



United Nations Development Programme
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Overview Human Development Report 2020



The next frontier Human development and the Anthropocene

We may be entering a new geologic age called the Anthropocene in which humans are a dominant force shaping the planet's future. That future is already taking frightening shape in many ways, from climate change to plunging biodiversity to the epidemic of plastics in our oceans.

The strain on the planet mirrors the strain facing many societies. Indeed, planetary and social imbalances reinforce one another. As the 2019 Human Development Report made plain, many inequalities in human development continue to increase. Climate change, among other dangerous planetary changes, will only make them worse.

The Covid-19 pandemic may be the latest harrowing consequence of imbalance writ large. Scientists have long warned that unfamiliar pathogens will emerge more frequently from interactions among humans, livestock and wildlife, squeezing ecosystems so hard that deadly viruses spill out. Collective action on anything from the Covid-19 pandemic to climate change becomes more difficult against a backdrop of social fragmentation.

Consciously or not, human choices, shaped by values and institutions, have given rise to the interconnected planetary and social imbalances we face. The good news, then, is that we can make different choices. We have the power to embark on bold new development paths that allow for the continuing expansion of human freedoms in balance with the planet.

That is what the concept of human development, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, can contribute to the complex predicaments that this new age poses to each of us. And that is the central message of this year's global Human Development Report. Human development is not just possible in

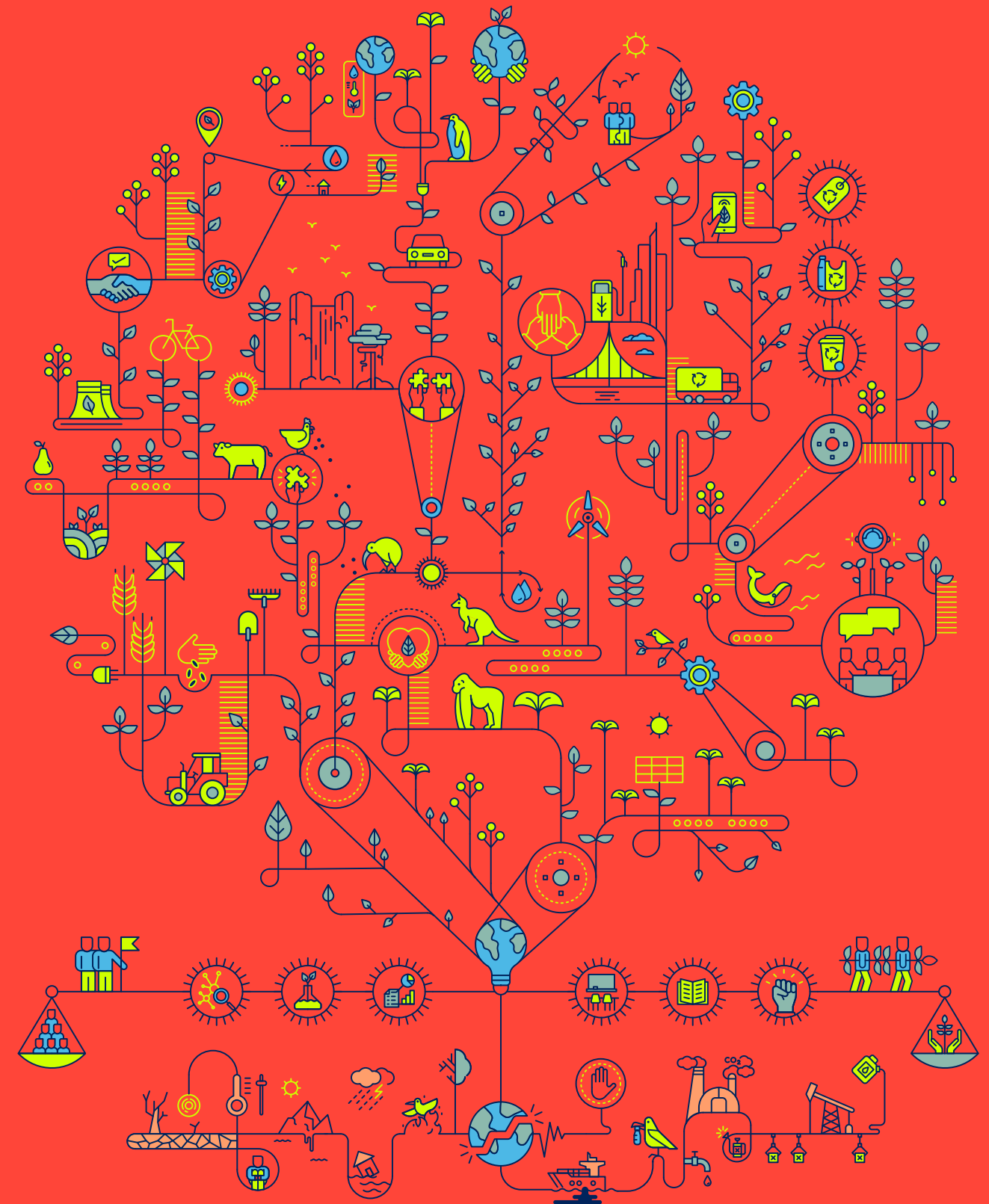
the context of easing planetary pressures; it is instrumental to doing so.

The Report calls for a just transformation that expands human freedoms while easing planetary pressures. For people to thrive in the Anthropocene, new development trajectories must do three things: enhance equity, foster innovation and instill a sense of stewardship of the planet. These outcomes matter in their own right, and they matter for our shared future on our planet. All countries have a stake in them.

