98)			3	
	Djibouti (75)		93	650	18
	Dominica (97)		99*		50*
→	Dominican Republic (88)	98*+	96	150	61
	Ecuador (83)	56*	80*	210	73*
→	Egypt (88)	71*+ →	74*	130	59*
→	El Salvador (79)		69*	170	67*
	Equatorial Guinea (59)		63*	680	
→	Eritrea (67)	70*+	28*	450	8*
	Estonia (99)		100*	25	
	Ethiopia (54)	28*+	6*	720	15*
	Fiji (99)		99*	210	44*
	Finland (100)		100*	7	
	France (99)		99*	8	82*
	Gabon (82)	94*	86*	520	33*
	Gambia (70)	92*	57	690	18*
	Georgia (89)	91*	92*	66	47*
	Germany (100)		100	4	
	Ghana (66)	92* →	50	560	17
—	Greece (100)			3	
	Grenada (92)		100*		54*
→	Guatemala (68)	86*	41*	290	43*
→	Guinea (66)	82*+ →	38*	910	9*
	Guinea-Bissau (61)	89*	39	1100	10
←	Guyana (81)	88*	94*	470	35*
→	Haiti (—)	85* →	26	670	32
→	Honduras (78)	92*+	67	280	65
	Hungary (99)		100	6	
—	Iceland (100)			4	
→	India (71)	65*	47	450	56
→	Indonesia (84)	92* →	66*	420	57*
	Iran (91)		97*	140	74*
	Iraq (83)		89	300	50
	Ireland (100)		100*	1	
—	Israel (100)			4	
	Italy (99)		99*	3	60*
→	Jamaica (95)		97*	170	69*
←	Japan (99)		100*	6	52*
→	Jordan (97)	99* →	100*	62	56*
←	Kazakhstan (98)	82*	100	140	51
	Kenya (71)	88* →	42*	560	39*
	Kiribati (88)		90*		21*
	Korea, DPR (—)	98*	97*	370	69*
→	Korea, Rep. (100)		100	14	81*
→	Kuwait (98)		100	4	50*
←	Kyrgyzstan (95)	88*	98	150	48
→	Lao, PDR (58)	44*	19*	660	32*
	Latvia (99)		100*	10	
	Lebanon (95)		98*	150	58*

NOTE:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

SOURCES:
Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy: Global Health Atlas, WHO (www.who.int/GlobalAtlas). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys).

Births attended by skilled health personnel: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductivehealth). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys).

Maternal mortality ratio: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductivehealth).

Contraceptive use among currently in union women aged 15-49: World Development Indicators 2008 website, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics/2008

Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births)	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
→	Lesotho (72)	90*+	55*	960	37* →
	Liberia (65)		51*	1200	10*
	Libya (98)		100 →	97	
	Lithuania (99)		100*	11	
	Luxembourg (97)		100*	12	
	Macedonia (96)		98* →	10	14
	Madagascar (61)	80*+	45* ←	510	27* →
→	Malawi (62)	93*+ →	54	1100	42 →
	Malaysia (99)		100* →	62	
	Maldives (86)	98*	84*	120	39* ←
→	Mali (69)	53* →	41*	970	8* →
	Malta (100)		100	8	
←	Marshall Islands (93)		95*		34* ←
	Mauritania (66)	63*	53* →	820	8*
	Mauritius (98)		99*	15	76*
→	Mexico (94)		94 →	60	71 →
	Micronesia (—)		88* ←		45*
	Moldova (96)	98*+	100*	22	68* ←
	Mongolia (95)		99*	46	66
—	Montenegro (—)		99*		
→	Morocco (79)	68*+ →	63* →	240	63* →
→	Mozambique (66)	85*+ →	48* →	520	17* →
→	Namibia (85)	85* ←	76* →	210	44* →
—	Nauru (—)		100*		
→	Nepal (65)	70	19 →	830	48 →
←	Netherlands (100)		100	6	75* ←
	New Zealand (98)		95* ←	9	
→	Nicaragua (72)	85* →	67* →	170	69* →
→	Niger (52)	46 →	18 →	1800	11 →
	Nigeria (63)	61*	35*	1100	13* →
—	Niue (—)		100		
—	Norway (100)			7	
→	Oman (99)		98 →	64	32* →
→	Pakistan (64)		54 →	320	28* →
←	Palau (99)		100		17* ←
	Panama (91)		91* →	130	
	Papua New Guinea (68)		38* ←	470	26*
→	Paraguay (85)		100* →	150	73* →
	Peru (86)	85* →	73* ←	240	46 ←
→	Philippines (77)	88* →	60* →	230	49* →
	Poland (100)		100	8	
	Portugal (99)		100*	11	
—	Puerto Rico (—)				78*
	Qatar (96)	62*	100	12	43*
→	Romania (96)	89*	98*	24	70* →
→	Russian Federation (98)	96*	100	28	73* →
	Rwanda (53)	94*+	28*	1300	17* ←
→	Samoa (97)		100*		43* →
	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	91*	81		30
	Saudi Arabia (97)		93	18	21* ←
→	Senegal (71)	87*+ →	52* →	980	12* →
	Serbia (—)		99*		41*
	Sierra Leone (61)	82*	43*	2100	5*

NOTE:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

SOURCES:
Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy: Global Health Atlas, WHO (www.who.int/globalatlas). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measureds.com/accesssurveys).

Births attended by skilled health personnel:
Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductivehealth). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measureds.com/accesssurveys).

Maternal mortality ratio: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductivehealth).

Contraceptive use among currently in union women aged 15-49: World Development Indicators 2008 website, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births)	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
←	Singapore (91)		100	14	62* →
	Slovakia (97)		100	6	
	Slovenia (99)		100	6	
←	Solomon Islands (82)		43* ←	220	7* →
→	Somalia (—)		33	1400	15 →
→	South Africa (89)	89*	92* →	400	60* →
—	Spain (99)			4	
→	Sri Lanka (98)		97* →	58	70* →
	St Kitts and Nevis (95)		100*		54*
—	St Lucia (98)		100*		
←	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)		100*		48* →
←	Sudan (76)		49* →	450	8
	Suriname (86)	91*	71*	72	42*
	Swaziland (77)		74*	390	48* →
—	Sweden (100)			3	
	Switzerland (97)		100	5	
→	Syria (94)		93 →	130	58 →
→	Tajikistan (85)	75*	83*	170	38* →
	Tanzania (73)	94*+ →	46* →	950	26* →
→	Thailand (96)		97 →	110	77 →
	Timor-Leste (60)		19*	380	10* →
→	Togo (71)	78* →	62 →	510	17 →
	Tonga (95)		99*		33* ←
	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	96*	98	45	43 →
→	Tunisia (95)		90* →	100	63* →
→	Turkey (92)	67*	83* →	44	71* →
←	Turkmenistan (—)	87*	100 →	130	48 ←
—	Tuvalu (89)		100*		
→	Uganda (59)	94 →	42 →	550	24 →
←	Ukraine (99)	90*	100*	18	66* →
	United Arab Emirates (99)		100*	37	
	United Kingdom (99)		99*	8	82
→	United States of America (99)		100* →	11	73*
←	Uruguay (96)		100*	20	77* →
→	Uzbekistan (—)		100	24	65 →
→	Vanuatu (87)		92* →		28* →
	Venezuela (95)		95*	57	77*
→	Vietnam (90)	70*	88 →	150	76 →
—	West Bank and Gaza (—)				50 →
→	Yemen (61)	34* →	20* →	430	23* →
	Zambia (73)	93*	43* →	830	34* →
	Zimbabwe (80)	94	69	880	60 →

NOTE:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

SOURCES:
Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy: Global Health Atlas, WHO (www.who.int/globalatlas). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measurdata.com/accesssurveys).

Births attended by skilled health personnel: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductivehealth). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measurdata.com/accesssurveys).

Maternal mortality ratio: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductivehealth).

Contraceptive use among currently in union women aged 15-49: World Development Indicators 2008 website, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (%): Percentage of women aged 15-49 years attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives). Last available data: 2001-2006; evolution since 1990.

Births attended by skilled health personnel (%): Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives). Last available data: 2001/2006; evolution since 1990 or closest possible year.

Estimated maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births): Annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births. Due to changes in the model of estimation, 1995 and 2005 data are not comparable. Last available data: 2005.

Contraceptive use among women currently in union aged 15-49 (%): Percentage of women in union aged 15-49 years currently using contraception. Last available data: 2001/2006; evolution since 1991.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

A matter of life and death

Reproductive health problems are still the main cause of illness and death for women in reproductive age throughout the world. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) a woman per minute dies in childbirth due to avoidable causes and for each death there are 20 or more women who have permanent health disorders from complications arising when giving birth.

Every year half a million women lose their lives and more than 10 million find they will be unable to lead a full life. This is particularly worrying in poor countries, where most of the unwanted pregnancies, abortions performed in poor conditions, HIV/AIDS infections, deaths and permanent maternal damages occur.

Poverty and inequity related to sex exclude millions of women from the free exercise of their reproductive rights, while mortality and morbidity derived from maternity worsen their poverty situation. This makes the governments of the world more predisposed to committing themselves to prioritize, in the political agenda, the rights of women in general and their reproductive health in particular.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which came into force in 1981, related the rights of women, among them reproductive health, as the right to enjoy life in decent conditions. The policies to promote, plan and invest in the field of reproductive health cannot be treated independently from the actions that the Millennium Development Goals hope to achieve, particularly those referring to the reduction of poverty and hunger in the world.

Likewise, after the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, there was a drive for the adoption of a series of policies to foster a greater coverage of reproductive health services, integrating family planning services in pre- and post-natal care to prevent unwanted pregnancies, labour services provided by skilled personnel, adequate obstetric assistance and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

The information in the table "Reproductive health: A matter of life or death" brings to the fore the huge distance in progress between countries. Chart 1 shows that the distance between the average values in countries in the better and worse relative situation is still very significant. The greatest differences surface in the percentage of births assisted by skilled personnel: while the better positioned countries can be considered to have made assistance practically universal (98.9%), at the other end of the spectrum 62% of births do not receive specialized attention.

It is also alarming to confirm the maternal mortality gap: in the countries in the better relative situation an average of 35 women die per 100,000 live births, while in countries with greater deficiencies 929 lives are lost owing to causes related to pregnancy and labour.

There are also differences in the access to modern contraceptive methods to prevent unwanted

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse situation in reproductive health

		Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (%)	Contraceptive use among women currently in union aged 15-49	Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	Estimated maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)
Worse relative situation	Average	67.2	17.1	37.9	928.8
	Number of countries	24	33	33	33
Better relative situation	Average	93.9	64.5	98.9	35.2
	Number of countries	11	50	75	70
Total	Average	80.7	44.9	79.1	336.1
	Number of countries	79	150	177	162

CHART 2. Current situation in reproductive health by region (number of countries)

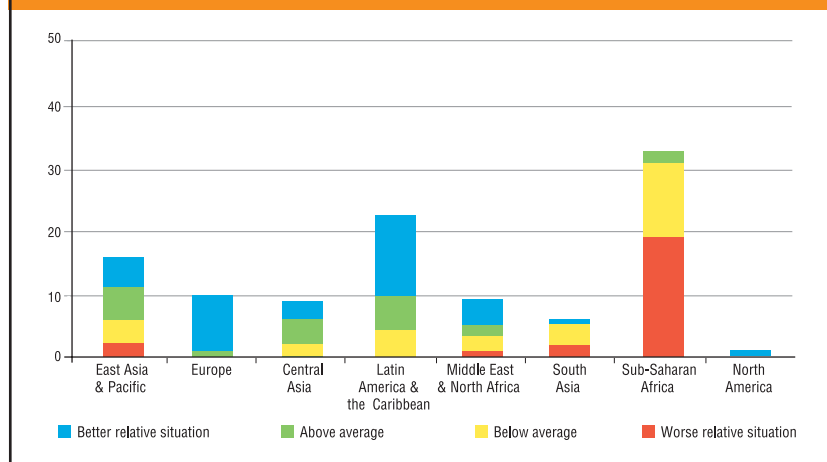


CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in reproductive health (number of countries)

	←	↶		↷	→	Total
Worse relative situation	1	1	5	12	5	24
Below average	0	3	5	7	11	26
Above average	0	3	4	5	9	21
Better relative situation	0	9	7	16	4	36
Total	1	16	21	40	29	107

pregnancies: for every six women who use contraceptives in the group of more developed countries, less than two have access to these methods in the countries in the worse relative situation.

The highest number of maternal deaths is closely associated with the lack of assistance at childbirth, and the increase in the number of deaths in countries with a high lack of attention during labour is significant. It is therefore possible to make a positive impact in the reduction of the maternal mortality rate through policies aimed at universalizing assistance at childbirth by specialized personnel.

Scenarios by region

Today's reproductive health scenario is very uneven per region (Chart 2). In Sub-Saharan Africa, more than half the countries are in the worse situation. If this category is added to the following (which in-

cludes countries below the average), the rate for the region is 87% or 9 out of 10 countries in the worse situation or below the world average.

