# 2020 SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX Executive Summary



# Introduction

We are excited to announce the 2020 Social Progress Index. The Social Progress Index is the only measurement tool to comprehensively and systematically focus exclusively on the noneconomic dimensions of social performance across the globe with transparent and actionable data.

This is the sixth year of the index, which contains applicable and focused insight for nations and communities around the world. This short brief focuses on some of the overarching findings that we have taken away from this year's index, including four headline findings:

- Overall, social progress is advancing across the world. Since 2011, the world average increased from 60.63 to 64.24, and there has been improvement on eight of 12 social progress components.
- Despite this overall progress, Personal Rights and Inclusiveness have regressed since 2011, and there has been stagnation in the areas of Personal Safety and Access to Basic Knowledge.
- 155 of 163 countries register an improved social progress score since 2011, with several countries, including The Gambia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Tunisia demonstrating particularly notable improvement.
- With that said, there are important negative outliers. Most notably, the United States has dropped from 86.43 to 85.71 over time, experiencing both an absolute and relative decline.

Beyond these headline empirical findings, we are excited to share this report with you in order to also continue to engage the growing social progress community. The Social Progress Imperative now works with allied initiatives across more than 50 countries covering 2.4 billion people to not only chart social progress but to use the insights from systematic measurement to make a positive difference for all.

We look forward to the exciting ways that the general public and decision-makers around the world can engage in this movement, and look forward to your feedback and continued engagement on this important mission!

### ABOUT THE SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX

Social progress has become an increasingly critical agenda for leaders in government, business and civil society. Citizens' demands for better lives are evident in uprisings since the Arab Spring and the emergence of new political movements in even the most prosperous countries. Since the financial crisis of 2008, there has also been a growing expectation that business must play its role in delivering improvements in the lives of customers and employees, as well as protecting the environment for us all. This is the social progress imperative.

Progress on social issues does not automatically accompany economic development. Rising income usually brings major improvements in areas such as access to clean water, sanitation, literacy, and basic education. But on average, personal security is no better in middle-income countries than low-income ones, and is often worse. And, too many people—regardless of income—live without full rights and experience discrimination or even violence based on gender, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Traditional measures of national income, such as GDP per capita, fail to capture the overall progress of societies.

The Social Progress Index rigorously measures country performance on many aspects of social and environmental performance which are relevant for countries at all levels of economic development. It enables an assessment of not just absolute country performance but also relative performance compared to a country's economic peers. The index gives governments and businesses the tools to track social and environmental performance rigorously, and make better public policy and investment choices. The Social Progress Index also allows us to assess a country's success in turning economic progress into improved social outcomes. Overall, the Social Progress Index provides the first concrete framework for benchmarking and prioritizing an action agenda advancing both social and economic performance.

### The Social Progress Index Methodology

The Social Progress Index follows four key design principles:

- 1. Exclusively social and environmental indicators: Our aim is to measure social progress directly, rather than utilize economic proxies or outcomes. 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 purpose 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: We strive to create a holistic measure of social progress that encompasses the many aspects of the health of societies. Most previous efforts have focused on the poorest countries, for understandable reasons. But knowing what constitutes a successful society for any country, including higher-income countries, is indispensable for charting a course for all societies.

**4.** Actionable: The Social Progress Index aims to be a practical tool that helps leaders and practitioners in government, business, and civil society to implement policies and programs that will drive faster social progress. To achieve that goal, we measure outcomes in a granular way that focuses on specific areas that can be implemented directly.

The design principles are the foundation for our conceptual framework and formulate our definition of social progress. The Social Progress Index uses the following working definition:

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.

The index is structured around 12 components and 50 distinct indicators. The framework not only provides an aggregate country score and ranking, but also allows benchmarking on specific areas of strength and weakness. Transparency of measurement based on a comprehensive framework allows change-makers to set strategic priorities, acting upon the most pressing issues in their societies.

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING OPPORTUNITY** Nutrition & Basic Medical Care Access to Knowledge Personal Rights Undernourishment Women with no schooling Political rights Maternal mortality rate Primary school enrollment Freedom of expression Child mortality rate Secondary school attainment Freedom of religion Gender parity in secondary attainment Access to quality education Access to justice Property rights for w Water & Sanitation Access to Information & Communications Personal Freedom & Choice Deaths attributable to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene Mobile telephone subscriptions Vulnerable employment Populations using unsafe or unimproved water sources Internet users Early marriage Populations using unsafe or unimproved sanitation (%) Access to online governance Satisfied demand for contraception Corruption Health & Wellness Inclusiveness Access to electricity Household air pollution attributable deaths
 Usage of clean fuels and technology for cooking Acceptance of gays and lesbians Premature deaths from non-communicable diseases Discrimination and violence against minorities Access to essential services Equality of political power by gender Access to quality healthcare Equality of political power by socioeconomic position
 Equality of political power by social group Personal Safety Homicide rate **Environmental Quality** Perceived criminality Outdoor air pollution attributable deaths Access to Advanced Education Political killings and torture Traffic deaths Expected years of tertiary education Women with advanced education Biome protection Quality weighted universities SOCIAL PROGRESS Citable documents www.socialprogress.org

