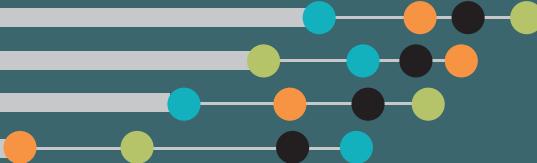




# SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX 2015

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BY **MICHAEL E PORTER** AND **SCOTT STERN**  
WITH **MICHAEL GREEN**



**SOCIAL  
PROGRESS  
IMPERATIVE**



The Social Progress Imperative is registered as a nonprofit organization in the United States.  
We are grateful to the following organizations for their financial support:





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX 2015

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Economic growth has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and improved the lives of many more over the last half century. Yet it is increasingly evident that a model of development based on economic progress alone is incomplete. Economic growth alone is not enough. A society that fails to address basic human needs, equip citizens to improve their quality of life, protect the environment, and provide opportunity for many of its citizens is not succeeding. We must widen our understanding of the success of societies beyond economic outcomes. Inclusive growth requires achieving *both* economic and social progress.

The Social Progress Index aims to meet this pressing need by creating a robust and holistic measurement framework for national social and environmental performance that can be used by leaders in government, business, and civil society to benchmark success and accelerate progress. The Social Progress Index is the first comprehensive framework for measuring social progress that is independent of GDP, and complementary to it. Our vision is a world in which social progress sits alongside GDP as a core benchmark for national performance. The Index provides the systematic, empirical foundation to guide strategy for inclusive growth.

Measuring social progress guides us in translating economic gains into advancing social and environmental performance in ways that will unleash even greater economic success. The Social Progress Index offers a concrete way to understand and then prioritize an actionable agenda advancing both social and economic performance.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### THE SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX METHODOLOGY

The Social Progress Index incorporates four key design principles:

1. ***Exclusively social and environmental indicators:*** our aim is to measure social progress directly, rather than utilize economic proxies. By excluding economic indicators, we can, for the first time, rigorously and systematically analyze the relationship between economic development (measured for example by GDP per capita) and social development. Prior efforts to move “beyond GDP” have comingled social and economic indicators, making it difficult to disentangle cause and effect.
2. ***Outcomes, not inputs:*** our aim is to measure the outcomes that matter to the lives of real people, not the inputs. For example, we want to measure a country’s health and wellness achieved, not how much effort is expended nor how much the country spends on healthcare.
3. ***Holistic and relevant to all countries:*** our aim is to create a holistic measure of social progress that encompasses the many aspects of health of societies. Most previous efforts have focused on the poorest countries, for understandable reasons. But knowing what constitutes a healthy society for any country, including higher-income countries, is indispensable in charting a course for less-prosperous societies to get there.
4. ***Actionable:*** the Index aims to be a practical tool that will help leaders and practitioners in government, business and civil society to implement policies and programs that will faster drive social progress. To achieve that goal, we measure outcomes in a granular way that focuses on specific areas that can be implemented directly. The Index is structured around 12 components and 52 distinct indicators. The framework allows us to not only provide an aggregate country score and ranking, but also to allow granular analyses of specific areas of strength and weakness. Transparency of measurement using a comprehensive framework allows changemakers to identify and act upon the most pressing issues in their societies.

We define social progress in a comprehensive and inclusive way. **Social progress is the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.**

This definition is the basis of the three dimensions of social progress: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity.

#### Social Progress Index Component-level Framework



Each component of the framework comprises between three and five specific outcome indicators. The included indicators are selected because they are measured appropriately, with a consistent methodology, by the same organization across all (or essentially all) of the countries in our sample. Together, this framework aims to capture a broad range of interrelated factors revealed by the scholarly literature and practitioner experience as underpinning social progress. The high-level structure of the 2015 Social Progress Index remains unchanged from 2014. However, due to changes in data availability, a few modifications were made to the composition of several components.

