Human Development Report 2009

Mongolia

The Human Development Index - going beyond income

Each year since 1990 the Human Development Report has published the human development index (HDI) which looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of well-being. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and gross enrolment in education) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income). The index is not in any sense a comprehensive measure of human development. It does not, for example, include important indicators such as gender or income inequality nor more difficult to measure concepts like respect for human rights and political freedoms. What it does provide is a broadened prism for viewing human progress and the complex relationship between income and well-being.

Of the components of the HDI, only income and gross enrolment are somewhat responsive to short term policy changes. For that reason, it is important to examine changes in the human development index over time. The human development index trends tell an important story in that respect. Between 2000 and 2007 Mongolia's HDI rose by 1.02% annually from 0.676 to 0.727 today. HDI scores in all regions have increased progressively over the years (Figure 1) although all have experienced periods of slower growth or even reversals.

Figure 1: HDI Trends
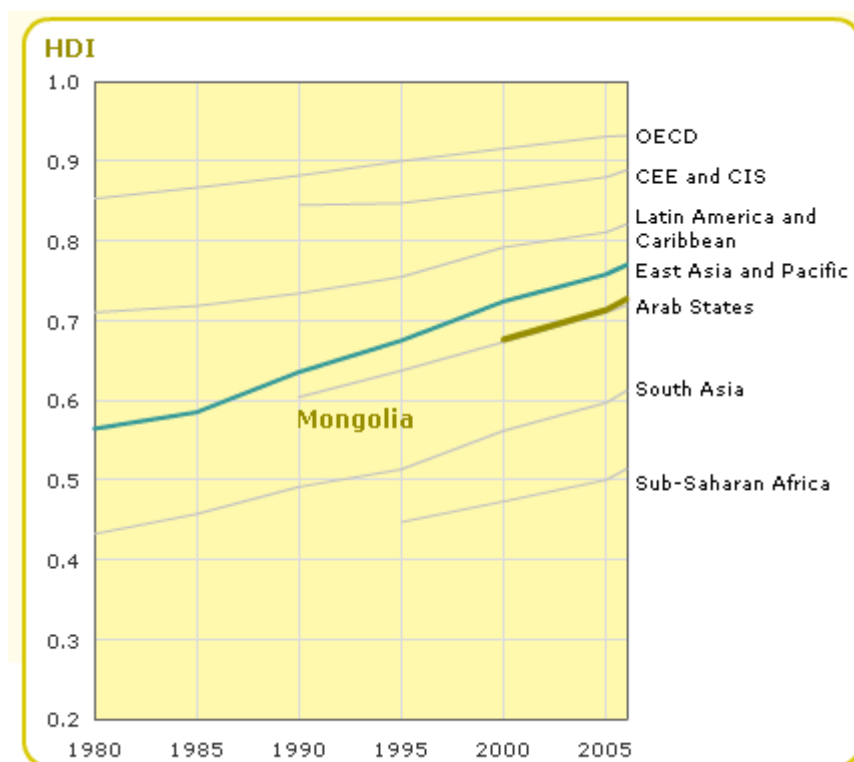
Source: Indicator table G of the Human Development Report 2009

This year's HDI, which refers to 2007, highlights the very large gaps in well-being and life chances that continue to divide our increasingly interconnected world. The HDI for Mongolia is 0.727, which gives the country a rank of 115th out of 182 countries with data (Table 1).

Table 1: Mongolia's human development index 2007				
HDI value	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and above)	Combined gross enrolment ratio (%)	GDP per capita (PPP US$)
1. Norway (0.971)	1. Japan (82.7)	1. Georgia (100.0)	1. Australia (114.2)	1. Liechtenstein (85,382)
113. Bolivia (0.729)	114. Tajikistan (66.4)	31. Argentina (97.6)	57. Panama (79.7)	123. Congo (3,511)
114. Guyana (0.729)	115. Nepal (66.3)	32. Romania (97.6)	58. Philippines (79.6)	124. Philippines (3,406)
115. Mongolia (0.727)	**116. Mongolia (66.2)**	**33. Mongolia (97.3)**	**59. Mongolia (79.2)**	**125. Mongolia (3,236)**
116. Viet Nam (0.725)	117. Pakistan (66.2)	34. Israel (97.1)	60. Romania (79.2)	126. Cape Verde (3,041)
117. Moldova (0.720)	118. Russian Federation (66.2)	35. Greece (97.1)	61. Colombia (79.0)	127. Guyana (2,782)
182. Niger (0.340)	176. Afghanistan (43.6)	151. Mali (26.2)	177. Djibouti (25.5)	181. Congo (Democratic Republic of the) (298)

By looking at some of the most fundamental aspects of people's lives and opportunities the HDI provides a much more complete picture of a country's development than other indicators, such as GDP per capita. Figure 2 illustrates that countries on the same level of HDI can have very different levels of income or that countries with similar levels of income can have very different HDIs.