Figure 1 / 2020 Social Progress Index Framework

Each of the twelve components of the framework is made up of between three and five specific outcome indicators. 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. Taken 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 2020 Social Progress Index remains unchanged from 2019. To improve the measurement of component-level concepts and accommodate changes in data availability, some modifications were made to individual indicators and to the composition of several components.

A key advantage of the Social Progress Index's exclusion of economic variables is that we can compare social progress relative to a country's level of economic development. In many cases, it is more useful and interesting to compare a country's performance to countries at a similar level of GDP per capita than to all countries in the world. For example, a lower-income country may have a low score on a certain component, but may greatly exceed typical scores for countries with similar per capita incomes. Conversely, a high-income country may have a high absolute score on a component, but still fall short of what is typical for comparably wealthy countries. For this reason, we present a country's strengths and weaknesses on a relative rather than absolute basis, comparing a country's performance to that of its economic peers.

The first Social Progress Index was released in 2014, which means that this is the sixth annual index. For the first time, we are able to measure a full decade of progress, from 2011-20.

### 2020 SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX RESULTS

The 2020 Social Progress Index ranks 163 countries that have sufficient available data to assess all 12 components. We group countries from highest to lowest social progress into six tiers. Tiers are based on hierarchical clustering to set empirically determined break points across groups of countries based on their Social Progress Index scores.1 Here we present results across all countries and for the world as a whole. We then discuss the relationship between Social Progress and GDP per capita. Finally, we explore changes in social progress at the country level since 2011, with spotlights on US performance and the mandate for prioritizing social progress.

### **2020 Country Rankings**

Norway ranks first on the 2020 Social Progress Index, with a score of 92.73. Canada, ranked seventh with a score of 91.40, is the top-performing G7 country. All 15 Tier 1 countries are highincome, and all score very similarly on social progress—just 3.95 points separate first-ranked Norway at the top of the tier from 13<sup>th</sup>-ranked Japan.

Tier 2 features a much wider range of scores, from Luxembourg (89.56, ranked 14th) to Greece (82.48, ranked 30<sup>th</sup>). France, the UK, Italy and the US —all wealthy G7 countries—are ranked in Tier 2 of the Social Progress Index. Most Tier 2 countries are high-income.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> To determine tiers, we ran a number of iterations of clusters and decided upon the common breaks, with six different tiers being the best fit for the Index. We note that although these tiers show similarities among countries in terms of aggregate performance, there is significant variation in each country's performance across components.

Croatia (39<sup>th</sup>), leads Tier 3 with a score of 80.65. Fellow EU member states Bulgaria (79.86, 43<sup>rd</sup>) and Romania (78.35, 45<sup>th</sup>) also fall in Tier 3, which includes large Latin American countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico.

Several resource-rich countries, including the United Arab Emirates (70.60, 80<sup>th</sup>) and Qatar (70.58, 81<sup>st</sup>) are among the leading countries in Tier 4. Notably, three of the five BRICS countries—South Africa, China, and India—are in Tier 4 of the index. Most Tier 4 countries are middle- or lower-income. Noteworthy exceptions include Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, which ranks 101<sup>st</sup> in the world with a score of 65.06.

Tier 5 is home to several of the countries that have improved most over the past decade, including Nepal (57.60, 114<sup>th</sup>), The Gambia (55.10, 124<sup>th</sup>), and Sierra Leone (51.74, 134<sup>th</sup>). Tier 5 is mainly comprised of lower-middle- and lower-income countries, many of them in East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Tier 6 countries exhibit the widest range of scores of any of the six Social Progress Index tiers: 19.02 points separate Equatorial Guinea (50.08, 138<sup>th</sup>) from South Sudan (31.06, 163<sup>rd</sup>). Tier 6 countries are generally low income, and several are fragile states where instability has hindered social progress. Some, like South Sudan and Afghanistan, are also active conflict zones. South Sudan ranks last on the 2020 Social Progress Index.