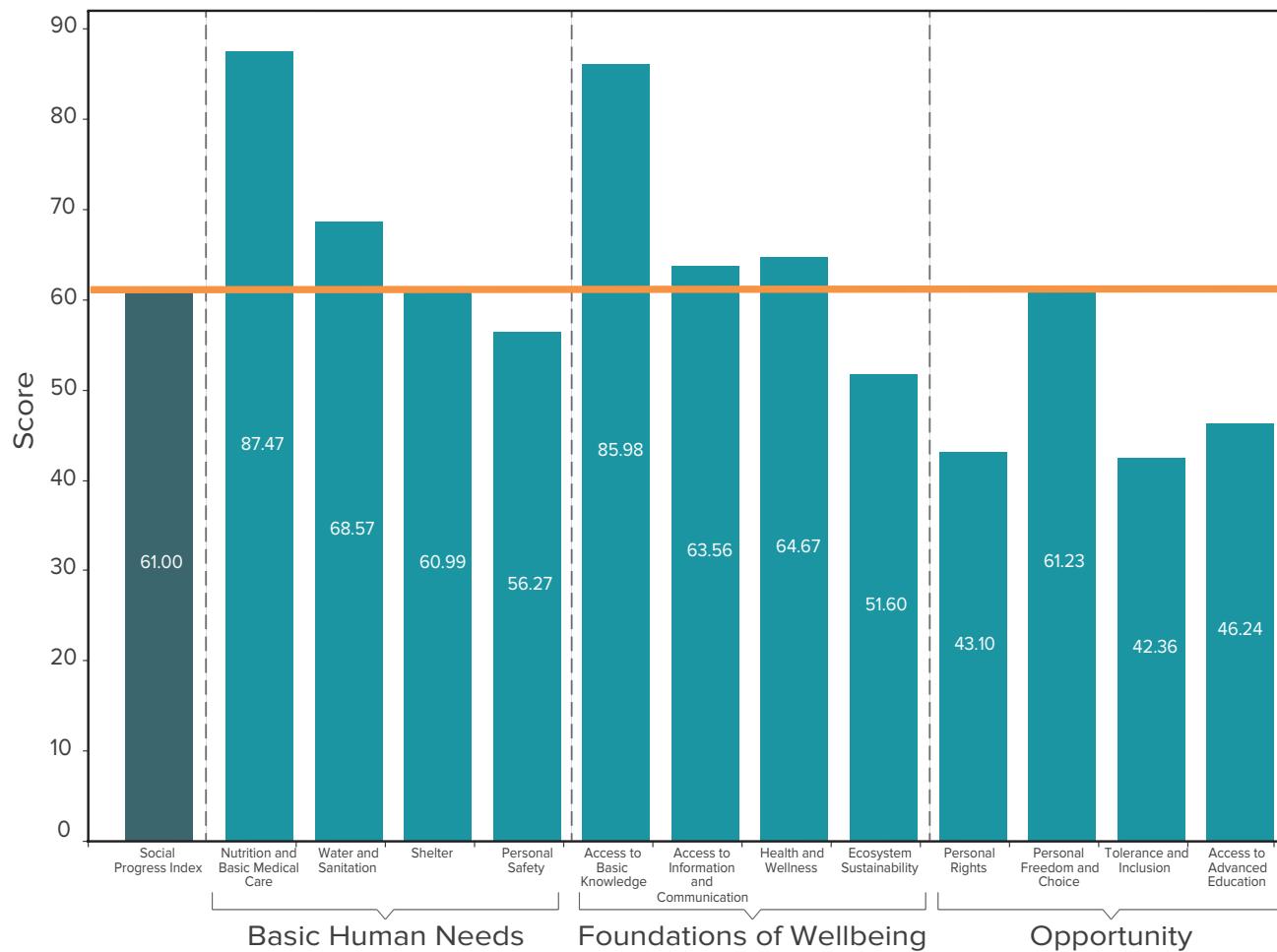
For a full explanation of how the Social Progress Index is calculated, see our separate *2015 Methodological Report*. All the underlying data is downloadable from our website at [www.socialprogressimperative.org](http://www.socialprogressimperative.org). The methodology has been refined and improved through the generous feedback of many individuals and organizations around the world. We will continue to refine and improve the methodology and welcome feedback at [feedback@social-progress.org](mailto:feedback@social-progress.org).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX 2015 RESULTS

The 2015 Social Progress Index includes 133 countries covering 94% of the world's population, plus 28 countries with partial data. If the world were one country, it would score 61.00 on the Social Progress Index on a population-weighted basis. We see important global differences across the various aspects of social progress.

#### World Social Progress Index and Component Scores



We rank the 133 countries with sufficient data from highest to lowest in terms of social progress, classified into six tiers from “Very High Social Progress” to “Very Low Social Progress”.

