

An

introduction

to

# SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Heywood

Oria

Social

Environment

Economy



PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL





## Sustainability

The Three Pillars of Sustainability	6
Environmental Sustainability.....	7
Social Sustainability.....	10
Economic Sustainability.....	12
A Green Economy.....	14



## Human Development.....

What is Development?.....	16
The Wealth of Nations.....	18
What's Really Important?.....	20
The Human Development Index....	22
Happiness Economics.....	25
Human Development Reports.....	28
The Road to Rio .....	31
Rio+20.....	32
Information and Resources.....	34
Glossary.....	35

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**Lead author/editor:**  
**Steven Heywood**

**Designer:**  
**Romain Oria**

**Comments, edits and corrections:**

**Ingunn Aanes,**  
**Neil Carelse,**  
**Eirwen Harbottle,**  
**Le Nguyen Ho,**  
**Sonya Silva,**  
**Rosey Simonds,**  
**Nicolo Wojewoda,**  
**David Woolcombe**

**Contributions:**

**Ingunn Aanes,**  
**Mohamed Mhmoud Adam,**  
**Polly Burton,**  
**Christopher Cordoba,**  
**Taalía Khan, Leilah Lee,**  
**Samten Lhendup, Butshilo Nleya,**  
**Joseph Otieno, Karuna Rana,**  
**Veena Rangaswami,**  
**Hamza Zaidi**

**With thanks to: World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts**

# f o r e w o r d

By Steven Heywood, editor of the series.

Hello and welcome to An Introduction to Sustainable Human Development, the first in a series of short books from Peace Child International on that very topic – how can we improve the conditions of life for the one billion people who live in abject poverty (and the billions of others who live only slightly more comfortably), while still protecting our environment and ensuring that future generations have a place to live, work and play in comfort?



Throughout the series we'll be looking at issues including working conditions in sweatshops, how countries get into debt, carbon dioxide emissions and the world's over-reliance on oil, how we can feed a global population that could grow to 9 billion within a few decades, and how to tackle gender discrimination, as well as many others that there simply isn't the space to list here.

This first book provides a starting point for what follows, exploring in more detail two key terms (so important that we've used them in the title to the series!), 'sustainability' and 'development'. What do these two often used terms actually mean? There's no single answer that everyone will agree on, and this book tries to cover the many different aspects of such wide and important topics in as fair and informative a way as possible – as we hope to do with the topics covered in future books in the series as well.

It only remains for me now to wish you well in finding out more about sustainable human development – a fascinating topic, and one which I hope this book will inspire you to investigate further – and to extend my thanks to all those who helped to put this book together, from beginning to end, and in all the little moments in-between.

By Romain Oria designer of the series.

We wanted this series of book to be inspirational, substantial and fresh at the same time. We know that Sustainable Development is not a subject that young people read easily about. As a comic-book artist, I used my drawing skills to make it attractive and pleasant to read for teenagers, especially the ones who are not aware ( or do not care ) about this subject.

Even if we are talking about serious issues, which involve the major changes to adopt if we want to leave a healthier planet for future generations, I tried to keep the gravity aside. Guiding the reader's eye through a structured but non-linear writing and creating meaningful illustrations that can be interpreted differently and discussed afterwards. Asking myself what a teenager would understand of this book by just having a quick look at it. Using symbols and metaphors, objects and colors ( a lot of green of course ). I hope you will enjoy reading these books as much as I enjoyed designing them. And I'd like of course to thank all of the Peace Child International Team for their advice and support.



# f o r e w o r d

Welcome to our World! – we need youth!

The Road to Rio+20 Partners were greeted at the United Nations by UN Deputy Secretary-General, Dr Asha-Rose Migiro, to present recommendations gathered from the Youth of Five Continents. In welcoming them, she said:

“Thank you for coming to the United Nations to tell us the findings of your Road to Rio+20 project. I also want to thank the European Commission for sponsoring your journey and Peace Child International which, under the leadership of David Woollcombe, has consistently helped the UN get its message out to young people around our world.”

“It is common to say that youth are the future but this year has taught us that youth are also the present. In Tunisia and Egypt, across North Africa and the Middle East, youth have led revolutions and altered the world in ways we never could have imagined.”

“These youth were joined by millions of other people – ordinary people who were fed up with injustice: the unemployment which is bankrupting families; the global economic down turn which is throwing more and more people into poverty; rising food prices, growing civil unrest, climate change, more severe, and more frequent, natural disasters.... It all stalls our race to reach the Millennium Development Goals and throws too many countries into crisis mode.”

“The only way to tackle these problems is to look at them as a whole. When we do that, we find that there is only one answer: sustainable human development. Right now, as we prepare for the Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Human Development, the UN is working hard to ensure bold results. Since the first Rio Conference two decades ago, we have made great progress – on paper! The world has an impressive array of agreements. But in practice, we have a very long way to go to turn their words into actions. So Rio has to mobilise political commitment.”

“Peace Child International has always known that power lies with youth. Now we need this power – we need all of you – more than ever before. Youth have the energy and idealism we need to drive this movement. Youth can help in communities, in countries and in the international arena: you can help us push leaders to make the bold decisions in Rio – and help them stay on course after they leave.

“Your’s is the most networked generation in history. You have the best social media tools. You can make Rio+20 a place for people in their twenties – and people in their teens and thirties and even those like us who like to feel young at heart and want to support you. UN Youth Champion, Monique Coleman has a powerful message for young people. She says: “It is safe to believe in limitless possibility: you can follow your dreams and not squeeze yourself into systems that already exist. You can trail-blaze and make new pathways.”

