

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DATA STORY

COVID-19 AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:

Exploring global preparedness
and vulnerability



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Exploring global preparedness and vulnerability

Milorad Kovacevic
Human Development Report Office, UNDP

Admir Jahic
Human Development Report Office, UNDP

COVID-19 crisis is more than a global health emergency; it is a systemic human development crisis, reflecting our interaction with the ecosystem we are part of, which is already affecting the economic and social dimensions of development in unprecedented ways.

Policies to reduce vulnerabilities and build capacities to tackle crises, both in the short and long term, are vital to enable individuals and societies to better weather and recover from these shocks. The two dashboards here look at how prepared countries are for a crisis like COVID-19 and how vulnerable they are.

Preparedness of countries to respond to COVID-19

Every society, group, and individual is vulnerable to adverse events. However, when it comes to shocks such as COVID-19 pandemic, our ability to respond is significantly lower and unequally distributed.

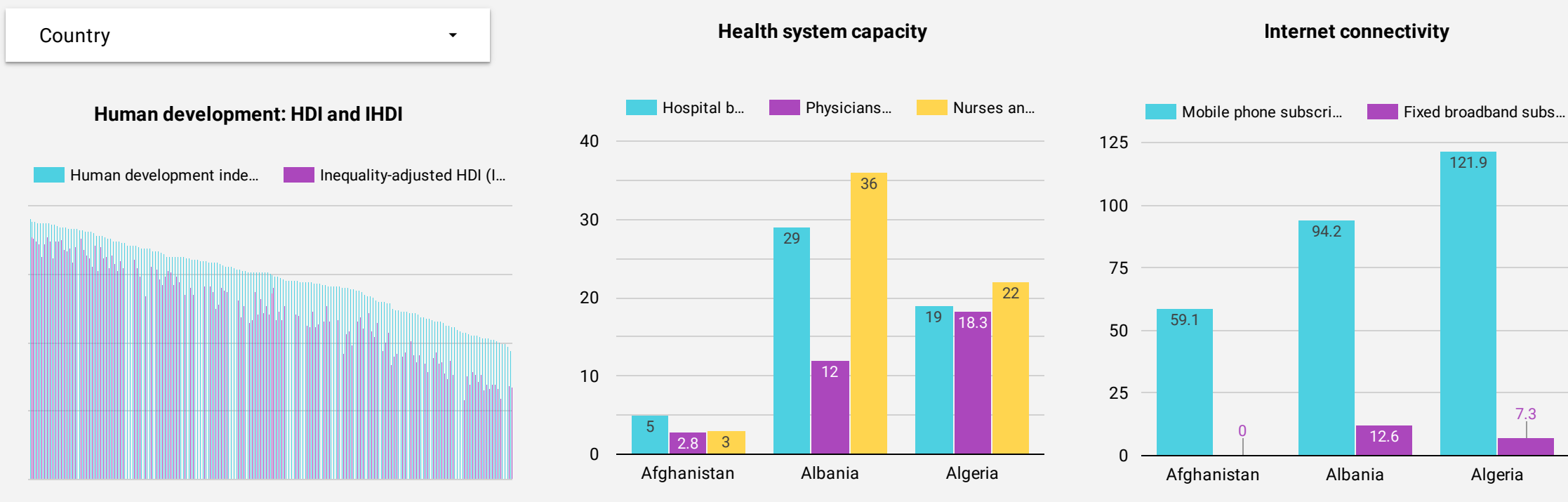
Data visualization and dashboard 1 below present a series of indicators for human development groups, regions and 189 countries that show the level of preparedness to respond and cope with the impacts of COVID-19 crisis, including a nation's level of human development, healthcare system capacity and internet access.

The level of human development and its inequality, together with healthcare system capacity, can portray countries' preparedness to respond effectively and efficiently to a health crisis. For example, a very high human development country has on average 55 hospital beds, over 30 physicians, and 81 nurses per 10,000 people, compared to 7 hospital beds, 2.5 physicians, and 6 nurses in a least developed country.

Widespread lockdowns around the world mean many people are having to rely on Internet access to work, continue with their education, and interact with others. The digital divide has become more significant than ever, as hundreds of millions of people around the globe still don't have access to reliable broadband internet.

INTERACTIVE DATA VISUALIZATION (ACCESS ONLINE AT [HTTP://HDR.UNDP.ORG](http://hdr.undp.org)):

EXPLORE PREPAREDNESS OF COUNTRIES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DASHBOARD 1: PREPAREDNESS OF COUNTRIES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

Level of preparedness: High Medium Low

Note: For each indicator in the table, countries are divided into five groups of roughly equal sizes. The intention is not to suggest thresholds or target values for the indicators, but to allow a crude assessment of a country performance relative to others. For example, a country that is in the top quintile group in an indicator performs better than 80 percent countries in this indicator. Similarly, a country in the medium group performs better than 40 percent of countries but also worse than 40 percent of countries.

