

Feature

Development

Special on

Human Security

June 8, 1994

The 1994 Human Development Report, which is expected to be released today in Asia, the fifth in its annual series, advances a new concept of human security. It also serves as a major source of new development thinking advocacy for change.

The Daily Star, ever since it was founded, has been working for the progress of human development and therefore, is bringing out this special feature using the important items of the Report.

Bangladesh and South Asia in HDR

Star Report

THE main theme of the Human Development Report 1994 is human security. Defining a new concept of human security, the report identified it as safety from the constant threats of hunger, disease, crime and repression — the emerging concerns of human security all over the world.

Bangladesh ranks 146 among 173 nations in the Human Development Index (HDI).

For the second year in a row Canada topped the rankings with an HDI value of 0.932 while Guinea came out last with an HDI value of 0.191.

Listed as one of the 55 countries with low human development, Bangladesh has an HDI value of 0.309. In the South Asian region Sri Lanka was the only country listed as a medium human development nation with a ranking of 90 and an HDI value of 0.665.

Bangladesh's HDI value increased by 0.143 from 0.166 in 1990. However, an accompanying UNDP report on the state of human development in Bangladesh, points out that this observation should not mask the fact that Bangladesh still ranks at the lower end of even the low human development countries.

Among the other countries in the region Maldives ranks at 118 with an HDI value of 0.511, Pakistan at 132 with an HDI value of 0.393, India is at 135 with 0.382, Nepal at 149 with 0.289 and Bhutan is ranked at 162 with an HDI value of 0.247.

The report measures human development by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income into a composite index. The HDI emphasizes sufficiency rather than satiety with the relationship between the HDI and GNP per capita taken as the most significant criteria.

Each indicator for the HDI is measured in different units: life expectancy in years of life, schooling in mean years of schooling, income in purchasing-power-adjusted dollars and adult literacy as percentage.

These indicators are combined by placing a range of values for each one onto a scale of zero to

Country	Human priorities in bilateral aid expenditures		World Bank Loans and Democracy		
	Total ODA (US\$ millions)	ODA as % of GNP (1992)	Percentage of ODA (1989/91)	Philippines 1980-85	1986-93
Malaysia	213	0.4	30.3	IBRD	390
Lesotho	142	13.3	24.4	IDA	22
Uganda	718	22.6	20.9	IBRD+IDA	390
Namibia	140	6.2	20.1	Share in total	554
Burkina Faso	444	16.1	19.6	IBRD+IDA loans	
Bangladesh	1,728	6.6	13.5	(%)	2.9
Pakistan	1,169	2.3	9.7	Bangladesh	1988-90 1992-93
India	2,354	0.8	5.2	1989/91	397
Indonesia	2,080	1.8	2.9	Share in total	213
China	2,945	0.7	2.4	IDA loans (%)	8.0

Country	US ODA to selected Strategic Allies and to Poor Nations		World Bank Loans and Democracy	
	GNP per capita (US\$)	per person (US\$)	1980-85	1986-93
Strategic allies				
Israel	12,110	176	IBRD	390
El Salvador	1,090	28	IDA	22
Bolivia	650	26	IBRD+IDA	390
Egypt	610	63	Share in total	554
Poor countries			IBRD+IDA loans	
Bangladesh	220	1.7	(%)	2.9
Madagascar	210	15.0	Bangladesh	1988-90 1992-93
Tanzania	120	2.7	1989/91	397
Mozambique	80	3.6	Share in total	213

Country	The World Bank and the Poorest People, 1989/92		Ten developing countries with two-thirds of the world's poor	
	GNP per capita (US\$)	1991	1980-85	1986-93
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a. Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Viet Nam.

one, where zero is the minimum and one is the maximum.

This year's report also uses fixed 'normative' values for life expectancy, adult literacy, mean years of schooling and income. These minimums and maximums are not the observed values in the best or worst-performing countries today but the most extreme values observed or expected over a long period of between 30 to 60 years or so.

With the new fixed goal

posts, the report notes, the greatest differences from previous values are in the much lower minimums for life expectancy (25 years rather than 42 years) and for literacy rates (zero per cent rather than 12 per cent) and in higher maximums for life expectancy (85 years rather than 78.6 years) and mean years of schooling (15 years rather than 12.3 years).

In addition, there has been major changes in using the data for income. The HDI uses the GNP per capita based on purchasing power parity dollars (PPP\$) to reflect not just income but also what that income can buy. Purchasing power parity adjusts for the fact that housing and food are cheaper in Bangladesh than in Switzerland, so the dollar is worth more in Bangladesh than in Switzerland.

In Bangladesh, the country report points out, there are significant rural-urban as well as female-male disparity in the area of human development. Thus, even though food production during the 1980s has considerably increased, still 30 million people consume less than 1900 calorie per capita per day while the requirements are 2300 calorie. Or even though there have been some improvements in GNP per capita, 47 million people still live under the poverty line.

However, the report also notes some progress in reducing disparities: female primary enrollment ratio as a percentage of male ratio has increased from 39 to 79 per cent during 1960-91. Or during the 1980s the rural crude death rate as a percentage of the urban crude death rate has reduced from 187 to 155 per cent.