Figure 2 / 2020 Social Progress Index Rankings

	Tier 1	Tier 1		Tier 2			Tier 2			Tier 3			Tier 3		Tier 4		
Rank		Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country Score		Rank	Country	Score	Rank		
1	Norway	92.73	14	Luxembourg	89.56	26	Cyprus	86.64	39	Croatia	81.92	55	Tunisia	75.02	72	Country	71.
2	Denmark	92.11	15	Austria	89.50	27	Greece	85.78	40	Hungary	81.02	56	Georgia	74.85		Cuba	_
3	Finland	91.89	16	Belgium	89.46	28	United States	85.71	41	Argentina	80.66	57	Jamaica	74.75	73	Jordan	71.
4	New Zealand	91.64	17	Korea, Republic of	89.06	29	Singapore	85.46	42	Barbados	80.50	58	Montenegro	74.42	74	Oman	71.
5	Sweden	91.62	18	France	88.78	30	Malta	84.89	43	Bulgaria	79.86	59	Peru	74.22	75	Suriname	71
6	Switzerland	91.42	19	Spain	88.71	31	Poland	84.32	44	Mauritius	78.96	60	Colombia	74.00	76	Mongolia	71.
7	Canada	91.40	20	United Kingdom	88.54	32	Lithuania	83.97	45	Romania	78.35	61	Brazil	73.91	77	Dominican Republic	71.
8	Australia	91.29	21	Portugal	87.79	33	Israel	83.62	46	Kuwait	77.47	62	Mexico	73.52	78	Maldives	70
9	Iceland	91.09	22	Slovenia	87.71	34	Chile	83.34	47	Belarus	77.00	63	Ukraine	73.38	79	Thailand	70
10	Netherlands	91.06	23	Italy	87.36	35	Latvia	83.19	48	Malaysia	76.96	64	Sri Lanka	73.20	80	United Arab Emirates	70.
11	Germany	90.56	24	Estonia	87.26	36	Slovakia	83.15	49	Panama	76.55	65	Republic of North Macedonia	73.16	81	Qatar	70.
12	Ireland	90.35	25	Czechia	86.69	37	Costa Rica	83.01	50	Armenia	76.46	66	Bosnia and	72.74	82	South Africa	70.
13	Japan	90.14				38	Uruguay	82.99	51	Trinidad and Tobago	76.33		Herzegovina		83		69.
	•							-	52	Serbia	75.54	67	Kazakhstan	72.66	84	Algeria	-
												68	Moldova	72.58		Indonesia	69
									53 54	Albania	75.45 75.41	69	Russia Paraguay	72.56 72.48			
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	Tier 4			Tier 4			Tier 5					70	Russia Paraguay Tier 6	72.56 72.48		Tier 6	
-	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	54 Rank	Albania  Tier 5  Country	75.41 Score	69 70 Rank	Russia Paraguay  Tier 6  Country	72.56 72.48 Score	Rank	Country	Sc
85	Country Lebanon	69.37	98	Country Philippines	66.62	108	Country Honduras	62.41	54 Rank 123	Albania  Tier 5  Country  Bangladesh	75.41  Score 55.23	69 70 Rank 138	Russia Paraguay  Tier 6  Country  Equatorial Guinea	72.56 72.48	Rank 151	Country Angola	Sc. 48
85 86	Country Lebanon Botswana	69.37 69.36	98 99	Country Philippines Bahrain	66.62 66.60	108	Country Honduras Guatemala	62.41 61.67	Rank 123 124	Tier 5 Country Bangladesh Gambia, The	75.41  Score   55.23   55.10	69 70 Rank	Russia Paraguay  Tier 6  Country	72.56 72.48 Score	Rank 151 152	Country Angola Guinea-Bissau	Sc: 48
85 86 87	Country Lebanon Botswana Bolivia	69.37 69.36 69.23	98 99 100	Country Philippines Bahrain China	66.62 66.60 66.12	108 109 110	Country Honduras Guatemala Timor-Leste	62.41 61.67 61.08	Rank 123 124 125	Tier 5 Country Bangladesh Gambia, The Rwanda	75.41 Score 55.23 55.10 54.13	69 70 Rank 138	Russia Paraguay  Tier 6  Country  Equatorial Guinea Korea, Democratic	72.56 72.48 Score 50.08	Rank 151 152 153	Country  Angola  Guinea-Bissau  Papua New Guinea	Sc 48 46 44
85 86 87 88	Country Lebanon Botswana Bolivia Vietnam	69.37 69.36 69.23 68.85	98 99 100 101	Country Philippines Bahrain China Saudi Arabia	66.62 66.60 66.12 65.06	108 109 110 111	Country Honduras Guatemala Timor-Leste Senegal	62.41 61.67 61.08 60.04	Rank 123 124 125	Tier 5 County Bangladesh Gambia, The Rwanda Malawi	Score 55.23 55.10 54.13 54.07	69 70 Rank 138	Russia Paraguay  Tier 6  Country Equatorial Guinea Korea, Democratic Republic of	72.56 72.48 Score 50.08	Rank 151 152 153	Country  Angola  Guinea-Bissau  Papua New Guinea  Guinea	Sc 48 46 44 43
85 86 87 88	Country Lebanon Botswana Bolivia Vietnam Kyrgyzstan	69.37 69.36 69.23 68.85 68.65	98 99 100 101 102	Country Philippines Bahrain China Saudi Arabia Uzbekistan	66.62 66.60 66.12 65.06 64.98	108 109 110 111 112	Country Honduras Guatemala Timor-Leste Senegal Egypt	62.41 61.67 61.08 60.04 59.98	Rank 123 124 125 126 127	Albania  Tier 5  Country  Bangladesh Gambia, The Rwanda Malawi Lesotho	Score 55.23 55.10 54.13 54.07 53.80	69 70 Rank 138 139	Russia Paraguay  Tier 6  Country  Equatorial Guinea  Korea, Democratic Republic of  Burkina Faso	72.56 72.48 Score 50.08 50.01 49.87	Rank 151 152 153 154 155	Country  Angola Guinea-Bissau Papua New Guinea Guinea Afghanistan	Sc 48 46 44 43 42
85 86 87 88 89	Country Lebanon Botswana Bolivia Vietnam Kyrgyzstan Fiji	69.37 69.36 69.23 68.85 68.65 68.42	98 99 100 101 102 103	Country Philippines Bahrain China Saudi Arabia Uzbekistan Ghana	66.62 66.60 66.12 65.06 64.98 64.86	108 109 110 111 112 113	Country Honduras Guatemala Timor-Leste Senegal Egypt Turkmenistan	62.41 61.67 61.08 60.04 59.98 58.35	Rank 123 124 125 126 127 128	Albania  Tier 5  Country Bangladesh Gambia, The Rwanda Malawi Lesotho Côte d'Ivoire	Score 55.23 55.10 54.13 54.07 53.80 53.59	69 70 Rank 138 139 140	Russia Paraguay  Tier 6 Country Equatorial Guinea Korea, Democratic Republic of Burkina Faso Pakistan	72.56 72.48 Score 50.08 50.01 49.87 49.25	Rank 151 152 153	Country  Angola  Guinea-Bissau  Papua New Guinea  Guinea	Sc 48 46 44 43 42
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### **World Average Performance**