Figure 2: The human development index gives a more complete picture than income

Source: Indicator table H of the Human Development Report 2009
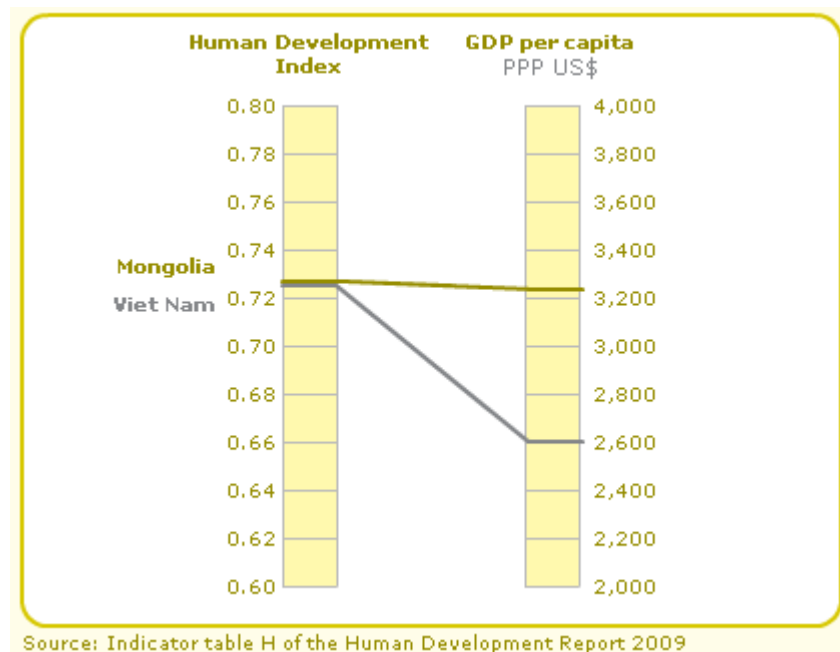
Human poverty: focusing on the most deprived in multiple dimensions of poverty

The HDI measures the average progress of a country in human development. The Human Poverty Index (HPI-1), focuses on the proportion of people below certain threshold levels in each of the dimensions of the human development index - living a long and healthy life, having access to education, and a decent standard of living. By looking beyond income deprivation, the HPI-1 represents a multi-dimensional alternative to the $1.25 a day (PPP US$) poverty measure.

The HPI-1 value of 12.7% for Mongolia, ranks 58th among 135 countries for which the index has been calculated.

The HPI-1 measures severe deprivation in health by the proportion of people who are not expected to survive to age 40. Education is measured by the adult illiteracy rate. And a decent standard of living is measured by the unweighted average of people not using an improved water source and the proportion of children under age 5 who are underweight for their age. Table 2 shows the values for these variables for Mongolia and compares them to other countries.

Table 2: Selected indicators of human poverty for Mongolia

Human Poverty Index (HPI-1)	Probability of not surviving to age 40 (%)	Adult illiteracy rate (%ages 15 and above)	People not using an improved water source (%)	Children underweight for age (% aged under 5)
1. Czech Republic (1.5)	1. Hong Kong, China (SAR) (1.4)	1. Georgia (0.0)	1. Barbados (0)	1. Croatia (1)
56. Syrian Arab Republic (12.6)	84. Jamaica (9.9)	31. Argentina (2.4)	106. Senegal (23)	41. Barbados (6)
57. Sao Tome and Principe (12.6)	85. Suriname (10.0)	32. Romania (2.4)	107. Malawi (24)	42. Egypt (6)
58. Mongolia (12.7)	86. Mongolia (10.3)	33. Mongolia (2.7)	108. Mongolia (28)	43. Mongolia (6)
59. Iran (Islamic Republic of) (12.8)	87. Russian Federation (10.6)	34. Israel (2.9)	109. Burkina Faso (28)	44. Panama (7)
60. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (13.4)	88. Uzbekistan (10.7)	35. Greece (2.9)	110. Burundi (29)	45. Azerbaijan (7)
135. Afghanistan (59.8)	153. Lesotho (47.4)	151. Mali (73.8)	150. Afghanistan (78)	138. Bangladesh (48)

Building the capabilities of women

The HDI measures average achievements in a country, but it does not incorporate the degree of gender imbalance in these achievements. The gender-related development index (GDI), introduced in Human Development Report 1995, measures achievements in the same dimensions using the same indicators as the HDI but captures inequalities in achievement between women and men. It is simply the HDI adjusted downward for gender inequality. The greater the gender disparity in basic human development, the lower is a country's GDI relative to its HDI.

Mongolia's GDI value, 0.727 should be compared to its HDI value of 0.727. Its GDI value is 100.0% of its HDI value. Out of the 155 countries with both HDI and GDI values, Mongolia has the best ratio.

Table 3 shows how Mongolia's ratio of GDI to HDI compares to other countries, and also shows its values for selected underlying indicators in the calculation of the GDI.

