

# Measuring Human Rights: Some Issues and Options

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# 1. Measuring EFFORT, not Outcomes

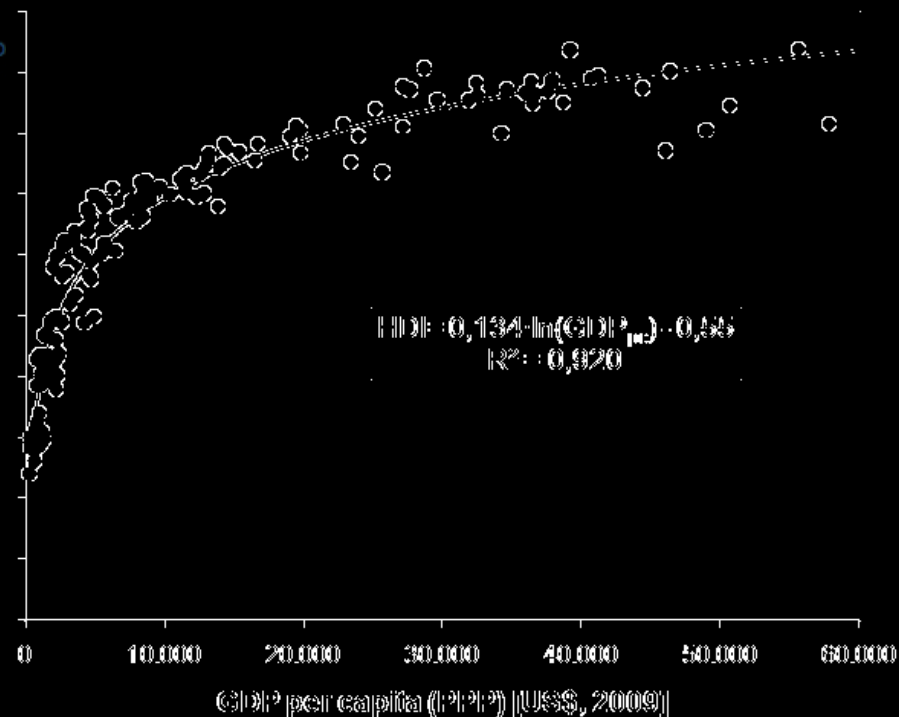
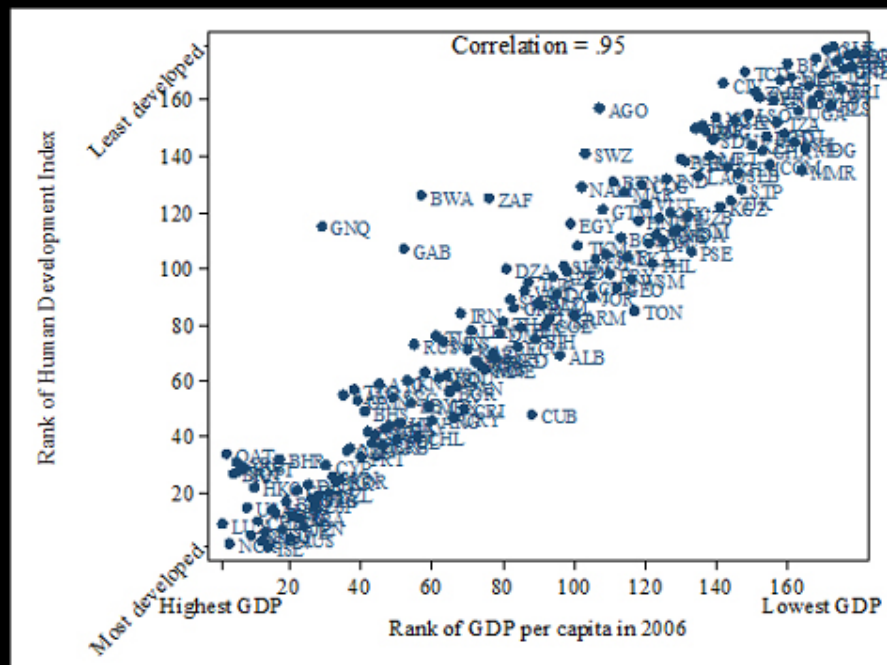
“Always look back. You may learn something  
from your residuals.”

Paul Samuelson  
Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics

# A FEW RELEVANT PRINCIPLES FOR A “POST-HDI WORLD”

1. Wealth is not an end in itself.
2. It is unfair/unethical to compare states without accounting for differences in resources to achieve respect for economic rights.
3. Since non-state actors, often foreign, can greatly affect economic rights outcomes, outcome-based indicators are upwardly biased for purposes of examining governmental behaviors in this policy area.
4. Thus, it is necessary for those interested in governance to be able to assess government EFFORT to respect economic rights.