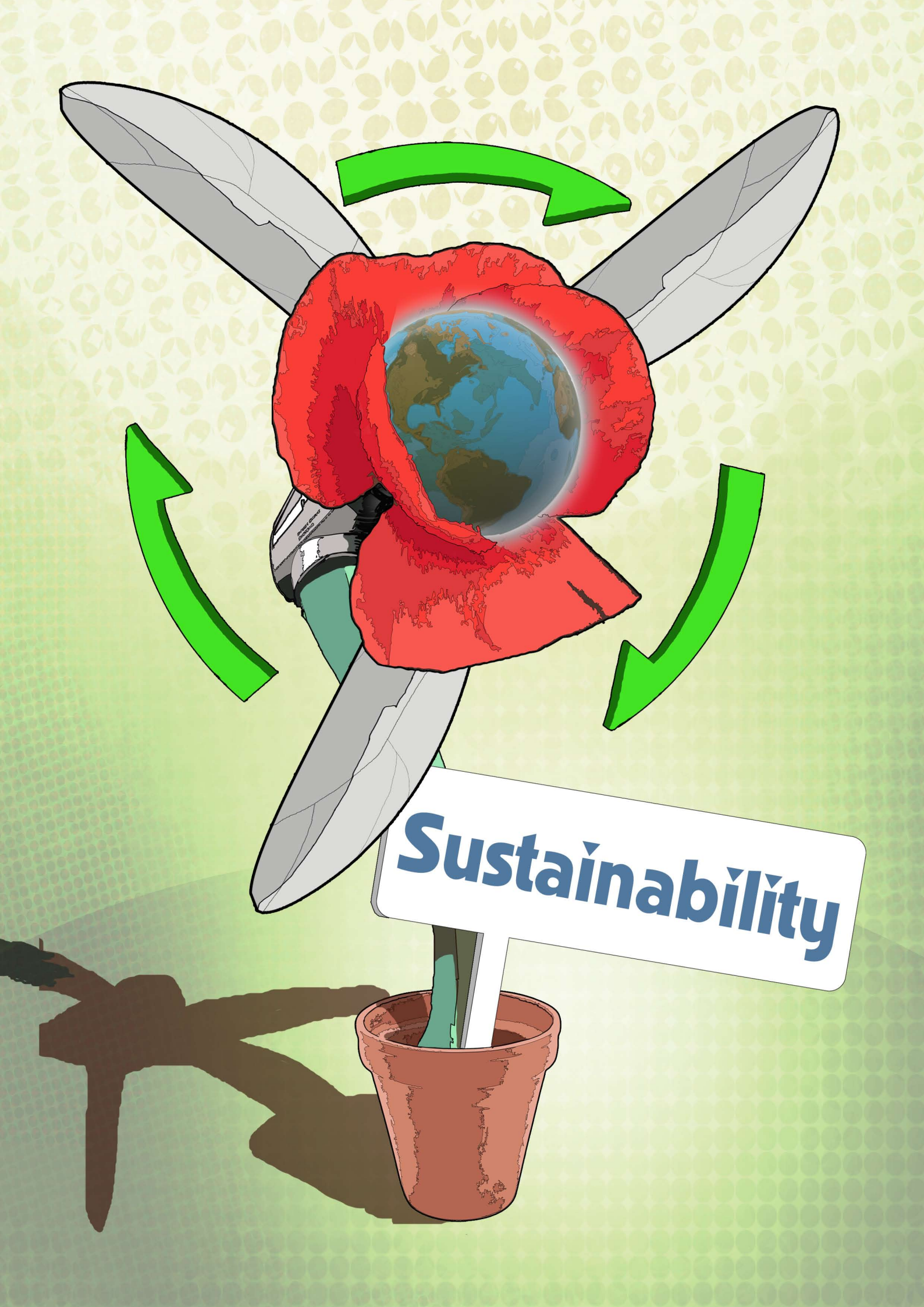
“Peace Child International has always been a trailblazer. I count on all of you to help us blaze a trail to the Future We Want.”

Dr Asha-Rose Migiro

UN Deputy Secretary-General,







**Sustainability**



# Three Pillars of Sustainability

At the 2005 World Summit, the United Nations agreed that sustainability had three parts: an environmental part, a social part, and an economic part. These are known as the three pillars of sustainability, and you can think of them as being like the legs of a stool, with our world as the seat. If one of the legs is taken away, the stool falls down, and if one of the three pillars is ignored, sustainability cannot happen and the world and all the people on it are damaged.

**E**  
**n**  
**v**  
**i**  
**r**  
**n**  
**m**  
**e**  
**n**  
**t**

- Reducing emissions
- Protecting forests
- Consuming less
- Clean energy

**E**  
**c**  
**n**  
**o**  
**m**  
**i**  
**c**  
**y**

- Fair trade
- Cancel developing country debts
- Fair pay
- Combat corruption

**S**  
**o**  
**c**  
**i**  
**a**  
**l**

- Reducing inequality
- Poverty reduction
- Peace
- Gender equality



# Environmental Sustainability

**T**he environment is big news these days, with everyone from politicians to celebrities talking about it, as well as millions of ordinary people concerned about the damage we are doing to our planet. But what exactly does environmental sustainability mean?

## Resources

The earth is full of resources which we use every day. Some of these, like the sun, wind and waves, will last forever although we barely think of them – these are called renewable resources. Others exist in limited amounts, and once they have been used up they won't be back for millions of years – these are non-renewable resources. They include coal, oil, steel and precious metals and minerals that we use everyday in lots of different ways – from driving a car to talking on a mobile phone. We need to make sure we leave some of these non-renewable resources for future generations to use.

## Climate Change

Polluting our environment is also causing climate change. Burning fuels like oil and coal releases a chemical called carbon dioxide (also known as CO<sub>2</sub>). When there is more CO<sub>2</sub> in the air, the atmosphere acts like a greenhouse and traps more heat from the sun. This is changing the temperature of the earth and causing extreme weather events like hurricanes to happen more often. As the temperature rises, rivers and streams dry up, causing droughts; and the polar ice caps begin to melt, causing sea levels to rise and flood the land.



## Air, Water and Land

Other resources we often take for granted are the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land we grow food on. These seem like renewable resources that will always exist, but they can become unusable to us if we pollute them too much. If we release too many emissions from cars and factories the air becomes unbreathable; if we dump too many chemicals in rivers the water becomes undrinkable; and if we pollute the land with too many artificial fertilisers or build roads and buildings over too much of it, we will no longer be able to grow enough food to feed us all.

## Biodiversity

Polluting the atmosphere, chopping down forests and digging for resources are also destroying the places in which other animals and plants live. This could cause many species to become extinct soon, including polar bears, orang-utans and giant pandas . As many as 34,000 plant and 5,200 animal species face extinction if we continue to take away the land, shelter, food and water that they need to survive.

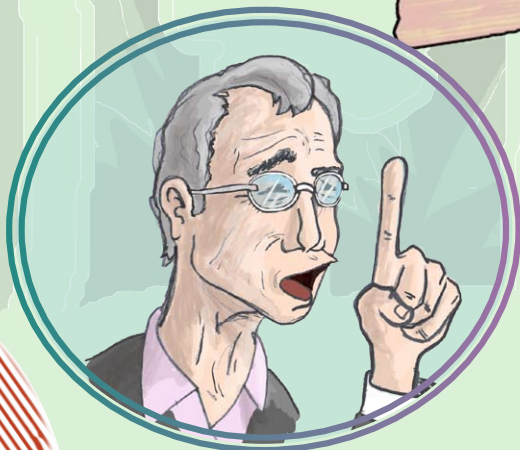
**SUSTAINABILITY IS...**

- Using less non-renewable resources.

- Protecting our environment from pollution.

- Reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to stop climate change.

- Protecting other species.



“Rich nations and their citizens account for the overwhelming bulk of the greenhouse gases locked in the Earth’s atmosphere. But, poor countries and their citizens will pay the highest price for climate change”,

*UN Human Development Report 2007, p. 3*



When we don't protect our environment and ensure sustainability, the consequences can be devastating. One example of this is the floods in Pakistan in July 2010, which left 20% of Pakistan under water and was the result of unusually strong rains caused in part by climate change. Here we talk to two young people from Pakistan about sustainability and the floods.

**Hamza Zaidi** helped with the relief effort straight after the floods – here he recounts some of what he saw.

*We are very much nearing our destination. I look around and see stagnant water in all directions as our driver manoeuvres over the torn roads and bridges. We soon arrive in a small community of about ten or so houses. Everything has been obliterated by the floodwater. A local briefed me on the situation in the area: "the water was just coming from all directions, we raised a levee on the one side, but the water would just find a way from elsewhere. We were really helpless".*

*My mom gave me two boxes of peanuts and chocolate bars. I'm supposed to eat these to avoid having to eat anything that might put me at risk of gastroenteritis. But I couldn't help but notice the hungry children who walk about, and as we drove by, I quickly started opening up boxes to begin distributing the bars. This is where I met Haroon, a strikingly confident twelve years old, who told me how he has not eaten a full meal in two days, how his house had collapsed and years worth of crops destroyed.*

*After doing our best with distribution of clothes and shoes, we moved to the make-shift medical clinic. And in less than two hours, we had provided treatment to roughly 300 patients. Among the patients was Mir Shahzad Khan, who walked seven kilometers through the flood waters and over the levee to find medical aid in the relief camp. Khan's wife and three children had all fallen ill without any treatment for a week, their symptoms resembling those of advancing malaria. We give him the medicines. For him there is no choice but to take medicines back to his house and pray that his family gets better.*