We can sum country Social Progress Index scores, population-weighted, to look at world performance. If the world were a country, it would rank between Ghana and Azerbaijan on the Social Progress Index (score: 64.24). On average, the world scores highest on Nutrition and Basic Medical Care and Access to Basic Knowledge. The world performs worst on the Opportunity dimension, particularly on Inclusiveness and Environmental Quality.



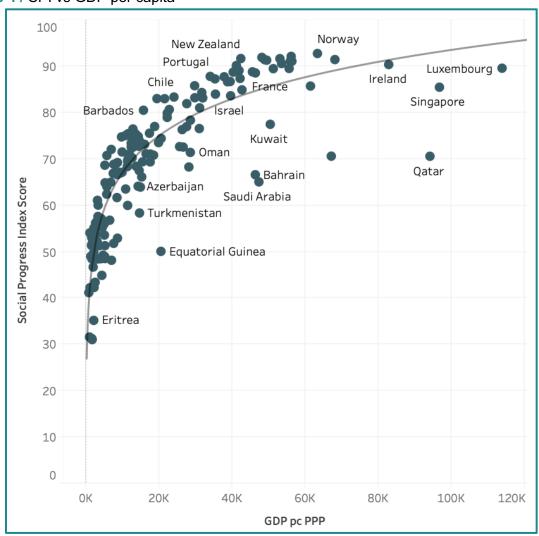
Figure 3 / Population-weighted world scores by component

### Social Progress Index vs. GDP per capita

Figure 4 shows the relationship between GDP per capita and social progress. The data reveal several key findings:

- There is a positive and strong relationship between the Social Progress Index and GDP per capita.
- The relationship between economic development and social progress is not linear. At lower income levels, small differences in GDP per capita are associated with large improvements in social progress. As countries reach high levels of income, however, the rate of change slows.
- GDP per capita does not completely explain social progress. Countries achieve divergent levels of social progress at similar levels of GDP per capita.





### **Benchmarking Countries**

We can assess a country's performance relative to its level of GDP per capita using the social progress "scorecard". This compares the performance of a country on aggregate social progress, as well on the dimensions, components, and indicators of the Social Progress Index, to the performances of 15 other countries with similar GDPs per capita. By revealing where each country is using its resources more or less efficiently than countries of similar income, the scorecard can point to either successes or specific priority areas for actions and investments, respectively.