Table 3: The GDI compared to the HDI – a measure of gender disparity

GDI as % of HDI	Life expectancy at birth(years) 2004	Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older) 2004	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio2004
	Female as % male	Female as % male	Female as % male
1. Mongolia (100.0%)	1. Russian Federation (121.7%)	1. Lesotho (122.5%)	1. Cuba (121.0%)
2. Colombia (99.9%)	24. Europe (110.5%)	5. United Arab Emirates (102.2%)	5. Barbados (116.7%)
3. Hungary (99.9%)	25. Mauritius (110.5%)	6. Antigua and Barbuda (101.0%)	6. Estonia (116.1%)
4. Bahrain (99.9%)	26. Mongolia (110.4%)	7. Mongolia (100.9%)	7. Mongolia (115.1%)
5. Lithuania (99.9%)	27. Romania (110.3%)	8. Seychelles (100.9%)	8. Kuwait (114.9%)
6. Romania (99.9%)	28. Georgia (110.3%)	9. Uruguay (100.8%)	9. Suriname (114.3%)
155. Afghanistan (88.0%)	190. Swaziland (98.0%)	145. Afghanistan (29.2%)	175. Afghanistan (55.6%)

The gender empowerment measure (GEM) reveals whether women take an active part in economic and political life. It tracks the share of seats in parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of female professional and technical workers- and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence. Differing from the GDI, the GEM exposes inequality in opportunities in selected areas.

Mongolia ranks 94th out of 109 countries in the GEM, with a value of 0.410.

Migration

Every year, millions of people cross national or international borders seeking better living standards. Most migrants, internal and international, reap gains in the form of higher incomes, better access to education and health, and improved prospects for their children. Most of the world's 195 million international migrants have moved from one developing country to another or between developed countries.

Mongolia has an emigration rate of 0.3%. The major continent of destination for migrants from Mongolia is Europe with 40.7% of emigrants living there.

Table 4: Emigrants

Origin of migrants	Emigration rate (%)	Major continent of destination for migrants	(%)
1. Antigua and Barbuda	45.3	Asia	46.6
5. Samoa	37.2	Northern America	16.6
175. Myanmar	0.7	Asia	77.6
178. China	0.5	Asia	64.0
181. Mongolia	0.3	Europe	40.7
181. Mongolia	0.3	Europe	40.7
Global aggregates			
Medium human development	1.9	Asia	43.3
OECD	3.9	Northern America	41.2
World	3.0	Europe	33.4

The United States is host to nearly 40 million international migrants – more than any other country though as a share of total population it is Qatar which has the most migrants – more than 4 in every 5 people are migrants. In Mongolia, there are 9.1 thousand migrants which represent 0.4% of the total population.

Table 5: Immigrants

Destination of migrants	Immigrant stock (thousands)	Destination of migrants	Immigrants as a share of population (%) 2005
1. United States	39,266.5	1. Qatar	80.5
16. Hong Kong, China (SAR)	2,721.1	8. Hong Kong, China (SAR)	39.5
159. Fiji	17.2	160. Philippines	0.4
163. Timor-Leste	11.9	162. Papua New Guinea	0.4
169. Mongolia	9.1	165. Mongolia	0.4
173. Samoa	7.2	168. Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.3
174. Solomon Islands	6.5	176. Myanmar	0.2
182. Vanuatu	1.0	182. China	0.0
Global aggregates			
OECD	97,622.8	OECD	8.4
Medium human	40,948.6	Medium human	0.8

development		development	
World	195,245.4	World	3.0

Remittances

Remittances, which are usually sent to immediate family members who have stayed behind, are among the most direct benefits from migration; their benefits spread broadly into local economies. They also serve as foreign exchange earnings for the origin countries of migrants. However, remittances are unequally distributed. Of the total US$370 billion remitted in 2007, more than half went to countries in the medium human development category against less than one per cent to low human development countries. In 2007, US$194 million in remittances were sent to Mongolia. Average remittances per person were US$74, compared with the average for OECD of US$108. (See Table 6 for more details.)

Table 6: Remittances

Total remittance inflows(US$ millions)		Remittances per capita(US$)	
1. India	35,262	1. Luxembourg	3,355
2. China	32,833	3. Tonga	992
91. Cambodia	353	46. Fiji	197
92. Hong Kong, China (SAR)	348	49. Philippines	185
101. Mongolia	194	85. Mongolia	74
106. Fiji	165	87. Malaysia	64
114. Myanmar	125	88. Viet Nam	63
155. Lao People's Democratic Republic	1	154. Lao People's Democratic Republic	0
157. Burundi	0	157. Burundi	0
Global aggregates			
OECD	124,520	OECD	108
Medium human development	189,093	Medium human development	44
World	370,765	World	58

Mongolia was mentioned in the Report in pages 39, 51, 61, 115, and 116.
Use this link to access the complete set of country data.