**Taalial Khan** shares her views of floods.

*Global warming has caused climatic change. Temperatures have risen which has resulted in the melting of ice caps, and a high amount of precipitation. In 2010 Pakistan endured the most challenging natural disaster to date; monsoon rainfalls which caused floods affecting more than 14 million lives. The UN rated these floods as the "greatest humanitarian crisis in recent history with more people affected than the South-Eastern tsunami and the recent earthquakes in Kashmir and Haiti combined." The areas affected stretch from the Swat Valley in the North to the province of Sindh in the South.*



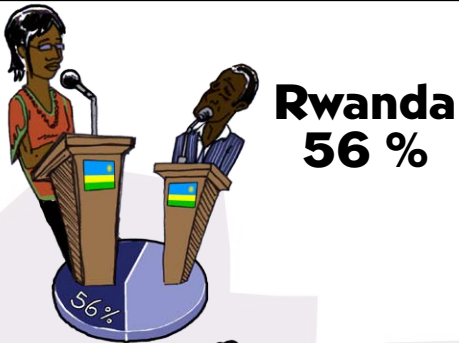
*Mohib Banda, a beautiful village situated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province once surrounded by lush green trees and orchards now wears a sad look. More than 12000 people were living in this village when the floodwaters hit it, leaving most of its residents shelterless. Rehman Gul, an elderly man was one of these flood victims. His house collapsed and everything that he owned has been washed away- he has nothing left.*

*2010 was a year mixed with devastation and tragedy for Pakistan and so far has been the hottest year on record. Scientists predict more floods heat waves and rising sea levels in the future.*



# Social Sustainability

Sustainability is not just for the natural world – our relationships with other people can also be sustainable or not. Violence, inequality and poverty are not sustainable because they waste the potential and the happiness of so many people. How can we make our social world more sustainable?



## Health

Everybody wants to live a long, healthy life, but some people have much greater access to healthcare and healthy environments than others. The life expectancy of the poorest people is considerably less than that of the richest, and people around the world are regularly exposed to unhealthy working conditions involving chemicals, heavy labour and long hours. In many countries healthcare costs a lot of money and going to hospital or having an operation is impossible for poor people.

## Gender Equality

There has been much progress towards equality for women and girls in the last century, with improvements in healthcare, education and freedoms. They now have the vote in most countries of the world, and in Rwanda they even make up a majority of the parliament. However, there is much to do before men and women are treated equally – women still do the majority of unpaid work, including raising children, collecting water and feeding their families. Women are often paid less than men for the same jobs, and in many countries women are still restricted in what they can say, do and wear.

### WOMEN IN POLITICS

The percentage of women in parliament in various countries.



# Peace

In many developed northern countries war is no longer a worry for most of the population. However, in March 2011 there were around 34 wars and conflicts taking place around the world. These include the well-known invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, but also long-standing problems that have not yet been solved, like the war between North and South Korea or the conflict between Israel and Palestine. There are also wars between two groups of people in the same country, known as civil wars, which have recently happened in countries including Sudan, Nepal, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Libya.



**Mohamed Mhמוד Adam** gives us a view of conflict and peace from Sudan.

*Each page of the tragic modern history of Sudan contains a series of conflicts and sadness, war has destroyed everything, millions of people dead, hundreds of thousands are refugees, each house and corner there is someone missing, young people lost their motivation to grow in peace, especially in conflict areas in the south and west. The consequences of this endless war are complicated; the high rate of poverty, unemployment, human rights abuses, 15,000 blue caps [UN peacekeeping soldiers], 1,400 international NGOs and over all of this, the separation of the south part of the country.*

*However, through all this black image there is a bright light comes from nowhere - a street child from South Sudan, half-literate, staying in deep hot corner in the street children camp, singing an encouraged and motivated song, no one around him thought that this boy could unite the hearts and sense of all Sudanese people in south and north, in Darfur and in Port Sudan in the east. In 2009 this voice was the first homeless boy from conflict area to get to the last round in the young singers competition; he got more than 17,000 votes. Shoul Manout, the hero who lost his home, but didn't lose his dream, he saw his village destroyed but that makes him stronger.*

*Shoul Manout changed our minds as young people to be Messengers of Peace, he gave us the hope for better future - we have now started a peace and co-existence program to encourage young people to respect others no matter where they come from or what religion they believe.*

## SUSTAINABILITY IS...

- Giving everyone healthcare and a healthy environment to live and work in.
- Giving women the same rights and opportunities as men.
- Working to end wars and reduce the number of weapons in the world (this is known as disarmament).



# Economic Sustainability

Economics involves the exchange of money and the production of goods and services, and just like our use of the environment or the social world, it can be helpful to people or harmful. On these pages we look at economic problems faced around the world, and how we can make economics sustainable.



This man on the left is a boss from the U.S.A. In this country, the average wage for a boss is equivalent to 185 times the wages for his employees.



## Corruption

Corruption can be a huge problem in developing nations. Countries like Zaire (now called DR Congo), the Philippines, Libya, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Chile have all recently been ruled by dictators who stole huge amounts of money from their countries to keep for themselves and their families. Local officials or police often demand bribes to gain access to schools or the law. Developed nations are not innocent either – the money stolen by dictators ends up in banks in rich countries,

## Fair Trade and Fair Pay

Much of the food, clothing and technology bought in rich countries is made or grown in developing nations – for example, clothes and shoes in the Philippines, plastic goods in China, chocolate and coffee in Africa. The people who produce these products are paid very small amounts for their work, even when the products are sold for high prices in Europe or North America, so they have to work for a long time to make enough money for food and rent.

Even in richer countries, there are big differences in income between the richest and the poorest people. For example, in the USA the average CEO (the head of a large company) earns 185 times as much as the average worker. Some countries have set minimum wages that can be paid to workers, but these are still very low, and make it difficult for people to look after themselves and their families.





## Debt

The 48 poorest countries in the world owe a combined total of over \$168 billion, mostly to banks and governments in the richest countries. People in these countries earn less than \$1,000 each every year, but in 2008 their countries paid \$23 million every day to rich nations. Much of this debt was lent to poor countries in the 1970s, often to dictators who kept the money for themselves. Despite this, the money is now going back to the rich world with interest, rather than improving the standard of living for people in poor countries.

Just 10% of the world's population control 85.2% of the world's wealth.



The other 90% of the population control only 14.8% of the world's wealth

## Corporations

Huge businesses that operate worldwide, known as multinational corporations, produce a vast amount of the products we consume and the services we pay for. Because of their size, corporations have a big influence on how sustainable we are, environmentally, socially and economically – by acting in a sustainable way they can make a much bigger impact than individuals can. Corporations use large amounts of resources, and need to be encouraged to make the switch to renewables; they also need to be compelled to provide decent wages to their workers around the world. Currently, however, corporations are legally required to put profits before anything else – even the wellbeing of humans or the planet.

### SUSTAINABILITY IS...

- Fair wages for workers all around the world.
- Stamping out corruption around the world.
- Cancelling unfair debts and creating a fairer and more accountable system of international loans.
- Corporations that serve the environment and society, rather than just increasing their profits.



