



## WHEC Update

### Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

April 2022; Vol. 17. No. 04

### *Anniversary Edition*

On **12 April 2021**, the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) celebrates its **21<sup>st</sup> Birthday**. Established in 2001, WHEC was established to undertake projects / programs in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO), to disseminate reliable, evidence-based and trusted information on reproductive health, to the healthcare providers and the public. Join our efforts, we welcome everyone.

Policies are critical to harnessing frontier technologies for good and worldwide impact. Without key enabling and supportive government policies, the real benefits of new and frontier technologies will remain locked away. This is the message from the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) for our Anniversary Edition of *WHEC Update*. It is worthwhile to note by the international community, that while everyone in the world is affected by technological change, not all countries and social groups can make their voices heard and have their interests considered when the course of technological change is decided. Our expert-panel publishes evidence-based messages to policymakers on how to craft inclusive responses to the issues raised by rapid technological change.

**This is an unmissable opportunity.** Developing countries cannot afford to miss the current technological revolution as they had missed others in the past. Failure to catch previous technological waves had contributed to the existing inequalities between developed and developing countries. Developing countries must harness frontier technologies by raising their productive capacities and boosting structural economic transformation. What is needed is the widespread upgrading of science, technology and innovation capacity across the developing world, that will promote global development and benefit all of mankind.

Becoming ready requires active policy design and implementation, calling for stronger policy efforts at the national level in developing countries to build research and development, technological and innovation capacity. In the process of digital transformation, digital readiness is a pre-requisite to maximize the benefits of the digital economy. Promoting the development of e-commerce ecosystem, and addressing potential risks related to data protection, cyber security, cybercrime, consumer protection and competition are essential governing measures. The importance of building digital skills to keep pace with rapid technological change is of utmost importance. Building digital skill is the key.

More investment is needed in demand-driven capacity-building programs that target women digital entrepreneurs, to meet their needs such as building networks and engaging with role models. The need to bridge the digital skill gap and make the business environment less risky for digital entrepreneurs. For example, according to UNCTAD report, \$3 billion in funding had been raised in 2021 by over 500 African digital entrepreneurs, but only 6% had gone to women-led businesses. Stakeholders must tackle that hinders small and medium-size digital businesses, especially those owned by women, from growing.

**A second chance for global development.** COVID-19 crisis has generated global political momentum to alter the balance of power between the state and the market in macroeconomic management. Hopes of building back better now hinge on the emergence of a new policy paradigm to help guide a just transition to a decarbonized world.

Create an account on **WHEC Global Health Line (WGHL)** and share your projects and opinions.

Technologies for Good  
**Rita Luthra, MD**



## Your Questions, Our Reply

Will the Governments adopt the necessary measures to build-back-better measures together? Will this crisis be merely another missed opportunity if they acted separately?

**A Lost Decade of Economic Growth:** Second chances are not common in this world, but one is arriving now. The scope and scale of government support for businesses and workers during the COVID-19 crisis of the last 2 years have swept aside entrenched policy dogmas. This has generated political momentum across advanced and developing economies to change the balance of power between the state and the market, and thereby foster a new consensus for achieving more equitable and sustainable growth. By building on this impetus, we can avoid repeating the policy mistakes of recent decades.

A global economic recovery began in the second half of 2020, as countries found less draconian ways to manage the pandemic's health risks and launched vaccination programs. Global growth is expected to reach 5.3% this year, the highest rate in almost a half-century. But the outlook beyond 2021 was uncertain, given disparities in countries' financial resources, the prospect of new coronavirus variants, and highly uneven vaccination rates.

A return to the pre-pandemic policy paradigm, which delivered the weakest decade of global growth since 1945, would be a disaster. This is especially true for developing countries, where the economic damage caused by COVID-19 has exceeded that resulting from the global financial crisis a decade ago – in some cases by a considerable margin.

The new US administration's wide-ranging economic initiatives, if complemented by similar actions in other developed countries, could restore the global economy to a sounder footing. Moreover, US backing for the recent \$650 billion allocation of International Monetary Fund (IMF) special drawing rights (SDRs), as well as for a global minimum corporate tax rate and a waiver of COVID-19 vaccine-related intellectual property rights, suggests a possible renewal of multilateralism. The global economy's existing asymmetries, and the interlocking economic and environmental crises these have caused, should top the multilateral agenda.

