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## Human Development Index

### Human Development Index (Ranked Numerically)

The Human Development Index (HDI) is used to measure quality of life in countries across the world. The HDI has been compiled since 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a regular basis. The HDI is a composite of several indicators, which measure a country's achievements in three main arenas of human development: longevity, education, and economic standard of living. Although the concept of human development is complicated and cannot be properly captured by values and indices, the HDI offers a wide-ranging assessment of human development in certain countries, not based solely upon traditional economic and financial indicators. For more information about the methodology used to calculate the HDI, please see the "Source Materials" in the appendices of this review.

Country	Rank
<b>High Human Development</b>	
Iceland	1
Norway	2
Australia	3
Canada	4
Ireland	5
Sweden	6
Switzerland	7
Japan	8
Netherlands	9
France	10
Finland	11
United States	12
Spain	13
Denmark	14
Austria	15
United Kingdom	16
Belgium	17
Luxembourg	18
New Zealand	19
Italy	20
Hong Kong, China (SAR)	21
Germany	22
Israel	23
Greece	24
Singapore	25
Korea, South	26
Slovenia	27
Cyprus	28
Portugal	29

Brunei	30
Barbados	31
Czech Republic	32
Kuwait	33
Malta	34
Qatar	35
Hungary	36
Poland	37
Argentina	38
United Arab Emirates	39
Chile	40
Bahrain	41
Slovakia	42
Lithuania	43
Estonia	44
Latvia	45
Uruguay	46
Croatia	47
Costa Rica	48
Bahamas	49
Seychelles	50
Cuba	51
Mexico	52
Bulgaria	53
St. Kitts and Nevis	54
Tonga	55
Libya	56
Antigua and Barbuda	57
Oman	58
Trinidad and Tobago	59
Romania	60
Saudi Arabia	61

Panama	62
Malaysia	63
<b>Medium Human Development</b>	
Belarus	64
Mauritius	65
Bosnia-Herzegovina	66
Russia	67
Albania	68
FYR Macedonia	69
Brazil	70
Dominica	71
St. Lucia	72
Kazakhstan	73
Venezuela	74
Colombia	75
Ukraine	76
Samoa	77
Thailand	78
Dominican Republic	79
Belize	80
China	81
Grenada	82
Armenia	83
Turkey	84
Suriname	85
Jordan	86
Peru	87
Lebanon	88
Ecuador	89
Philippines	90
Tunisia	91
Fiji	92

St. Vincent and the Grenadines	93
Iran	94
Paraguay	95
Georgia	96
Guyana	97
Azerbaijan	98
Sri Lanka	99
Maldives	100
Jamaica	101
Cape Verde	102
El Salvador	103
Algeria	104
Vietnam	105
Palestinian Territories	106
Indonesia	107
Syria	108
Turkmenistan	109
Nicaragua	110
Moldova	111
Egypt	112
Uzbekistan	113
Mongolia	114
Honduras	115
Kyrgyzstan	116
Bolivia	117
Guatemala	118
Gabon	119
Vanuatu	120
South Africa	121
Tajikistan	122
Sao Tome and Principe	123
Botswana	124

Namibia	125
Morocco	126
Equatorial Guinea	127
India	128
Solomon Islands	129
Laos	130
Cambodia	131
Burma	132
Bhutan	133
Comoros	134
Ghana	135
Pakistan	136
Mauritania	137
Lesotho	138
Congo (RC)	139
Bangladesh	140
Swaziland	141
Nepal	142
Madagascar	143
Cameroon	144
Papua New Guinea	145
Haiti	146
<b>Low Human Development</b>	
Sudan	147

Kenya	148
Djibouti	149
East Timor	150
Zimbabwe	151
Togo	152
Yemen	153
Uganda	154
Gambia	155
Senegal	156
Eritrea	157
Nigeria	158
Tanzania	159
Guinea	160
Rwanda	161
Angola	162
Benin	163
Malawi	164
Zambia	165
Cote d'Ivoire	166
Burundi	167
Congo (DRC)	168
Ethiopia	169
Chad	170
Central African Republic	171
Mozambique	172
Mali	173
Niger	174
Guinea-Bissau	175
Burkina Faso	176
Sierra Leone	177

Source:

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## Status of Women

### Overview

The Constitution of Bangladesh posits equality of women with men. In reality, however, women are not always treated the same way as men (for cultural and religious reasons), and they are often subject to gender-based violence and do not always enjoy the same access to opportunities as men in the educational and professional spheres of society.

The legal status of Muslim women in Bangladesh is defined by the principles of Shari'ah doctrine, through the Muslim Personal Law. Issues such as marriage, divorce, maintenance, guardianship of children and inheritance are covered under this legislation, which is religiously-driven. A more generalized secular law covers areas such as the penal, civil and criminal procedure codes as they relate to women in the country.

Women, with the help of a quota, have been able to make significant strides in Bangladesh's political arena. Despite the lack of financial resources and access to leadership positions in the country's two biggest political parties, there has been a growing trend towards women's participation in all areas of the political process. In the past decade, two female prime ministers have led the government. However, at the ministerial level, women's representation has never risen above three percent. Despite gains at the political level, women remain in a subordinate position in society. While female enrollment in schools has increased, illiteracy persists. Illiteracy, along with unequal educational opportunities, prohibits women from learning of their rights. While the growth of the garment industry in the region has allowed more women to get jobs, women still fill only a small percentage of the wage earning jobs in the nation.

Violence against women in Bangladesh is widespread. A report issued by the United Nations found that at least 47 percent of adult women reported physical abuse by their significant other. Other violent actions against women include vigilantism, acid attacks, and rape. Although these abuses are prohibited under law, convictions rarely take place. There is also extensive trafficking of women for forced prostitution.

Gender Related Development Index (GDI) Rank:



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