The rest of the countries in the worse situation in this field are in East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia and the Middle East and North Africa. In Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Europe there are no countries in the group of the worse situation in reproductive health; and the two latter regions are the most advanced in the world.

The evolution indicators (Chart 3) shows that most countries have progressed slightly or significantly in the last few years; although there is also a significant proportion of stagnant countries – including critical scenarios – but, no doubt, the most worrying situation is that of countries in unfavourable scenarios whose indicators register regression. ■

GENDER EQUITY

20th century debts, 21st century shame

Gender and education

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➡ Slight progress
- ▬ Stagnant
- ➞ Regression
- ➞ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

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	Afghanistan (52)	—	0.29			0.28*
▬	Albania (94)	56	0.99 ▬	0.99*	0.97* ➔	1.60* ▬
▬	Algeria (94)	52	0.76 ➞	0.98* ➔	1.06* ▬	1.28*
➞	Andorra (—)	—		0.97* ➞	1.10* ▬	1.06* ▬
	Angola (62)	53	0.65			0.66* ➞
	Anguilla (—)	—		1.06*	0.96*	3.11*
▬	Argentina (98)	72	1.00 ▬	0.99*	1.09* ▬	1.42* ▬
▬	Armenia (96)	—	0.99 ▬	1.05* ▬	1.03* ➔	1.22* ▬
▬	Aruba (—)	—	1.00	1.01 ▬	1.10 ▬	1.56 ▬
▬	Australia (99)	76		1.01*	1.02* ▬	1.25* ▬
➔	Austria (—)	73		1.02* ▬		1.21* ➔
▬	Azerbaijan (85)	62	0.99*	0.97 ▬	0.96 ➞	0.94 ➔
▬	Bahamas (99)	80		1.03* ▬	1.02* ▬	
➞	Bahrain (99)	46	0.94 ➞	1.00* ▬	1.06* ▬	2.41* ▬
➔	Bangladesh (57)	51	0.76 ▬	1.04*	1.04* ➔	0.53* ➔
▬	Barbados (99)	77		1.00* ▬	1.01* ▬	2.46* ▬
▬	Belarus (99)	66	1.00* ▬	0.97* ▬	1.02* ▬	1.36* ▬
➔	Belgium (99)	73		1.00* ▬	1.01*	1.23* ➔
▬	Belize (93)	64	1.00* ▬	1.01 ▬	1.01* ▬	2.43*
➔	Benin (68)	41	0.49 ▬	0.81* ➔	0.49* ➔	0.25* ➔
	Bermuda (—)	—				1.18*
	Bhutan (78)	—		1.00*	1.00*	0.53*
▬	Bolivia (80)	66	0.87 ➞	1.01* ▬	0.99* ➔	
	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	—	0.95			
▬	Botswana (92)	66	1.02 ▬	1.00* ▬	1.09* ▬	1.00* ➔
▬	Brazil (92)	69	1.00 ▬	1.01*	1.10* ▬	1.32* ▬
➞	Brunei Darussalam (100)	63	0.95 ➞	1.01* ▬	1.05* ▬	2.02* ▬
▬	Bulgaria (99)	74	0.99 ▬	0.99* ▬	0.98* ➞	1.15* ▬
➔	Burkina Faso (64)	52	0.53 ▬	0.80* ➔	0.71* ➔	0.46* ➔
▬	Burma/Myanmar (76)	—	0.92 ➞	1.02* ➔	0.99* ▬	1.77* ▬
▬	Burundi (58)	62	0.78 ▬	0.91* ➔		0.38* ▬
➔	Cambodia (66)	60	0.76 ➞	0.99* ➔	0.84* ➔	0.47* ➔
	Cameroon (70)	49				0.66* ➔
▬	Canada (99)	76		1.00* ▬		1.36* ▬
▬	Cape Verde (93)	51	0.71* ➞	0.98* ➔	1.09* ▬	1.04* ➔
➞	Cayman Islands (—)	—		0.90* ➞	0.92* ➞	3.01*
➞	Central African Republic (65)	42	0.52 ➞	0.70* ➔	0.33* ➔	0.19* ➔
▬	Chad (42)	41	0.31 ➞	0.70* ➔		0.14*
▬	Chile (100)	62	1.00 ▬	0.98* ▬		0.96* ➔
▬	China (90)	69	0.91 ➞			0.98 ➔
▬	Colombia (90)	75	1.00 ▬	1.00 ▬	1.11 ▬	1.09 ▬
➔	Comoros (79)	—		0.85* ➔		0.77* ➔
	Congo, DR (69)	—	0.67 ➞			

NOTE:
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SOURCE:
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Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

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	Congo, Rep. (79)	43		1.20*		0.19* ←
	Cook Islands (90)	—		0.99*	1.10*	*
	Costa Rica (94)	68	1.01			1.26*
→	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	37	0.63	0.80* →	0.57* →	0.36*
←	Croatia (99)	74	0.98 ←	0.99*	1.02*	1.19*
	Cuba (99)	70	1.00	1.01	1.03	2.59
←	Cyprus (99)	69	0.96 ←	1.00*	1.02*	1.13*
→	Czech Republic (99)	69		1.03*		1.16* →
	Denmark (98)	80		1.01*	1.02*	1.39*
	Djibouti (75)	46		0.81* →	0.66* →	0.73* ←
	Dominica (97)	—		1.02*	1.01*	*
	Dominican Republic (88)	66	1.00	1.03	1.22	1.59*
←	Ecuador (83)	71	0.97 ←	1.01*	1.02*	
←	Egypt (88)	40	0.71 ←	0.95* →	0.92*	
←	El Salvador (79)	67	0.92* ←	1.00*	1.04*	1.22*
	Equatorial Guinea (59)	45	0.86 ←	0.90* ←		0.43* →
←	Eritrea (67)	45		0.85* ←	0.66* ←	0.15*
	Estonia (99)	74	1.00	0.99*	1.02*	1.66*
→	Ethiopia (54)	52	0.51* ←	0.93 →	0.70 →	0.32* →
	Fiji (99)	—		0.99*	1.07*	1.20*
	Finland (100)	85		1.00*	1.01*	1.21*
	France (99)	73		1.01*	1.02*	1.27*
	Gabon (82)	53	0.82*	0.99*		0.54*
→	Gambia (70)	49		1.00* →	0.84* →	0.24* ←
	Georgia (89)	64		1.01*	1.02*	1.04*
	Ghana (66)	58	0.75 ←	1.01 →	0.91 →	0.53 →
←	Greece (100)	66	0.96 ←	1.00*	1.02*	1.14*
	Grenada (92)	—		0.98*	1.01*	*
	Guatemala (68)	49	0.84	0.95* →	0.93*	0.72*
→	Guinea (66)	51	0.43	0.84* →	0.54* →	0.24* →
→	Guinea-Bissau (61)	48		0.71* →	0.55*	0.18*
	Guyana (81)	61				2.09*
→	Honduras (78)	69	1.01	1.01*		1.41* →
→	Hong Kong (—)	72		0.95*	1.01* →	1.04* →
	Hungary (99)	71		0.98* ←	1.00*	1.46*
	Iceland (100)	78		0.97*	1.03*	1.91*
	India (71)	40	0.65 ←	0.96* →		0.71* →
	Indonesia (84)	52	0.92 ←	0.97*	0.99* →	0.79* →
→	Iran (91)	54	0.87 ←	1.10* →	0.94*	1.09* →
→	Iraq (83)	—	0.76	0.86*	0.70* →	0.59* →
	Ireland (100)	70		1.01*	1.06*	1.26* →
	Israel (100)	73		1.01*	1.01*	1.34*
→	Italy (99)	65	0.99	0.99*	1.01*	1.36* →
→	Jamaica (95)	61		1.00*	1.05*	2.29* →
→	Japan (99)	61		1.00*	1.01*	0.89* →
←	Jordan (97)	47	0.91 ←	1.01*	1.04*	1.05*
	Kazakhstan (98)	75	1.00*	1.00*	0.99*	1.43*
←	Kenya (71)	59	0.90 ←	1.01*	1.01*	0.60*
	Kiribati (88)	—		1.01*	1.10*	*
	Korea, Rep. (100)	54		0.93* ←	0.96	0.64 →
	Kuwait (98)	—	0.96 ←	0.99 →	1.04*	2.87*
	Kyrgyzstan (95)	71	0.99*	0.99	1.02	1.27
→	Lao, PDR (58)	—	0.79	0.94* →	0.85* →	0.71* →

NOTE:
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	Latvia (99)	76	1.00	1.03*		1.79*
	Lebanon (95)	47		0.99	1.10	1.13*
	Lesotho (72)	64		1.06*	1.56*	1.27*
	Liberia (65)	—		0.78*	0.57*	0.76*
	Libya (98)	—				1.10* →
	Liechtenstein (—)	—		1.03*	1.11*	0.37*
	Lithuania (99)	77	1.00	1.00*	1.01*	1.56*
	Luxembourg (97)	61		1.01*	1.07*	1.17*
	Macao (—)	—	0.92 ←	0.96	1.05	0.81 →
	Macedonia (96)	68	0.96	1.00*	0.98*	1.38*
	Madagascar (61)	61	0.85 ←	1.00*	1.03*	0.89* →
→	Malawi (62)	48	0.72*	1.05 →	0.89* →	0.55* →
←	Malaysia (99)	58	0.93 ←	1.00*	1.12*	1.26*
	Maldives (86)	62	1.00	1.00*	1.10*	2.37*
	Mali (69)	50	0.44* ←	0.78* →		0.45* →
	Malta (100)	59	1.03*	0.95* ←	0.98*	1.35* →
	Marshall Islands (93)	—		0.99*	1.06*	1.30*
→	Mauritania (66)	49	0.73	1.05* →	0.89* →	0.34* →
	Mauritius (98)	60	0.91 ←	1.02*	1.02*	1.26* →
	Mexico (94)	60	0.97 ←	0.99*	0.99*	0.94* →
	Moldova (96)	74	0.99	1.00	1.03	1.39
	Mongolia (95)	70	1.00	1.02	1.13	1.57
	Montserrat (—)	—		0.96*	1.11*	*
→	Morocco (79)	43	0.60 ←	0.94* →	0.85* →	0.81* →
	Mozambique (66)	64	0.46* ←	0.91* →	0.78* →	0.49*
←	Namibia (85)	71	0.96 ←	1.06*	1.32*	0.88* ←
→	Nepal (65)	44	0.56	0.87*		0.40* →
	Netherlands (100)	78		0.99*	1.02*	1.07* →
	Netherlands Antilles (—)	—	1.00*		1.10	1.43*
	New Zealand (98)	78		1.00*	1.03*	1.49*
	Nicaragua (72)	52	1.00	0.98* ←	1.13*	1.08* →
	Niger (52)	47	0.35 ←	0.73* →	0.66* →	0.34* ←
	Nigeria (63)	43	0.65* ←	0.86*	0.84*	0.53*
	Niue (—)	—		1.00*	1.05*	*
	Norway (100)	84		1.00*	1.01*	1.53*
→	Oman (99)	48	0.85	1.02 →	0.99	1.09* →
→	Pakistan (64)	42	0.55	0.76*	0.74*	0.88* →
	Palau (99)	—		0.96*		2.15*
	Panama (91)	71	0.99	0.99*	1.09*	1.63*
	Papua New Guinea (68)	—	0.80 ←			0.55*
←	Paraguay (85)	67	0.96* ←	1.00*		1.34*
←	Peru (86)	69	0.88 ←	1.02*	0.99*	1.02*
	Philippines (77)	76	1.02	1.02	1.20*	1.23*
	Poland (100)	71		1.01*	1.01*	1.40*
←	Portugal (99)	72	0.92* ←	0.99*	1.11*	1.30*
	Qatar (96)	50	0.99	0.99*	1.00*	3.45*
	Romania (96)	72	0.98 ←	0.99*	1.03*	1.26* →
	Russian Federation (98)	76	1.00	1.01		1.37*
	Rwanda (53)	80	0.84 ←	1.04*		0.62* →
	Samoa (97)	50		1.01*	1.14*	0.93* ←
	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	47	0.85	0.98*	1.11*	*
→	Saudi Arabia (97)	47	0.87	1.00* →	1.03* →	1.50* →
	Senegal (71)	55	0.57 ←	0.96* →	0.75*	

