

Development Progress

Exploring what works and why

odi.org/developmentprogress



Development
Progress

Why explore progress?

Negative news about development often crowds out the positive. Yet despite serious challenges – including high levels of inequality and the rising impact of climate change – we are living in an age when more progress has been made than at any other time in history.

Worldwide, the proportion of people living in extreme income poverty has almost halved, falling from 43% to 22% between 1990 and 2008. But more than incomes have improved: many countries have seen striking advances across all aspects of human wellbeing – including education, health and employment to name a few.

“ Since 2000, improved production and distribution in Burkina Faso have extended water supply to nearly 2 million people in the four principal urban centres.



Pablo Tosco/Oxfam



Stanislas Fradelizi/World Bank

“ Between 1993 and 2008, Vietnam reduced the proportion of people living below the national poverty line from 58% to just 15%.

Whilst all regions have made progress, not all countries or people have: that's why we need a better evidence-based understanding of where, how and why progress is happening. Exploring what has made life better in some countries can help support further progress, both there and elsewhere.

Progress: improvement in the sustainable and equitable wellbeing of a society

Hall, Giovannini, Morrone and Ranuzzi (2010)



“ In Ethiopia, approximately 3 million pupils were in primary school in 1994/95. By 2008/09, this had risen to 15.5 million - an increase of over 500%.

About the project

ODI's Development Progress, a four-year project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to provide evidence for what's worked and why over the past two decades.

The research builds on an initial phase which concluded in 2011 with a set of 24 country case studies and a report card assessing how countries have performed against the Millennium Development Goals. The second phase includes an additional set of 25+ case studies and will further explore three key areas:

1. **Measuring Progress:** employing a range of methodologies and statistical analysis, looking at how equitable progress has been, and to what extent it has been sustained over time;
2. **Explaining Progress:** exploring where and how development outcomes have improved, analysing the social, economic and political drivers amongst some of the leading performers;
3. **Financing Progress:** analysis of how progress has been financed, looking at the mix of domestic, international, public, private and other sources, along with mechanisms of delivery.

Building on these three components is a focus on global goals and targets, using our research findings to inform further progress against the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

Country case studies

 Phase 1

 Phase 2



Development Progress is not just about economic growth. We'll be measuring progress across eight dimensions of wellbeing to frame our analysis:



Material wellbeing



Health



Education



Environment



Employment



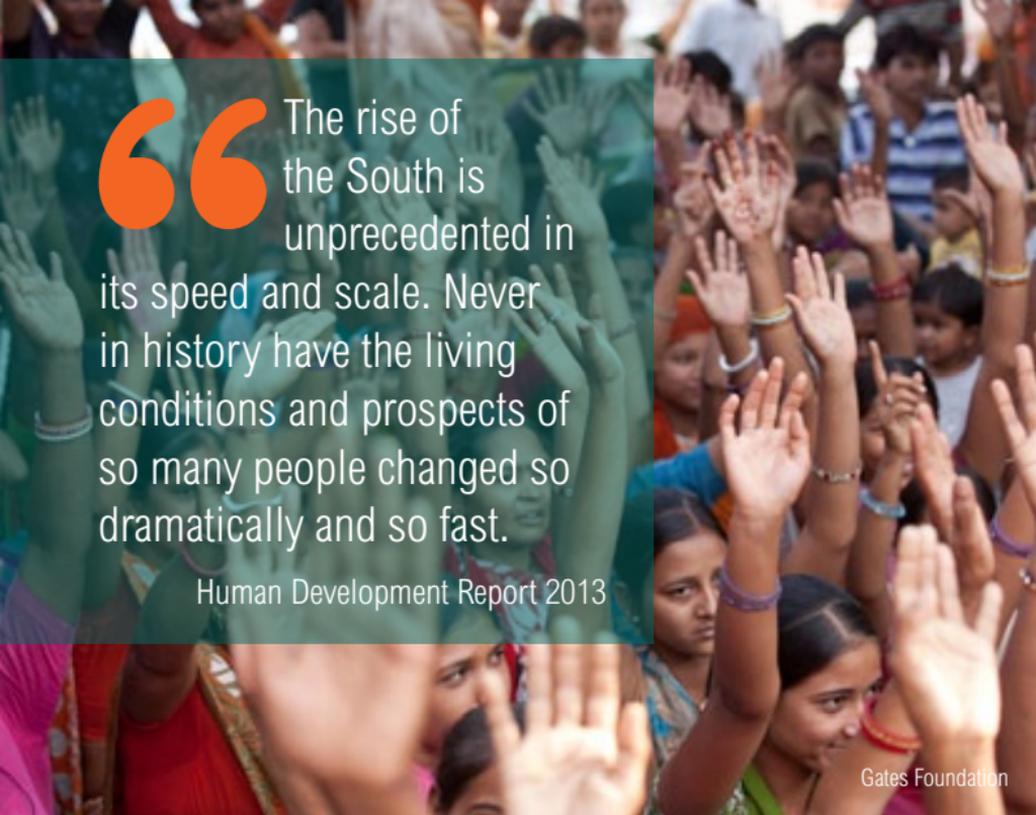
Political voice



Social cohesion



Security



“ The rise of the South is unprecedented in its speed and scale. Never in history have the living conditions and prospects of so many people changed so dramatically and so fast.

Human Development Report 2013

Gates Foundation

Contact us

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