The Report organizes its recommendations around mechanisms for change: social norms and values, incentives and regulation, and nature-based human development. Each mechanism of change specifies multiple potential roles for each of us, for governments, for firms and for political and civil society leaders.

The Report goes on to explore new metrics for a new age. Among them is a planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index (HDI), which adjusts the standard Human Development Index (HDI) by a country's per capita carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint. The Report also introduces a next generation of dashboards, as well as metrics that adjust the HDI to account for the social costs of carbon or for natural wealth.

A new normal is coming, one that is more than uncertain; it is unknown. And it cannot be "solved" neatly. The Covid-19 pandemic is just the tip of the spear. Nothing short of a wholesale shift in mindsets, translated into reality by policy, is needed to navigate the brave new world of the Anthropocene, to ensure that all people flourish while easing planetary pressures. This year's 2020 Human Development Report helps signpost the way.



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The 2020 Human Development Report

The 30th Anniversary 2020 Human Development Report is the latest in the series of global Human Development Reports published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1990 as independent and analytically and empirically grounded discussions of major development issues, trends and policies.

Additional resources related to the 2020 Human Development Report can be found online at <http://hdr.undp.org>. Resources on the website include digital versions and translations of the Report and the overview in more than 10 languages, an interactive web version of the Report, a set of background papers and think pieces commissioned for the Report, interactive data visualizations and databases of human development indicators, full explanations of the sources and methodologies used in the Report's composite indices, country profiles and other background materials, and previous global, regional and national Human Development Reports. Corrections and addenda are also available online.

The cover conveys the complex connections between people and the planet, whose interdependence is a hallmark of the Anthropocene. The image evokes the many possibilities for people and planet to flourish if humanity makes different development choices, ones that aim to enhance equity, foster innovation and instill a sense of stewardship of nature.

KEY TO HDI COUNTRIES AND RANKS, 2019

Afghanistan	169	Dominican Republic	88	Liberia	175	Saint Lucia	86
Albania	69	Ecuador	86	Libya	105	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	97
Algeria	91	Egypt	116	Liechtenstein	19	Samoa	111
Andorra	36	El Salvador	124	Lithuania	34	San Marino	
Angola	148	Equatorial Guinea	145	Luxembourg	23	Sao Tome and Principe	135
Antigua and Barbuda	78	Eritrea	180	Madagascar	164	Saudi Arabia	40
Argentina	46	Estonia	29	Malawi	174	Senegal	168
Armenia	81	Eswatini (Kingdom of)	138	Malaysia	62	Serbia	64
Australia	8	Ethiopia	173	Maldives	95	Seychelles	67
Austria	18	Fiji	93	Mali	184	Sierra Leone	182
Azerbaijan	88	Finland	11	Malta	28	Singapore	11
Bahamas	58	France	26	Marshall Islands	117	Slovakia	39
Bahrain	42	Gabon	119	Mauritania	157	Slovenia	22
Bangladesh	133	Gambia	172	Mauritius	66	Solomon Islands	151
Barbados	58	Georgia	61	Mexico	74	Somalia	
Belarus	53	Germany	6	Micronesia (Federated States of)	136	South Africa	114
Belgium	14	Ghana	138	Moldova (Republic of)	90	South Sudan	185
Belize	110	Greece	32	Monaco		Spain	25
Benin	158	Grenada	74	Mongolia	99	Sri Lanka	72
Bhutan	129	Guatemala	127	Montenegro	48	Sudan	170
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	107	Guinea	178	Morocco	121	Suriname	97
Bosnia and Herzegovina	73	Guinea-Bissau	175	Mozambique	181	Sweden	7
Botswana	100	Guyana	122	Myanmar	147	Switzerland	2
Brazil	84	Haiti	170	Namibia	130	Syrian Arab Republic	151
Brunei Darussalam	47	Honduras	132	Nauru		Tajikistan	125
Bulgaria	56	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	4	Nepal	142	Tanzania (United Republic of)	163
Burkina Faso	182	Hungary	40	Netherlands	8	Thailand	79
Burundi	185	Iceland	4	New Zealand	14	Timor-Leste	141
Cabo Verde	126	India	131	Nicaragua	128	Togo	167
Cambodia	144	Indonesia	107	Niger	189	Tonga	104
Cameroon	153	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	70	Nigeria	161	Trinidad and Tobago	67
Canada	16	Iraq	123	North Macedonia	82	Tunisia	95
Central African Republic	188	Ireland	2	Norway	1	Turkey	54
Chad	187	Israel	19	Oman	60	Turkmenistan	111
Chile	43	Italy	29	Pakistan	154	Tuvalu	
China	85	Jamaica	101	Palau	50	Uganda	159
Colombia	83	Japan	19	Palestine, State of	115	Ukraine	74
Comoros	156	Jordan	102	Panama	57	United Arab Emirates	31
Congo	149	Kazakhstan	51	Papua New Guinea	155	United Kingdom	13
Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	175	Kenya	143	Paraguay	103	United States	17
Costa Rica	62	Kiribati	134	Peru	79	Uruguay	55
Côte d'Ivoire	162	Korea (Democratic People's Rep. of)		Philippines	107	Uzbekistan	106
Croatia	43	Korea (Republic of)	23	Poland	35	Vanuatu	140
Cuba	70	Kuwait	64	Portugal	38	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	113
Cyprus	33	Kyrgyzstan	120	Qatar	45	Viet Nam	117
Czechia	27	Lao People's Democratic Republic	137	Romania	49	Yemen	179
Denmark	10	Latvia	37	Russian Federation	52	Zambia	146
Djibouti	166	Lebanon	92	Rwanda	160	Zimbabwe	150
Dominica	94	Lesotho	165	Saint Kitts and Nevis	74		