

Monitoring Progress, Mapping Future Directions

To support countries in planning their development, including through alignment with the MDGs, UNDP backs two series of reports that focus on countries and regions: [MDG reports](#) and [National Human Development Reports](#) (NHDRs). The MDG reports, prepared by UN Country Teams, offer short statistical summaries of progress and forecasts on the goals as well as their related targets and indicators. The NHDRs, a flagship series of UNDP publications, provide more detailed analysis on a range of development trends and policy options. Both reports highlight national experiences in ways that can filter into global MDG advocacy—points of connection that spread knowledge about possibility and progress.

More than 115 countries and regions have now produced MDG reports. Some employ targets and indicators that reflect national circumstances. In 2004, Peru's report examined economic growth rates and called for strong policies to reduce income inequities, which threaten progress on poverty, education, and child and maternal mortality. [Lebanon](#) presented a Living Conditions Index that is a clearer measurement of

explore new and sometimes controversial subjects that attract public interest and prompt action.

[Egypt's 2004 NHDR](#) focuses on decentralizing development planning in one of the world's mostly highly centralized countries. It follows earlier reports examining variations in development across 451 local communities; these assisted the government in setting up new programmes to improve access to basic goods and services in 58 of the poorest areas. Bolivia's most recent report studies social tensions arising from a still uncomfortable integration with the global economy and urges closer attention to national cultural concerns. A sub-national report from the state of [West Bengal in India](#) traces how land reform and decentralization policies led to steady development over decades, but the state is now struggling to fit into India's national economic boom. It lays out a human development plan emphasizing employment and literacy.

The 2004 edition of the well-known [Arab Human Development Report](#), the third in a series, calls for a rapid accelera-

“The Human Development Report in Bolivia has become, for several years now, an indispensable navigation chart to understand where we are, the set of our challenges, and the direction in which we may advance.”

Carlos D. Mesa Gisbert, President of Bolivia

national levels of deprivation than global poverty indicators. [Namibia](#) found it is close to achieving universal primary education, but HIV/AIDS remains a formidable challenge. Since [Thailand](#) has already arrived at some of the goals, it proposed a series of MDG-plus targets on education, health, gender equality and the environment. It has also produced a separate report on [Goal 8](#), on global partnership.

UNDP's award-winning NHDRs look at development through the lens of the widely influential human development concept pioneered by the annual global Human Development Report. Human development calls for putting people at the centre of development, and expanding their basic choices and capabilities to live with freedom and dignity. More than 500 NHDRs have been produced by 143 countries, in addition to 28 regional reports. They emphasize broad participation in their preparation, involving governments, academics, civil society organizations and other partners, usually under the leadership of national institutions or individuals. The reports

tion of democratic reform in the region. It features specific proposals for new regional human rights institutions, stronger and freely elected legislatures, and independent judiciaries. Bosnia and Herzegovina's latest report provides an in-depth analysis of the MDGs. The team of authors drafting the report worked closely with officials preparing the national poverty reduction strategy paper, which resulted in the integration of 70 percent of the localized MDG indicators proposed by the report within the national plan.

Both the MDG reports and NHDRs are measures of UNDP's ongoing dedication to supporting intellectual leadership on development, and informed discussions that countries and regions may need to carry out as a jumping-off point for future progress. By providing practical data and analysis, the reports also offer important resources that people can use to translate ideas into reality.