### Social Progress Index 2015 Results

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	GDP PER CAPITA PPP	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	GDP PER CAPITA PPP	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	GDP PER CAPITA PPP
<b>VERY HIGH SOCIAL PROGRESS</b>											
1	Norway	88.36	\$62,448	45	Serbia	69.79	\$12,893	91	Morocco	59.56	\$6,967
2	Sweden	88.06	\$43,741	46	Malaysia	69.55	\$22,589	92	China	59.07	\$11,525
3	Switzerland	87.97	\$54,697	47	Kuwait	69.19	\$84,188	93	Kyrgyzstan	58.58	\$3,110
4	Iceland	87.62	\$41,250	48	Montenegro	69.01	\$14,152	94	Ghana	58.29	\$3,864
5	New Zealand	87.08	\$32,808	49	Colombia	68.85	\$12,025	95	Iran	56.82	\$15,090
6	Canada	86.89	\$41,894	50	Romania	68.37	\$18,200	96	Tajikistan	56.49	\$2,432
7	Finland	86.75	\$38,846	51	Ecuador	68.25	\$10,541	97	Senegal	56.46	\$2,170
8	Denmark	86.63	\$41,991	52	Albania	68.19	\$10,405	98	Nepal	55.33	\$2,173
9	Netherlands	86.50	\$44,945	53	Macedonia	67.79	\$11,609	<b>LOW SOCIAL PROGRESS</b>			
10	Australia	86.42	\$42,831	54	Mexico	67.50	\$16,291	99	Cambodia	53.96	\$2,944
<b>HIGH SOCIAL PROGRESS</b>											
11	United Kingdom	84.68	\$37,017	55	Peru	67.23	\$11,396	100	Bangladesh	53.39	\$2,853
12	Ireland	84.66	\$44,931	56	Paraguay	67.10	\$7,833	101	India	53.06	\$5,238
13	Austria	84.45	\$44,376	<b>LOWER MIDDLE SOCIAL PROGRESS</b>			102	Laos	52.41	\$4,667	
14	Germany	84.04	\$43,207	57	Thailand	66.34	\$13,932	103	Lesotho	52.27	\$2,494
15	Japan	83.15	\$35,614	58	Turkey	66.24	\$18,660	104	Kenya	51.67	\$2,705
16	United States	82.85	\$51,340	59	Bosnia and Herzegovina	66.15	\$9,387	105	Zambia	51.62	\$3,800
17	Belgium	82.83	\$40,607	60	Georgia	65.89	\$6,946	106	Rwanda	51.60	\$1,426
18	Portugal	81.91	\$25,596	61	Armenia	65.70	\$7,527	107	Swaziland	50.94	\$6,471
19	Slovenia	81.62	\$27,576	62	Ukraine	65.69	\$8,508	108	Benin	50.04	\$1,733
20	Spain	81.17	\$31,596	63	South Africa	65.64	\$12,106	109	Congo, Republic of	49.60	\$5,680
21	France	80.82	\$37,154	64	Philippines	65.46	\$6,326	110	Uganda	49.49	\$1,368
22	Czech Republic	80.59	\$27,959	65	Botswana	65.22	\$15,247	111	Malawi	48.95	\$755
23	Estonia	80.49	\$25,132	66	Belarus	64.98	\$17,055	112	Burkina Faso	48.82	\$1,582
24	Uruguay	79.21	\$18,966	67	Tunisia	64.92	\$10,768	113	Iraq	48.35	\$14,471
25	Slovakia	78.45	\$26,263	68	El Salvador	64.31	\$7,515	114	Cameroon	47.42	\$2,739
26	Chile	78.29	\$21,714	69	Saudi Arabia	64.27	\$52,068	115	Djibouti	47.27	\$2,903
27	Poland	77.98	\$22,877	70	Moldova	63.68	\$4,521	116	Tanzania	47.14	\$1,718
28	Costa Rica	77.88	\$13,431	71	Russia	63.64	\$23,564	117	Togo	46.66	\$1,346
29	Korea, Republic of	77.70	\$32,708	72	Venezuela	63.45	\$17,615	118	Mali	46.51	\$1,589
30	Cyprus	77.45	\$27,394	73	Bolivia	63.36	\$5,934	119	Myanmar	46.12	
31	Italy	77.38	\$34,167	74	Jordan	63.31	\$11,407	120	Mozambique	46.02	\$1,070
<b>UPPER MIDDLE SOCIAL PROGRESS</b>											
32	Hungary	74.80	\$22,914	75	Namibia	62.71	\$9,276	121	Mauritania	45.85	\$2,945
33	Latvia	74.12	\$21,825	76	Azerbaijan	62.62	\$16,594	122	Pakistan	45.66	\$4,454
34	Greece	74.03	\$24,540	77	Dominican Republic	62.47	\$11,795	123	Liberia	44.89	\$850
35	Lithuania	74.00	\$24,483	78	Nicaragua	62.20	\$4,494	124	Madagascar	44.50	\$1,369
36	Mauritius	73.66	\$16,648	79	Guatemala	62.19	\$7,063	125	Nigeria	43.31	\$5,423
37	Croatia	73.30	\$20,063	80	Lebanon	61.85	\$16,623	<b>VERY LOW SOCIAL PROGRESS</b>			
38	Argentina	73.08		81	Mongolia	61.52	\$9,132	126	Ethiopia	41.04	\$1,336
39	United Arab Emirates	72.79	\$57,045	82	Honduras	61.44	\$4,445	127	Niger	40.56	\$887
40	Israel	72.60	\$31,029	83	Kazakhstan	61.38	\$22,467	128	Yemen	40.30	\$3,832
41	Panama	71.79	\$18,793	84	Cuba	60.83	\$18,796	129	Angola	40.00	\$7,488
42	Brazil	70.89	\$14,555	85	Algeria	60.66	\$12,893	130	Guinea	39.60	\$1,213
43	Bulgaria	70.19	\$15,695	86	Indonesia	60.47	\$9,254	131	Afghanistan	35.40	\$1,884
44	Jamaica	69.83	\$8,607	87	Guyana	60.42	\$6,336	132	Chad	33.17	\$2,022
				88	Sri Lanka	60.10	\$9,426	133	Central African Republic	31.42	\$584
				89	Egypt	59.91	\$10,733				
				90	Uzbekistan	59.71	\$5,002				