Progress will depend on improved policy coordination among major economies as they push to maintain the recovery's momentum, build resilience against future shocks, and address the increasingly urgent crises. But better coordination will not be enough to build-back-better. Above all, developing countries need renewed international support. Many of them face a spiraling public-health crisis owing to the pandemic, even as they struggle with an increasing debt burden and face the prospect of a lost decade of economic growth.

The US Marshall Plan that enabled Europe to rebuild after World War II has rightly been evoked as a blueprint for such efforts. But what is missing today is bold, human-centered narrative that abandons outdated free-market tropes and instead connects shared global policy challenges to improvements in the everyday lives of people, whether they live in Bogota, Berlin, Bamako, Busan or Boston.

Join our efforts!

## Human Rights Violation in Ukraine: WHEC Statement



**March 2022**

**In a resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva agreed to establish a commission to investigate violations committed during Russia's military attack on Ukraine.**

32 countries voted in favor of the resolution, which was presented by Ukraine. Russia and Eritrea voted against it, while 13 nations

abstained. Most importantly, the initiative envisages the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry which will investigate all alleged violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law and related crimes in the context of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, including their root cause.

### **Minute of Silence**

Council Members observed a minute of silence to honor the victims of the bloodshed. The resolution calls for the "swift and verifiable" withdrawal of Russian troops and Russian-backed armed groups from Ukraine, and urges safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need. The independent international Commission of Inquiry will have a mandate that includes investigating all alleged rights violations and abuses, and related crimes, and making recommendations on accountability measures.

"We must help Ukrainians help each other through this terrible time. We and our partners are committed to supporting all those affected, in accordance with the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence, and humanity." Secretary-General António Guterres

If you wish to donate and help citizens Ukraine civilians; WHEC suggests:

**Ukraine: Civilians bear the brunt of the conflict • UN Crisis Relief** <https://crisisrelief.un.org/ukraine-crisis>

Statement of the United Nations Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine.

<https://ukraine.un.org/>

### **The Lives of Ukrainian Women, Children and Adolescents Hang in the Balance.**

We appeal for sustained and uninterrupted access to essential healthcare and services of humanitarian assistance; protection for all civilians, especially patients and health and care workers, as well as for health facilities, transport systems and supplies; safe and unimpeded access for aid groups to conflict-affected areas according to the core humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and operational independence; and safe passage for all nationalities and ethnicities fleeing Ukraine.

The UN estimates that 12 million people in Ukraine will need immediate relief and protection to prevent loss of life and livelihood, while millions more will be forcibly displaced and will require long-term psycho-social and economic support. That may include more than 4 million refugees from Ukraine.

Meanwhile, we must acknowledge other regions of the world experiencing unprecedented levels of crisis. A staggering 274 million people currently, around the world, need humanitarian assistance.

**Time to end this absurd war.**



## United Nations at a Glance

### Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations.

Maldives became UN Member State on 21 September 1965



**Maldives**, officially the **Republic of Maldives**, is an archipelagic country in the Indian subcontinent of Asia, situated in the Indian Ocean. It lies southwest of Sri Lanka and India, about 750 kilometers (470 miles; 400 nautical miles) from the Asian continent's mainland. The chain of 26 atolls stretches from Ihavandhippolhu Atoll in the north to Addu Atoll in the south (across the equator). Comprising a territory spanning roughly 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) including the sea, land area of all the islands comprises 298 square kilometers (115 square miles). Maldives is one of the world's most geographically dispersed sovereign states the smallest Asian country as well as one of the smallest Muslim countries by land area and with around 557,751 inhabitants. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> least populous country in Asia. Malé is the capital and the most populous city, traditionally called the "King's Island" where the ancient royal dynasties ruled for its central location. Official languages: Dhivehi and English. Government: Unitary presidential constitutional republic.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century Islam reached the Maldivian Archipelago, which was consolidated as a sultanate, developing strong commercial and cultural ties with Asia and Africa. From the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, the region came under the increasing influence of European colonial powers, with Maldives becoming a British protectorate in 1887. Independence from the United Kingdom came in 1965, and a presidential republic was established in 1968 with an elected People's Majlis.