The world scorecard compares the population-weighted world average Social Progress Index scores to the median score of the 15 countries with GDPs per capita closest to that of the world. It shows that the world as a whole is underperforming on many aspects of social progress relative to the economic resources, measured in GDP per capita, that are available. We also produce full scorecards for all 163 ranked countries.

Figure 5 / 2020 World Scorecard

WORLD			Social Progress Index GDP per Capita PPP	<b>64.24/100</b> \$ 16,523.04				
BASIC HUMAN NEEDS	Score/ Value	Strength/ Weakness	FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING	Score/ Value	Strength/ Weakness	OPPORTUNITY	Score/ Value	Strength/ Weakness
	74.65			60.82			57.25	
Nutrition & Basic			Access to Basic Knowledge	75.18		Personal Rights	60.09	•
Medical Care	84.63		Women with no schooling	0.11		Political rights		
Indernourishment (% of pop.)	9.10		Primary school enrollment			(0=no rights; 40=full rights)	19.87	
Child mortality rate deaths/1,000 live births)	27.99		(% of children) Secondary school attainment	93.94		Freedom of expression (O=no freedom; 1=full freedom)	0.51	
Maternal mortality rate deaths/100,000 live births)	99.37		(% of population)	61.97		Freedom of religion (O=no freedom; 4=full freedom)	2.32	
Child stunting (% of children)	21.88		Gender parity in secondary attainment (distance from parity)	0.19		Access to justice		
Deaths from infectious diseases			Access to quality education (0=unequal; 4=equal)	1.60		(0=non-existent; 1=observed) Property rights for women	0.58	
deaths/100,000)	134.02		(0-unequal, 4-equal)	1.60		(0=no right; 5=full rights)	3.89	
Water & Sanitation	74.72		Access to Information & Communications	70.33		Personal Freedom & Choice	63.24	
Deaths attributable to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene (per 100,000	20.64		Mobile telephone subscriptions (subscriptions/100 people)	104.46		Vulnerable employment (% of employees)	46.76	
pop.)	29.64		Access to online governance	104.40		Early marriage (% of women)	10.72	
Populations using unsafe or unimproved water sources (%)	33.07		(0=low; 1=high)	0.76		Satisfied demand for contraception		
opulations using unsafe or unimproved sanitation (%)	28.36		Media censorship (0=frequent; 4=rare)	1.75	•	(% of women)  Corruption (0=high; 100=low)	73.86 40.76	
inimproved surnation (25)	20.00		Internet users (% of pop)	50.59				
Shelter	77.09					Inclusiveness	39.25	
Access to electricity (% of pop.)	89.41		Health and Wellness	60.88		Acceptance of gays and lesbians (0=low; 100=high)	0.33	
lousehold air pollution attributable			Life expectancy at 60 (years)	20.14		Discrimination and violence against		
deaths/100,000)	63.64		Premature deaths from non- communicable diseases			minorities (0=low; 10=high)	7.32	
Jsage of clean fuels and technology or cooking (% of pop.)	61.98		(deaths/100,000)	386.51		Equality of political power by gender (0=unequal power; 4=equal power)	1.77	
			Access to essential services (O=none; 100=full coverage)	69.28		Equality of political power by		-
Personal Safety	62.15		Access to quality healthcare			socioeconomic position (0=unequal power; 4=equal power)	1.69	
Homicide rate (deaths/100,000)	5.83		(0=unequal; 4=equal)	1.63		Equality of political power by social		_
Perceived criminality (1=low; 5=high)	3.63		Enviromental Quality	36.87		group (0=unequal power; 4=equal power)	1.69	
Political killings and torture 0=low freedom; 1=high freedom)	0.55		Outdoor air pollution attributable		_	portery	1.09	
Traffic deaths (deaths/100,000)	16.41		deaths (deaths/100,000)	42.20		Access to Advanced Education	66.42	
			Greenhouse gas emissions (total CO2 equivalents)	3458.23				
			Particulate matter	45.80		Expected years of tertiary education	2.04	
Notes			Biome protection	8.20	•	Women with advanced education (%)	0.54	
On some components and indicators, there are more ranked a countries for which a full index score could be calculated.				3.20		Quality weighted universities (points)	223.07	
<ol><li>Overall index, companent and dimension scores are on a 0-10 values.</li></ol>	O scale; Indicators scores	are raw				Citable documents	0.50	
Comparing Countries  Over-and underperformance is relative to 15 counties of similar G  Suriname, Republic of North Macedonia, Barbados, Serbia, Bats	DP per capita	n Benublic	Key  Overperforming by 1 or more pts. Underperforming b  Underperforming b  Underperforming b				_	SOCIAL
Suriname, Republic of North Macedonia, Barbados, Serbia, Botsi China, Thalland, Gabon, Turkmenistan, Brazil, Maldives, Iran, Coi	lombia	republic,	Performing within the expected range   No data available.				P	ROGRESS PERATIVE