NOTE:
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→	Seychelles (—)	51	1.01	1.01* →	1.06*	*
	Sierra Leone (61)	41	0.52			0.40*
	Singapore (91)	66	0.87* ←	1.00*	1.02*	
	Slovakia (97)	74		1.01*		1.29*
	Slovenia (99)	71	1.00*	1.00*	1.01*	1.43*
	Solomon Islands (82)	—		0.97*	0.87* →	*
	South Africa (89)	70	0.96* ←	1.00*	1.11*	1.21* →
←	Spain (99)	77	0.97* ←	1.00*	1.03*	1.22*
	Sri Lanka (98)	53	0.97 ←	1.01*		
	St Kitts and Nevis (95)	—		1.06*	0.99*	*
	St Lucia (98)	71		0.98	1.29	2.62
	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)	61		0.96*	1.23*	*
→	Sudan (76)	41	0.73	0.83* →		0.92* →
	Suriname (86)	56	0.95	1.04*	1.39*	1.62*
	Swaziland (77)	50	0.97 ←	1.01*	1.13*	1.06* →
	Sweden (100)	89		1.00*	1.00*	1.55*
	Switzerland (97)	63		0.99*	0.96*	0.87* →
→	Syria (94)	—	0.84	0.95* →	0.94* →	
←	Tajikistan (85)	52	1.00	0.96	0.85* ←	0.37 ←
	Tanzania (73)	58	0.80 ←	0.99		0.48* →
←	Thailand (96)	70	0.95 ←	0.99	1.11	1.07
	Timor-Leste (60)	55		0.96*		1.26*
→	Togo (71)	39	0.56 ←	0.86* →	0.48* →	0.20* →
←	Tonga (95)	—	1.00*	0.96* ←	1.23*	1.68*
→	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	70		1.00*	1.04*	1.28 →
	Tunisia (95)	49	0.78 ←	1.01* →	1.10*	1.40* →
	Turkey (92)	46	0.84 ←	0.95* →	0.85*	0.74* →
	Turkmenistan (—)	—	0.99*			
←	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)	—		1.07*	0.96* ←	*
	Uganda (59)	64	0.75 ←		0.90* →	0.62* →
	Ukraine (99)	74	0.99	1.00	1.01	1.23
	United Arab Emirates (99)	51		0.99*	1.02*	2.81*
→	United Kingdom (99)	75		1.00* →	1.03*	1.39* →
	Uruguay (96)	75	1.01*	1.00*		2.02*
	Uzbekistan (—)	57				0.80*
→	Vanuatu (87)	56		0.99*	0.87* →	0.59* →
	Venezuela (95)	68	0.99	1.00	1.15*	1.08*
←	Vietnam (90)	71	0.93* ←	0.94* →	0.96*	0.71* ←
→	Virgin Islands (UK) (—)	—		0.99*	1.16* →	2.28*
→	West Bank and Gaza (—)	46	0.91	1.00	1.06	1.04* →
	Yemen (61)	29	0.30* ←	0.73* →	0.46*	0.37* →
←	Zambia (73)	55	0.78* ←	1.02* →	0.80* ←	0.46*
	Zimbabwe (80)	57	0.88* ←	1.02*	0.93* →	0.63* →

NOTE:
(*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator's definition.

SOURCE:
UNESCO Website Database (www.uis.unesco.org), 2008.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Literacy ratio gap (women/men): Ratio of female literacy ratio (15-24 years old) to male literacy ratio (15-24 years old). Last available data: 2000/2005; evolution since 1990.

Net primary enrolment ratio gap (women/men): Ratio of female net primary enrolment ratio to male net primary enrolment ratio. Last available data: 2000/2005; evolution since 1991.

Net secondary enrolment ratio gap (women/men): Ratio of female net secondary enrolment ratio to male net secondary enrolment ratio. Last available data: 2000/2005; evolution since 1991.

Gross tertiary enrolment ratio gap (women/men): Ratio of female gross tertiary enrolment ratio to male gross tertiary enrolment ratio. Last available data: 2000/2005; evolution since 1991.

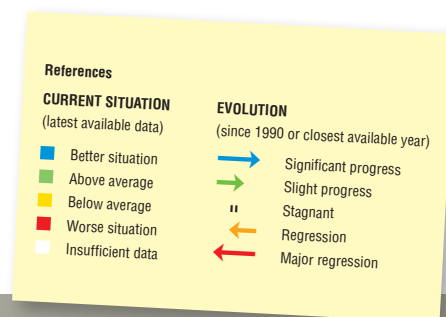
Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

GENDER EQUITY

20th century debts, 21st century shame

Gender gap in economic activity and earned income

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008



Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	GEI RANKING	ACTIVITY RATE GAP (women/men)	ESTIMATED EARNED INCOME RATIO (women/men)
←	Albania (94)	56	0.7 ←	0.5
→	Algeria (94)	52	0.5 →	0.3
	Angola (62)	53	0.8	0.6
→	Argentina (98)	72	0.7 →	0.5
←	Armenia (96)	—	0.8 ←	0.6
→	Australia (99)	76	0.8 →	0.7
→	Austria (—)	73	0.8 →	0.5
	Azerbaijan (85)	62	0.8	0.6
→	Bahamas (99)	80	0.9 →	0.7
	Bahrain (99)	46	0.3	0.4
←	Bangladesh (57)	51	0.6 ←	0.5
	Barbados (99)	77	0.8	0.6
←	Belarus (99)	66	0.8 ←	0.6
→	Belgium (99)	73	0.7 →	0.6
→	Belize (93)	64	0.5 →	0.4
←	Benin (68)	41	0.6 ←	0.5
→	Bhutan (78)	—	0.6 →	0.5
→	Bolivia (80)	66	0.7 →	0.6
→	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	—	0.9 →	0.7
←	Botswana (92)	66	0.7 ←	0.3
→	Brazil (92)	69	0.7 →	0.6
	Brunei Darussalam (100)	63	0.6	0.4
←	Bulgaria (99)	74	0.8 ←	0.7
	Burkina Faso (64)	52	0.9	0.7
	Burma/Myanmar (76)	—	0.8	0.6
	Burundi (58)	62	1.0	0.8
	Cambodia (66)	60	0.9	0.7
←	Cameroon (70)	49	0.7 ←	0.5
→	Canada (99)	76	0.8 →	0.6
←	Cape Verde (93)	51	0.5 ←	0.4
	Central African Republic (65)	42	0.8	0.6
→	Chad (42)	41	0.9 →	0.6
→	Chile (100)	62	0.5 →	0.4
←	China (90)	69	0.8 ←	0.6
→	Colombia (90)	75	0.8 →	0.6
←	Comoros (79)	—	0.7 ←	0.5
	Congo, Rep. (79)	43	0.7	0.5

SOURCE:

Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Activity rate gap (women/men): Female economic activity rate (the share of the female population ages 15 and older who supply, or are available to supply, labour for the production of goods and services) as a percentage of the male economic activity rate. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

Estimated earned income ratio (women/men): Ratio of estimated female earned income to estimated male earned income. Because of the lack of gender-disaggregated income data, female and male earned income are crudely estimated by UNDP on the basis of data on the ratio of the female non-agricultural wage to the male non-agricultural wage, the female and male shares of the economically active population, the total female and male population and GDP per capita (purchasing power parity in USD). Last available data: 1991/2005.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	GEI RANKING	ACTIVITY RATE GAP (women/men)	ESTIMATED EARNED INCOME RATIO (women/men)
→	Costa Rica (94)	68	0.6 →	0.5
←	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	37	0.4 ←	0.3
="	Croatia (99)	74	0.7 ="	0.7
→	Cuba (99)	70	0.6 →	0.4
→	Cyprus (99)	69	0.8 →	0.6
←	Czech Republic (99)	69	0.8 ←	0.5
="	Congo, DR (69)	—	0.7 ="	0.5
←	Denmark (98)	80	0.8 ←	0.7
←	Djibouti (75)	46	0.6 ←	0.5
→	Dominican Republic (88)	66	0.6 →	0.4
→	Ecuador (83)	71	0.7 →	0.6
←	Egypt (88)	40	0.3 ←	0.2
←	El Salvador (79)	67	0.6 ←	0.4
="	Equatorial Guinea (59)	45	0.6 ="	0.4
←	Eritrea (67)	45	0.6 ←	0.4
←	Estonia (99)	74	0.8 ←	0.6
="	Ethiopia (54)	52	0.8 ="	0.6
="	Fiji (99)	—	0.6 ="	0.5
←	Finland (100)	85	0.9 ←	0.7
="	France (99)	73	0.8 ="	0.6
="	Gabon (82)	53	0.8 ="	0.6
←	Gambia (70)	49	0.7 ←	0.5
←	Georgia (89)	64	0.7 ←	0.3
→	Germany (100)	—	0.8 →	0.6
="	Ghana (66)	58	0.9 ="	0.7
→	Greece (100)	66	0.7 →	0.6
→	Guatemala (68)	49	0.4 →	0.3
="	Guinea (66)	51	0.9 ="	0.7
="	Guinea-Bissau (61)	48	0.7 ="	0.5
→	Guyana (81)	61	0.5 →	0.4
←	Haiti (—)	—	0.7 ←	0.5
→	Honduras (78)	69	0.6 →	0.5
→	Hong Kong (—)	72	0.8 →	0.6
←	Hungary (99)	71	0.7 ←	0.6
="	Iceland (100)	78	0.9 ="	0.7
←	India (71)	40	0.4 ←	0.3
="	Indonesia (84)	52	0.6 ="	0.5
→	Iran (91)	54	0.5 →	0.4
→	Ireland (100)	70	0.7 →	0.5
→	Israel (100)	73	0.9 →	0.7
→	Italy (99)	65	0.6 →	0.5
←	Jamaica (95)	61	0.7 ←	0.6
="	Japan (99)	61	0.7 ="	0.4
→	Jordan (97)	47	0.4 →	0.3
→	Kazakhstan (98)	75	0.9 →	0.6

SOURCE:

Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Activity rate gap (women/men): Female economic activity rate (the share of the female population ages 15 and older who supply, or are available to supply, labour for the production of goods and services) as a percentage of the male economic activity rate. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

Estimated earned income ratio (women/men): Ratio of estimated female earned income to estimated male earned income. Because of the lack of gender-disaggregated income data, female and male earned income are crudely estimated by UNDP on the basis of data on the ratio of the female non-agricultural wage to the male non-agricultural wage, the female and male shares of the economically active population, the total female and male population and GDP per capita (purchasing power parity in USD). Last available data: 1991/2005.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	GEI RANKING	ACTIVITY RATE GAP (women/men)	ESTIMATED EARNED INCOME RATIO (women/men)
←	Kenya (71)	59	0.8 ←	0.8
	Korea, Rep. (100)	54	0.7	0.4
→	Kuwait (98)	—	0.6 →	0.3
←	Kyrgyzstan (95)	71	0.7 ←	0.6
	Lao, PDR (58)	—	0.7	0.5
←	Latvia (99)	76	0.8 ←	0.7
	Lebanon (95)	47	0.4	0.3
←	Lesotho (72)	64	0.6 ←	0.5
→	Libya (98)	—	0.4 →	0.3
←	Lithuania (99)	77	0.8 ←	0.7
→	Luxembourg (97)	61	0.7 →	0.5
←	Madagascar (61)	61	0.9 ←	0.7
	Malawi (62)	48	1.0	0.0
	Malaysia (99)	58	0.6	0.4
→	Maldives (86)	62	0.7 →	0.5
→	Mali (69)	50	0.9 →	0.7
→	Malta (100)	59	0.5 →	0.5
	Mauritania (66)	49	0.7	0.5
	Mauritius (98)	60	0.5	0.4
→	Mexico (94)	60	0.5 →	0.4
←	Mongolia (95)	70	0.7 ←	0.5
	Morocco (79)	43	0.3	0.3
	Mozambique (66)	64	1.0	0.8
	Namibia (85)	71	0.7	0.6
	Nepal (65)	44	0.6	0.5
→	Netherlands (100)	78	0.8 →	0.6
→	New Zealand (98)	78	0.8 →	0.7
	Nicaragua (72)	52	0.4	0.3
	Niger (52)	47	0.8	0.6
←	Nigeria (63)	43	0.5 ←	0.4
	Norway (100)	84	0.9	0.8
	West Bank and Gaza (—)	46	0.2	
→	Oman (99)	48	0.3 →	0.2
→	Pakistan (64)	42	0.4 →	0.3
→	Panama (91)	71	0.6 →	0.6
	Papua New Guinea (68)	—	1.0	0.7
→	Paraguay (85)	67	0.8 →	0.3
→	Peru (86)	69	0.7 →	0.5
→	Philippines (77)	76	0.7 →	0.6
←	Poland (100)	71	0.8 ←	0.6
→	Portugal (99)	72	0.8 →	0.6
→	Qatar (96)	50	0.4 →	0.2
←	Moldova (96)	74	0.8 ←	0.6
	Romania (96)	72	0.8	0.7
←	Russian Federation (98)	76	0.8 ←	0.6

SOURCE:

Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Activity rate gap (women/men): Female economic activity rate (the share of the female population ages 15 and older who supply, or are available to supply, labour for the production of goods and services) as a percentage of the male economic activity rate. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