Maalhosmadulu Atoll seen from space. Northern Maalhosmadulu Atoll and Southern Maalhosmadulu Atoll can be seen in this picture

Maldives consists of 1,192 coral islands grouped in a double chain of 26 atolls, which stretch along a length of 871 kilometers (541 miles) north to south, 130 kilometers (81 miles) east to west, spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles), of which only 298 km<sup>2</sup> (115 square miles) is dry land, making it one of the world's most dispersed countries.

The Maldives rates "high" on the Human Development Index, with per capita income significantly higher than other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Nations. Maldives was a member of the Commonwealth from July 1982 until withdrawing from the organization in October 2016 in protest of allegations by other nations of its human rights abuses and failing democracy. The Maldives rejoined the Commonwealth on 1 February 2020 after showing evidence of functioning democratic processes and popular support.

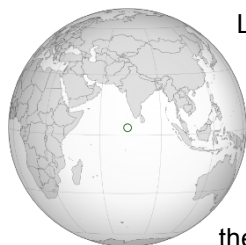
The World Bank classifies the Maldives as having an upper-middle income economy. The Maldives National University is one of the country's three institutions of higher education. Its mission statement is as follows: To create, discover, preserve and disseminate knowledge that is necessary to enhance the lives and livelihoods of people and essential for the cultural, social and economic development of the society so that this nation shall remain free and Islamic forever.

In 1973, the Allied Health Services Training Center (the forerunner of the Faculty of Health Sciences) was established by the Ministry of Health.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/statements/maldives-16269>

# Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

## WHO | Maldives



Location of Maldives in Indian Ocean.

### Health Situation

The Republic of Maldives continues to experience rapid development and economic growth. Poverty level in the country has declined from 31% in 2003 to 10% in 2010 (World Bank 2014). According to Census 2014, total population of Maldives is 402,071 of which the Maldivians represent 84% while 16% are migrant population. Majority of these migrant populations are from SAARC countries. 40% of the population is under the age of 25. The country has registered an impressive record in improving health outcomes.

The immunization coverage against all antigens has been sustained about 98% for decades and incidence of vaccine preventable diseases are extremely low. Communicable diseases persist at local transmission level and the country has celebrated elimination of malaria, lymphatic filariasis and Measles in 2015 -m 2017. The prevalence of HIV and TB is very low. Dengue is a major public health problem. Adolescent health is a concern and efforts to improve practices on reproductive health, dietary practices and physical activities, tobacco use, and substance abuse and mental health are a priority.

### Health Policies and Systems

Government of the Republic of Maldives spends 9% of its GDP on health, the highest in the South East Asia Region. Health services in Maldives are currently delivered by a four-tier referral system comprising of island, atoll/regional and central level services. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male serves as the tertiary referral hospital. Six regional and 14 atoll hospitals in strategic locations across the country serves as the first referral while each of the inhabitant islands has a fully functional health center. Maldives continues to rely heavily on the expatriate health professionals, who accounted for 82% physicians and 55% of nurses and faces the challenges of not only high turnover but assuring the quality of health workforce.

### Cooperation for Health

From the time of being the first UN agency to establish its office in the Maldives WHO continues to be a reliable and trusted partner in the national health development. To address many of the complex health issues and support the SDG agenda, WHO country office recognizes the need to collaborate with partners beyond the Ministry of Health. The drive towards achieving SDGs and Universal Health Coverage is greatly enhanced by collaboration amongst partner agencies, UN Organizations, and NGOs. To accomplish health targets “health beyond health sector” approach is practiced. In addition, to relish the goal of the Country Cooperation Strategy for 2018 – 2022 and Health Master Plan 2016 – 2025, major focus of the cooperation for health includes ensuring political commitment at the highest level, engaging multiple stakeholders, working with the media and partners, working with non-state actors, partnership with academia, and fostering new partnerships. Strategic Priorities:

1. Transforming Health Systems: Ensuring Universal Health Coverage.
2. Promote Wellbeing: Empower people to lead healthy lives;
3. Ready to respond: addressing the emergencies;
4. Protecting what matters the most: Create an enabling environment for safe and healthy living;
5. Fast tracking disease elimination: Accelerate efforts to eliminate priority diseases, sustain it and promote.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/mdv/>  
<https://www.who.int/maldives/>



