REFRAMING PROGRESS: THE SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX
Michael Green, SEWF 2015, Milan, 1 July 2015
Simon Kuznets
LETTER
FROM
THE ACTING SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
TRANSMITTING
IN RESPONSE TO SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 270
(72D CONG.) A REPORT ON NATIONAL
INCOME, 1929-32

JANUARY 4, 1934.—Referred to the Committee on Finance

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON: 1934
The welfare of a nation can, therefore, scarcely be inferred from a measurement of national income as defined above.
SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX
SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX FRAMEWORK

Social Progress Index

Basic Human Needs
- Nutrition and Basic Medical Care
- Water and Sanitation
- Shelter
- Personal Safety
SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX FRAMEWORK

**Basic Human Needs**
- Nutrition and Basic Medical Care
- Water and Sanitation
- Shelter
- Personal Safety

**Foundations of Wellbeing**
- Access to Basic Knowledge
- Access to Information and Communications
- Health and Wellness
- Ecosystem Sustainability
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Opportunity
- Personal Rights
- Personal Freedom and Choice
- Tolerance and Inclusion
- Access to Advanced Education
# Social Progress Index Framework Indicators 2015

## Social Progress Index

### Basic Human Needs

**Nutrition and Basic Medical Care**
- Undernourishment
- Depth of food deficit
- Maternal mortality rate
- Child mortality rate
- Deaths from infectious diseases

**Water and Sanitation**
- Access to piped water
- Rural access to improved water source
- Access to improved sanitation facilities

**Shelter**
- Availability of affordable housing
- Access to electricity
- Quality of electricity supply
- Indoor air pollution attributable deaths

**Personal Safety**
- Homicide rate
- Level of violent crime
- Perceived criminality
- Political terror
- Traffic deaths

## Foundations of Wellbeing

**Access to Basic Knowledge**
- Adult literacy rate
- Primary school enrollment
- Lower secondary school enrollment
- Upper secondary school enrollment
- Gender parity in secondary enrollment

**Access to Information and Communications**
- Mobile telephone subscriptions
- Internet users
- Press Freedom Index

**Health and Wellness**
- Life expectancy
- Premature deaths from non-communicable diseases
- Obesity rate
- Outdoor air pollution attributable deaths
- Suicide rate

**Ecosystem Sustainability**
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Water withdrawals as a percent of resources
- Biodiversity and habitat

## Opportunity

**Personal Rights**
- Political rights
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of assembly/association
- Freedom of movement
- Private property rights

**Personal Freedom and Choice**
- Freedom over life choices
- Freedom of religion
- Early marriage
- Satisfied demand for contraception
- Corruption

**Tolerance and Inclusion**
- Tolerance for immigrants
- Tolerance for homosexuals
- Discrimination and violence against minorities
- Religious tolerance
- Community safety net

**Access to Advanced Education**
- Years of tertiary schooling
- Women’s average years in school
- Inequality in the attainment of education
- Globally ranked universities
SOCIAL PROGRESS VS. GDP PER CAPITA

Correlation = 0.78
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COUNTRIES CAN EXPERIENCE SIMILAR LEVELS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GDP PER CAPITA: NORWAY
COUNTRIES CAN EXPERIENCE SIMILAR LEVELS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GDP PER CAPITA: NORWAY VS. NEW ZEALAND

Correlation = 0.78
COUNTRIES CAN EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS AT SIMILAR LEVELS OF GDP PER CAPITA: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
COUNTRIES CAN EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS AT SIMILAR LEVELS OF GDP PER CAPITA: CAR VS. MALAWI

Correlation = 0.78
COUNTRIES CAN EXPERIENCE SIMILAR LEVELS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GDP PER CAPITA: COSTA RICA
COUNTRIES CAN EXPERIENCE SIMILAR LEVELS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GDP PER CAPITA: COSTA RICA VS. ITALY
THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF SOCIAL PROGRESS GLOBALLY IS 61.00/100
THE WORLD IS DOING BEST IN AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN THE FOCUS OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
BUT NOT ALL MDGS ARE DOING SO WELL
THE WORLD STRUGGLES MOST WITH PERSONAL RIGHTS AND TOLERANCE AND INCLUSION
THOUGH NOT THE WORST AREA OF PERFORMANCE, ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY MUST BE A MAJOR CONCERN
HEALTH AND WELLNESS IS ALSO AT RISK