Estimated earned income ratio (women/men): Ratio of estimated female earned income to estimated male earned income. Because of the lack of gender-disaggregated income data, female and male earned income are crudely estimated by UNDP on the basis of data on the ratio of the female non-agricultural wage to the male non-agricultural wage, the female and male shares of the economically active population, the total female and male population and GDP per capita (purchasing power parity in USD). Last available data: 1991/2005.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	GEI RANKING	ACTIVITY RATE GAP (women/men)	ESTIMATED EARNED INCOME RATIO (women/men)	
←	Rwanda (53)	80	1.0 ←	0.7	SOURCE: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP. For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008 DEFINITION OF INDICATORS: Activity rate gap (women/men): Female economic activity rate (the share of the female population ages 15 and older who supply, or are available to supply, labour for the production of goods and services) as a percentage of the male economic activity rate. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990. Estimated earned income ratio (women/men): Ratio of estimated female earned income to estimated male earned income. Because of the lack of gender-disaggregated income data, female and male earned income are crudely estimated by UNDP on the basis of data on the ratio of the female non-agricultural wage to the male non-agricultural wage, the female and male shares of the economically active population, the total female and male population and GDP per capita (purchasing power parity in USD). Last available data: 1991/2005. Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.
→	St Lucia (98)	71	0.7 →	0.5	
	Samoa (97)	50	0.5	0.4	
←	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	47	0.4 ←	0.3	
	Saudi Arabia (97)	47	0.2	0.2	
←	Senegal (71)	55	0.7 ←	0.5	
	Sierra Leone (61)	41	0.6	0.5	
	Singapore (91)	66	0.7	0.5	
←	Slovakia (97)	74	0.8 ←	0.6	
	Slovenia (99)	71	0.8	0.6	
←	Solomon Islands (82)	—	0.7 ←	0.5	
←	South Africa (89)	70	0.6 ←	0.4	
→	Spain (99)	77	0.7 →	0.5	
←	Sri Lanka (98)	53	0.5 ←	0.4	
→	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)	61	0.7 →	0.5	
	Sudan (76)	41	0.3	0.3	
	Suriname (86)	56	0.5	0.4	
←	Swaziland (77)	50	0.4 ←	0.3	
←	Sweden (100)	89	0.9 ←	0.8	
→	Switzerland (97)	63	0.8 →	0.6	
→	Syria (94)	—	0.4 →	0.3	
	Tajikistan (85)	52	0.7	0.6	
←	Macedonia (96)	68	0.6 ←	0.5	
←	Thailand (96)	70	0.8 ←	0.6	
→	Timor-Leste (60)	55	0.7 →	0.5	
←	Togo (71)	39	0.6 ←	0.4	
→	Tonga (95)	—	0.6 →	0.5	
→	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	70	0.6 →	0.5	
→	Tunisia (95)	49	0.4 →	0.3	
←	Turkey (92)	46	0.4 ←	0.4	
←	Turkmenistan (—)	—	0.8 ←	0.6	
←	Tanzania (73)	58	1.0 ←	0.0	
→	Uganda (59)	64	0.9 →	0.7	
←	Ukraine (99)	74	0.8 ←	0.5	
→	United Arab Emirates (99)	51	0.4 →	0.2	
→	United Kingdom (99)	75	0.8 →	0.7	
	United States of America (99)	75	0.8	0.6	
→	Uruguay (96)	75	0.7 →	0.6	
←	Uzbekistan (—)	57	0.8 ←	0.6	
	Vanuatu (87)	56	0.9	0.7	
→	Venezuela (95)	68	0.7 →	0.5	
	Vietnam (90)	71	0.9	0.7	
	Yemen (61)	29	0.4	0.3	
	Zambia (73)	55	0.7	0.5	
←	Zimbabwe (80)	57	0.8 ←	0.6	

GENDER EQUITY

20th century debts, 21st century shame

Women's empowerment

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➔ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	GEI RANKING	FEMALE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (%)	FEMALE LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)	WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (%)	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT HELD BY WOMEN (%)	
—	Afghanistan (52)	—				27.3	
➔	Albania (94)	56			5.3	7.1	
➔	Algeria (94)	52	32		10.5	7.7	
➔	Andorra (—)	—				28.6	
➔	Angola (62)	53			5.7	15.0	
➔	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	—	55	45	15.4	10.5	
➔	Argentina (98)	72	53	33	8.3		
➔	Armenia (96)	—				9.2	
➔	Australia (99)	76	56	37	20	24.7	
➔	Austria (—)	73	49	27	35.3	32.2	
➔	Azerbaijan (85)	62			15	11.3	
➔	Bahamas (99)	80	60	46	26.7	12.2	
➔	Bahrain (99)	46			8.7	2.5	
➔	Bangladesh (57)	51	12	23	8.3	15.1	
➔	Barbados (99)	77	52	43	29.4	13.3	
➔	Belarus (99)	66			10	29.1	
➔	Belgium (99)	73	49	32	21.4	34.7	
	Belize (93)	64	50	41	6.3	6.7	
➔	Benin (68)	41			19	8.4	
	Bhutan (78)	—				2.7	
➔	Bolivia (80)	66	40	36	6.7	16.9	
➔	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	—			11.1	14.3	
➔	Botswana (92)	66	51	33	26.7	11.1	
➔	Brazil (92)	69	52	34	11.4	8.8	
➔	Brunei Darussalam (100)	63	44	26	9.1		
➔	Bulgaria (99)	74	60	34	23.8	22.1	
➔	Burkina Faso (64)	52			14.8	15.3	
➔	Burundi (58)	62			10.7	30.5	
➔	Cambodia (66)	60	33	14	7.1	9.8	
➔	Cameroon (70)	49			11.1	14.1	
➔	Canada (99)	76	56	36	23.1	20.8	
➔	Cape Verde (93)	51			18.8	15.3	
➔	Central African Republic (65)	42			10	10.5	
➔	Chad (42)	41			11.5	6.5	
➔	Chile (100)	62	52	25	16.7	15.0	
➔	China (90)	69	52	17	6.3	20.3	
➔	Colombia (90)	75	50	38	35.7	8.4	
➔	Comoros (79)	—				3.0	
—	Congo, DR (69)	—			12.5		
➔	Congo, Rep. (79)	43			14.7	7.4	
➔	Costa Rica (94)	68	40	25	25	38.6	
➔	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	37			17.1	8.5	
➔	Croatia (99)	74	50	24	33.3	21.7	

SOURCES:
Female professional and technical workers: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.
Female legislators, senior officials and managers: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.
Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level: Human Development Report 1997/1998, UNDP and Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.
Seats in parliament held by women: PU Database, January, 2008. (www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm)

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008
Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	GEI RANKING	FEMALE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (%)	FEMALE LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)	WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (%)	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT HELD BY WOMEN (%)
→	Cuba (99)	70	62	34	16.2 →	36.0 →
→	Cyprus (99)	69	45	15		14.3 →
→	Czech Republic (99)	69	52	30	11.1 →	15.5 =
→	Denmark (98)	80	53	25	33.3 →	36.9 →
→	Djibouti (75)	46			5.3 →	10.8 →
→	Dominica (97)	—	55	48		12.9 →
→	Dominican Republic (88)	66	51	32	14.3 →	19.7 →
→	Ecuador (83)	71	48	35	14.3 →	25.0
→	Egypt (88)	40	30	9	5.9 →	2.0 =
→	El Salvador (79)	67	45	33	35.3 →	16.7 →
→	Equatorial Guinea (59)	45			4.5 =	18.0 →
=	Eritrea (67)	45			17.6	22.0 =
→	Estonia (99)	74	70	37	15.4 →	21.8 →
→	Ethiopia (54)	52	30	20	5.9 →	21.9 →
=	Fiji (99)	—			9.1 =	
→	Finland (100)	85	55	30	47.1 →	42.0 →
→	France (99)	73	47	37	17.6 →	18.5 →
→	Gabon (82)	53			11.8 →	12.5
→	Gambia (70)	49			20	9.4
→	Georgia (89)	64	62	26	22.2 →	9.4 →
→	Germany (100)	—	50	37	46.2 →	31.6 →
=	Ghana (66)	58			11.8 =	10.9
→	Greece (100)	66	49	26	5.6 =	16.0 →
→	Grenada (92)	—			40	26.7 →
→	Guatemala (68)	49			25	12.0 =
→	Guinea (66)	51			15.4 →	19.3 →
→	Guinea-Bissau (61)	48			37.5 →	14.0 →
→	Guyana (81)	61			22.2 →	29.0 →
→	Haiti (—)	—			25	4.1 =
→	Honduras (78)	69	52	41	14.3 →	23.4 →
→	Hong Kong (—)	72	40	27		
→	Hungary (99)	71	62	35	11.8 →	10.4 =
→	Iceland (100)	78	56	27	27.3 →	31.7 →
→	India (71)	40			3.4 →	8.3 =
→	Indonesia (84)	52			10.8 →	11.3 =
→	Iran (91)	54	34	16	6.7 →	4.1 =
—	Iraq (83)	—				25.5
→	Ireland (100)	70	52	31	21.4 →	13.3 =
→	Israel (100)	73	54	26	16.7 →	14.2 →
→	Italy (99)	65	46	32	8.3 =	17.3 →
→	Jamaica (95)	61			17.6 →	13.3 =
→	Japan (99)	61	46	10	12.5 →	9.4 →
→	Jordan (97)	47			10.7 →	5.5 →
→	Kazakhstan (98)	75	67	38	17.6 →	15.9 →
→	Kenya (71)	59			10.3 →	7.3 →
→	Kiribati (88)	—				4.3 →
→	Korea, Rep. (100)	54	39	8	5.6 →	13.4 →
=	Kuwait (98)	—				1.5 =
→	Kyrgyzstan (95)	71	57	25	12.5 →	
→	Lao, PDR (58)	—				25.2 →
→	Latvia (99)	76	65	42	23.5 →	19.0 →
→	Lebanon (95)	47			6.9 →	4.7 →

SOURCES:
Female professional and technical workers: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.
Female legislators, senior officials and managers: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.
Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level: Human Development Report 1997, UNDP and Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.
Seats in parliament held by women: IPU Database, January, 2008 (www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm)
 For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistic/2008
 Definition of indicators at the end of this table.

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	GEI RANKING	FEMALE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (%)	FEMALE LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)	WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (%)	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT HELD BY WOMEN (%)
→	Lesotho (72)	64			27.8 →	23.5 →
→	Liberia (65)	—				12.5 →
—	Libya (98)	—				7.7
→	Liechtenstein (—)	—				24.0 →
→	Lithuania (99)	77	67	43	15.4 →	24.8 →
→	Luxembourg (97)	61			14.3 →	23.3 →
→	Macedonia (96)	68	52	29	16.7 →	28.3 →
→	Madagascar (61)	61			5.9 →	8.0 →
→	Malawi (62)	48			14.3 →	13.6 →
→	Malaysia (99)	58	40	23	9.1 →	9.1 =
→	Maldives (86)	62	40	15	11.8 =	12.0 →
→	Mali (69)	50			18.5 →	10.2 →
→	Malta (100)	59	38	20	15.4 →	9.2 →
—	Marshall Islands (93)	—				3.0
→	Mauritania (66)	49			9.1 →	17.9 →
→	Mauritius (98)	60	43	25	8 =	17.1 →
→	Mexico (94)	60	42	29	9.4 →	22.6 →
→	Moldova (96)	74	66	39	11.1 →	21.8 →
→	Monaco (—)	—				20.8 →
=	Mongolia (95)	70	54	50	5.9 =	6.6 =
—	Montenegro (—)	—				8.6
→	Morocco (79)	43	35	12		10.5 →
→	Mozambique (66)	64			13 =	34.8 →
→	Namibia (85)	71	55	30	19 →	26.9 →
→	Nepal (65)	44	19	8	7.4 →	17.3 →
→	Netherlands (100)	78	50	26	36 →	36.7 →
→	New Zealand (98)	78	53	36	23.1 →	32.2 →
→	Nicaragua (72)	52			14.3 →	18.5 →
→	Niger (52)	47			23.1 →	12.4
→	Nigeria (63)	43			10 →	7.0
=	Norway (100)	84	50	30	44.4 =	37.9 =
→	Oman (99)	48	33	9	10 →	
→	Pakistan (64)	42	26	2	5.6 →	21.3
→	Panama (91)	71	51	43	14.3 →	16.7 →
=	Papua New Guinea (68)	—				0.9 =
→	Paraguay (85)	67	54	23	30.8 →	10.0 →
→	Peru (86)	69	46	34	11.8 =	29.2 →
→	Philippines (77)	76	61	58	25 =	22.4 →
=	Poland (100)	71	61	33	5.9 →	20.4 →
→	Portugal (99)	72	50	34	16.7 =	21.3 →
→	Qatar (96)	50	24	8	7.7 →	
→	Romania (96)	72	57	29	12.5 →	11.2 →
=	Russian Federation (98)	76	65	39		9.8 =
→	Rwanda (53)	80			35.7 →	48.8 →
=	Samoa (97)	50			7.7 =	6.1 =
=	San Marino (—)	—				11.7 =
=	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	47			14.3 →	1.8 ←
→	Saudi Arabia (97)	47	6	31		
→	Senegal (71)	55			20.6 →	22.0 →
—	Serbia (—)	—				20.4
←	Seychelles (—)	51			12.5 ←	23.5 ←
→	Sierra Leone (61)	41			13 →	12.9 →