## Maldives became UNESCO Member on 18 July 1980



### Strengthening global support for decade of Ocean Science at UN General Assembly.

The intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the Permanent Missions of Maldives and Norway to the United Nations organized a side event to the UN General Assembly in New York to promote the proposed International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The proposed Decade to bring attention to the need for more robust marine science as well as greater underlying cooperation between states has great potential. Like the Maldives, Norway has a strong dependence on the ocean. Norway is investing mapping and monitoring activities, in tandem to these efforts, the Nansen Program recently launched its third research vessel to strengthen both regional and national efforts. UN-Oceans, the coordination mechanism involving all UN agencies working on ocean issues, illustrated the crucial role of marine science in forecasting and guiding adaptation to climate change. The Decade would not only promote the development and transfer of marine technology, but also support reporting on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and assist in the development of integrated ocean management.

Despite the significant progress of scientific knowledge and ocean observing systems, much remains unknown, including the functions and services of certain marine ecosystems and an estimated one million undiscovered species. In addition, the vital role of oceans in social and ecological systems and the urgency to understand the multiple stresses on oceans and the potential related hazards. Continuing the discussion, the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) echoed the need to effectively observe and understand the ocean in order to overcome the gaps in current coverage and to maintain valuable marine resources. NOAA underscored the international efforts required to achieve sufficient ocean observation.



Lastly, the Decade would be an opportunity to advance the work of the IOC in both increasing the number of trainees and improving gender equality in training. Efforts to implement SDG 14 have a direct impact on all other SDGs. This ten-year cooperative programme on ocean science to support effective ocean management, stewardship and sustainable development, would notably aim to:

- **Stimulate** a global partnership on the marine science requirements needed to support implementation of Agenda 2030;
- **Understand** the impacts of cumulative stressors and seek sustainable solutions for sustain benefits from the ocean;
- **Build** on the findings of IOC's Global Ocean Science Report, share knowledge and enhance interdisciplinary marine research capacities through the transfer of marine technology, leading to economic benefits of all Member States;
- **Gain** a better quantitative knowledge of ocean ecosystems and their contribution to society, through the whole ocean column from the surface to the bottom;
- **Map** the ocean floor and its resources to support their sustainable management.

Details: <https://en.unesco.org/countries/maldives>

***Education-for-All and Health-for-All***

## Bulletin Board

### **LINK Access Project**

*To provide access to reproductive health research worldwide.*  
(Learning, Innovating, Networking for Knowledge [LINK])

..... *Continued*

### **Assessing Impact Factor**

*Internet Searching and Website Evaluation*

**Impact factor** is calculated daily, monthly and yearly for user data, experience and frequently accessed reviews, practice bulletins and articles. It is used as a measure for the relative importance of the journals within its field; journals with higher impact factors are deemed to be more important than those lower ones. Impact factor scores can 'influence' promotion and tenure at universities throughout the world. Many different toolkits are available, as are basic guides, to you to carry out our joint missions and projects.

Longer term monitoring of the health of populations is sometimes a component of larger proposals. We have various forms of collaboration with WHEC for you to explore, and we welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

As an author/writer/editor of <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> you can adopt editorial policies that increases impact factor, e.g. editorials (not citable) vs. short original articles (citable); plus review articles cited more often. Reviewers' comments are provided to authors.

The decision of The Editors is final.

### **Journals Surveyed**

*WHEC Practice Bulletins (Knowledge that touches patients)*

To compile *WHEC Practice Bulletin*, the following journals are frequently surveyed. In 2006, Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) began developing scientifically based practice guidelines / Practice Bulletins. The guidelines are derived from the best available evidence of clinical efficacy and consideration of costs, with recommendations explicitly linked to the evidence. These evidence-based practice guidelines are intended to be a means of improving the quality of healthcare, decreasing its cost, and diminishing professional liability. They are proscriptive in nature and, therefore, directive in approach.

We hope that our efforts contribute to improved and informed care.