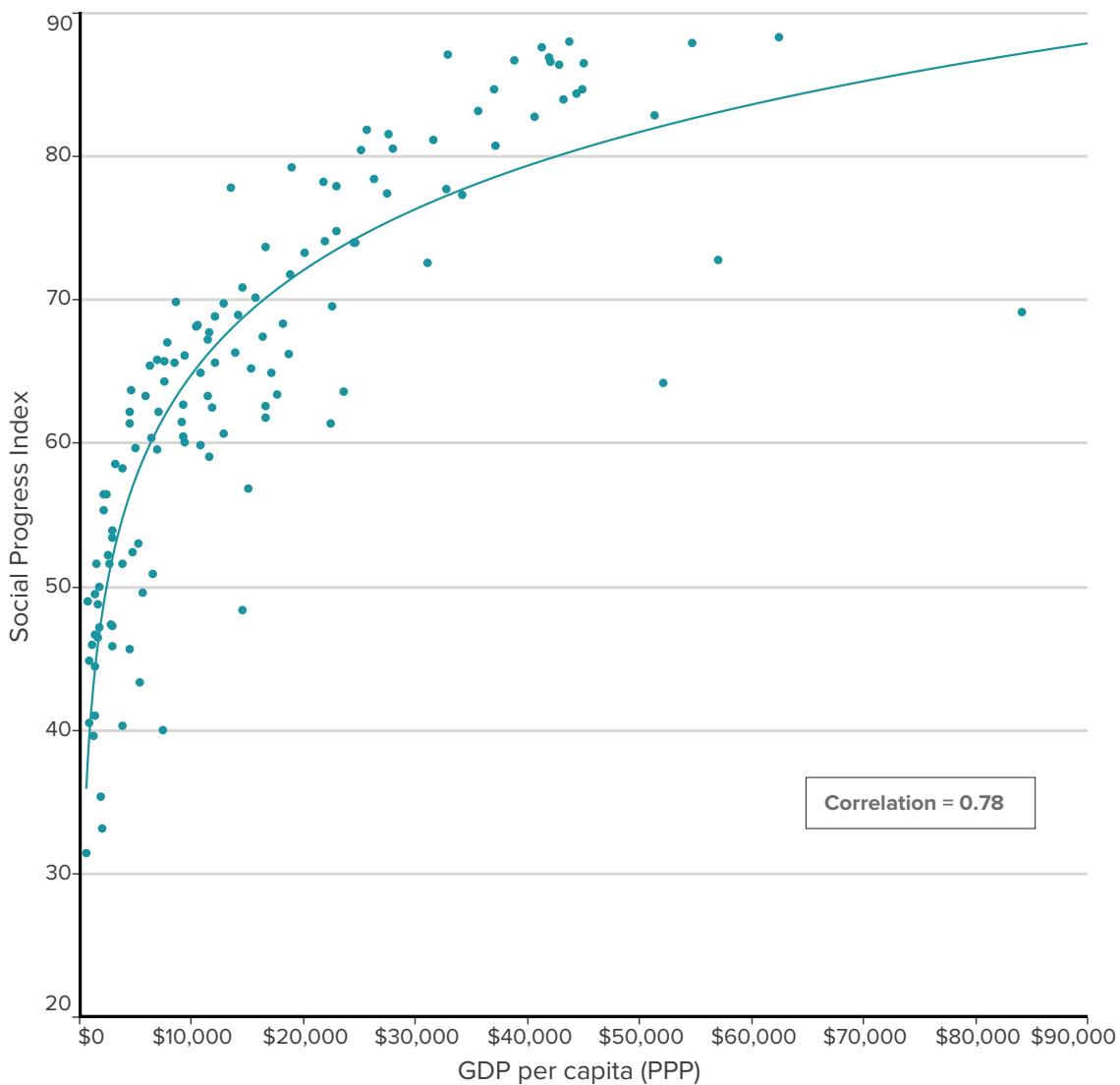
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Social Progress Index, by separating the measurement of social performance from that of economic performance, allows a rigorous empirical understanding of the relationship between economic development and social progress. It can also inform our understanding of how social progress can drive economic growth.

Despite the correlation between economic progress and social progress, the variability among countries even for a given level of GDP is considerable. Hence, **economic performance alone does not fully explain social progress**. At any level of GDP per capita there are opportunities for higher social progress and risks of lower social progress.

