How to read the Social Watch tables

In this section Social Watch presents a set of tables that permit an evaluation of the countries of the world based on the present situation of the principal indicators of development and their evolution over the last 15 years. At the same time it relates these indicators to the commitments assumed by the world's governments and their obligations under the principal treaties of the international human rights system.

All of the tables present the information available from the sources consulted, with countries listed in alphabetical order.

In the section on Measuring Progress, different types of tables are presented that permit follow-up and monitoring through different tools:
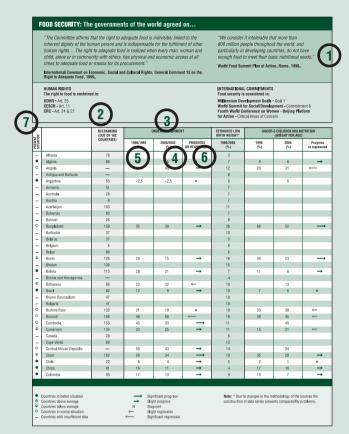
- **The Present Situation of Poverty in the World:** This table presents the latest data available from the sources consulted regarding different indicators of poverty and inequality of income distribution.

- **Trends in Official Development Assistance:** This table presents the assistance given by OECD donor countries as a percentage of their gross national income (GNI) and the evolution of this assistance between 1986 and 2005.

- **Human Rights:** A series of tables track the status of ratification of the main international human rights treaties, fundamental International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions, and international treaties mentioned in the Millennium Declaration, as well as the status of official country reports to UN committees. This makes it possible to monitor the extent to which countries are fulfilling their obligations with regard to human rights.

- **Tables by thematic areas:** Each table presents the indicators available from international sources, permitting an evaluation of the current global and country-specific situation in these particular dimensions and their evolution over the past 15 years.

Thematic areas:

- Food security
- Education
- Information, science and technology
- Public expenditure
- Environment
- Health and children's immunization
- Reproductive health
- Gender equity: education, economic activity and empowerment

How to read the thematic area tables

The thematic area tables present the statistical information available for each indicator. But in addition, they include a group of tools – both quantitative and qualitative – aimed at facilitating the analysis and evaluation of the statistical information in the context of the corresponding area of development.

Left table

PRESENT SITUATION		BCI RANKING (OUT OF 162 COUNTRIES)	UNDERWEIGHT			ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT*	UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (WEIGHT FOR AGE)		
			1990/1992 (%)	2000/2002 (%)	PROGRESS OR REGRESSION	1998/2004 (%)	1990 (%)	2004 (%)	Progress or regression
—	Albania	76				3			
●	Algeria	69				7	9	6	→
○	Angola	—		40		12	20	31	←
—	Antigua and Barbuda	—				8			
●	Argentina	53	<2.5	<2.5	ıı	8		5	
—	Armenia	51				7			
—	Australia	28				7			
●	Austria	6				7			
—	Azerbaijan	103				11			
—	Bahamas	60				7			
—	Bahrain	25				8			
○	Bangladesh	159	35	30	→	36	66	52	→
—	Barbados	37				10			
—	Belarus	37				5			
—	Belgium	6				8			
—	Belize	89				6			
⊖	Benin	126	20	15	→	16	35	23	→
—	Bhutan	139				15			
○	Bolivia	110	28	21	→	7	11	8	→
—	Bosnia and Herzegovina	—				4			
●	Botswana	88	23	32	←	10		13	
●	Brazil	82	12	9	→	10	7	6	ıı
—	Brunei Darussalam	47				10			
—	Bulgaria	41				10			
○	Burkina Faso	132	21	19	ıı	19	33	38	←
○	Burundi	156	48	68	←←	16	38	45	←
○	Cambodia	153	43	33	→	11		45	
⊖	Cameroon	134	33	25	→	11	15	21	←
—	Canada	28				6			
—	Cape Verde	89				13			
○	Central African Republic	—	50	43	→	14		24	
⊖	Chad	162	58	34	→	10	35	28	→
●	Chile	22	8	4	→	5	2	1	ıı
●	China	81	16	11	→	4	17	10	→
●	Colombia	93	17	13	→	9	10	7	→

Legend (left table):
● Countries in better situation
⊖ Countries above average
○ Countries below average
○ Countries in worse situation
— Countries with insufficient data

→ Significant progress
→ Slight progress
ıı Stagnant
← Slight regression
←← Significant regression

Note: * Due to changes in the methodology of the sources the construction of data series presents comparability problems.