SOURCES:
Female professional and technical workers: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP
Female legislators, senior officials and managers: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP
Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level: Human Development Report 1997, UNDP and Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP
Seats in parliament held by women: IPU Database, January, 2008 (www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm)
 For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at www.socialwatch.org/statistic/2008
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Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	GEI RANKING	FEMALE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (%)	FEMALE LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)	WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (%)	SEATS IN PARLIAMENT HELD BY WOMEN (%)	SOURCES:	
→	Singapore (91)	66	44	26		24.5 →	Female professional and technical workers: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.	
→	Slovakia (97)	74	58	31		19.3 →		
→	Slovenia (99)	71	57	33	6.3	12.2 →		
—	Somalia (—)	—				8.2		
→	South Africa (89)	70			41.4 →	32.8 →		
→	Spain (99)	77	48	32	50 →	36.0 →		
=	Sri Lanka (98)	53	46	21	10.3 =	4.9 =		
←	St Kitts and Nevis (95)	—				6.7 ←		
→	St Lucia (98)	71	53	55	8.3 →	5.6 →		Female legislators, senior officials and managers: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.
=	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)	61			20 →	18.2 →		
→	Sudan (76)	41			2.6 =	18.1 →		
→	Suriname (86)	56			11.8 →	25.5 →		
→	Swaziland (77)	50			13.3 →	10.8 →		
→	Sweden (100)	89	51	30	52.4 →	47.3 →		
→	Switzerland (97)	63	22	8	14.3 →	29.5 →		
→	Syria (94)	—	40		6.3 →	12.0 →		
→	Tajikistan (85)	52			3.1 =	17.5 →		
→	Tanzania (73)	58	32	49	15.4 →	30.4 →	Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level: Human Development Report 1997/UNDP and Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.	
→	Thailand (96)	70	54	29	7.7 →	8.7 →		
→	Timor-Leste (60)	55			22.2	27.7		
→	Togo (71)	39			20 →	7.4 →		
→	Tonga (95)	—				3.3 →		
→	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	70	53	43	18.2 →	19.4 →		
→	Tunisia (95)	49			7.1 →	22.8 →		
→	Turkey (92)	46	32	7	4.3 =	9.1 →		
→	Turkmenistan (—)	—			9.5 →	16.0 =		
→	Uganda (59)	64			23.4 →	29.8 →		Seats in parliament held by women: IPU Database, January 2008 (www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm)
→	Ukraine (99)	74	64	38	5.6 →	22.5 →		
→	United Arab Emirates (99)	51	25	8	5.6 →	19.7 →		
→	United Kingdom (99)	75	47	34	28.6 →			
—	United States of America (99)	75						
→	Uruguay (96)	75	54	40		11.1 →		
→	Uzbekistan (—)	57			3.6 =	17.5 →		
→	Vanuatu (87)	56			8.3 →	3.8		
→	Venezuela (95)	68	61	27	13.6 →	18.6 →		
=	Vietnam (90)	71	51	22	11.5 →	25.8 →	For more detailed on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistic/2008	
→	West Bank and Gaza (—)	46	35	11				
→	Yemen (61)	29	15	4	2.9 →	0.3 =		
→	Zambia (73)	55			25 →	14.6 →		
→	Zimbabwe (80)	57			14.7 →	16.7 =		

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Female professional and technical workers (as % of total positions): Women's share of positions defined according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) to include physical, mathematical and engineering science professionals (and associate professionals), life science and health professionals (and associate professionals), teaching professionals (and associate professionals) and other professionals and associate professionals. Latest available data taken from ILO Laborsta Database (March, 2007) as published by Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.

Female legislators, senior officials and managers (% of total positions): Women's share of positions defined according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) to include legislators, senior government officials, traditional chiefs and heads of villages, senior officials of special interest organizations, corporate managers, directors and chief executives, production and operations department managers and other department and general managers. Latest available data taken from ILO Laborsta Database (March, 2007) as published by Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP.

Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level (% of total positions): Women as a percentage of total decision-making positions in government. Data were provided by states based on their definition of national executive and may therefore include women serving as ministers and vice ministers and those holding other ministerial positions, including parliamentary secretaries. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1995.

Seats in parliament held by women (% of seats): Seats held by women in a lower or single house, where relevant, as percentage of total seats. Last available data: 2008; evolution since 1997.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

GENDER EQUITY

20th century debts, 21st century shame

Gender equity refers no more and no less than to justice in the treatment of men and women according to their respective needs. This means equal or different treatment based on the perfect equivalence in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities. In most societies inequalities are expressed in the non-recognition of this equivalence and therefore in the assignation of different responsibilities, rights, benefits and opportunities for men and women, whether in the activities they engage in, the access and control of resources or in the decision making process. It must be understood that the resolution of these inequities, as well as affecting the life of the world population, of which women are at least half, is essential for the economic and social development of all countries.

The tables produced by Social Watch highlight three basic dimensions: education, economic activity and empowerment. These dimensions bring out gender inequity and the situation of countries in a series of indicators that reflect them. The indicators reveal the gap between men and women, uncover the deficiencies and show the evolution of the countries' situation.

Equity in education

Education is the field where the gender equity gap has narrowed the most and where the challenges will be smaller compared to the huge ones in other dimensions, like economic activity or empowerment.

However this better comparative performance is still far from achieving the goals established for equity and inequalities persist in many countries; what is even worse, there are significant regressions. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),¹ while in 2000 31% of women lacked school education, only 18% of men were in the same situation.

Inequity of access to education for reasons of gender is concentrated in few regions and therefore becomes invisible or at least 'opaque' when analyzed jointly. At regional level, major differences are found in North Africa and minor differences in South Asia, Latin America and Central Asia.

On the other hand, gender discrimination mechanisms in the area of education do not only refer

to access, but also operate within the system itself, making access to the education system an important element but not the sole one.

These mechanisms are very often reiterative and become more elusive. For this reason, it is crucial to pay attention to the approaches to education and the running of educational organizations. In many cases it is precisely the teaching materials that perpetuate models of behaviour that reproduce negative gender stereotypes.

The summary of the Table "Equity in education" presented in Chart 3 shows the averages found in the gender gap in access to the different levels of education. The indicator for the literacy gap shows categorical differences: in countries in the worse situation there are two illiterate women for every man, while in those in the better situation the impact of illiteracy by sex is more even, though still not entirely equitable. This is because in countries in the better relative situation illiteracy is found in older generations, when the education system had not yet implemented equal opportunities for men and women.

This goes to show the inherent inertia that distinguishes gender inequality, a fact that alerts us to the importance of starting equity actions early on and in particular to keep them going over time. This conclusion is validated when we consider that the enrolment gaps in primary, secondary and tertiary education not only do not harm women but also show that they have higher enrolment figures than men. This tendency in countries in the better situation becomes particularly striking in tertiary level, where for every 5 people enrolled, 3 are women and only 2 are men.

If we analyze the situation by geographic zone (Chart 1), the most problematic region in absolute terms is Sub-Saharan Africa, although in relative terms the least equitable in terms of gender and education is South Asia, where half the number of countries is in the worse relative situation.

Finally, in an analysis of recent progress the situation is not very encouraging (Chart 2), since more than 60% of countries have remained stagnant, only 23% register progress and barely 3% have progressed significantly.

CHART 1. Current situation of the gender gap in education by region (number of countries)

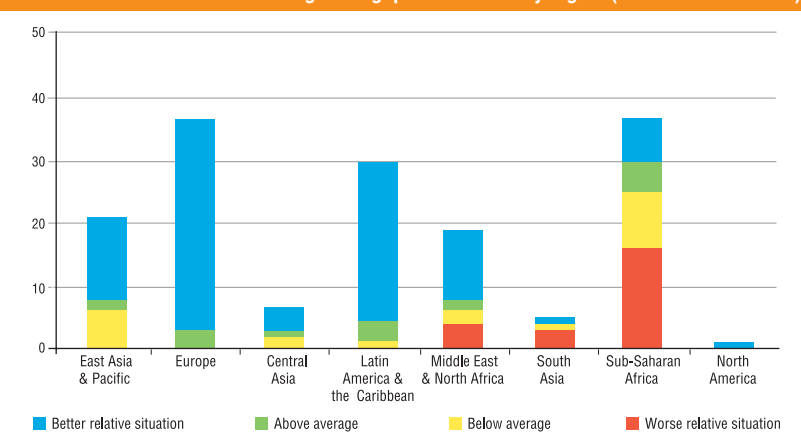


CHART 2. Current situation and evolution of the gender gap in education (number of countries)

	←	↩		→	➔	Total
Worse relative situation	0	2	9	9	3	23
Below average	0	4	8	7	1	20
Above average	1	1	13	2	0	17
Better relative situation	0	17	66	13	1	97
Total	1	24	96	31	5	157

¹ See: <www.unfpa.org/swp/2002/english/ch7/page3.htm>.

CHART 3. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations of the gender gap in education

		Literacy ratio gap (women/men)	Net primary enrolment ratio gap (women/men)	Net secondary enrolment ratio gap (women/men)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio gap (women/men)
Worse relative situation	Average	0.52	0.83	0.63	0.44
	Number of countries	22	24	19	26
Better relative situation	Average	0.97	1.01	1.06	1.48
	Number of countries	65	107	97	96
Total	Average	0.86	0.97	0.98	1.15
	Number of countries	113	152	135	149

Equity in economic activity

The data in the Table "Equity in economic activity" shows the two indicators used to detect inequities in the workplace. One indicator is based on the differential participation rate of men and women in economic activity (not counting the agricultural sector); the other on the differential retributions received by men and women. Both indicators are presented as gaps (i.e., the quotient between the indicator values for women and men). After considering jointly the two gaps and summarizing the values available for the different countries (Chart 4), it is possible to appreciate that gender equity in economic activity has registered some advances. This is particularly marked in the proportion of remunerated female staff in the non-agricultural sector, which has registered a gradual increase. This is the reason why in 2005 almost 40% of remunerated labour in the non-agricultural sector of the world economy were women.

As occurs for each of the indicators related to social development, they will appear heterogeneous and disparate. On the one hand, there is a group of countries in the better relative situation where there is a narrow economic activity gap between the proportion of men and women workers (0.85). On the other hand, there is a group of 39 countries where the gap in the activity rate is twice as wide (0.43); in other words, there are more than two men for every woman who participates in an economic activity.

The reality of the salary gap is even more worrying: in global terms women on average receive half the income received by men. Extreme situations show that in countries in the worse situation women receive a third of the salary income of men. In countries in the better relative situation, the outlook is a bit more encouraging, and women's remunerations are two thirds of men's. In many social indicators the situation of the better qualified countries is closer to the desired indicator value. But this is not so with regard to gender equity in any of its dimensions; the economic activity in particular, shows a persistent and strong discrimination. As can be seen even in the countries with the better performance, there is still a significant gap (32%) in salaries between women and men.

Given the geographic distribution of gender inequity (Chart 5) in the field of economic activity, the trends are present as in earlier reports. In the Middle East and North Africa, 9 of every 10 countries are in the worse relative situation, while in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1 of every 4 are in the group of the most unequal countries in gender equity.

A look at the regions according to their relative share in gender equity shows that, out of the total number of countries in the worse relative situation, nearly 44% are in the Middle East and North Africa. Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa have almost 18% of the countries in the world in the worse relative situation. To sum up, of the total number of countries in the worse relative situation, 80% of them are in the Middle East and North Africa. In contrast, almost half of the countries in the better relative situation are in Europe.

The recent evolution of all countries indicates a worrying situation: two thirds of them are either stagnant or regressing (Chart 6). It is discouraging to

CHART 4. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse situations of the gender gap in economic activity

		Activity rate gap (women/men)	Estimated earned income ratio (women/men)
Worse relative situation	Average	0.43	0.33
	Number of countries	39	38
Better relative situation	Average	0.85	0.68
	Number of countries	47	47
Total	Average	0.68	0.52
	Number of countries	172	169

CHART 5. Current situation of the gender gap in economic activity by region (number of countries)

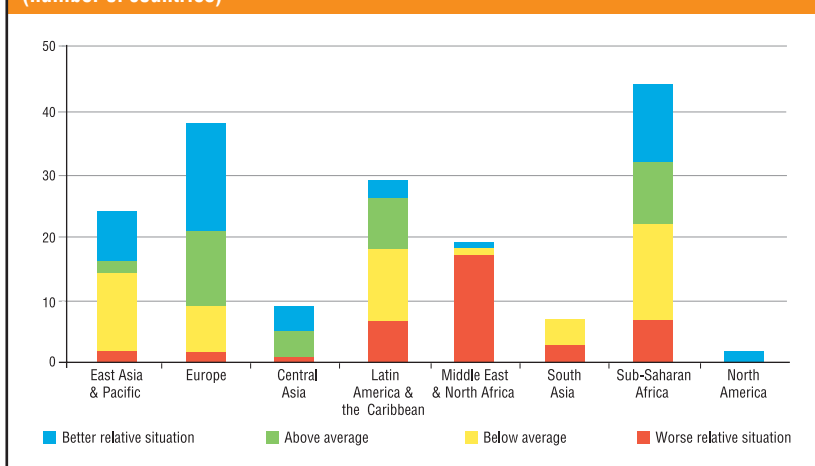


CHART 6. Current situation and evolution of the gender gap in economic activity (number of countries)

	←	↩		→	➔	Total
Worse relative situation	5	6	11	10	7	39
Below average	4	12	15	9	10	50
Above average	7	5	10	5	9	36
Better relative situation	3	13	18	11	2	47
Total	19	36	54	35	28	172

see that the proportion of countries that advances is nearly equal to that of countries that regress. Almost 70% of the countries with significant regression and 80% of those with slight regression can be found in the two poorest regions of the world, according to the classification by income done by the World Bank.