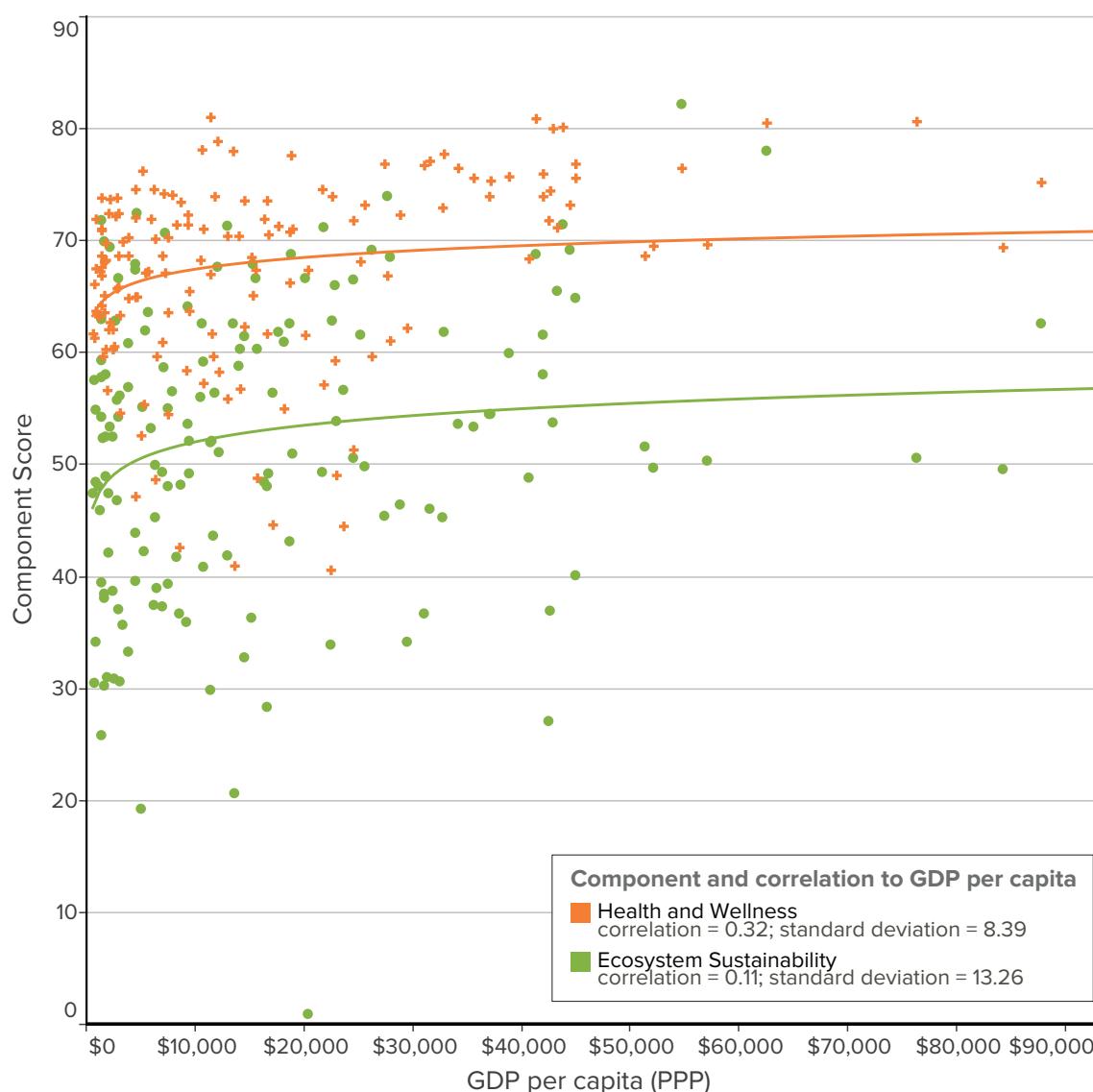
Social Progress Index vs GDP Per Capita



To better understand the relationship between economic performance and social progress, we can disaggregate the data to examine the relationships between the individual components of the model and GDP per capita. For example, two components — Ecosystem Sustainability and Health and Wellness — have a complex relationship with GDP. On one hand, each of these components has individual elements that tend to improve with economic development and other elements that have a flat or even negative relationship with economic development. Consequently, the overall relationship between these components and GDP per capita is uneven. More than all other components in the Index, Ecosystem Sustainability and Health and Wellness highlight the tensions associated with economic development.

Our findings suggest important implications for policymakers. Simply put, development strategies based solely on economic development are incomplete. An inclusive growth strategy must directly target improvements in social progress.