# A Green Economy?

*Ultimately, the most important of these three pillars may be the environmental one, as we need a suitable environment to sustain human life. However, the pillar that dominates our lives at the moment is the economic one – and it is being handled very unsustainably.*

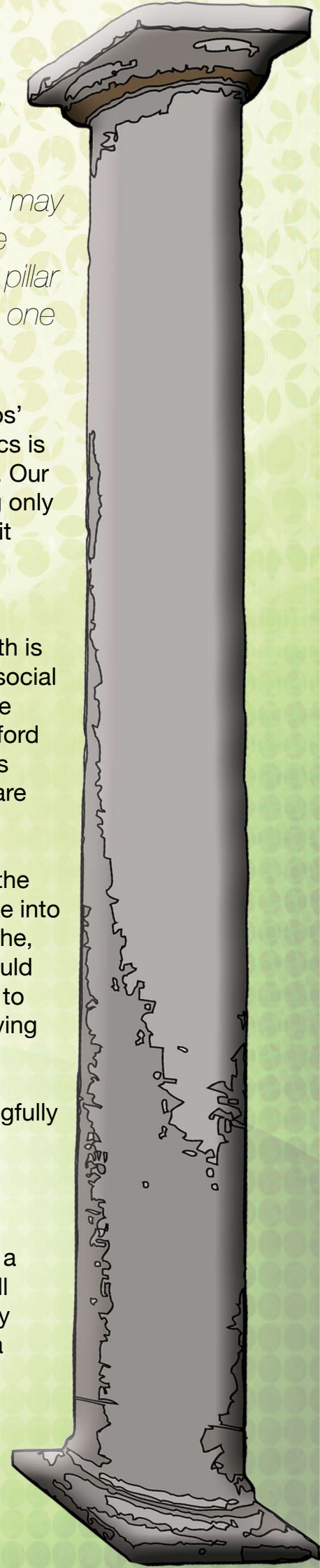
The word 'economy' originally comes from the Greek words 'oikos' and 'nomos', meaning 'household management'. Thus, economics is essentially the way we manage our worldwide human household. Our current economic system manages things very badly by focusing only on one aspect – making profit. This is done despite any damage it might cause to people or the planet.

This continual drive to make more and more money has led to economic unsustainability, as more and more of the world's wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few people; but has also caused social unsustainability, as countries go to war over oil and other valuable resources, and as many people are left in too much poverty to afford enough food or healthcare; and environmental unsustainability, as greenhouse gases are pumped into the atmosphere and forests are chopped down for quick and easy profit.

A green economy would treat the pursuit of profit as only one of the many aspects of good household management. It would also take into account the need to protect our planet, the atmosphere we breathe, and all the animals and plants that live on the earth with us. It would take into account the need to raise all people out of poverty, and to ensure greater equality of wealth and opportunity, rather than having the extremely rich and the extremely poor living such massively different lives. And it would ensure that all people have access to decent, well-paid, safe jobs that allow them to contribute meaningfully to society.

In short, it would address all three pillars of sustainability.

These three pillars of sustainability, and the need to change from a destructive economy to a green economy, are themes that we will be exploring throughout this series of books, so you'll have plenty of chance to think more deeply about how we can truly achieve a sustainable world.









# What is Human Development ?

*This booklet, and the ones to follow it, are all about sustainable human development. We've learnt about sustainability in the first part, but what does human development mean?*

The word develop suggests that something is progressing onto a more complex and (perhaps) better stage – like a child develops into an adult, or a caterpillar into a butterfly. In this sense, human development means human progress, but this is not an easy thing to define.

The United Nation's (UN) Human Development Report describes human development as “the expansion of people's freedoms to live long, healthy and creative lives; to advance other goals they have reason to value; and to engage actively in shaping development equitably and sustainably on a shared planet.”

That's quite a complex description, but it can be broken down into three simpler parts.

## Increasing people's choices

People who cannot afford to go to see a doctor do not have the choice to get treatment for their illnesses; people who are paid very low wages do not have the choice to buy enough nutritious food, or to send their children to school. Development means giving people the possibility of leading healthy, happy lives, doing what they want to do.

## Empowering people

People like to be in charge of their own futures, but currently they are often not. Empowering people means giving them the confidence and the resources to make their own decisions in life, and allowing them to make decisions that affect their country through democratic elections and other means.

## Justice

The world is a very unequal and often very violent place, and this is not the fault of the people who are poor or who have violence used against them. Achieving justice means increasing equality throughout the world, and respecting people's human rights to freedom of speech, personal safety and the basic needs of life.



As you can see the ideas of development and sustainability are quite similar and very compatible – a world that is sustainable will have high levels of human development because people will be safe from the effects of climate change, will have healthy, well-paid jobs, and will be free from the scourge of war – as well as many other positive changes.

## The North/South Divide

There is often thought to be a clear split between ‘developed’ nations, most of which are located in the northern hemisphere, in Europe and North America, and ‘developing’ nations, located in the south, in Africa, Asia and South America.



In reality, this split is not so clear-cut. An increasing number of countries, like China, Brazil and India, are ‘transitioning’ – increasing the incomes and standards of life of many (though not all) of their citizens at a rapid pace. Equally, while many so-called developing countries have good standards of health or education despite their low incomes, many supposedly developed nations have big problems with poverty, drug addiction or other problems.

We now know what human development means, but how do we go about deciding which countries have achieved the highest levels of human development? Why are countries in the north considered to be more developed than countries in the south? And what factors of human life should we be improving if we are to increase human development? The next few pages will try to answer those questions in more detail.

# The Wealth of Nations

**D**evelopment is measured by looking at certain 'indicators' that tell us how well people are doing in certain aspects of life. The indicator that is most commonly used by governments and economists is money. Some countries have more money than other countries, and these are considered to have a higher level of human development.

People's income is measured by 'GDP per capita'. The GDP, or Gross Domestic Product, of a country is the total value of everything produced or done within a country over the course of a year. This could include cars being produced in a factory, the wages paid to nurses working in a hospital, or the money a fast food restaurant makes from selling burgers. This amount is divided by the number of people in the country to calculate the GDP per capita, or the average income of every person in the country.

## Gross Domestic Product Per Capita :

The **U.S.A** is one of the richest countries on earth.

Its **economy** worth \$14.72 trillion.

Its **population** is 313.2 million people.

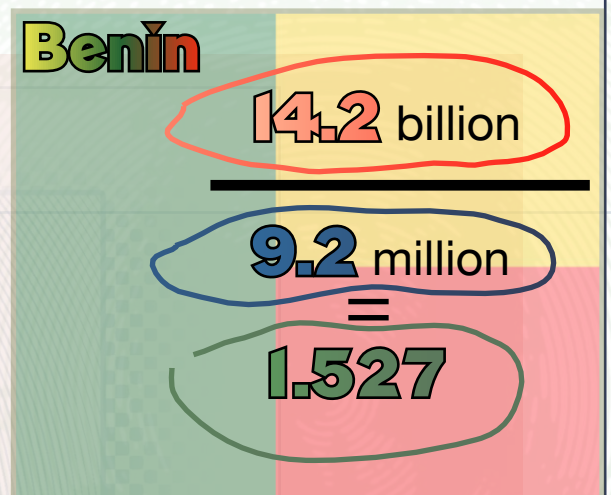
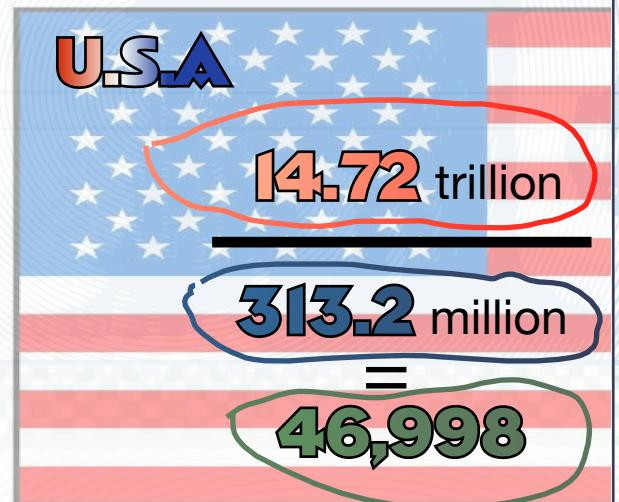
So the USA's **GDP** per capita, or average income, is \$46,998. This is how much a normal person in the USA is assumed to be earning each year.