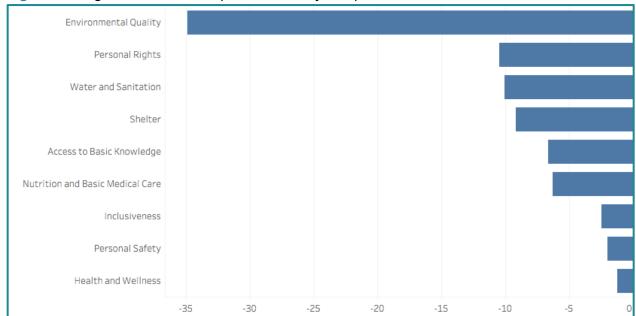


Figure 6 / Degree of world underperformance by component

We also see (Figure 6) that the degree of world underperformance varies widely. Notably, the world's absolute performance on Environmental Quality is lowest among the twelve components. It is also, by a significant margin, the component on which the world most underperforms relative to its income. Coupled with the lack of progress on this component (see below), this represents a troubling situation for future environmental sustainability.

### **Changes in Social Progress 2011-2020**

In 2020 we are able to measure changes in social progress over ten years. To do so, we utilize the 2020 index framework, then apply that methodology across countries and years back to 2011.<sup>2</sup> We can measure the evolution of aggregate social progress and also identify the relative movement of each component and dimension of the index. This dynamic analysis is a first and critical step towards not simply measuring social progress for a country but also identifying what is driving social progress improvement.

The world is getting better in terms of social progress. The population-weighted world score on the Social Progress Index rose from 60.63 in 2011 to 64.24 in 2020—a 3.61 point increase.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As such, our analysis accounts for retroactive data revisions from sources as well as minor changes in the Social Progress Index methodology. Accordingly, the figures cited here may differ from the SPI scores and rankings that were reported in the context of earlier annual reports. Full datasets from 2011-2020 are available on the Social Progress Imperative website: www.socialprogress.org.



Figure 7 / Change in population-weighted world social progress 2011-2020

However, the gains in social progress are not evenly distributed across the components of the framework. Since 2011 the world score has improved on eight components: Access to Information and Communications (+21.61 point change), Access to Advanced Education (+7.45), Shelter (6.10), Water and Sanitation (+5.57), Access to Basic Knowledge (+4.18), Nutrition and Basic Medical Care (+4.20), Personal Freedom and Choice (+2.32), and Health and Wellness (+1.55).

The world is declining on Personal Rights (-6.42), Inclusiveness (-3.48) and stagnating on Personal Safety (-0.61) and Environmental Quality (value). The world score on Personal Rights has declined by 4.17 points since 2011.

We find that 155/163 countries—95% of those measured—improved on social progress 2011-20. Yet these gains in social progress are also unevenly distributed among countries.

**Decliners Stallers Largest Improvers** Bhutan Ethiopia Fiji The Gambia Bahrain Sri Lanka United Kingdom Myanmar United States Nicaragua Sudan Hungary Netherlands Sierra Leone Brazil Sweden Eswatini Timor-Leste Tunisia Uzbekistan Zimbabwe

Figure 8 / Significant improvers and decliners on social progress 2011-2020

Figure 8 shows that the most improved countries since 2011 have been low and lower middle-income, including The Gambia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Eswatini and Sierra Leone. Richer countries, which overall show stronger performance on the Social Progress Index, have tended to improve more slowly. Only three countries register a decline: the US, Hungary, and Brazil.

### SPOTLIGHT: UNITED STATES AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

Since the first Social Progress Index in 2014, the United States has consistently shown underperformance relative to its GDP per capita. This is exceptional among leading economies. That trend continues in 2020 (see Figure 9 below). The US ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the world on social progress, below Greece and Singapore and the lowest of the G7. On Access to Basic Knowledge, the US performs worse than Cuba and Uzbekistan, while on Health and Wellness the US score is comparable to Albania's. On Personal Safety, the US ranks below Senegal and Sri Lanka.