#### Scores on Health and Wellness and Ecosystem Sustainability vs. GDP Per Capita

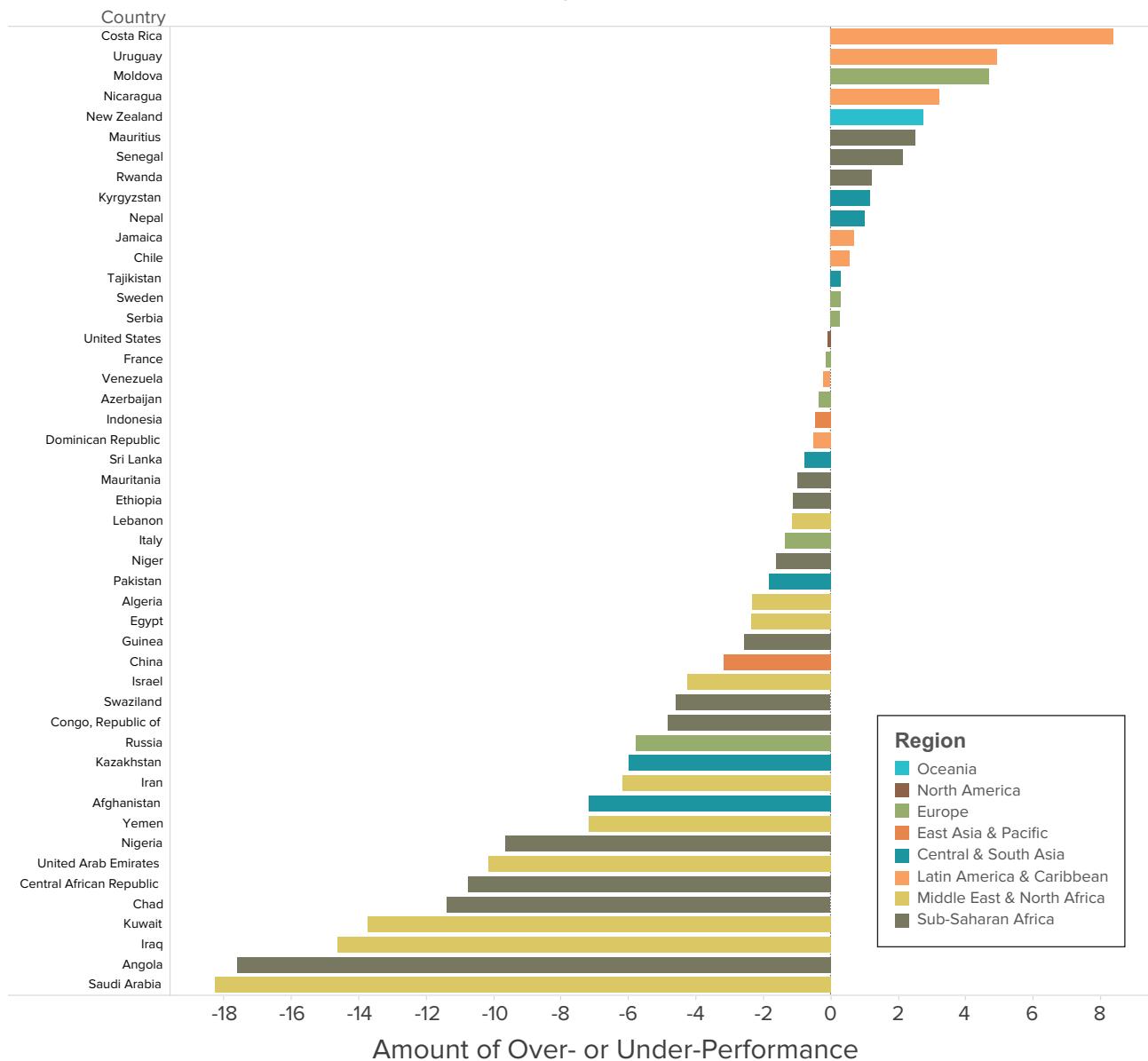


## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BENCHMARKING SOCIAL PROGRESS RELATIVE TO ECONOMIC PEERS

The Social Progress Index findings reveal that countries achieve widely divergent levels of social progress at similar levels of GDP per capita. A rich country may do well on absolute social progress, yet under-perform relative to peers of similar income; a poor country may achieve only modest levels of social progress, yet perform far better than peers with similar resource constraints. To determine a country's relative social progress performance we designate a relevant peer group, the 15 other countries most similar in GDP per capita, and calculate median social progress scores for the peer group (overall, and by dimension, component, and indicator). We then compare a country's performance relative to its peer group's median social progress scores to identify its relative strengths and weaknesses.

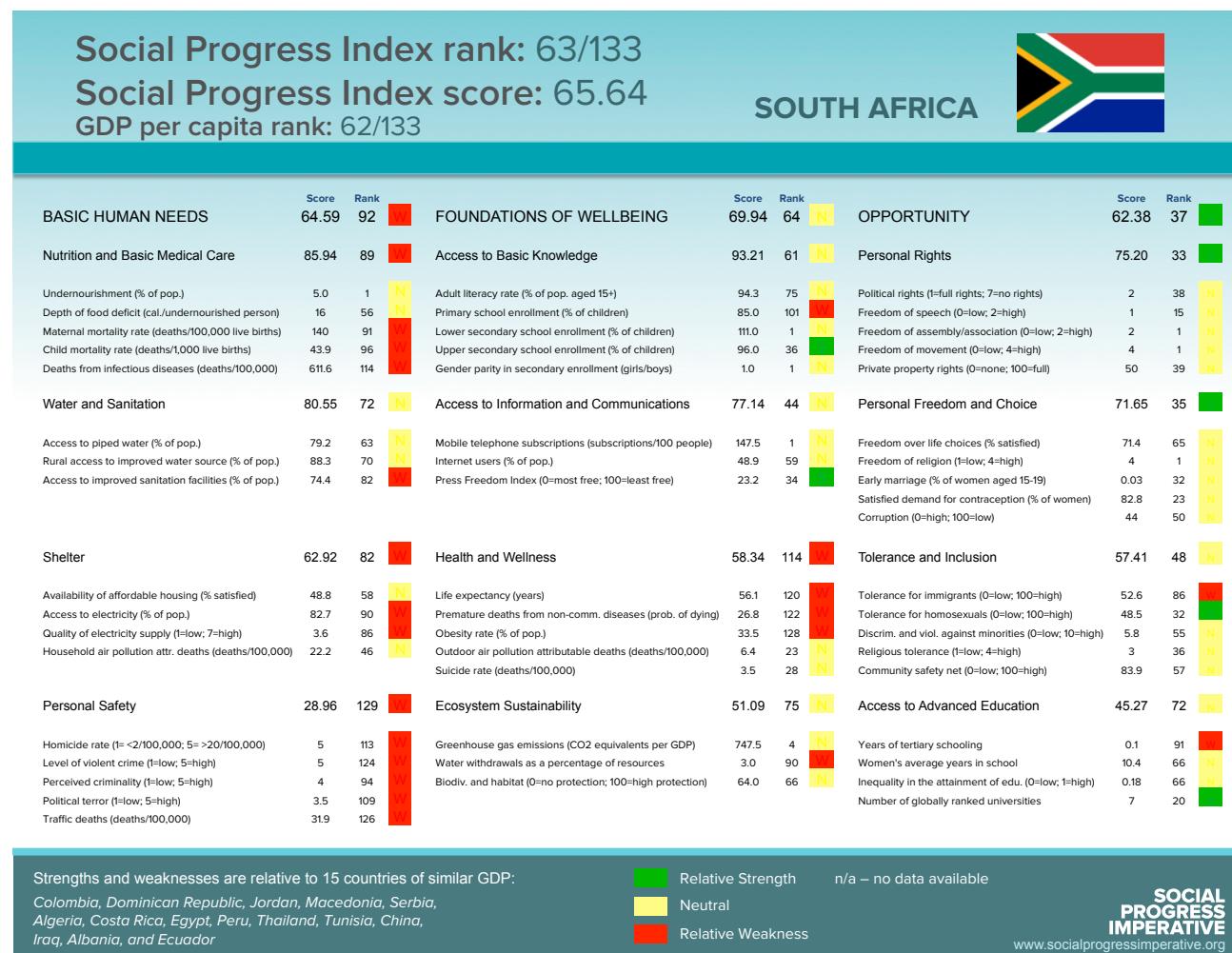
#### Overperformers and Underperformers On Social Progress