[Women's Health and Education Center \(WHEC\) - WHEC - Journals Surveyed \(womenshealthsection.com\)](http://www.womenshealthsection.com)  
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/journals.php3>

*To be continued.....*



## Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

*UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)  
Expert Series on Health Economics*

### **Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Are Facing Five Major Challenges**

Four suggestions to tackle them

#### **Taking stock on the progress of LDCs**

LDCs are low-income countries that are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks. They have low levels of human assets, as reflected in low secondary schooling enrollment rates, adult literacy, and gender inequality in schooling. At the moment there are 46 LDCs. To graduate from the LDC category, one of the three criteria is the GNI per capita, which needs to be USD 1,222 or above. For reference, in Finland GNI per capita in 2020 was over 48,000 dollars. As we take stock on the progress of LDCs have made, we see very different regional experiences. In the Asia-Pacific region, of the 14 countries in the LDC group in 2011, three (**Maldives**, Samoa, Vanuatu) have moved out of LDC status and ten are in the process of graduating. Globally, of the 7 LDCs scheduled to graduate by 2006, five are from the Asia-Pacific region – Bhutan, Solomon Islands, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, and Nepal.

In Africa, there are also three countries (Botswana, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea) that have graduated, but only 2 countries expected to graduate in 2024 (Angola, and São Tomé and Príncipe). Based on the current criteria, an additional four African countries may be found eligible to graduate by 2030, though this is far less than the 50% target that was agreed by the international community in 2011.

#### **Five Main Challenges**

1. Weak economic growth. Average growth in LDCs stood at 4.7% during 2011 – 2019, which was significantly lower than the average of 6.6% during 2001 – 2010. This implies that the living standards of many LDCs will not converge to the levels of the fast-growing developing countries in North and South-East Asia.
2. Lack of productive capacity. The gap in productive capacity of LDCs and other developing countries has not narrowed in the last ten years.
3. Lack of diversification of exports and high commodity dependence. Many countries seem to specialize in one or two products with respect to exports.
4. High vulnerability to environmental shocks. Extreme weather events have an adverse effects of LDCs. For example, Myanmar is the second most climate risk-affected country in the world. Climate change also poses serious threats to the Pacific Islands LDCs.
5. Potential loss of preferential market access. As most of the successful exporters among LDVs specialize in products that are price-sensitive such as apparel, the opposite tariff may lead to big losses in competitiveness.

#### **Addressing the Challenges**

1. Concerted investment in productive capacity; especially in human capital development, infrastructure and energy, along with a facilitating environment for the private sector.
2. Minimize disaster risk as well as vulnerabilities to climate change, including access to climate change.
3. Build resilience to future pandemics. There has to be a concentrated effort to improve health, sanitation and social protection.
4. Commitment from development partners, to augment the scarce domestic resources that LDCs have to invest in critical public goods, as well as ensuring a more equitable and rules-based multilateral governance system.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Kunal Sen; Sponsor: none declared.

*Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page*

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>



## Two Articles of Highest Impact, March 2022

*Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions*

*Fully open-access with no article-processing charges*

*Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.*

1. **Learning Life Lessons: Part I;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/gynmh016.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

2. **Learning Life Lessons: Part II;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/gynmh017.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

### **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization) PMNCH Member**

**Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line**

## World Health Day 2022



### **World Health Day 2022: Our Planet, Our Health**

Are we able to reimagine a world where clean air, water and food are available to all?

Where are economies focused on health and well-being?

Where cities are livable, and people have control over their health and the health of the planet?

In the midst of a pandemic, a polluted planet, increasing diseases like cancer, asthma, heart disease, on World Health Day 2022, WHO will focus global attention on urgent actions needed to keep humans and the planet healthy and foster a movement to create societies focused on wellbeing. WHO estimates that more than 13 million deaths around the world each year are due to avoidable environmental causes. This includes the climate crisis which is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. The climate crisis is also health crisis.

#### **Take action, inspire others – Join our 5-point plan:**

1. Walk or pedal to work at least one day a week. Choose public transport.
2. Change to a renewable energy provider; do not heat your rooms over 21.5°C; turn off the light when not in the room.
3. Buy your fresh groceries from local producers and avoid highly processed foods and beverages.
4. Tobacco is a killer and a polluter. Stop consuming tobacco.
5. Buy less plastic; use recyclable grocery bags.