Right table

PRESENT SITUATION		BCI RANKING (OUT OF 162 COUNTRIES)	LITERACY (15-24 YEARS OLD)			PRIMARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATIO (NET)			CHILDREN REACHING 5TH GRADE*	SECONDARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATIO (NET)			TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATIO (GROSS)		
			1990 (%)	2005 (%)	Progress or regression	1991 (%)	2004 (%)	Progress or regression	2003 (%)	1991 (%)	2004 (%)	Progress or regression	1991 (%)	2004 (%)	Progress or regression
—	Serbia and Montenegro	—	69.4	95.8[d]	→					62.2			33.9[K]	36.3[d]	→
●	Seychelles	—	99.1[M]	99.6[D]	ıı				98.7[D]	99.4[M]	98.3[R]	←			
●	Sierra Leone	—	43.3										1.3	2.1[D]	ıı
⊖	Singapore	57	99.0	99.8	ıı								20.5		
●	Slovakia	57				89.3[P]	85.1[N]	←←		85.1[P]	88.0[D]	→	26.2[K]	34.0[D]	→
●	Slovenia	32	99.8	99.8	ıı	96.4	96.4[R]	ıı		91.4[N]	95.3[R]	→	23.8	70.1[R]	→
—	Solomon Islands	—		79.6						17.7[D]	26.6[D]	→			
—	Somalia	—		9.0											
⊖	South Africa	96	88.5	92.5	→	89.5	88.8[D]	ıı	84.1[D]	44.7	61.7[D]	→	12.3	15.3[K]	→
●	Spain	6	99.6	99.8	ıı	99.8	99.8[D]	ıı		88.3[N]	94.8[R]	→	36.7	63.5[K]	→
—	Sri Lanka	—	95.1	97.4	ıı		98.6[D]						4.3		
⊖	St. Kitts and Nevis	66							86.5[D]						
⊖	St. Lucia	57				95.2	97.6	ıı	90.1	61.3[N]	62.6	→	4.9	14.4	→
⊖	St. Vincent and Grenadines	63				90.5[D]	93.9	→	88.0[D]	57.9[D]	62.3	→			
○	Sudan	110	65.0	81.9	→	40.0	43.2[D]	→	91.9				2.7	6.1[D]	→
⊖	Suriname	91				81.2	92.4[R]	→		63.7[D]	63.2[R]	←		12.4[D]	
○	Swaziland	118	85.1	92.5	→	74.7	76.7[R]	ıı	76.8[D]	30.1	29.0[D]	ıı	3.7	4.4[R]	ıı
●	Sweden	1				99.8	98.3[R]	→		85.3	98.3[R]	→	32.0	81.8[R]	→
●	Switzerland	6				83.7	94.3[R]	→		79.8	82.6[D]	→	25.7	45.0[R]	→
⊖	Syrian Arab Republic	97	79.9	90.0	→	90.9	98.1	→	92.4[P]	42.7	58.1	→	17.7		
⊖	Tajikistan	103	99.8	99.8	ıı	76.7	97.8	→		62.6[D]	79.4	→	22.1	16.4	←
⊖	Tanzania	125	83.1	93.1	→	49.4	91.4[I]	→	87.8		4.6[M]	→	0.3	1.2	ıı
⊖	Thailand	45	98.1	99.2	ıı	75.8	86.9	→					32.5[R]	41.0	→
—	Timor-Leste	—		78.2							20.1[D]			10.2[D]	
○	Togo	135	63.5	80.4	→	64.0	78.8	→	76.0	15.3	22.2[D]	→	2.6	3.6[P]	ıı
⊖	Tonga	79				92.0[M]	97.9	→	92.5[D]	67.4[M]	71.3[D]	→	3.3[R]	3.4[P]	ıı
⊖	Trinidad and Tobago	45	99.6	99.8	ıı	90.9	92.2	→	100.0	72.5[N]	71.9	ıı	6.7	11.9	→
⊖	Tunisia	70	84.1	95.7	→	94.1	97.2[D]	→	96.2[D]	69.3[P]	64.0[D]	←←	8.5	26.2[K]	→
⊖	Turkey	83	92.7	97.6	→	89.2	89.5[N]	ıı		42.0			12.7	28.0[D]	→
—	Turkmenistan	—											21.7		
○	Turks and Caicos Islands	—				88.0[D]	81.5	←←	45.9[D]	86.0[D]	77.7	←		0.4	
⊖	Uganda	146	70.1	82.3	→		98.4		63.6[P]	7.8[R]	13.0[D]	→	1.3	3.4	→
●	Ukraine	42	99.8	99.9	ıı	80.2	86.3	→		89.3[D]	83.5	←	46.6	65.5	→
●	United Arab Emirates	42	84.7	92.6	→	98.3	71.2	←←	94.7	59.6	62.4	→	7.6	22.5[K]	→
●	United Kingdom	17				98.3	100.0[D]	ıı		81.4	95.5[R]	→	31.0	62.8[R]	→
●	United States of America	22				97.0	93.9[R]	←		84.6	88.7[R]	→	73.6	82.6[K]	→
⊖	Uruguay	52	98.7	99.2	ıı	91.0	90.4[D]	ıı	92.9[P]	65.6[M]	73.2[D]	→	30.1	37.8[D]	→
—	Uzbekistan	—	99.6	99.7	ıı	78.2							30.4	15.3[P]	←
⊖	Vanuatu	99				91.2[M]	93.9	→	72.1[N]	17.3	39.3	→	4.0[R]	5.0	ıı
⊖	Venezuela	72	96.0	98.6	ıı	87.5	92.0	→	91.0	18.4	61.0	→	28.7	39.3[K]	→
⊖	Viet Nam	42	94.1	96.0	ıı	90.2	92.9[D]	→	89.0[P]				1.9	10.2[K]	→
⊖	West Bank and Gaza	67				97.5[R]	86.3	←←		76.2[D]	89.4	→	11.0[M]	37.9	→
○	Yemen	149	50.0	72.4	→	50.9	75.3	→	73.2				10.4[R]	9.4	→
⊖	Zambia	123	81.2	90.6	→	64.9[M]	79.8	→	98.5[P]	15.5[M]	23.7	→	2.3[M]	2.3[D]	ıı
○	Zimbabwe	119	93.9			81.1[M]	81.9[P]	ıı		69.7[D]	39.9[M]	33.9[D]	←	5.2	3.7[R]	ıı