# The Correlation between HDI and GDP/cap is Very High (as much as .95)



A country's achievement of economic rights outcomes is a product of:

- A. Government's ability to achieve these outcomes
- B. Government's willingness to use available resources (ability) to achieve these outcomes
- C. The actions of third-parties (NGOs, etc) to achieve these outcomes

A statistical model that regresses ability and third-party activity onto a measure of economic rights achievement should have, as its residual, an estimate of government "willingness" or "effort" to achieve economic rights fulfillment

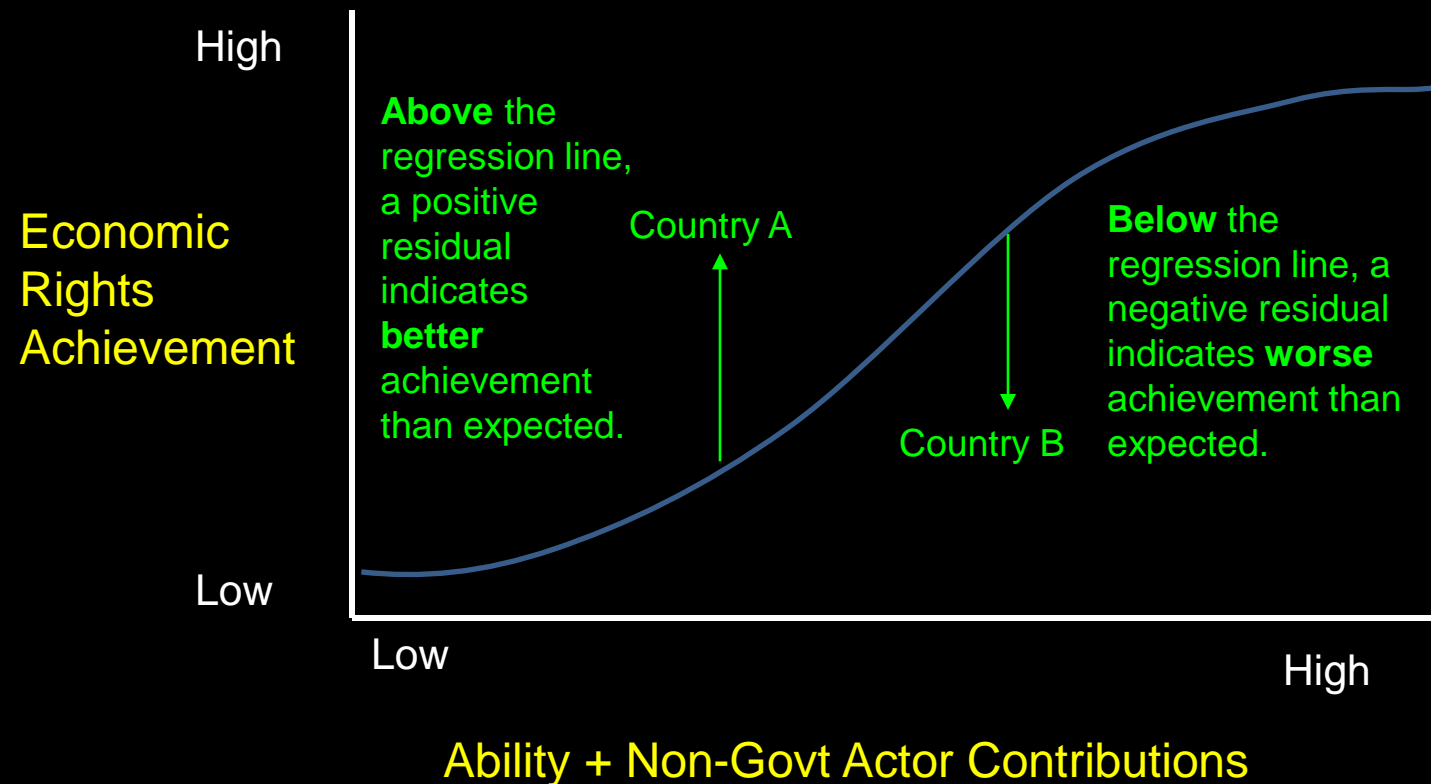
## Conceptual Model

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Economic Rights Achievement} &= \text{Govt. Ability} \\ &+ \text{Outcomes Attributable to Non-Govt Actors} \\ &+ \text{Govt. Willingness} \end{aligned}$$

## Operational Model

$$\begin{aligned} [\text{PQLI} + \text{Women's Rights} + \text{Workers' Rights}] &= \text{GDP/cap} \\ &+ [\text{Official Development Assistance} \\ &\quad + \text{NGO Work}] \\ &+ \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Predicted values are generated using a 4-parameter logistic nonlinear regression of **economic rights achievement** onto **govt ability** and **non-govt-actor effects**.