**Benin**, in west Africa, is a much poorer country.

Its **economy** worth \$14.2 billion.

Its **population** is 9.2 million people.

So people in Benin have a **GDP** per capita of \$1,527, thirty times less than people from the USA.





The idea behind measuring people's incomes is that money provides access to the other things we need in life – it is assumed that people with lots of money will have access to all the food, shelter, healthcare and education they need, and that people with very little money will go without. This is true to some extent, and money is important to all of us – however, there are a number of problems with measuring development in this way.

## 1. GDP ignores inequality

GDP measures the average income, but this hides the difference between the rich and the poor people in each country. For example, in the USA many people earn much less than the average income of \$47,000, but the average is raised by the small number of people that make millions of dollars a year. If a country's GDP grows, but most of the money goes to people who are already rich, it does not help to reduce poverty or improve the quality of life for poorer people.

## 2. GDP counts negatives as well as positives

If a country spends more money on something useful to people, like hiring more doctors, its GDP rises. But, if a country spends more money on manufacturing tanks their GDP also rises, even if the tanks are used to kill or repress people.

## 3. GDP uses lots of resources

One way of increasing GDP is to use more resources – such as mining for coal or drilling for oil, or using resources like steel and plastic to manufacture consumer items like cars and computers. These are useful things that many of us use every day, but producing too many of them and encouraging people to buy new ones all the time is unsustainable, as it wastes our precious non-renewable resources.

Money is an important aspect of human development, but it is not the only one. Over the next few pages we will look at ways of measuring development that take into account other aspects of human life.



“People often value achievements that do not show up at all, or not immediately, in higher measured income or growth figures: better nutrition and health services, greater access to knowledge, more secure livelihoods, better working conditions, security against crime and physical violence, satisfying leisure hours, and a sense of participating in the economic, cultural and political activities of their communities. Of course, people also want higher incomes as one of their options. But income is not the sum total of human life.”  
[1990 HDR, chapter 1, p. 9]

# What Do Youth Think Is Important?

So money isn't the only important thing in the world, and it isn't the only thing we should measure when thinking about human development. But what else is important to humans? To find out, we asked a selection of youth from around the world, and this is what they told us...



We think health is the most important thing, because it is only if you are free from pain that you can function in any other way. Health is the starting point from which we strive towards other things, like education – first your body works, then your mind works. Money is important, but without health there can be no wealth.

*Members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Buntingford, UK, March 2010*



For me, solidarity is the reason why humans managed to survive in the past and will be able to survive in the future - humans have always been community beings. Solidarity means everything in a time of great changes, of big environmental problems, of large sectors of the world population still lacking of the most basic elements for a healthy life, like food and water. The biggest challenge is to foster international cooperation, and that cannot be accomplished without a sense of solidarity being promoted in all spheres of life.

*Christopher Isáí Córdoba Rodríguez. México / Argentina*



I believe it is very hard to say what is the most important, but for all humans I think there needs to be secure system to look after them when things are bad - I mean that although a person has no money they should still have their basic rights and be able to live a decent life. Security and stability - knowing that you will still have food, water and health tomorrow, as well as today - is very important for humans to live happy lives.

*Leilah Lee, Guangzhou, China*



There are a lot of things that are important to humans, but in my opinion providing quality education for all the citizens of the world can help overcome the issues that we are facing today.

*Veena Rangaswami, India*



It's a tough choice but if one doesn't enjoy a good health, he/she cannot enjoy a good wealth, a clean environment, and so on. Nevertheless, each of these factors are linked to each other - a clean environment is important for good health and so is money.

*Karuna Rana, Mauritius*



A clean environment is important for this generation and future generation's survival.

*Joseph Otieno, Kenya*



Strong social relationships, in my opinion entail equality, education and health. They also entail respect for others, which leads to respect for the environment.

*Polly Burton, Birmingham, UK*

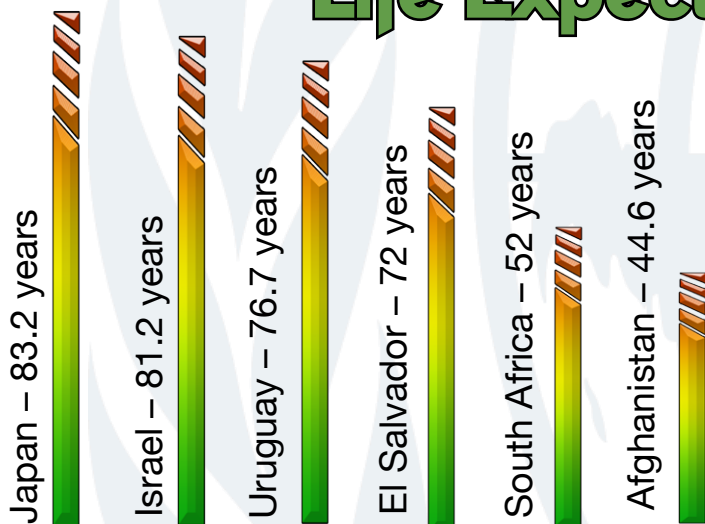


# The Human Development Index

Since 1990 the United Nations (UN) has been measuring development using the Human Development Index (HDI), which was designed to take into account more indicators of the quality of life than just money. Each country is given a score between 0 and 1, based on how well they perform in three different aspects of human life.

The first aspect is life expectancy. A long life is valuable and important to human beings by itself, and people who enjoy long lives usually also enjoy good nutrition and good health.

## Life Expectancy



The second aspect is knowledge. This is a very difficult thing to measure, and in the past the HDI used literacy as a mark of knowledge. In the 2010 HDI this was replaced with two new measures – the average years of schooling that people currently over 25 received, and the expected years of schooling that a currently five year old child will receive.

## Knowledge

( expected years of schooling )





The third aspect is standard of living. This could mean many things that would be very difficult to measure accurately, so the HDI measures average income per person. A higher income often (though not always) allows access to the goods and services that make our lives happier and healthier. In this way the HDI represents the fact that money is important to people's lives, even if it is not the only important thing.

It might be expected that the countries with the highest incomes also have the highest human development scores, but when life expectancy and access to education are taken into account, as they are in the HDI, this is not always the case.

## Standard of living



**UK** – 6th richest country (\$35, 087), 26th on HDI (0.849)



**Russia** – 31st richest country (\$15, 258), 65th on HDI (0.719)



**Turkey** – 37th richest country (\$13, 359), 83rd on HDI (0.679)



**South Africa** – 52nd richest country (\$9, 812), 110th on HDI (0.597)



**Swaziland** – 74th richest country (\$5, 132), 121st on HDI (0.498)

The HDI uses a complex mathematical formula to combine these three aspects, and gives each country a score based on this. In 2010 the highest ranked country was Norway, with a score of 0.938, and the lowest was Zimbabwe, with a score of just 0.140.