Equity and empowerment

The inequity between men and women is more evident in the access to power and its practice; there is no country in the world where women have the same opportunities as men for participating in political, economic and social decision-making. In the last decade there has been a faster growth in the number of women with parliament seats, reaching 17.5% in 2008.² However the process is slow and even if the present rate remained

steady, it is estimated that parity between women and men in parliaments will not be reached until 2040.³

By 2015, the third Millennium Development Goal commits countries to attain an equitable representation between the two sexes in decision-making processes. Yet currently, indicators reveal that the interests and needs of women are not represented in the decision-making that is crucial to society or in the processes of policy formulation.

Even in countries in the better relative situation (Chart 9), women are behind men in exercising the power of decision; they occupy only 36% of senior official or manager positions, 33% of ministerial level

³ Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues, at a press briefing on occasion of the International Women's Day, March 2006. Available at: <www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2006/PressReleaseIWD8March.pdf>.

² <www.ipu.org/english/home.htm>

posts and 29% of parliamentary seats. At the other extreme in terms of distribution are the countries in the worse relative situation, more distant from achieving the empowerment of women. Women occupy barely 13% of senior official or manager positions, 8% of ministry level posts and 10% of parliamentary seats.

Women's empowerment does not depend on the level of wealth of a country; high economic development does not necessarily lead to gender equity. It is necessary to take decisions and implement specific measures – such as a quota system for elections – to lessen inequity in the access of women to positions of power.

All the regions in the world show deficient situations (Chart 7); even in Europe there are countries in the worse relative situation below the world average. Likewise, in countries with a high income level, according to the World Bank classification, there are conditions of deprivation in relation to women and their access to power, such as in Japan and the Republic of Korea. Furthermore, the countries in South Asia, Middle East and North Africa are all in the worse possible position or below the world average.

Chart 8 shows recent evolution, where in most countries (140 in 158) the empowerment of women has made slight or significant progress. Some countries, however, register significant regression, such as Albania and Seychelles, which are in the worse relative situation and below the average, respectively. India and Chad, also in the worse relative situation, register slight regression. ■

CHART 7. Current situation in women's empowerment by region (number of countries)

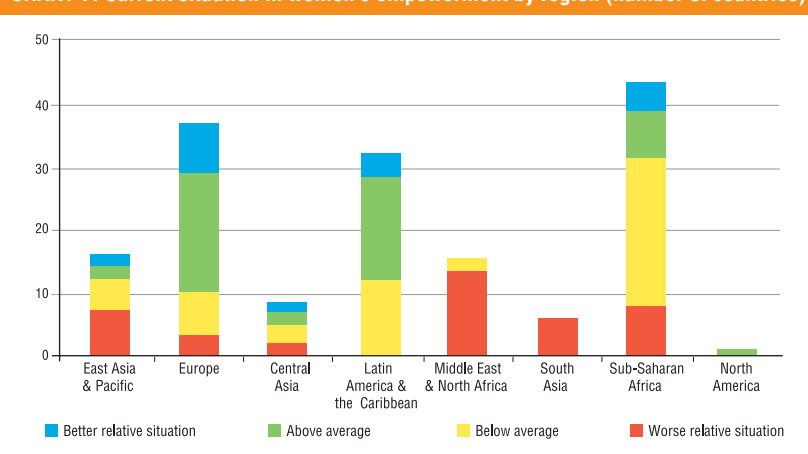


CHART 8. Current situation and evolution in women's empowerment (number of countries)

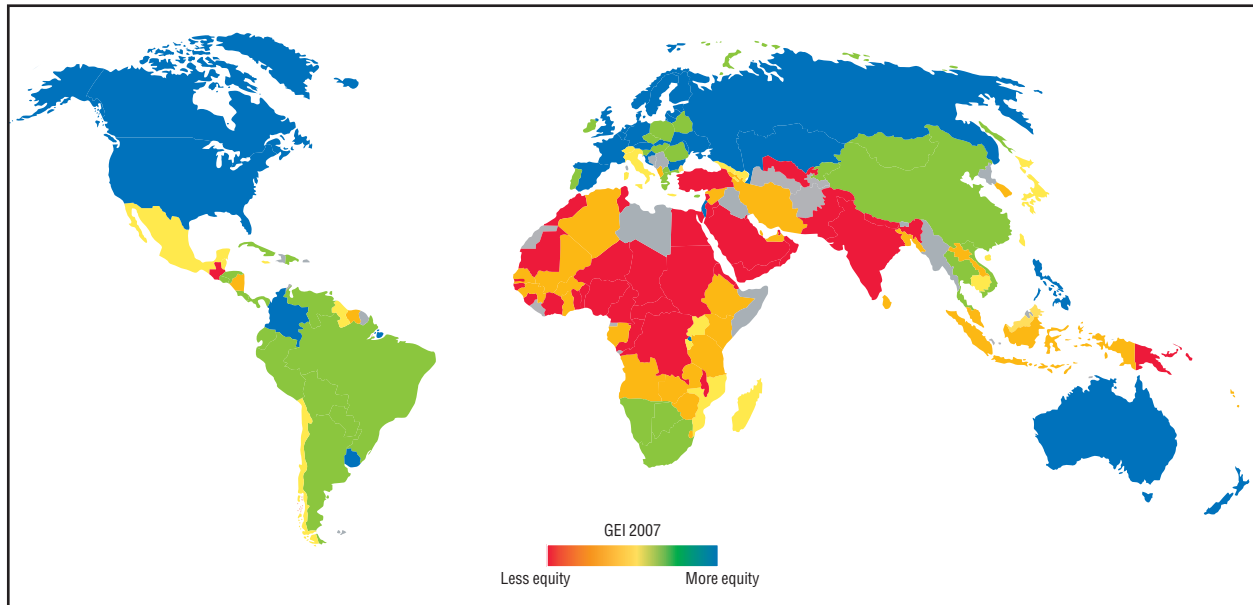
	←	↩		→	➔	Total
Worse relative situation	1	2	3	26	7	39
Below average	1	0	3	37	11	52
Above average	0	1	4	23	20	48
Better relative situation	0	1	2	3	13	19
Total	2	4	12	89	51	158

CHART 9. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in women's empowerment

		Female professional and technical workers (%)	Female legislators, senior officials and managers (%)	Women in decision-making positions in government at ministerial level (%)	Seats in parliament held by women (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	33.0	13.1	8.3	9.6
	Number of countries	24	22	37	36
Better relative situation	Average	56.7	36.4	32.9	29.4
	Number of countries	13	13	18	20
Total	Average	47.5	28.9	16.1	17.5
	Number of countries	99	97	153	154

GENDER EQUITY INDEX 2008

20th century debts, 21st century shame



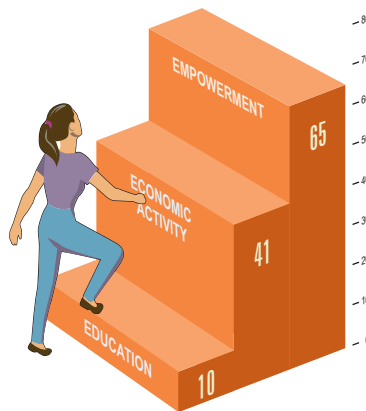
In order to contribute to the understanding of gender-based inequities and to monitor the status and its evolution, Social Watch has developed the Gender Equity Index (GEI). This index is based on internationally available comparable data and it makes it possible to position and classify countries according to a selection of indicators relevant to gender inequity in three different dimensions: education, participation in the economy and empowerment.

In 2008, the GEI ranks the present situation of 157 countries, based on the most recent statistics available, and is able to determine evolution trends in 133 countries by comparing their present index with that of five years ago. (See the detailed methodology references and complete listings in www.socialwatch.org).

The index has a maximum possible value of 100%, which would indicate no gender gap at all in each of the three dimensions. The GEI measures the gap between women and men, not their welfare. Thus, for example, a country where both boys and girls have equal access to university studies would rank 100 in this aspect, and a country where both boys and girls are equally unable to complete primary school would also rank 100. This is not to imply that the quality of the education should not be improved. It just says that boys and girls suffer from the same lack of quality.

Education is the only component in the index where many countries have actually reached parity level. When parity has been reached, obviously no further progress is possible. But beyond the fact that many countries do not progress, the GEI education component reveals that many of them are regress-

The stairway to gender equity



Big steps ahead

The step leading to gender equity in education in all countries of the world is not a very big one. Yet, more countries are regressing in education than those making progresses. A larger number of countries show significant progress in economic activity, but the number of those regressing is also considerable and the global trend is therefore unclear. Evolution in empowerment seems promising, since most countries are showing progress, yet this is by far the largest gap to overcome.

ing. In the two other dimensions, related to women's integration into economic and political life, no country shows complete parity yet.

Income alone does not generate equity

The GEI evidences that income differences between countries are no justification for gender-based inequities. Many poor countries have achieved a high level of equity, which is a positive achievement, even when that means an equitable distribution of poverty. In fact, the reverse is often true: many countries that have acceptable average figures in social indicators frequently hide behind those averages enormous disparities between men and women. The elimination of gender disparities can be achieved with active policies and does not require that countries improve their income levels in order to succeed.

Sweden, Finland and Norway continue to have the highest rankings in the 2008 GEI. Although the three countries do not lead in all the dimensions that make up the index (see gaps in Education, Empowerment and Economic Activity) they have good performances in all of them. Germany ranks fourth and Rwanda – one of the poorest countries in the world – takes the fifth place. In all these cases, the gender gap has been reduced through active policies, including gender quotas for political participation in elected bodies and pro-equity regulations in the labour market.

The GEI has been computed for 42 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, 37 in Europe, 28 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 17 in the Middle East and North Africa, 18 in East Asia and the Pacific, 7 in Central Asia, 6 in South Asia and 2 in North America. Together these countries represent more than 94% of the world's population.

Progress and setbacks

More than half the women in the world live in countries that have made no progress in gender equity in recent years. This is the main conclusion of the Social Watch 2008 GEI which, for the first time, shows recent evolution and trends in bridging the gap between men and women in education, economy activity and empowerment.

The GEI 2008 illustrates that the greater equity levels to be found in education are not paralleled by acceptable levels in the economic field nor in the empowerment of women. Political empowerment is the area where most progress has been made in recent years as a result of active policies, yet economic equity shows disparate results, with as many countries regressing as those where there is progress. In education the gap is comparatively closer, but the trend for many countries is to regress.

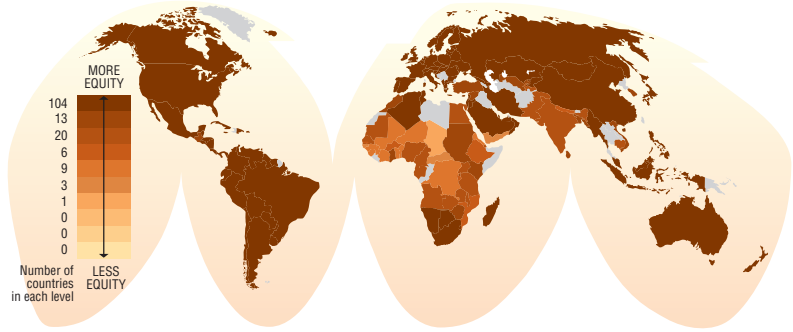
Difficulties in reaching equity cannot be justified by a lack of resources: the GEI mapping and that of each of its components show that – regardless of income levels – each country can reduce gender disparity through adequate policies. ■

GEI regional average by component

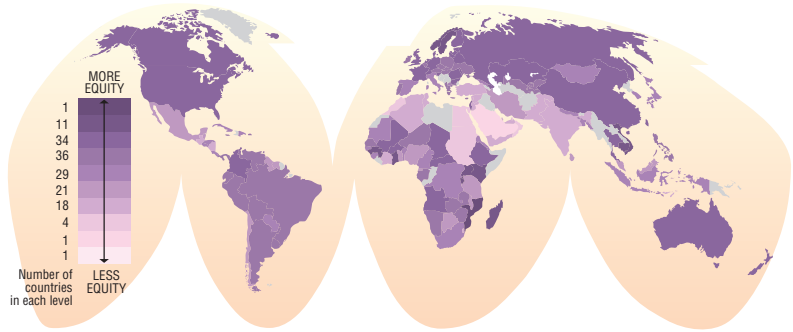
	Education	Economic activity	Empowerment
World*	90	59	35
Central Asia	92	65	30
East Asia	94	62	37
Europe	99	68	49
Latin America & Caribbean	99	57	45
Middle East & North Africa	90	35	19
North America	100	73	53
South Asia	80	47	20
Sub-Saharan Africa	73	61	24

* The size of the gap: Index points needed to achieve equity (100) globally in each dimension of the GEI.