Figure 9 / 2020 US Scorecard

UNITED S	STAT		Social Progress Index GDP per Capita PPP				<b>85.71/100 2</b> \$62,683	2 <b>8/163</b> 8/163	0		
BASIC HUMAN NEEDS	Score/ Value	Rank	Strength/ Weakness	FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBE	ING Score/ Value	Rank	Strength/ Weakness	OPPORTUNITY	Score/ Value	Rank	Strength Weakness
	92.08	34			83.14	37			81.89	14	
Nutrition & Basic	07.64			Access to Basic Knowledge	92.42	44	0	Personal Rights	90.84	36	0
Medical Care	97.61	29		Women with no schooling	0.00	27		Political rights			
Undernourishment (% of pop.)	2.50	1		Primary school enrollment				(0=no rights; 40=full rights)	33.00	64	
Child mortality rate (deaths/1,000 live births)	6.53	45	0	(% of children) Secondary school attainment	99.61	27	_	Freedom of expression (0=no freedom; 1=full freedom)	0.90	36	•
Maternal mortality rate (deaths/100,000 live births)	29.34	73		(% of population)  Gender parity in secondary	95.60	24		Freedom of religion (0=no freedom; 4=full freedom)	3.78	32	
Child stunting (% of children)	2.32	3		attainment (distance from parity)	0.00	1		Access to justice (0=non-existent; 1=observed)	0.93	25	
Deaths from infectious diseases (deaths/100,000)	21.54	42	•	Access to quality education (0=unequal; 4=equal)	2.23	91	•	Property rights for women (0=no right; 5=full rights)	4.61	57	
Water & Sanitation	98.97	24		Access to Information & Communications	93.30	11		Personal Freedom & Choice	e 84.96	19	0
Deaths attributable to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene (per 100,000 pop.)	0.28	35		Mobile telephone subscriptions (subscriptions/100 people)	129.01	1		Vulnerable employment (% of employees)	3.84	8	•
Populations using unsafe or				Access to online governance				Early marriage (% of women)	3.40	50	
unimproved water sources (%)	0.32	15		(0=low; 1=high)	1.00	1		Satisfied demand for contraception (% of women)	on 82.40	33	
Populations using unsafe or unimproved sanitation (%)	2.91	41		Media censorship (0=frequent; 4=rare)	3.20	45		Corruption (0=high; 100=low)	69.00	22	0
	07.00	47		Internet users (% of pop)	87.27	28		Inclusiveness	61.24	35	_
Shelter	97.93	17		Health and Wellness	74.66	42		Acceptance of gays and lesbians		-	
Access to electricity (% of pop.)	100.00	1	•	Life expectancy at 60 (years)	23.27	41		(0=low; 100=high)	0.80	13	
Household air pollution attributable deaths (deaths/100,000)	11.08	17		Premature deaths from non- communicable diseases	25.27			Discrimination and violence again minorities (0=low; 10=high)	6.20	100	
Usage of clean fuels and technology for cooking (% of pop.)	95.00	1		(deaths/100,000) Access to essential services	282.19	54		Equality of political power by gen- (0=unequal power; 4=equal power)		45	
Personal Safety	73.82	57		(0=none; 100=full coverage) Access to quality healthcare	88.03	31		Equality of political power by socioeconomic position (0=unequ	ıal		
Homicide rate (deaths/100,000)	4.96	95		(0=unequal; 4=equal)	2.04	97		power; 4=equal power)	2.19	84	
Perceived criminality (1=low; 5=high)	3.00	37		Enviromental Quality	72.18	119		Equality of political power by soci group (0=unequal power; 4=equal	1		
Political killings and torture (0=low freedom; 1=high freedom)	0.91	39		Outdoor air pollution attributable				power)	2.75	49	
Traffic deaths (deaths/100,000)	12.20	76		deaths (deaths/100,000) Greenhouse gas emissions (total	15.04	28		Access to Advanced Education	90.53	1	
				CO2 equivalents)	6510.00	189		Expected years of tertiary educati	on 4.00	15	
				Particulate matter	7.24	9		Women with advanced education		22	
Notes 1. On some components and indicators, there are more ranked countries than the number of			Biome protection	9.14	122		Quality weighted universities (poi	. ,	1		
On some components and indicators, mere are more ranke countries for which a full index score could be calculated.     Overall index, component and dimension scores are on a Coulus.			e raw					Citable documents	1.85	30	0
Comparing Countries Over-and underperformance is relative to 15 counties of simila Norway, Netherlands, Denmark, Leoland, United Arab Emirate den. Belalum, Kuwati, Australia, Canada, Finland, Soudi Land	s, Austria, Switzerlar	nd, German	y, Swe-		rforming by less than t					PRO	SOCIAL OGRESS ERATIVI

The United States is also an outlier amongst its peers as one of only three countries that has seen a decline in social progress since 2011 (see Figure 10). The most significant deterioration has been in Inclusiveness (-7.59), Personal Safety (-5.99), and Personal Rights (-5.49). There has also been a decline in Health and Wellness (-0.69).