Legend (right table):
● Countries in better situation
⊖ Countries above average
○ Countries below average
○ Countries in worse situation
— Countries with insufficient data

→ Significant progress
→ Slight progress
ıı Stagnant
← Slight regression
←← Significant regression

UDHR: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
CERD: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
CESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child

Sources:
UNESCO Website Database (www.unesco.org), March 2006. Except for (³), source MEC 2006, Brazil.

Notes: * Due to changes in the methodology of the sources the construction of data series presents comparability problems.
Data year: M: 1998; N: 1999; O: 2000; P: 2001; Q: 2002; R: 2003; T: 2005.

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1. Heading: For each area of social development, the related commitments assumed at the social summits are linked to the corresponding human rights treaties. In both cases, these instruments have the near-unanimous approval of the world's governments, given that the majority have signed and/or ratified them.

2. BCI ranking: Presents a ranking of countries (from 1 to 162) based on their scores on the Basic Capabilities Index (BCI), a measurement designed by Social Watch that evaluates country status with regard to the basic conditions of development. (For more information about the BCI, see Basic Capabilities Index – Methodological Notes in Methodology.) Countries with the highest BCI scores are listed first.

3. 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 in the Glossary.)

4. Present 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 (if data do not correspond to the time period listed in the heading, they are identified with a letter that refers to a note at the bottom of the page. See Notes A).

5. Initial data or starting point: This column 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). For some indicators, the reference year (indicated in the heading) is later because sufficient information for 1990 was not available. (As in Present Situation, data from periods different from those listed in the heading are identified with a letter that refers to a note at the bottom of the page. See Notes A).

6. Progress or regression: Based on current and initial data, the rate of progress or regression over the intervening time period is calculated for each country, taking into consideration the evolution of all of the countries in this indicator (See Measurement of the current situation of countries and the rate of change in Methodology). The result is expressed graphically (See the related note at the bottom of the page), facilitating the reading and evaluation of performance in the indicator during this period. The possible categories are: Significant regression, Slight regression, Stagnant, Slight progress, Significant progress.

7. Category of present situation: This column illustrates the present 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 "Measurement of the current situation of countries and the rate of change" in Methodology). The categories are: Countries in better situation, Countries above average, Countries below average, Countries in worse situation.

8. Sources: The information used for the indicators is obtained from recognized international organizations that compile the statistics produced by the countries (See "Sources and handling of information" in Methodology).