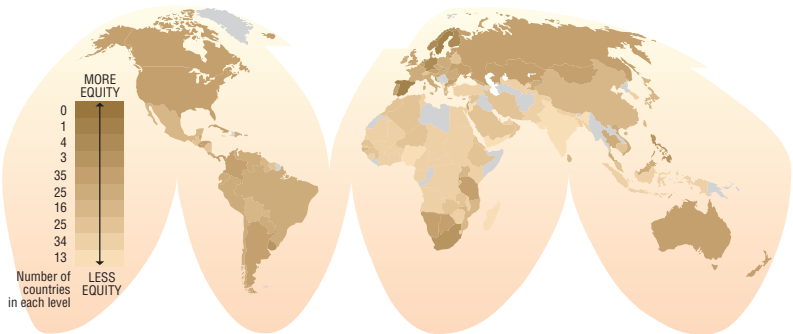
Education gap



Economic activity gap



Empowerment gap



GEI VALUES IN 2008 AND RECENT GEI TRENDS (2004-2008)								
Country	GEI 2008	Evolution (%) (2004-2008)	Country	GEI 2008	Evolution (%) (2004-2008)	Country	GEI 2008	Evolution (%) (2004-2008)
Sweden	89	5.8	Peru	69	22.6	Angola	53	-18.7
Finland	85	6.9	Honduras	69	11.7	Gabon	53	-2.7
Norway	84	11.4	Czech Republic	69	-2.5	Tajikistan	52	-6.9
Germany	80		China	69	9.9	Indonesia	52	-6.5
Rwanda	80	13.3	Cyprus	69	13.3	Ethiopia	52	9.7
Bahamas	80	9.7	Venezuela	68	11.1	Burkina Faso	52	-2.3
Denmark	80	-1.1	Macedonia	68	8.8	Nicaragua	52	-10.0
New Zealand	78	3.4	Costa Rica	68	4.2	Algeria	52	11.0
Iceland	78	4.9	Paraguay	67	14.6	Bangladesh	51	-5.2
Netherlands	78	7.7	El Salvador	67	9.3	Cape Verde	51	-6.8
Lithuania	77	3.4	Greece	66	7.0	United Arab Emirates	51	9.3
Spain	77	16.8	Bolivia	66	12.5	Syria	51	9.6
Barbados	77	3.6	Botswana	66	-6.0	Guinea	51	-7.1
Russian Federation	76	5.6	Belarus	66	4.8	Mali	50	-6.5
Australia	76	6.6	Dominican Republic	66	6.5	Samoa	50	
Philippines	76	4.9	Singapore	66	4.5	Swaziland	50	-2.3
Latvia	76	1.6	Italy	65	5.4	Qatar	50	1.0
Canada	76	-2.7	Uganda	64	3.3	Cameroon	49	-9.1
Colombia	75	11.8	Georgia	64	-0.4	Gambia	49	-20.4
Kazakhstan	75	19.0	Lesotho	64	15.8	Mauritania	49	3.1
United States of America	75	-2.9	Belize	64	15.5	Tunisia	49	-4.1
United Kingdom	75	6.4	Mozambique	64		Guatemala	49	5.0
Uruguay	75	9.2	Switzerland	63	-0.4	Guinea-Bissau	48	2.9
Slovakia	74	0.5	Brunei Darussalam	63	15.5	Oman	48	14.2
Bulgaria	74	1.5	Chile	62	6.1	Malawi	48	-22.5
Moldova	74	2.1	Maldives	62	-8.7	Lebanon	47	2.2
Ukraine	74	6.7	Azerbaijan	62	0.2	Saudi Arabia	47	13.2
Estonia	74	1.2	Burundi	62	2.2	Jordan	47	0.2
Croatia	74	7.1	Luxembourg	61	3.1	Sao Tome and Principe	47	
Belgium	73	10.1	Jamaica	61	-8.5	Niger	47	1.3
Austria	73	4.6	Japan	61	2.8	Bahrain	46	-1.0
France	73	15.0	Madagascar	61	-4.1	West Bank and Gaza	46	-2.6
Israel	73	9.2	Guyana	61	6.0	Djibouti	46	
Portugal	72	4.3	St Vincent and Grenadines	61		Turkey	46	-8.6
Hong Kong	72	2.1	Cambodia	60	-1.3	Equatorial Guinea	45	9.2
Romania	72	4.1	Mauritius	60	16.8	Eritrea	45	-26.1
Argentina	72	22.7	Mexico	60	2.6	Nepal	44	3.3
Kyrgyzstan	71	12.2	Kenya	59	-5.2	Morocco	43	
Poland	71	-2.3	Malta	59	25.3	Congo, Rep.	43	-3.5
Vietnam	71	7.7	Ghana	58	-6.4	Nigeria	43	-18.0
Panama	71	14.3	Tanzania	58		Central African Republic	42	-12.2
Slovenia	71	0.9	Malaysia	58	-7.9	Pakistan	42	-0.3
Ecuador	71	22.3	Zimbabwe	57	-3.4	Sudan	41	-11.5
Hungary	71	2.7	Uzbekistan	57	-10.2	Sierra Leone	41	-3.1
Namibia	71	3.2	Suriname	56	-11.1	Benin	41	-16.7
St Lucia	71		Vanuatu	56		Chad	41	-13.0
Mongolia	70	9.0	Albania	56	-8.1	India	40	-8.8
Ireland	70	10.2	Zambia	55	-2.4	Egypt	40	-20.0
South Africa	70	4.3	Timor-Leste	55		Togo	39	-5.5
Thailand	70	0.3	Senegal	55	-2.1	Côte d'Ivoire	37	-7.1
Trinidad and Tobago	70	2.5	Korea, Rep.	54	-4.5	Yemen	29	1.8
Cuba	70	6.4	Iran	54	18.6			
Brazil	69	10.5	Sri Lanka	53	-13.1			

STATUS OF RATIFICATIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL ILO CONVENTIONS

Up to July 2008

C87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948.

C98: Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949.

C100: Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951.

C105: Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957.

C111: Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958.

C138: Minimum Age Convention, 1973.

C182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999.

Countries that have ratified all these conventions:

Albania; Algeria; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahamas; Barbados; Belarus; Belgium; Belize; Benin; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Cameroon; Central African

Republic; Chad; Chile; Colombia; Comoros; Congo, DR; Congo, Rep.; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Equatorial Guinea; Estonia; Ethiopia; Fiji; Finland; France; Gambia; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guyana; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland; Indonesia; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lesotho; Libya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Mozambique; Netherlands; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; San Marino; Sao Tome and Principe; Senegal; Serbia; Seychelles; Slovakia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; St Kitts and Nevis; St Vincent and Grenadines; Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syria; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Togo; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Uruguay; Venezuela; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

	FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING		ELIMINATION OF FORCED AND COMPULSORY LABOUR	ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION			ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR		FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING		ELIMINATION OF FORCED AND COMPULSORY LABOUR	ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION			ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR
	C 87	C 98		C 100	C 111	C 138			C 182	C 87		C 98	C 105	C 100	
Afghanistan	□	□	■	■	■	□	□	Liberia	■	■	■	□	■	□	■
Australia	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Malaysia	□	■	●	■	□	■	■
Bahrain	□	□	■	□	■	□	■	Mexico	■	□	■	■	■	□	■
Bangladesh	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Morocco	□	■	■	■	■	■	■
Brazil	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Namibia	■	■	■	□	■	■	■
Burma/Myanmar	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	Nepal	□	■	■	■	■	■	■
Canada	■	□	■	■	■	□	■	New Zealand	□	■	■	■	■	□	■
Cape Verde	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Oman	□	□	■	□	□	■	■
China	□	□	□	■	■	■	■	Qatar	□	□	■	□	■	■	■
Cuba	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	Samoa	■	■	■	■	■	□	■
Eritrea	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	Saudi Arabia	□	□	■	■	■	□	■
Gabon	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Sierra Leone	■	■	■	■	■	□	□
Ghana	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Singapore	□	■	●	■	□	■	■
Guinea-Bissau	□	■	■	■	■	□	□	Solomon Islands	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Haiti	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	Somalia	□	□	■	□	■	□	□
India	□	□	■	■	■	□	□	St Lucia	■	■	■	■	■	□	■
Iran	□	□	■	■	■	□	■	Sudan	□	■	■	■	■	■	■
Iraq	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Suriname	■	■	■	□	□	□	■
Japan	■	■	□	■	□	■	■	Thailand	□	□	■	■	□	■	■
Jordan	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Timor-Leste	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Kenya	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Turkmenistan	■	■	■	■	■	□	□
Kiribati	■	■	■	□	□	□	□	United Arab Emirates	□	□	■	■	■	■	■
Korea, Rep.	□	□	□	■	■	■	■	United States of America	□	□	■	□	□	□	■
Kuwait	■	■	■	□	■	■	■	Uzbekistan	□	■	■	■	■	□	■
Lao, PDR	□	□	□	■	■	■	■	Vanuatu	■	■	■	■	■	□	■
Lebanon	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	Vietnam	□	□	□	■	■	■	■

Source: ILOLEX. ILO website Database (www.ilo.org/).

- Convention ratified
- Convention not yet ratified
- Convention denounced

STATUS OF RATIFICATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

Up to July 2008

A: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 1966. Entry into force: 3 January 1976.
B: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), 1966. Entry into force: 23 March 1976.
C: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 1965. Entry into force: 4 January 1969.
D: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979. Entry into force: 3 September 1981.
E: Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), 1984. Entry into force: 26 June 1987.
F: Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989. Entry into force: 2 September 1990.
G: Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948. Entry into force: 12 January 1951.
H: Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951. Entry into force: 22 April 1954.
I: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC), 1990. Entry into force: 1 July 2003.

	UN Member since	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		UN Member since	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
Afghanistan	1946	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Croatia	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Albania	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Cuba	1945	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Algeria	1962	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Cyprus	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Andorra	1993		●	●	●	●	●	●				Czech Republic	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Angola	1976	●	●		●		●		●			Denmark	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Antigua and Barbuda	1981			●	●	●	●	●	●			Djibouti	1977	●	●	○	●	●	●		●	
Argentina	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Dominica	1978	●	●		●		●		●	
Armenia	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Dominican Republic	1945	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	
Australia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Ecuador	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Austria	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Egypt	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Azerbaijan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		El Salvador	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bahamas	1973			●	●		●	●	●			Equatorial Guinea	1968	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Bahrain	1971	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Eritrea	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bangladesh	1974	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○		Estonia	1991	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Barbados	1966	●	●	●	●		●	●				Ethiopia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Belarus	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Fiji	1970			●	●		●	●	●	
Belgium	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Finland	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Belize	1981	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		France	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Benin	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	○		Gabon	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Bhutan	1971			○	●		●					Gambia	1965	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	
Bolivia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Georgia	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Germany	1973	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Botswana	1966		●	●	●	●	●		●			Ghana	1957	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Brazil	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Greece	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Brunei Darussalam	1984				●		●					Grenada	1974	●	●	○	●		●			
Bulgaria	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Guatemala	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Burkina Faso	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Guinea	1958	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Burma/Myanmar	1948				●		●	●				Guinea-Bissau	1974	●	○	○	●	○	●		●	○
Burundi	1962	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Guyana	1966	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		○
Cambodia	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○		Haiti	1945		●		●		●	●	●	
Cameroon	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Holly See			●		●		●		●	
Canada	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Honduras	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cape Verde	1975	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		Hungary	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Central African Republic	1960	●	●	●	●		●		●			Iceland	1946	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chad	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●			India	1945	●	●	●	●	○	●	●		
Chile	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Indonesia	1950	●	●	●	●	●	●			○
China	1945	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Iran	1945	●	●	●			●	●	●	
Colombia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Iraq	1945	●	●	●	●		●	●		
Comoros	1975			●	●	○	●	●		○		Ireland	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Congo, DR	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Israel	1949	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Congo, Rep.	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●			Italy	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cook Islands					●		●					Jamaica	1962	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	
Costa Rica	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Japan	1956	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Côte d'Ivoire	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Jordan	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