Norway has a life expectancy of 81, Zimbabwe of 47; Norwegian children can expect to go to school for 17.3 years, Zimbabweans for 9.2; and Norwegians, on average, make \$58,810, while Zimbabweans get by on just \$176 a year.

# Case Studies: Norway and Zimbabwe

BY Ingunn Aanes from Norway



Being ranked first is an unbelievably fortunate position that I hope all Norwegians are aware of. I can say that Norway is a very good country to live in. And it's not just because our country is rich. It's because it's safe to let your children play in the streets, because you get free education, including university, because the government has enough money to take care of the less fortunate, of our culture, of youth and of the elderly. You will probably have a job when you're done studying, you have a health system to take care of you when you're ill or old, and you have a high enough income to have a house, food, leisure activities and holidays.

HDI is not the perfect index of development though - it's only showing a part of the reality. It shows where we are, but not how we got there. We live in a globalized society where what one country does affects many others. If a country is top of every index, but only because of exploitation of other countries or huge greenhouse gas emissions, it really doesn't deserve its position. However, a lot of richer countries are also trying to help developing countries through aid or investments or trying to become more environmentally friendly. This is positive and should also be rewarded in such indexes."

BY Butshilo Nleya from Zimbabwe

"Living in Zimbabwe brings with it certain challenges. We have been rated last of all the countries in the Human Development Index. We have been misclassified - Zimbabwe has taken major strides in the past three years.



Zimbabwe's education system has produced socially, historically, economically and globally opinionated people who are actively contributing around the world. For decades, Zimbabwe has taught tens of thousands of young people from Botswana, South Africa and other African countries who have paid top dollar for top education.

Yes, we owe the World Bank millions; yes, we have the weakest currency; but I would argue that Zimbabwe is picking itself up from the depths of poverty. Entrepreneurs are mushrooming and creating jobs out of nothing. We have not needed a financial bailout but, like ducks stuck in an oil spill, we have pulled ourselves out of the darkness.

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS has gone down. Cholera: beaten. Malaria: more than halved. Life expectancy raised from 39 to 43. This is the Zimbabwe I know. A Zimbabwe where two-thirds of people have access to medical attention. The health system in Zimbabwe has suffered greatly but still stands today to battle major outbreaks and diseases.

Zimbabwe is like a child being re-conceived and re-formed. We are a safe, lucrative, kind and resourced country. Our people are welcoming and good natured. Our politics is struggling to fit standards desired by developed countries, our economy is on its knees, but we are alive and we making a difference in this world."



# Happiness Economics

Another way to measure development is to look at the idea of happiness, as the New Economics Foundation has done with their Happy Planet Index. This starts with a belief that everybody wants to be happy, healthy and satisfied with their life, and that this is what development should set out to achieve.



**“A successful society is one that can support good lives that don’t cost the earth”,**  
*New Economics Foundation, Happy Planet Index 2.0, p. 3*

As well as the happiness and health of people, the Index also takes into account environmental sustainability. It shows which nations use their resources most efficiently to give their citizens good lives – the nation that uses the most resources is not the happiest, but the nation that uses its resources in the best way.

Perhaps surprisingly, the Index named Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica as the three happiest countries on earth, because of their small environmental footprints, high levels of health, and strong social networks. The USA, despite its high life expectancy and happiness levels, is 114th in the Index because of its enormous environmental impact on the world. The unhappiest country, as in the HDI, is Zimbabwe. the same as in the Human Development Index.

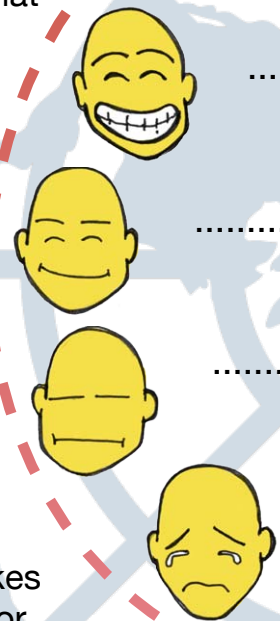
Many of these findings link back to something called the 'Easterlin paradox'. This was a theory developed by the economist Richard Easterlin in the 1970s. Easterlin found that increases in income led to increases in happiness – but only up to a point. After the average income of a country had reached around \$15,000, further increases in income did not seem to lead to increased levels of happiness.

Many reasons have been given for why this should be: it may be that in countries where everyone usually has enough to eat, we become obsessed with status. That is, we worry about 'keeping up' with our neighbours, having the latest cars or technological gadgets, which we have to work harder and harder to afford. Others have suggested that we may be expecting consumer goods to bring us happiness, and then become disappointed when we find out that they are just consumer goods, and ones which will soon be replaced by something newer and more advanced. Still other economists have criticised Easterlin's paradox and suggested that there is a link between money and happiness.

Nevertheless, these ideas of happiness economics are becoming more widespread and even being used by some governments in their decision-making. The small, mountainous nation of Bhutan, in-between China and India, has Gross National Happiness (GNH) as one of its main measures of success, rather than GDP. In Europe, President Sarkozy of France has suggested considering happiness when measuring the success of a government, and the Prime Minister of the UK David Cameron has suggested measuring 'wellbeing'.

Ultimately, happiness is a very difficult thing to define or measure – what makes one person happy might be the very same thing that makes another unhappy. But happiness is a thing that all human being look for, so including it into our normal economic thinking is certainly a step in the right direction.

Happy Planet



*Bhutan pictures provided by Jamyang Tenzin*





## Case study on Bhutan



We talked to Samten Lhendup from Bhutan about his country's policy of Gross National Happiness.

### Index

Costa Rica  
76,1

Netherlands  
50,6

Australia  
36,6

Zimbabwe  
16,6

*"The philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) was enunciated by the fourth King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck in 1972, who stated, "Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross Domestic Product." This indicates that development of a country should not be based only on material wellbeing, but on the satisfaction of material and spiritual needs together.*

*The core concept of GNH is the reflection of a specific Bhutanese path to development in pursuit of values that fit with Bhutan's culture, institutions and spiritual values.*

*The actual source of genuine, and lasting happiness at all levels- individual, family, community, regional, national and global, has to generate from within us. The compassion and love has to be generated in our hearts so that the nature, environment, wildlife is conserved for our own happiness as well as for our future generations. The process of self-examination and the universal responsibility has to come from the hearts of all humans. Then people can achieve happiness at all levels. In this context, Bhutanese people are happy not because of economic advancement, but because of their reverence of the values of spiritual and traditional culture that has been cherished for centuries.*

*Although Bhutan's ranking in the Human Development Index was at 131 in 2009, Bhutan enjoys harmony and peace because of its continued policy of conserving environment and preserving culture.*

*Irrespective of who we are, all humans want to be happy. We ordinary human beings are deluded by our own ignorance, and there is a great danger that values of traditional culture might drift away by the driving force of material progress. Therefore, it is imperative to create the enabling conditions for happiness and educate today's youths about preserving and promoting Bhutanese traditional culture. The Bhutanese government places a great importance in preserving these positive social and cultural values, so that the future national happiness is ensured. May all the sentient beings be endowed with Happiness."*

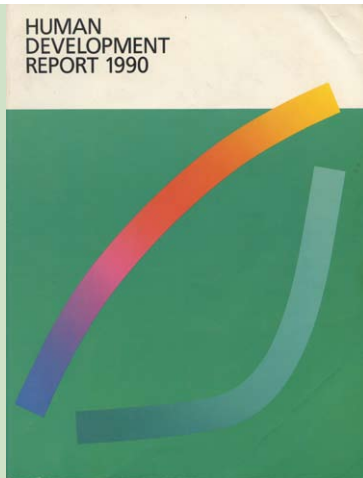


# Development Reports

Each year, the latest scores in the HDI are presented in a report called the Human Development Report. As well as keeping the HDI updated, these reports focus on a specific area of human development each year. These are represented by their creative and eye-catching covers, some of which are reproduced below.