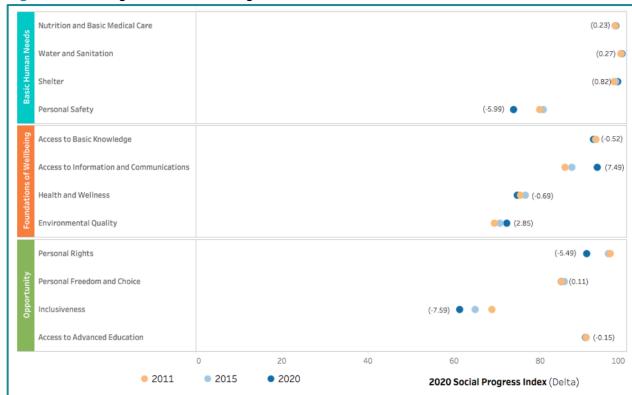


Figure 10 / Change in US Social Progress 2011-2020

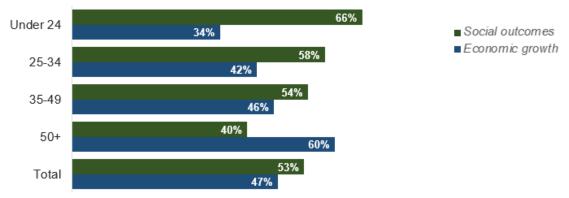
### SPOTLIGHT: PRIORITIZING SOCIAL PROGRESS

A new Ipsos survey in partnership with the Social Progress Imperative and supported by Skoll Foundation indicates that a majority across countries hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic want social progress – rather than economic growth – to be at the fore as the crisis continues and once it ends. Conducted among a random sample of over 10,000 adults from 13 countries, the survey finds that seven in ten are prioritizing the health and well-being of the population over GDP, and more than half want improved social outcomes to remain a priority even after the pandemic is over.

Though young people are least likely to suffer severe cases of the virus and most likely to experience negative consequences as a result of the pandemic's economic impact, the survey found that the youngest respondents were the most likely to report prioritizing social progress. Two in three respondents under 24 (66%) wanted their country to focus on improving social outcomes, compared with just two in five (40%) of those over 50, who are most at risk.

Figure 11 / Public priorities for the post-Covid world, by age cohort

Imagining when the Covid-19 pandemic is over...which should your country prioritize more?



### FROM INDEX TO ACTION TO IMPACT

The Social Progress Imperative publishes the annual Social Progress Index in order to build a common language and data platform that supports benchmarking, collaboration and change. Throughout the world, the Social Progress Imperative has catalyzed the formation of local action networks that bring together government, businesses, academia, and civil society organizations committed to using the Social Progress Index as a tool to assess strengths and weaknesses, spur constructive dialogue, catalyze change, and improve people's lives.

Our network of partners and champions now extends more than 50 countries around the world and includes leading institutions from all sectors of society, including INCAE Business School, Fundación Avina, and the Institute for Competitiveness, India.

The index has gained significant traction across Latin America. In Paraguay, the central government has officially adopted the index as part of the National Development Plan, doubling its budget for nutrition programs as a result of the priorities highlighted by the data. In Brazil, multinational corporations like Coca-Cola, Natura and Fiat-Chrysler are using customized indexes to ensure their supply chains are socially and environmentally sustainable. In cities from Bogota to Medellín to Rio de Janeiro, local indexes are guiding urban policy and framing political debates. And in Costa Rica, the index was applied to measure the effects of the tourism industry on local communities—the first application to assess the social impact of a major economic sector.

We are also making progress in Europe, North America, Africa and Australia. In Europe we are working with DG Regio of the European Commission which has integrated the Index into Cohesion Policy. In North America, we are working with communities as diverse as the cities of San Jose, California and Jackson, Mississippi, as well as San Mateo County, California, and ATB Bank in the Province of Alberta, Canada, to leverage hyper-localized SPI data for policy development and investment decision-making. Over the past year, countrywide Social Progress Indexes have been released in South Africa (in partnership with IQ Business) and Australia (in

partnership with the Centre for Social Impact). Both represent major milestones for the Social Progress Index as it continues to be applied to successfully inform decision makers across the world.



Figure 11 / Map of the Social Progress Network

Our network continues to expand globally, providing more and more change-makers around the world with the data and insight they need to change lives. To learn more about the Social Progress Index and the ways in which it is driving impact around the world, visit www.socialprogress.org.

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Special thanks to Jaime Garcia for invaluable perspective and policy assistance, and Brent Nagel and Alex Stetter for communications and design support.