Residuals tell how far **actual** levels of achievement differ from the **predicted** values. These residuals become our measure of government *effort* to respect economic and social rights.

# Correlation Between Effort Scores & GDP/cap

<b>1990</b>	<b>.41</b>
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<b>1995</b>	<b>.34</b>
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<b>2000</b>	<b>.34</b>
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# 1990

	<b>Effort</b>	<b>Effort Rank</b>	<b>HDI Rank</b>
Iceland	2.361	1	12
Luxembourg	2.355	2	17
Belize	2.178	3	50
Greece	1.92	4	23
Sri Lanka	1.868	5	66
	<b>Effort</b>	<b>Effort Rank</b>	<b>HDI Rank</b>
Democratic Republic of Congo	-1.845	121	116
Nigeria	-1.918	122	N/A
Afghanistan	-2.06	123	118
Mali	-2.074	124	121
India	-2.534	125	96

# 1995

	<b>Effort</b>	<b>Effort Rank</b>	<b>HDI Rank</b>
Iceland	3.257	1	13
Luxembourg	2.808	2	18
Ireland	2.796	3	20
Hungary	2.763	4	36
Kyrgyz Republic	2.451	5	89
	<b>Effort</b>	<b>Effort Rank</b>	<b>HDI Rank</b>
Kenya	-1.943	138	103
Burkina Faso	-2.067	139	N/A
Sudan	-2.179	140	125
Pakistan	-2.399	141	106
Chad	-2.441	142	N/A

# 2000

	<b>Effort</b>	<b>Effort Rank</b>	<b>HDI Rank</b>
Mongolia	3.289	1	101
Iceland	2.37	2	13
Moldova	2.255	3	92
Finland	2.158	4	20
Estonia	2.151	5	35
	<b>Effort</b>	<b>Effort Rank</b>	<b>HDI Rank</b>
Pakistan	-2.416	144	118
Iraq	-2.528	145	N/A
Sudan	-2.529	146	140
Afghanistan	-2.982	147	151
Burkina Faso	-3.069	148	N/A

Table 2. Average Scores of Government Effort to Respect Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>World</b>	.015	-.011	-.014
Std. Dev.	1.01	1.15	1.14
(N)	130	147	151
<b>Africa</b>	-.640	-.759	-.658
Std. Dev.	.714	.809	1.00
(N)	42	39	41
<b>Asia</b>	-.175	-.294	-.221
Std. Dev.	1.01	.922	1.18
(N)	34	44	45
<b>Europe</b>	.860	.986	.781
Std. Dev.	.802	1.08	.915
(N)	24	35	35
<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>	.452	.108	.221
Std. Dev.	.828	1.01	.896
(N)	24	23	24

**Table 3. Global: Five Lowest and Highest Effort Scores; 1990, 1995, 2000**

	<b>1990</b>		<b>1995</b>		<b>2000</b>
<b>TOP 5</b>					
Iceland	2.361	Iceland	3.257	Mongolia	3.289
Luxembourg	2.355	Luxembourg	2.808	Iceland	2.370
Belize	2.178	Ireland	2.796	Moldova	2.255
Greece	1.920	Hungary	2.763	Finland	2.158
Sri Lanka	1.868	Kyrgyz Republic	2.451	Estonia	2.151
<b>BOTTOM 5</b>					
Democratic Republic of Congo	-1.845	Kenya	-1.943	Pakistan	-2.416
Nigeria	-1.918	Burkina Faso	-2.067	Iraq	-2.528
Afghanistan	-2.060	Sudan	-2.179	Sudan	-2.529
Mali	-2.074	Pakistan	-2.399	Afghanistan	-2.982
India	-2.534	Chad	-2.441	Burkina Faso	-3.069

**Table 4. Africa: Five Lowest and Highest Effort Scores; 1990, 1995, 2000**

	<b>1990</b>		<b>1995</b>		<b>2000</b>
<b>TOP 5</b>					
Mauritius	1.079	Mauritius	1.301	Madagascar	1.522
Madagascar	0.977	Gabon	0.818	Namibia	1.498
Namibia	0.380	Mauritania	0.498	Tunisia	1.376
Swaziland	0.309	Namibia	0.446	Togo	0.911
Botswana	0.243	Tunisia	0.328	Mauritius	0.734
<b>BOTTOM 5</b>					
Kenya	-1.592	Uganda	-1.787	Tanzania	-1.724
Sudan	-1.720	Kenya	-1.943	Lesotho	-1.857
Congo, Democratic Republic	-1.845	Burkina Faso	-2.067	Kenya	-1.979
Nigeria	-1.918	Sudan	-2.179	Sudan	-2.529
Mali	-2.074	Chad	-2.441	Burkina Faso	-3.069