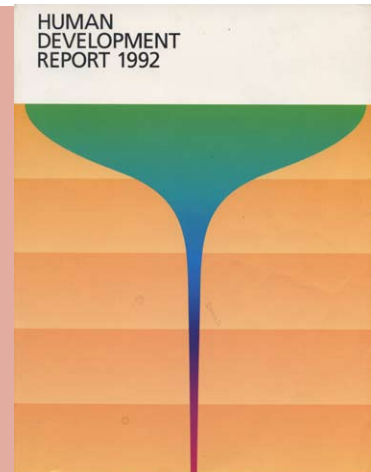
*1990 – Concept and Measurement of Human Development*

The cover of the very first report shows two related curves – the steep bottom curve shows the incomes of every country around the world, while the upper curve shows the HDI scores for each country. This shows that there is a bigger difference between countries in terms of income rather than human development.



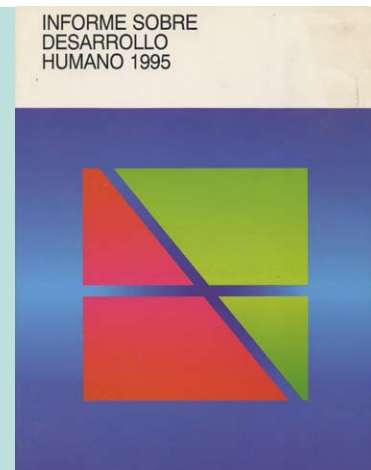
*1992 – Global Dimensions of Human Development*

This 'champagne glass' diagram shows the unequal distribution of wealth around the world. The richest 20%, at the top of the picture, control 82.7% of the wealth; while the poorest 20% have access to just 1.4%.

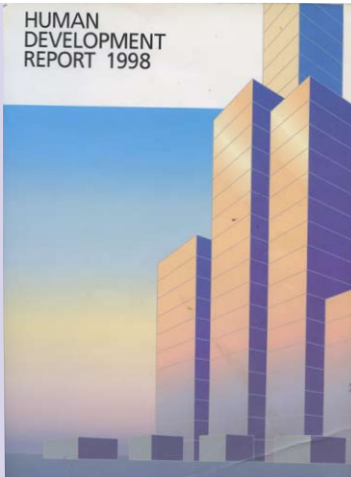


*1995 – Gender and Human Development*

The graph shows the difference between men's work and women's work. The green represents work done by men, the red work done by women; the top half of the square is paid work, the bottom half unpaid work. Women do just over half the work, but most of their work is unpaid.

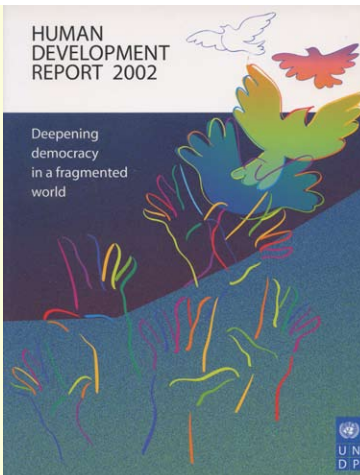






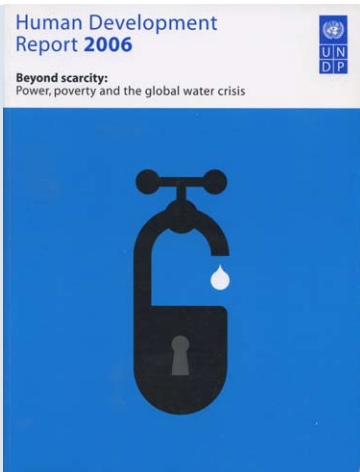
*1998 – Consumption for Human Development*

The single blocks at the front of the picture represent the consumption of the poorest people in the world in commodities like meat, energy, and fish. The huge, skyscraper-like blocks behind them represent the amount the richest people consume of the same items. Overall, the richest consume 16 times as much as the poorest.



*2002- Deepening Democracy in a fragmented World*

The diagonal slope behind the picture represents the increasing number of democracies in the world, while the hands represent human struggles against exploitation, and the flying birds freedom.



*2006 – Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis*

The combination of the tap and the lock shows that the real reason why millions of people have no access to water is not because of scarcity but because they are 'locked out' of accessing water by poverty.



*2010 – The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*

On the cover of the latest report the trailing strings are actually graphs showing the progress made in HDI scores since 1990. Almost every country in the world has improved its level of human development since the first report, many by a substantial amount.

# ROAD RIO

P L U S 2 0

In 2012 the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro will hold the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, where governments and people from around the world will have the chance to create a blueprint for a sustainable world. This conference is also known as Rio+20, because it comes twenty years after a similar one held in the same city – but what happened in-between? How did we get from Rio to Rio?

**1972 – Stockholm UN Conference on the Human Development** The road from Rio to Rio actually starts even further back, with this conference in the Swedish capital, which recognised that previous attempts at increasing human development were not working, and stated that everyone has the right to a healthy environment.

## 1992 – Rio Earth Summit

More formally known as the UN Conference on Environment and Development, this first meeting in Rio brought sustainable development to the world's attention. The conference came up with two major new international treaties – the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was designed to protect endangered species; and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## 1997 – Rio+5

Five years after the Earth Summit, very little of the money promised for developing countries had appeared, leading some to say that “sustainable development is no development at all”. This conference, also held in Rio, renewed the call for strong action on the environment and development.





## 2012 – Rio+20 Earth Summit

In May 2012, twenty years after the Earth Summit, Rio will again host a huge conference on sustainable development. This summit will be looking at how to create a green economy that will help get rid of poverty and achieve sustainable development. Preparations for this meeting are ongoing - if you want to get involved, you can find much more information on our website, <http://www.roadtorioplus20.org/>

### 2009 – Copenhagen Climate Conference

There were high hopes that this conference would agree a strong and fair replacement for the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012, and world leaders like Presidents Barack Obama and Hu Jintao of the USA and China flew to Denmark to attend. But it proved to be a big disappointment, with only voluntary agreements made, and no serious replacement for Kyoto.

### 2002 – Rio+10, Johannesburg

This summit, held in South Africa and marking the tenth anniversary of the Earth Summit, saw a number of environmental conventions passed. However, its impact was limited because President George W Bush of the USA refused to send a team of negotiators from his country.

### 1997 – The Kyoto Protocol

This treaty, signed in the Japanese city of Kyoto, called on developed countries to reduce their emissions to 5% less than they were in 1990 and to provide funds for developing countries to adapt to climate change. However, politicians in the USA, the world's biggest polluter, refused to sign, and many other countries are failing to meet their targets.

# RIO + 20

*So now we know the history of sustainable development, but what exactly will be happening at the Rio+20 conference? And how can you get involved in achieving a sustainable future for all the people on our planet?*

The summit will have two main themes – creating a green economy, and improving the institutions that deal with sustainable development.

## Green Economy

On the first of the themes, the conference will attempt to define what a green economy actually is and what principles lie behind it. This is a very divisive issue – some people think that a green economy should simply be the same as our current economy, but with green technology, more recycling and a greater care for our environmental resources. Others believe that to achieve a true green economy we need to pay attention to all three pillars of sustainability and achieve greater economic and social equality and peace, rather than focusing exclusively on greenhouse gas emissions.