A New Approach to Development Cooperation

IN a deliberate break with the past, the Human Development Report 1994 calls for new global agreements to replace the old foreign aid approach and to meet the new demands of human security. Industrial nations would pay for specific benefits, while developing countries would reform their economies and governance.

Proposals

Restructuring development cooperation would entail, first and foremost, creating a new motivation for aid. The end of the cold war offers an opportunity to discard the ideological baggage of the past, says Dr Haq. "It is time to advance from a charitable aid relationship to a more respectable de-

velopment relationship. It is time to build a new design of development cooperation which enables the poor countries to gain a more equitable access to global market opportunities."

20-20 Human Development Compact

One of the most important ways of linking aid to specific objectives is to negotiate a global compact for human development based on shared responsibilities.

Under this formula, developing countries would commit 20 per cent of their budgets to human priority concerns — instead of the present 10 per cent — by reducing military expenditures, privatizing un-

profitable public enterprises and abandoning wasteful prestige projects. Donor countries, likewise, would raise their allocations of foreign aid di-

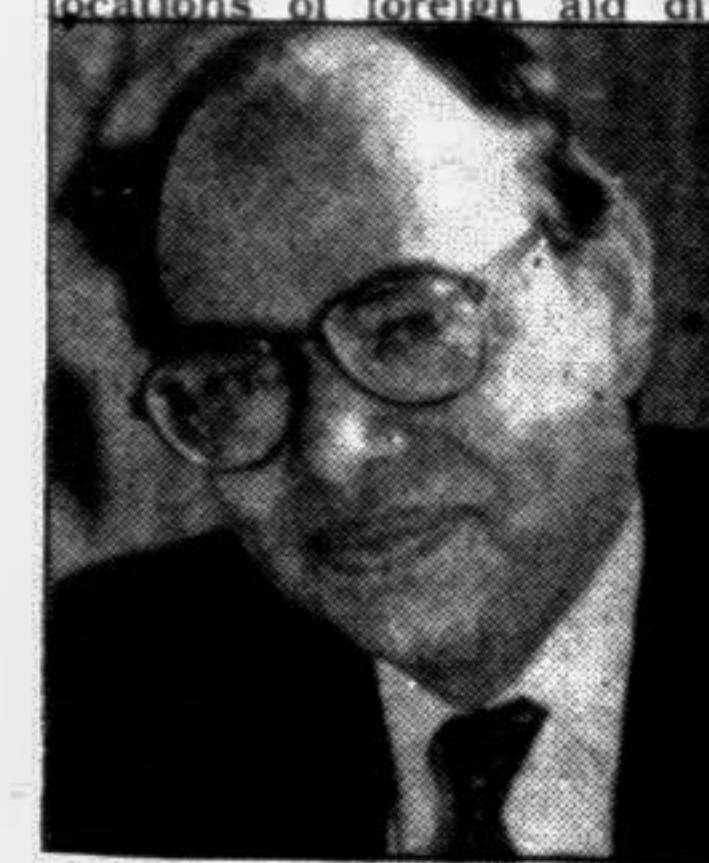
rected toward human priority concerns from the current 7 per cent to 20 per cent.

Global Social Safety Net

To raise resources beyond those gained through the 20:20 formula, the report envisages creation of a global social safety net for the very poorest countries. The safety net would be funded through a world income tax of around 0.1 per cent (yielding \$20 billion annually) to be levied on nations with a per capita GNP above \$10,000. This would benefit countries with a per capita GNP of less than \$1,000. If such an approach is not possible, the report suggests that an amount equivalent to 0.1 per cent of GNP be set aside from existing ODA for the poorest nations.

Global Institutions

A new form of development cooperation will be incomplete without an institutional framework of global governance to defend the new frontiers of human security, concludes the report.



Mahbub ul Haq

Profile of human development

HDI rank	Population with access to		Daily calorie supply (as % of requirements)		Adult literacy rate		Enrolment ratio for all levels		Daily newspapers (copies per 100 people)		Televisions (per 100 people)		Real GDP per capita (PPP\$) (US\$)		GNP per capita (US\$)		
	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Health services (%)	Safe water (%)	Sanitation (%)	1988-90	1992	1990	1992	1990	1992	1990	1992	1990	1992	1990	1992	
Medium human development	68.0	88	77	80	109	80	50	46	66	3,420	970	61	1,200	320	1,200	320	
Excluding China	65.4	85	70	59	107	79	59	60	107	4,000	1,680	61	1,200	320	1,200	320	
54 Thailand	68.7	70	76	74	100	94	45	73	114	5,270	1,650	61	1,200	320	1,200	320	
57 Malaysia	70.4	90	72	94	124	80	80	14.0	14.0	14.8	7,400	2,520	61	1,200	320	1,200	320
99 Philippines	64.6	75	82	69	108	80	64	54	48	2,440	740	61	1,200	320	1,200	320	
116 Viet Nam	63.4	90	27	18	102	89	52	0.9	39	1,150	330	61	1,200	320	1,200	320	
118 Maldives	62.6	75	51	28	89	80	0.8	25	25	1,150	330	61	1,200	320	1,200	320	