Social Progress Index scores can be disaggregated to show performance by dimension and component. Performance often varies across areas, with most countries showing both strengths and weaknesses across the components. We can examine countries' relative performance on specific dimensions and components.

We use this data to analyze each country in detail and develop country-level scorecards. Scorecards for all 157 countries with Social Progress Index data and GDP data are available on our website at [socialprogressimperative.org](http://socialprogressimperative.org). A summary of the relative strengths and weaknesses analysis by country and region is presented in the Appendices section of the full report. By measuring country performance relative to a country's 15 closest income peers, we gain a deeper understanding of each country's respective performance and development. We see that even high-income countries can have significant weaknesses relative to their peers, and low-income countries can have significant strengths. Through this finer lens, policymakers can better identify and prioritize areas in need of improvement within their own countries. Scorecards may also surface potential models for improvement by highlighting comparative overperformers.

### South Africa Scorecard



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Overperformers and Underperformers by Dimension and Component

		Top Overperformers	Top Underperformers
Social Progress Index		Costa Rica (+8.37) Uruguay (+4.95) Moldova (+4.72)	Saudi Arabia (-18.27) Angola (-17.59) Iraq (-14.63)
Basic Human Needs		Moldova (+9.40) Nepal (+8.29) Kyrgyzstan (+6.96)	Angola (-19.45) Congo, Republic of (-16.67) Nigeria (-16.53)
Foundations of Wellbeing		Sweden (+4.14) Uganda (+3.89) Iceland (+3.82)	Libya (-14.68) Kazakhstan (-12.71) Iraq (-12.39)
Opportunity		Uruguay (+12.15) Costa Rica (+9.08) Jamaica (+7.87)	Saudi Arabia (-37.47) Bahrain (-30.02) Kuwait (-29.61)
Basic Human Needs	Nutrition and Basic Medical Care	Kyrgyzstan (+10.56) Moldova (+7.80) The Gambia (+5.28)	Chad (-24.97) Central African Republic (-23.93) Sierra Leone (-23.22)
	Water and Sanitation	Kyrgyzstan (+22.87) Comoros (+20.84) The Gambia (+15.24)	Gabon (-31.71) Congo, Republic of (-26.28) Angola (-24.60)
	Shelter	Uzbekistan (+23.75) Moldova (+10.33) Turkmenistan (+9.02)	Angola (-22.73) Mongolia (-22.12) Kuwait (-17.81)
	Personal Safety	Bhutan (+17.68) Bosnia and Herzegovina (+9.34) Djibouti (+8.97)	Trinidad and Tobago (-31.37) Iraq (-27.52) Venezuela (-26.63)
Foundations of Wellbeing	Access to Basic Knowledge	Comoros (+17.94) Rwanda (+8.73) Tajikistan (+8.42)	Angola (-25.19) Iraq (-20.69) Chad (-20.20)
	Access to Information and Communications	Zimbabwe (+5.36) Cape Verde (+4.38) Moldova (+4.03)	Djibouti (-26.71) Turkmenistan (-22.61) Saudi Arabia (-19.72)
	Health and Wellness	Peru (+6.02) Colombia (+3.87) Vietnam (+3.58)	Kazakhstan (-24.21) Turkmenistan (-23.43) Ukraine (-21.80)
	Ecosystem Sustainability	Uganda (+12.67) Switzerland (+11.76) Burkina Faso (+10.75)	Libya (-52.83) Turkmenistan (-27.27) Bahrain (-27.05)
Opportunity	Personal Rights	Cape Verde (+28.20) Ghana (+19.16) Timor-Leste (+15.11)	Saudi Arabia (-74.89) United Arab Emirates (-62.86) Bahrain (-54.89)
	Personal Freedom and Choice	Rwanda (+13.26) Uruguay (+10.35) Lesotho (+6.10)	Angola (-27.33) Saudi Arabia (-25.72) Iraq (-22.51)
	Tolerance and Inclusion	Uruguay (+21.83) Portugal (+12.85) Costa Rica (+11.29)	Saudi Arabia (-24.26) Bahrain (-22.39) Pakistan (-21.77)
	Access to Advanced Education	Russia (+22.07) Ukraine (+21.51) Kyrgyzstan (+21.18)	Kuwait (-28.51) Bahrain (-19.78) Qatar (-18.78)

### APPLICATIONS OF THE SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX

The Social Progress Index offers a new lens to evaluate a number of pressing policy concerns and the initiatives designed to address them. As concerns around inequality and calls for ‘inclusive growth’ have grown stronger in the wake of stagnating middle-class incomes in high-income countries and growth in developing countries driven by extractive industries, we see increasing commitment to ‘shared prosperity’ based on intuitive objectives as opposed to empirical data. By providing a rigorous and holistic measure of inclusiveness that is independent of GDP and other economic measures, the Social Progress Index provides a powerful tool for leaders in government, business, and civil society to benchmark performance, identify priorities for action, and to track the impact of interventions.