	UN Member since	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		UN Member since	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		
Kazakhstan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Qatar	1971			●		●	●					
Kenya	1963	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Romania	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Kiribati	1999				●		●				Russian Federation	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Korea, DPR	1991	●	●		●		●	●			Rwanda	1962	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Korea, Rep.	1991	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Samoa	1976		●		●		●		●			
Kuwait	1963	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			San Marino	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●					
Kyrgyzstan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Sao Tome and Principe	1975	○	○	○	●	○	●			●	○	
Lao, PDR	1955	●	○	●	●		●	●			Saud Arabia	1945			●	●	●	●	●	●			
Latvia	1991	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Senegal	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Lebanon	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Serbia	2000	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	
Lesotho	1966	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Seychelles	1976	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Liberia	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	Sierra Leone	1961	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	○	
Libya	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Singapore	1965				●		●	●				
Liechtenstein	1990	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Slovakia	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Lithuania	1991	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Slovenia	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Luxembourg	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Solomon Islands	1978	●		●	●		●			●		
Macedonia	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Somalia	1960	●	●	●		●	○			●		
Madagascar	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			South Africa	1945	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Malawi	1964	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		Spain	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Malaysia	1957				●		●	●			Sri Lanka	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Maldives	1965	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			St Kitts and Nevis	1983			●	●		●			●		
Mali	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	St Lucia	1979			●	●		●					
Malta	1964	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		St Vincent and Grenadines	1980	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Marshall Islands	1991				●		●				Sudan	1956	●	●	●		○	●	●	●			
Mauritania	1961	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	Suriname	1975	●	●	●	●		●			●		
Mauritius	1968	●	●	●	●	●	●				Swaziland	1968	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		
Mexico	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Sweden	1946	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Micronesia	1991				●		●				Switzerland	2002	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Moldova	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Syria	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Monaco	1993	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Tajikistan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	
Mongolia	1961	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Tanzania	1961	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Montenegro	2006	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	Thailand	1946	●	●	●	●	●	●					
Morocco	1956	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Timor-Leste	2002	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	
Mozambique	1975		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Togo	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	
Namibia	1990	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Tonga	1999			●			●	●				
Nauru	1999		○	○		○	●				Trinidad and Tobago	1962	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Nepal	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Tunisia	1956	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Netherlands	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Turkey	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
New Zealand	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Turkmenistan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Nicaragua	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Tuvalu	2000				●		●			●		
Niger	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		Uganda	1962	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Nigeria	1960	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		Ukraine	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Norway	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		United Arab Emirates	1971			●	●		●	●				
Oman	1971			●	●		●				United Kingdom	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Pakistan	1947	●	○	●	●	○	●	●			United States of America	1945	○	●	●	○	●	○	●	●			
Palau	1994						●				Uruguay	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Panama	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Uzbekistan	1992	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Papua New Guinea	1975	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		Vanuatu	1981		○		●		●					
Paraguay	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	Venezuela	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Peru	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Vietnam	1977	●	●	●	●		●	●				
Philippines	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Yemen	1947	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Poland	1945	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Zambia	1964	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Portugal	1955	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		Zimbabwe	1980	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			

Source: Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (www2.ohchr.org).

- Ratification, accession, approval, notification or succession, acceptance, consent to be bound or definitive signature.
- Signature not yet followed by ratification.

How to read the Social Watch tables

GENDER EQUITY

20th century debts, 21st century shame

Gender and education

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

1 Summary: Current situation (colour)

2 Evolution (arrow)

3 Countries (BCI value, 0-100)

4 Literacy Ratio Gap (women/men)

5 Net Primary Enrolment Ratio Gap (women/men)

6 Net Secondary Enrolment Ratio Gap (women/men)

7 Gross Tertiary Enrolment Ratio Gap (women/men)

8 Technical notes: BCI design in countries

9 Technical notes: Net primary enrolment ratio

10 Technical notes: Net secondary enrolment ratio

11 Technical notes: Gross tertiary enrolment ratio

12 Technical notes: Methodological notes and guidelines

COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	BCI RANKING	LITERACY RATIO GAP (women/men)	NET PRIMARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	NET SECONDARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	GROSS TERTIARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)
Alghanistan (52)	—	0.29	0.99*	0.97*	0.20*
Albania (94)	56	0.96*	0.99*	0.97*	1.60*
Algeria (94)	52	0.98*	1.06*	1.06*	1.28*
Andorra (—)	—	0.97*	1.10*	1.08*	—
Angola (62)	53	0.65	0.96*	0.96*	0.60*
Anguilla (—)	—	1.06*	0.99*	0.96*	3.11*
Argentina (98)	72	1.00*	0.99*	1.09*	1.42*
Armenia (96)	—	0.99*	1.05*	1.03*	1.22*
Aruba (—)	—	1.00*	1.01*	1.10*	1.56*
Australia (99)	78	1.01*	1.01*	1.02*	1.25*
Austria (—)	73	1.02*	1.02*	1.11*	1.21*
Azerbaijan (85)	82	0.99*	0.97*	0.96*	0.94*
Bahamas (99)	80	1.03*	1.03*	1.02*	—
Bahrain (99)	46	0.94*	1.03*	1.06*	2.41*
Bangladesh (57)	51	0.76*	1.04*	1.04*	0.53*
Barbados (99)	77	1.00*	1.00*	1.01*	2.46*
Belarus (99)	66	1.00*	0.97*	1.02*	1.38*
Belgium (99)	73	1.00*	1.00*	1.01*	1.23*
Belize (93)	84	1.00*	1.01*	1.01*	2.43*
Belize (68)	41	0.49*	0.91*	0.49*	0.25*
Bermuda (—)	—	—	—	—	1.18*
Bhutan (78)	—	—	1.00*	1.00*	0.53*
Bolivia (95)	66	0.87*	0.91*	0.99*	—
Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	—	0.95*	—	—	—
Botswana (92)	66	1.02*	1.00*	1.09*	1.00*
Brazil (92)	69	1.00*	1.01*	1.10*	1.32*
Brunei Darussalam (100)	83	0.95*	1.01*	1.01*	0.96*
Bulgaria (99)	74	0.99*	0.99*	0.98*	1.15*
Burkina Faso (64)	52	0.53*	0.90*	0.71*	0.46*
Burundi (58)	62	0.78*	0.91*	0.84*	0.38*
Cambodia (65)	80	0.76*	0.99*	0.84*	0.47*
Cameroon (78)	49	—	—	—	0.96*
Canada (99)	76	1.00*	1.00*	1.00*	1.38*
Cape Verde (93)	51	0.71*	0.98*	1.09*	1.04*
Cayman Islands (—)	—	—	0.90*	0.90*	3.01*
Central African Republic (65)	42	0.52*	0.90*	0.90*	0.19*
Chad (42)	41	0.31*	0.70*	0.33*	0.14*
Chile (100)	82	1.00*	1.00*	1.00*	0.98*
China (90)	69	0.91*	1.00*	1.11*	1.09*
Colombia (92)	75	1.00*	1.00*	1.00*	0.77*
Comoros (79)	—	—	0.67*	—	—
Congo, DR (69)	—	—	—	—	0.19*
Congo, RP (79)	43	—	1.20*	—	—

Summary: Current situation (colour)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	BCI RANKING	LITERACY RATIO GAP (women/men)	NET PRIMARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	NET SECONDARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)	GROSS TERTIARY ENROLMENT RATIO GAP (women/men)
→	Seychelles (—)	51	1.01	1.01*	1.06*	—
→	Sierra Leone (61)	41	0.52	—	—	0.49*
→	Singapore (91)	86	0.87*	1.00*	1.02*	—
→	Slovakia (97)	74	1.01*	1.01*	1.01*	1.29*
→	Slovenia (99)	71	1.00*	1.00*	1.01*	1.43*
→	Solomon Islands (82)	—	—	0.97*	0.87*	—
→	South Africa (89)	70	0.96*	1.00*	1.11*	1.21*
→	Spain (99)	77	0.97*	1.00*	1.03*	1.22*
→	St. Lucia (98)	53	0.97*	1.01*	—	—
→	St. Kitts and Nevis (95)	—	—	1.06*	0.99*	—
→	St. Lucia (98)	71	0.98*	0.98*	1.29*	2.62*
→	St. Vincent and the Grenadines (95)	61	—	0.96*	1.23*	—
→	Sudan (76)	41	0.73*	0.83*	—	0.52*
→	Suriname (86)	56	0.95*	1.04*	1.39*	1.62*
→	Swaziland (77)	50	0.97*	1.01*	1.13*	1.06*
→	Sweden (100)	89	1.00*	1.00*	1.00*	1.55*
→	Switzerland (97)	83	0.99*	0.98*	—	0.87*
→	Syria (94)	—	0.84*	0.95*	0.94*	—
→	Tajikistan (85)	52	1.00*	0.96*	0.85*	0.37*
→	Tanzania (73)	58	0.80*	0.99*	—	0.48*
→	Tanzania (99)	70	0.95*	0.99*	1.11*	1.67*
→	Timor-Leste (60)	55	—	0.96*	—	1.26*
→	Togo (71)	39	0.56*	0.86*	0.48*	0.20*
→	Tonga (95)	—	1.00*	1.23*	—	1.68*
→	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	70	1.00*	1.04*	1.26*	—
→	Turkey (92)	49	0.78*	0.91*	1.10*	1.40*
→	Turkmenistan (—)	—	0.99*	0.95*	0.85*	0.74*
→	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)	—	—	1.07*	0.96*	—
→	Uganda (95)	41	0.75*	—	0.90*	0.62*
→	Ukraine (99)	74	0.99*	1.00*	1.01*	1.23*
→	United Arab Emirates (99)	51	0.99*	1.02*	—	2.81*
→	United Kingdom (99)	75	1.00*	1.03*	—	1.39*
→	Uruguay (99)	75	1.01*	1.00*	—	2.69*
→	Uzbekistan (—)	57	—	—	—	3.80*
→	Vanuatu (87)	56	0.99*	0.99*	0.87*	0.59*
→	Venezuela (95)	68	0.99*	1.00*	1.15*	1.08*
→	Vietnam (90)	71	0.93*	0.94*	—	0.71*
→	Virgin Islands (UK) (—)	—	—	0.99*	1.16*	2.28*
→	West Bank and Gaza (—)	46	0.91*	1.00*	1.06*	1.04*
→	Yemen (61)	29	0.30*	0.73*	0.46*	0.37*
→	Zambia (73)	55	0.78*	1.02*	—	0.46*
→	Zimbabwe (80)	57	0.88*	1.02*	0.93*	0.63*

The thematic area tables present the statistical information available for each indicator.

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: Better situation, Above average, Below average, 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 7). Categories are: Major regression, Re-

gression, 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 2008” 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 on the right or 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 with reference to the evolution of all of the countries in this indicator (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”). The result is expressed graphically (see 7), facilitating the reading and evaluation of performance in

the indicator during this period. The categories are: Major regression, 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 whole 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 on the right side or 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).

Methodological notes: thematic tables

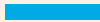



Measurement of the current situation of countries and the rate of change

The **situation** a country is in, according to each indicator, is given by the latest available value for that indicator.

Each country is assigned a value from 1 to 4 (1 indicates the worst situation and 4 indicates the best situation) according to the distribution of values on each indicator,¹ and an average of these values is then given for all the indicators in that area. In this way a self-referential ranking is obtained, independent of distance from goals or from specific conceptually defined levels.

This ranking was only applied to those countries with information available for at least half the indicators that make up each overall thematic area.

To avoid giving a false impression that the data are exact values, the average values were rescaled² to create four country categories:

Countries in better situation	
Countries above average	
Countries below average	
Countries in worse situation	

Countries for which sufficient information to be included in the ranking is lacking (*Countries with insufficient data to summarize the area*) are also shown.

Recent evolution

For each country, evolution in each indicator is evaluated between 1990 (or the closest year for which information is available) and the most recent year for which information is available.

In order to assess the evolution of each indicator, two aspects were taken into account: initial³ and final levels, and the rate of change of progress or regression.

The **rate of change** for each country is obtained by considering the variation in the values of the indicator over the time period within which the measurements were made. The ratio between the variation in the indicator and the time period reflects the rate of change for the item in question.

In the case of information from a specific period (e.g. 1990-1994) rather than a specific year, the criterion adopted was to use the data for the middle of the interval (e.g. 1992) as a means of calculating the rate of change.

The values for this rate of change have also been rescaled in sections (using a reference scale of 1 to 5), and in the tables these appear in a column to the right of the current indicator value. A series of symbols are used to illustrate changes in order to make the information easier to read (numerical values are not used because they would tend to give the impression that the information is exact, which in this case it is not).

The categories defined in this rescaling are as follows:

	Significant progress
	Slight progress
	Stagnant
	Regression
	Major regression

Significant progress applies to those countries which are progressing at rates above the average for all countries making progress.

Slight progress applies to those countries which are progressing at rates below the average for all countries making progress.

Stagnant refers to those countries where no changes (or quantitatively insignificant changes) have been recorded over the period in question.

Regression applies to those countries which are regressing at rates below the average for all countries regressing (i.e. they are regressing more slowly).

Major regression applies to those countries which are regressing at rates above the average for all countries regressing (i.e. they are regressing more rapidly).

In addition, an average of progress and regression of the indicators is built for each dimension for which information on recent evolution is available. The average appears in the column "Recent evolution" of the area, and values are also rescaled to obtain the aforementioned five categories.⁴ ■

1 For this, the variable was normalized (by subtracting the mean and dividing by the standard deviation) and then the mean positive values and the mean negative values for the normalized indicator were calculated. The four categories were established according to the values above and below the mean positive values for the normalized indicator, and the values above and below the mean negative values for the normalized indicator.

2 The possible range for the average of the area was divided into four groups as follows: group 1 (between 4 and 3.26); group 2 (between 3.25 and 2.6); group 3 (between 2.5 and 1.76); group 4 (between 1.75 and 1).

3 See initial values in the complete version of the tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

4 The five groups were divided as follows: major regression (1 to 1.8), regression (1.81 to 2.59), stagnant (2.6 to 3.39), slight progress (3.4 to 4.19), significant progress (4.2 to 5).