Details: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2022#>



### Promote Just, Peaceful and Inclusive societies



Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain a great threat to sustainable development. The number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million in 2018, the highest level recorded by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in almost 70 years. In 2019, the UN tracked 357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 47 countries. And the births of around 1 in 4 children under age 5 worldwide are never officially recognized, depriving them of a proof to legal identity crucial for the protection of their rights and for access to justice and social

services. To focus on “the true fight.” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for a global ceasefire, in an appeal urging warring parties across the world to lay down their weapons in support of the bigger battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

**More than 2 million people have signed the online petition in support of the Secretary General's cease-fire appeal. You can sign it here:** [https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global\\_ceasefire\\_loc/](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global_ceasefire_loc/)

#### Facts and Figures of Goal 16;

- Among the institutions most affected by corruption are the judiciary and police.
- Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion cost some US \$1.26 trillion for developing countries per year; this amount of money could be used to lift those who are living on less than \$1.25 a day about \$1.25 for at least six years.
- Birth registration has occurred for 73% of children under 5, but only 46% of Sub-Saharan Africa have had their birth registered.
- Approximately 28.5 million primary school age who are out of school live in conflict-affected areas.
- The rule of law and development have a significant interrelation and are mutually reinforcing, making it essential for sustainable development at the national and international level.
- The proportion of prisoners held in detention without sentencing has remained almost constant in the last decade, at 31% of all prisoners.

#### Violence against Children

- The number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million in 2018, the highest level recorded in by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in almost 70 years.
- In 2019, the UN tracked 357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 47 countries.
- Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world and costs societies up to US \$7 trillion a year.
- 50% of the world's children experience violence every year.
- Every 7 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence.
- 1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 9 in 10 children live in countries where corporal punishment is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection.
- 1 in 3 internet users worldwide is a child and 800 million of them use social media. Any child can become a victim of online violence and abuse.
- Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018.

- 246 million children worldwide affected by school-related violence each year.
- 1 in 3 students has been bullied by their peers at school in the last month, and at least 1 in 10 children have experienced cyberbullying.



**Ending marginalization of persons with disabilities ‘A Matter of Justice’ – WHEC’s Initiative for 2022**

Meet Ehrin Macsey; Four-year-old Dinh attends an early intervention class for blind or partially blind children at Nguyen Dinh Chieu Special School in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Inclusive education, economic empowerment and technological innovations were focus of discussion in London for the first-ever United Nations-backed Global Disability Summit. But too often the political commitment has not translated into significant improvements in the lives of the 1.5 billion persons with disabilities across the world. Moreover, women and girls with disabilities suffer the “double discrimination” of sex and disability. While Governments must lead, transformation requires the efforts of all of society, young people, persons with disabilities, civil society and the private sector were among others working towards change.

There is more to do to make the world “ a more equal and just place,” WHEC is looking to better address disabilities in all settings, to ensure that persons with disabilities are given equal access and voice in society, so that they can realize their fullest possible potential. To help offset some of the challenges, The WHEC aims to provide life-changing support – including wheelchairs, prosthetics and hearing aids – globally with the assistance of various UN Programs.

These initiatives are opportunities to translate our commitment to children with disabilities into a reality around the world, no matter where they live.

There is no silver bullet; but the central, fundamental requirement is to include disabled people and their organizations in planning for and implementing response to humanitarian crises.

Join the efforts.



**SDG Publishers Compact**

This compact is designed to inspire action among publishers. Launched in collaboration with the International Publishers Association, the Compact aims to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Signatories aspire to develop sustainable practices and act as champions of the SDGs during the

Decade of Action (2020 – 2030), publishing books and journals that will help inform, develop, and inspire action in that direction. In addition, publishers are encouraged to join the United Nations Global Compact, a voluntary initiative based on CEO commitments to implement universal sustainability principles and to take steps to support UN goal.

**Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC) is proud to accept the membership:**

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sdg-publishers-compact-members/>



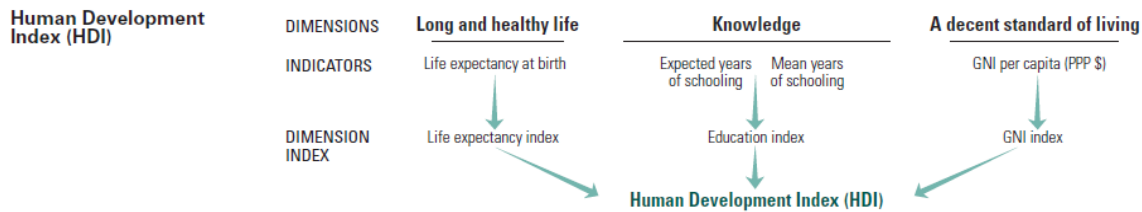
## In The News

### Human Development Index (HDI)

The **Human Development Index (HDI)** is a statistic composite index of life expectancy, education (mean years of schooling upon entering the education system), and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development. A country scores a higher HDI when the lifespan is higher, the education level is higher, and the gross national income (GNI) per capita (PPP) is higher.