Data source: download at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/preparedness_vulnerability_dashboards_12.xlsx

Human Development Groups	Human Development			Health system			Connectivity		
	Human development index (HDI) (value), 2018	Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) (value), 2018	Inequality in HDI (percent), 2018	Physicians (per 10,000 people), 2010-17	Nurses and midwives (per 10,000 people), 2010-18	Hospital beds (per 10,000 people), 2010-18	Current health expenditure (% of GDP), 2016	Mobile phone subscription (per 100 people), 2017-18	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people), 2017-18
Very high human development	0.892	0.796	10.8	30.4	81	55	12.0	127.8	30.5
High human development	0.750	0.615	17.9	16.5	30	32	5.7	113.6	18.8
Medium human development	0.634	0.507	20.0	7.3	17	9	3.9	91.9	2.4
Low human development	0.507	0.349	31.1	2.1	8	6	4.5	67.5	0.4

Regions	Human development index (HDI) (value), 2018	Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) (value), 2018	Inequality in HDI (percent), 2018	Physicians (per 10,000 people), 2010-17	Nurses and midwives (per 10,000 people), 2010-18	Hospital beds (per 10,000 people), 2010-18	Current health expenditure (% of GDP), 2016	Mobile phone subscription (per 100 people), 2017-18	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people), 2017-18
Developing countries	0.686	0.547	20.3	11.5	23	21	5.3	99.2	10.2
Arab States	0.703	0.531	24.5	11.1	21	15	4.9	100.3	7.4
East Asia and the Pacific	0.741	0.618	16.6	14.8	22	35	4.8	117.6	21.3
Europe and Central Asia	0.779	0.689	11.5	24.9	61	51	5.2	107.3	14.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.759	0.589	22.4	21.6	47	20	8.0	103.6	12.8
South Asia	0.642	0.520	19.0	7.8	17	8	4.1	87.7	2.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.541	0.376	30.5	2.1	10	8	5.3	76.9	0.4
Least developed countries	0.528	0.377	28.6	2.5	6	7	4.2	70.9	1.4
Small Island developing states	0.723	0.549	24.0	22.2	28	25	5.9	80.5	6.4
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	0.895	0.790	11.7	28.9	80	50	12.6	119.3	31.6
World	0.731	0.596	18.6	14.9	34	28	9.8	104	14

Exploring vulnerabilities: COVID-19

Although everyone is potentially affected in one way or another by this pandemic, some individuals and groups are more vulnerable, and suffer far more harm and have a much longer road to recovery.

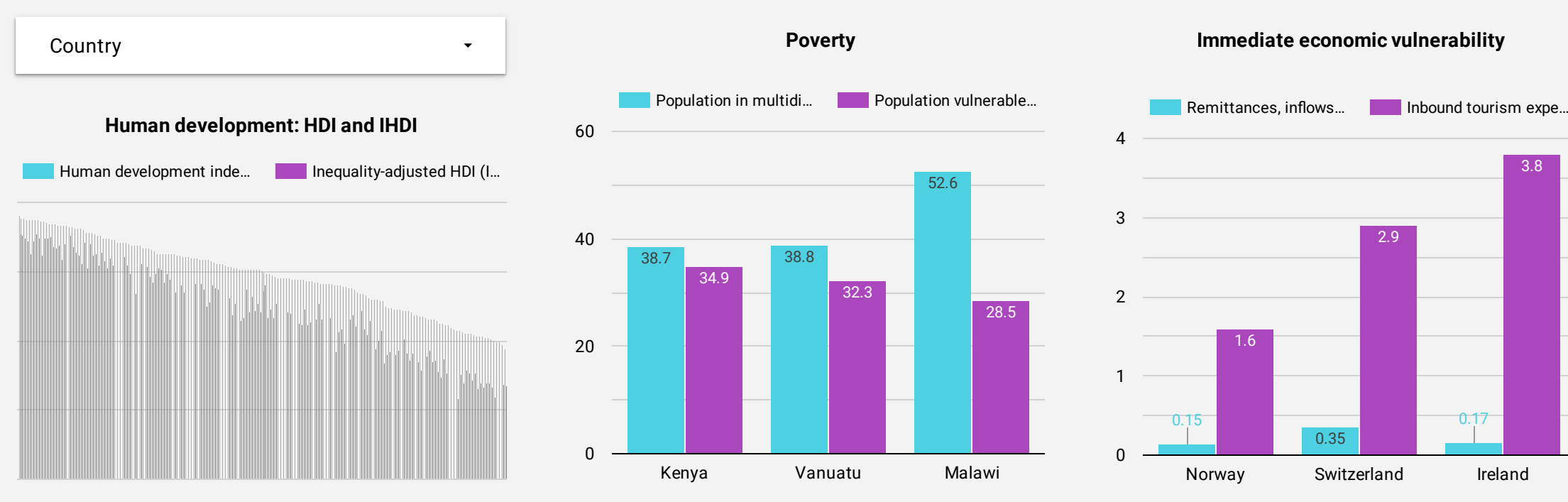
Dashboard 2 and data visualization below present indicators for human development groups, regions and 189 countries that reflect human vulnerability, including poverty, social protection and labor programs, and an economy's exposure to the immediate economic impacts of travel bans.