In this report we examine three critical issues:

- *Inequality and Poverty:* With increased attention to issues of income inequality, we explore how the Social Progress Index relates to the overall distribution of income, as well as the incidence of poverty on an absolute and relative basis. Social Progress offers a new lens with which to view this polarizing debate.
- *International Aid:* Decisions about which countries receive aid and how much rely heavily on measures of economic performance, particularly GDP per capita. We show how moving beyond exclusively economic measures offers new insight into how international aid might be structured.
- *Life Satisfaction:* There has been growing international interest in using measures of subjective wellbeing to guide government policy and engagement by civil society. We describe how the Social Progress Index relates to measures of subjective wellbeing and informs our understanding of how such measures can inform the public debate.

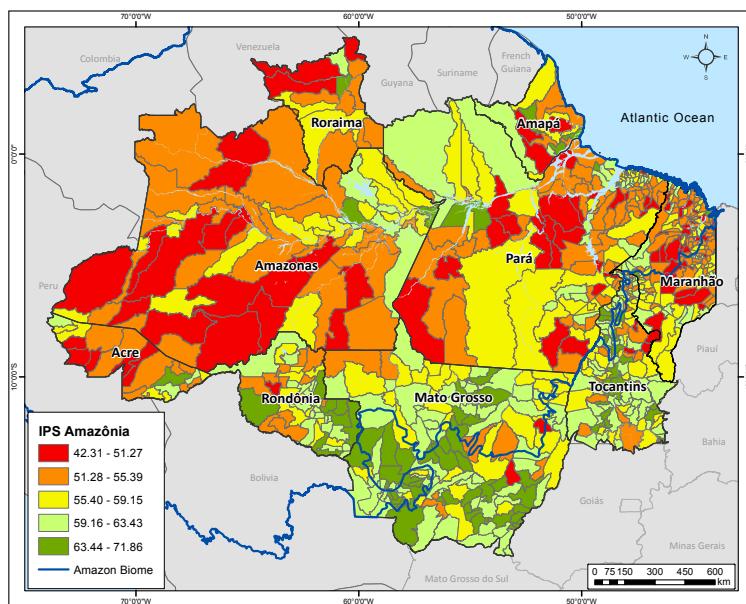
There are wide possibilities for using Social Progress Index data to inform scholarly and policy debates. We welcome others to use our data for the purpose of analysis.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### THE SOCIAL PROGRESS NETWORK

Through national partnerships — the growing Social Progress Network — we are building a global “network of networks” promoted by the Social Progress Imperative. Under this umbrella, early adopters are engaging in initiatives that use the conceptual and methodological framework of the Social Progress Index as a starting point for action in their countries.

#### Social Progress Map for the Brazilian Amazon Municipalities



Strong progress has been made in Latin America, where dynamic networks have emerged since the publication of the beta version of the Index two years ago; especially in the Brazilian Amazon, Pará State, and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, with the national government in Paraguay, and in Colombia, with a special focus on cities. In 2015, the Social Progress Network is expanding to the European Union and the United States, collaborating with international organizations like the European Commission and subnational governments like the State of Michigan.

In August 2014, the Brazil Partner Network produced the first subnational Social Progress Index, covering the 772 municipalities and nine states that make up the Brazilian Amazon. The Social Progress Imperative enthusiastically encourages the creation of subnational Social Progress Indices and provides guidelines to ensure consistency across efforts in different places, while allowing for customization that will improve the relevance and usefulness of the results.

The movement to complement traditional economic measurement with innovative tools to advance social progress is growing. Applying the Social Progress Index conceptual and methodological framework is working as a way to highlight challenges and bring new partners together to drive change in communities around the world. Join our network of partners in government, business, academia, and civil society who are using the Social Progress Index tool as a catalyst for action. Please email [partner-network@social-progress.org](mailto:partner-network@social-progress.org) for more information.

## Partner Network In Latin America

**1 GUATEMALA**

- Municipality of Guatemala City
- Alianza por la Nutrición
- ASIES
- CABI
- CIEN
- CEUR-USAC
- Deloitte
- Facultad de Medicina USAC
- Fundación Avina
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- INCAE Business School
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- WAKAMI

**2 EL SALVADOR**

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**3 COSTA RICA**

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**4 PANAMÁ**

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- Ministry of Economy and Finances
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- INADEH
- LLoret y Cuenta
- Sumarse
- United Way- Fondo Unido de Panamá

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- Compartamos con Colombia
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**6 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

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- Ministry of Environment and Water Resources
- Ministry of Social Development and the People
- Central Statistical Office
- Council of Competitiveness
- Caribbean Procurement Institute
- Communications Limited
- Deloitte
- IGovtt
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- Sistema B
- Vale

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- Masisa

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- Asociación de Empresarios Cristianos
- Club de Ejecutivos
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- Feprinco
- Fundación Avina
- Fundación Desarrollo en Democracia
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- Fundación Moisés Bertoni
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