**Table 5. Asia: Five Lowest and Highest Effort Scores; 1990, 1995, 2000**

	1990		1995		2000
<b>TOP 5</b>					
Sri Lanka	1.868	Kyrgyz Republic	2.451	Mongolia	3.289
Mongolia	1.625	Tajikistan	1.774	Kyrgyz Republic	1.587
Cyprus	1.370	Mongolia	1.480	Cyprus	1.555
Turkey	1.264	Israel	0.915	United Arab Emirates	0.870
Vietnam	1.161	Taiwan	0.850	Philippines	0.767
<b>BOTTOM 5</b>					
Iraq	-1.190	Kuwait	-1.492	Iran	-2.059
Egypt	-1.202	Egypt	-1.513	Yemen	-2.296
Saudi Arabia	-1.679	Iran	-1.733	Pakistan	-2.416
Afghanistan	-2.060	Saudi Arabia	-1.828	Iraq	-2.528
India	-2.534	Pakistan	-2.399	Afghanistan	-2.982

**Table 6. Europe: Five Lowest and Highest Effort Scores; 1990, 1995, 2000**

	<b>1990</b>		<b>1995</b>		<b>2000</b>
<b>TOP 5</b>					
Iceland	2.361	Iceland	3.257	Iceland	2.370
Luxembourg	2.355	Luxembourg	2.808	Moldova	2.255
Greece	1.920	Ireland	2.796	Finland	2.158
Portugal	1.754	Hungary	2.763	Estonia	2.151
Hungary	1.669	Finland	2.307	Slovenia	2.142
<b>BOTTOM 5</b>					
Italy	0.060	Italy	-0.199	Belgium	-0.042
Bulgaria	0.015	Switzerland	-0.356	United Kingdom	-0.070
United Kingdom	-0.093	Spain	-0.528	Romania	-0.086
Belgium	-0.100	Russia	-0.594	Bulgaria	-0.652
France	-0.109	United Kingdom	-1.079	Russia	-1.589



**Table 7. Latin America and the Caribbean: Five Lowest and Highest Effort Scores; 1990, 1995, 2000**

	<b>1990</b>		<b>1995</b>		<b>2000</b>
<b>TOP 5</b>					
Belize	2.178	Belize	1.994	Panama	1.966
Trinidad and Tobago	1.802	Jamaica	1.827	Jamaica	1.893
Jamaica	1.792	Honduras	1.697	Trinidad and Tobago	1.618
Dominican Republic	1.466	Trinidad and Tobago	1.267	Costa Rica	1.291
Guyana	1.464	Costa Rica	1.137	Belize	0.932
<b>BOTTOM 5</b>					
Peru	-0.409	Peru	-0.939	Argentina	-0.492
Brazil	-0.483	Mexico	-0.999	Chile	-0.658
Mexico	-0.507	Haiti	-1.059	Colombia	-0.701
Guatemala	-0.535	Brazil	-1.187	Mexico	-1.049
Colombia	-0.726	Guyana	-1.525	Brazil	-1.294

**Table 9. Beta Coefficients from a Regression Model Examining Some Possible Associates of Government Effort to Respect Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in 2000**

	<b>2000</b>
ICESCR Status	-.032 (0.72)
Years under SAP	<b>-.200</b> (0.03)
Military Spending	-.128 (0.29)
Respect for Physical Integrity Rights	<b>.263</b> (0.01)
Respect for Empowerment Rights	<b>.255</b> (0.02)
Population Size	<b>-.128</b> (0.10)
Contract Intensive Money	-.143 (0.13)
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Public Health Expenditures	.034 (.80)
Private Health Expenditures	<b>-.198</b> (0.02)
General Government Final Consumption Expenditure	.026 (0.85)
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(N)	122
Prob > F	0.00

## 2. Human development , human rights, and human dignity.

Human development is a subset of human rights, not vice versa.

All “human development” goals (eg, democracy, health, longevity, education) are economic human rights, found in international human rights treaties.

Thus, human development and human rights are not complementary, they are singular.

At the end of the day, both labels are ultimately unsatisfying, as human *dignity* is the goal of activity related to both the development and rights frameworks.

A problem some have with saying development goals are human rights is the question of who would be the duty-bearer. The duty bearer is -- both inconveniently but well-known – all of us. Were we not all the duty bearer of these rights, there would be no such thing as international development.

*The End*