Poverty adds to the high risks of long-lasting consequences. Despite recent progress in poverty reduction, about 1 in 4 people still live in multidimensional poverty or are vulnerable to it, and more than 40 percent of the global population does not have any social protection.

Globalization has brought new opportunities and efficiency gains, but, as witnessed with COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions at one point of the chain can trigger serious local problems elsewhere. The effects of such events may be detrimental for countries and people that, for example, heavily depend on tourism such as island countries, inflows of remittances, or receiving official development assistance.

INTERACTIVE DATA VISUALIZATION (ACCESS ONLINE AT [HTTP://HDR.UNDP.ORG](http://hdr.undp.org)):

SELECT AND EXPLORE VULNERABILITIES OF COUNTRIES TO PANDEMICS



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DASHBOARD 2: VULNERABILITY TO PANDEMICS

Level of vulnerability:
Low Medium High



Note: For each indicator in the table, countries are divided into five groups of roughly equal sizes. The intention is not to suggest thresholds or target values for the indicators, but to allow a crude assessment of a country performance relative to others. For example, a country that is in the top quintile group in an indicator performs better than 80 percent countries in this indicator. Similarly, a country in the medium group performs better than 40 percent of countries but also worse than 40 percent of countries.

Data source: download at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/preparedness_vulnerability_dashboards_12.xlsx

Human Development Groups	Population living below income poverty line					Immediate economic vulnerability			
	Population in multidimensional poverty (%), 2007-18	Population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (%), 2007-18	PPP \$1.90 a day (%), 2010-18	National poverty line (%), 2010-18	Working poor at PPP\$3.20 a day (% of total employment), 2018	Social protection and labour programs (% of population without any), 2006-2016	Remittances, inflows (% of GDP), 2018	Net official development assistance received (% of GNI), 2017	Inbound tourism expenditure (percent of GDP), 2016-18
Very high human development	-	-	0.6	-	-	31.3	0.3	-	2.3
High human development	4.5	12.5	2.1	10.4	8.5	39.3	1.0	0.1	1.5
Medium human development	29.4	18.4	17.7	23.0	40	31.9	4.1	0.8	1.4
Low human development	62.3	16.2	45.1	44.0	68.4	86.1	4.6	4.7	1.7

Regions	Population living below income poverty line					Immediate economic vulnerability			
	Population in multidimensional poverty (%), 2007-18	Population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (%), 2007-18	PPP \$1.90 a day (%), 2010-18	National poverty line (%), 2010-18	Working poor at PPP\$3.20 a day (% of total employment), 2018	Social protection and labour programs (% of population without any), 2006-2016	Remittances, inflows (% of GDP), 2018	Net official development assistance received (% of GNI), 2017	Inbound tourism expenditure (percent of GDP), 2016-18
Developing countries	23.1	15.3	12.6	19.3	25.9	43.2	1.51	0.3	1.8
Arab States	15.7	9.4	4.7	23.0	14.9	52.8	2.70	1.7	3.6
East Asia and the Pacific	5.6	14.9	1.5	5.1	10.1	41.7	0.62	0.0	1.4
Europe and Central Asia	1.1	3.6	-	11.5	9.2	42.6	2.75	0.7	4.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.5	7.7	3.8	-	6.8	42.7	1.59	0.1	1.6
South Asia	31.0	18.8	17.4	22.9	43	25.1	3.39	0.4	1
Sub-Saharan Africa	57.5	17.2	43.5	43.0	63.1	79.4	2.89	2.8	2
Least developed countries	59.0	17.8	36.7	38.1	59.7	84.5	4.57	4.9	2.4
Small Island Developing States	22.7	13.1	-	-	17.7	75.6	6.89	1.5	8.3
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	-	-	0.7	-	-	36	0.33	-	2.1
World	-	-	10.5	19.1	25	42.5	0.74	0.3	1.9