It was developed by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and was further used to measure a country's development by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Report Office.

The underlying principles behind the Human Development Index.



#### New Method (2010 HDI onwards)

Published on 4 November 2010 (and updated on 10 June 2011), the 2010 Human Development Report calculated the HDI combining three dimensions:

- A long and healthy life: Life expectancy at birth.
- Education index; Mean years of schooling and Expected years of schooling.
- A decent standard of living: GNI per capita (PPP international dollars).

The HDI has been criticized on a number of grounds, including alleged lack of consideration of technological developments or contributions to the human civilization, focusing exclusively on national performance and ranking, lack of attention to development from a global perspective, measurement error of the underlying statistics, and on the UNDP's changes in formula which can lead to severe misclassification in the categorization of "low", "medium", "high" or "very high" human development countries.

Many authors suggest that the United Nations should discontinue the practice of classifying countries into development bins because: the cut-off values seem arbitrary, can provide incentives for strategic behavior in reporting official statistics, and have the potential to misguide politicians, investors, charity donors and public who use the HDI at large.

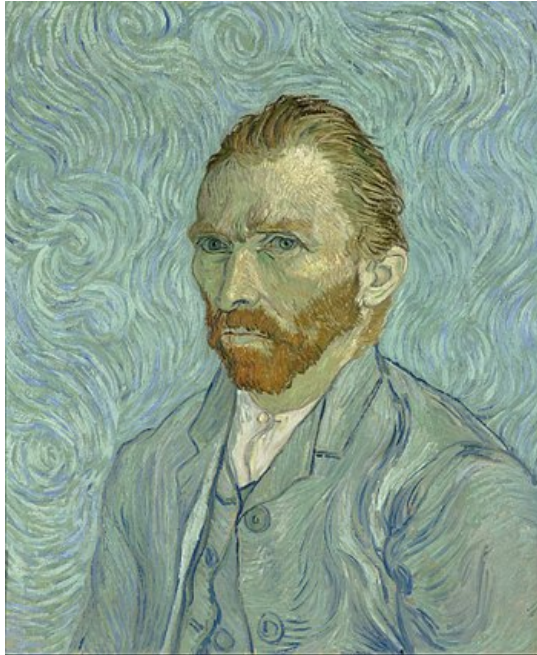
GDP versus HDI: it is often forgotten that these are both external indicators that prioritize different benchmarks upon which the quantification of society welfare can be predicted. The larger question is whether it is possible to shift the focus of the policy from a battle between competing paradigms to a mechanism for eliciting information on well-being directly from the population.

**Human Development Report 2020:** <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2020.pdf>

## Art & Science

*Art that touches our soul*

### Vincent van Gogh (30 March 1853 – 29 July 1890) Self Portrait aged 37



**Vincent van Gogh** was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter and one of the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. In just over a decade, he created about 2,100 artworks, including around 800 oil paintings, most of which date from the last two years of his life.

Van Gogh sold few paintings during his lifetime and was contemporaneously considered a madman and a failure. However, he has attained widespread critical and popular acclaim since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and his works are among the world's most expensive paintings.

Van Gogh produced this oil-on-canvas self-portrait in September 1889. One of his several self-portraits, it may have been his last, produced shortly before he left Saint-Rémy-de-Provence in southern France.

He was not commercially successful, and his suicide at 37 came after years of mental illness, depression and poverty. Van Gogh suffered from psychotic episodes and delusions and though he worried about his mental stability, he often neglected his physical health, did not eat properly and drank heavily. He spent time in psychiatric hospitals, including a period at Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. On 27 July 1890 Van Gogh shot himself in the chest with a revolver. He died from his injuries two days later.

The work is now in collection of the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

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