Some of the policies that could come out of this include putting an economic value on natural resources that currently have none, taxing pollution and other damaging actions, and investing in public transport and renewable energy systems.

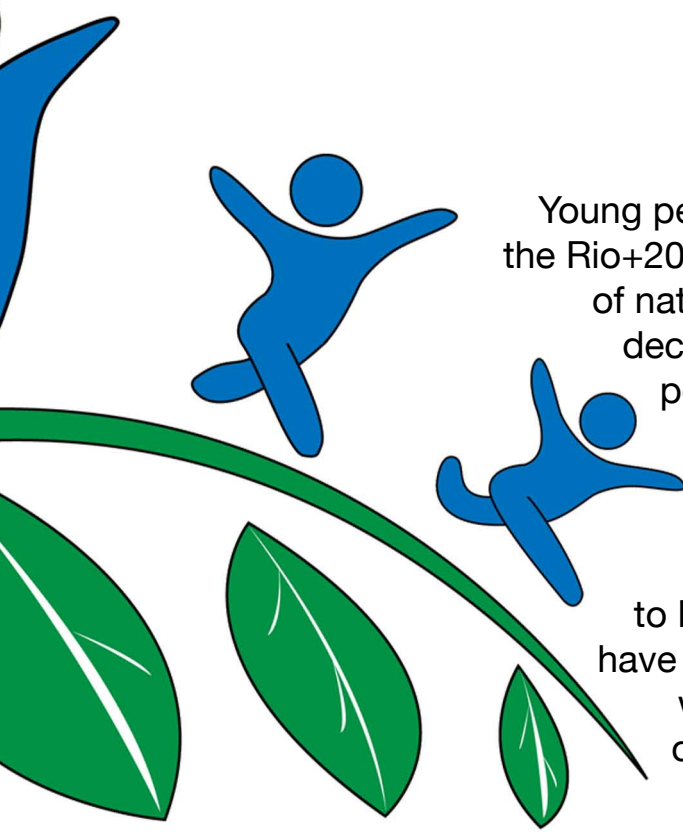




## Institutions

On the second theme, the aim of the conference is to simplify and strengthen the international system of ensuring sustainability. There are currently hundreds of different treaties and agreements relating to various aspects of sustainability and development, and it would be much simpler if these could be brought together somehow. The conference will also ask how we can strengthen the impact of the UN Environment Programme and its ability to protect the planet, and whether we need to start a World Environment Organisation to help enforce agreements on climate change and the environment.

## Road to Rio+20



Young people will be some of the people most affected by the Rio+20 conference, as climate change and the depletion of natural resources begins to take hold in the next few decades. At the same time, almost half of the world's population is below the age of 25, so it is both vital and possible for us to make our voices heard in Rio in June 2012. Peace Child International (also known as PCI, the publishers of this book) has been helping to make this happen with our Road to Rio+20 campaign. As well as these booklets, PCI have been holding meetings in all the continents of the world to discuss the concerns, hopes and desires of young people around the world, and to create a global youth statement that can be presented to governments at Rio+20.



**ROAD TO RIO**

We have also been encouraging young people to use their creativity to tackle our problems by contributing to a musical about sustainability, and by sending in submissions to a business contest searching for the latest innovations in creating a sustainable, green economy. For more information, and to find out how you can take part, head over to our websites at :

<http://www.roadtorioplus20.org/>

<http://geebiz.biz/>

# Further Information

There are lots of organisations around the world that fight for sustainability. Some of the biggest include Greenpeace International ([www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)), Friends of the Earth International (<http://www.foei.org/>), and the World Wide Fund for Nature, also known as WWF (<http://wwf.panda.org/>). These organisations have all been running for 40 years or more, and their websites contain a wealth of information and resources about all aspects of sustainability, as well as links to their work in specific countries.

To see a huge amount of statistics about the Human Development Index, and to read the Human Development Reports from 1990 to the present day, head to the UN's HDR website (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/>), which has all sort of tools you can play around with to find out whatever information you like. The UN does a lot of other good work on sustainability and development which you can read about at the UN Development Programme (<http://www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home.html>) and Environment Programme (<http://www.unep.org/>).

To find out more about the economics of happiness, try New Economics Foundation (<http://www.neweconomics.org/>), who developed the Happy Planet Index, and who have loads of other great ideas for making our societies more sustainable. Some of their work is aimed more at academics and politicians, but if you're interested in economics this is the place to go. You could also try this Wall Street Journal photo essay giving an introduction to the concept of Gross National Happiness used in Bhutan, along with some incredible photographs of the country (<http://on.wsj.com/oLGXp0>).

With the Rio+20 Earth Summit fast approaching, you can head to its official website (<http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>) to check out the latest developments during the preparations, and to find out more detail about what will be going on at the summit itself.

And, of course, don't forget to visit Peace Child International's own Road to Rio+20 website (<http://www.roadtorioplus20.org/>), where you can find all the latest news, videos, pictures and opinion in the build up to Rio+20, as well as ideas for actions you can take to help us achieve sustainable change.



# Glossary of key terms

Here are some quick explanations of some of the key terms used in this booklet. Check here if you need a quick reminder of what a word means.

**Biodiversity** – a biodiverse area is a place with lots of different types of animals and plants. Problems caused by humans, like climate change and deforestation, are causing many species to become extinct, which lessens biodiversity.

**Carbon Dioxide** – a gas that is released when we burn oil, coal or gas. It acts like a greenhouse by trapping sunlight, so the more CO<sub>2</sub> there is in the air, the warmer the planet will become.

**Debt** – money owed by one country to another country. Many developing countries owe large amounts of debt to developed countries, which they have to pay back rather than spending the money on their own citizens.

**GDP per capita** – the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country is the total value of all the goods and services of a country during the year. This amount is divided by the number of people in the country to calculate the GDP per capita, or average income.

**Human development** – a very complex topic that this book is all about! Some of the things it means are increasing the choices and living standards of people all around the world; ensuring everyone has access to the basic needs of life; increasing equality and respect for human rights; and empowering people to make their own decisions.

**Human Development Index** – a way of measuring human development, designed by the United Nations. It measures life expectancy, years of education and income, and gives countries a score between 0 and 1.

**Indicator** – an indicator is a statistic that can be measured to determine how well a country is doing in a particular aspect of human life. Indicators mentioned in this book include income, number of deaths in childbirth and number of children in school, as well as many others.

**Inequality** – around the world, some people have much more than others, in terms of money, education, healthcare and human rights. We cannot expect everyone to have exactly the same as everyone else, but the massive levels of inequality that currently exist are not fair.

**Sustainability** – sustainability means living in a way that gives people all around the world the same opportunities, while also leaving a clean environment and natural resources for future generations to use.

**Non-renewable resources** – these are resources that, once they have been used up, will not be available again on earth for millions of years because of how long they take to create. They include fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas.

**Poverty** – people who are poor are in poverty. Poverty is often defined as affecting anyone who lives on less than \$1.25 a day, but it often depends on more factors than just money – you can have very little money while still having access to many of the basic needs of life.

**Renewable resources** – these are resources that will always exist, no matter how much we use them. Because of this, they can be used to provide energy instead of non-renewable fossil fuels. Renewable resources include the sun, the wind and the waves.



WEAPON

OF

MASS

*Instruction*



*Design By Zeromano*



'Youth in Action' Programme



PEACE  
CHILD  
INTERNATIONAL  
-EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE-

