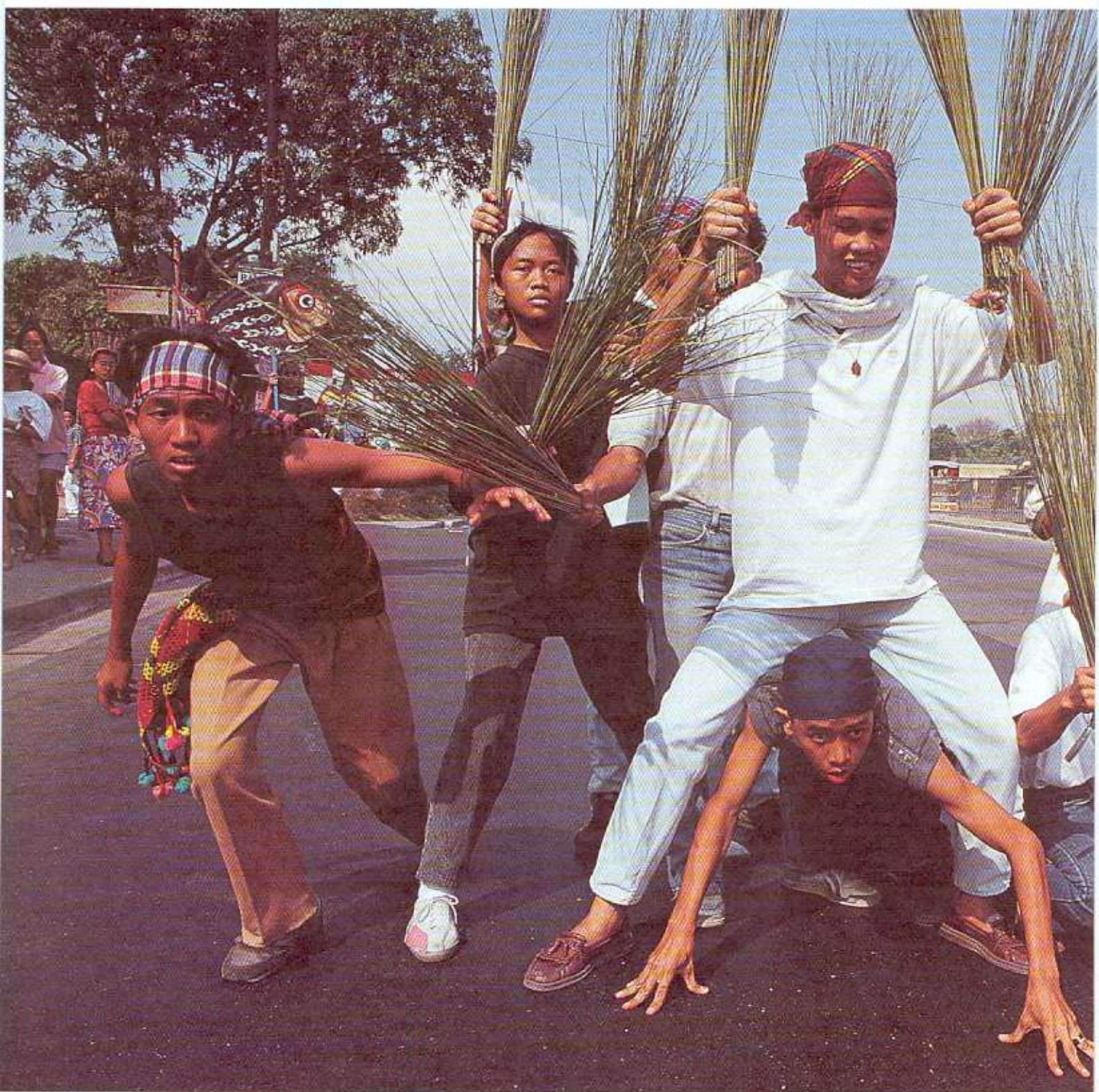


# *Human*

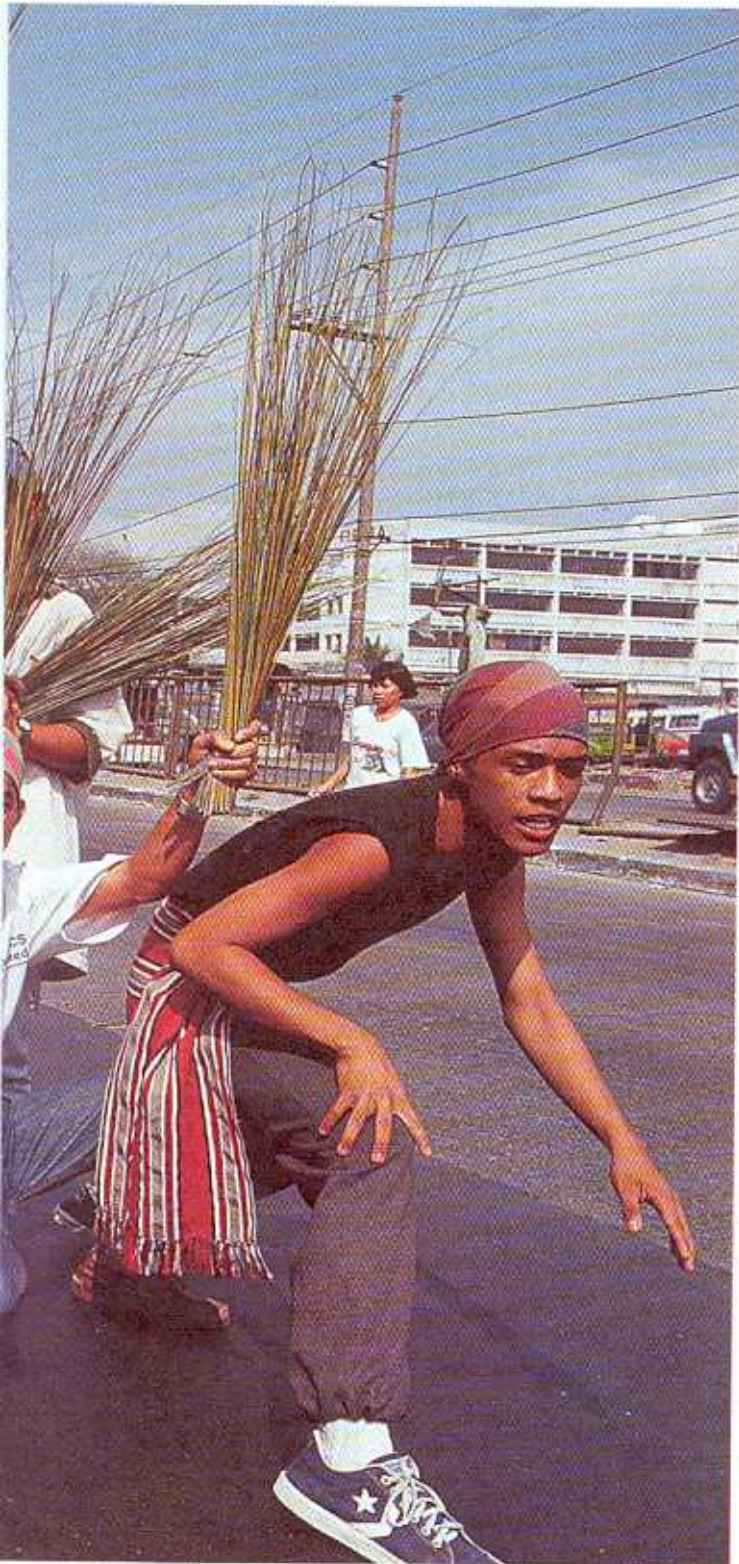


***The 1980s saw the springing up all over the world of small groups of grassroots activists. Children celebrate Earth Day in the Philippines capital Manila with a street show.***



# Development ~ a balance sheet

- *The momentum of change*
- *Social reconstruction*
- *Dangers and risks*
- *The human dimension*



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**T**he 1980s were, in many ways, a decade of the people. All over the world, people were seized with an impatient urge to guide their political, economic and social destinies. The democratic transition in developing countries, the collapse of socialist regimes and the worldwide emergence of people's organizations – all were signs of a new bursting of the human spirit.

At first sight, this may appear too sanguine an interpretation. This was, after all, a decade that shattered many lives and many hopes – with mounting external debt, faltering economic growth, increasing unemployment, growing civil strife, rising ethnic tensions, threats to the environment and the persistence of abject poverty.

But amid these disturbing and painful trends is an unmistakable resurgence of human creativity. There are times in history when the human voice has spoken out with surprising force. These past few years have marked just such a watershed.

Now that the Cold War is over, the challenge is to rebuild societies around people's genuine needs. There is no good reason why the essential goals of human endeavour should not be achieved by the turn of the century. We have both the knowledge and the resources. But it does mean a different perspective, both domestically and internationally. It means cutting back on the military. It means winding down inefficient public enterprises and ensuring that government subsidies are actually aimed at the very poorest. It means emphasizing personal priorities and appropriate spending patterns. It means sound and judicious governance, involving people in decisions



which affect them and winning their acquiescence by demonstrating competence and fairness. Improved incomes are also important. There can be no sustained momentum over the years without a rise in income.

The world has already made a positive start. For the first time since the Second World War, global military expenditures are beginning to decline: between 1987 and 1990, they fell altogether by some \$240 billion. Most of this reduction has been by the United States and the former Soviet Union. But the developing countries also cut expenditure, despite the fact that for many poor countries the ratio of military spending to social spending remains far too high.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, more than two million men and women have been demobilized, two-thirds of them in industrial countries and one-third in developing countries. Further demobilizations on a similar scale are expected in the next few years.

This represents considerable progress, but the nuclear threat is far from gone, and conventional weapons continue to take many lives. So greater emphasis must be placed not just on peace-keeping but on peacemaking and peacebuilding, demanding a new role for the UN.

As military threats have lessened, other dangers have surfaced. The world is entering a dangerous period: future conflicts may well be between groups of people rather than states.

All these changes highlight the urgent need to focus on human development, the concept defined in

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*Over the last three decades, developing countries have made safe water available to 68 per cent of their people. A refugee drinks from a water tap in Lumasi camp in Tanzania.*

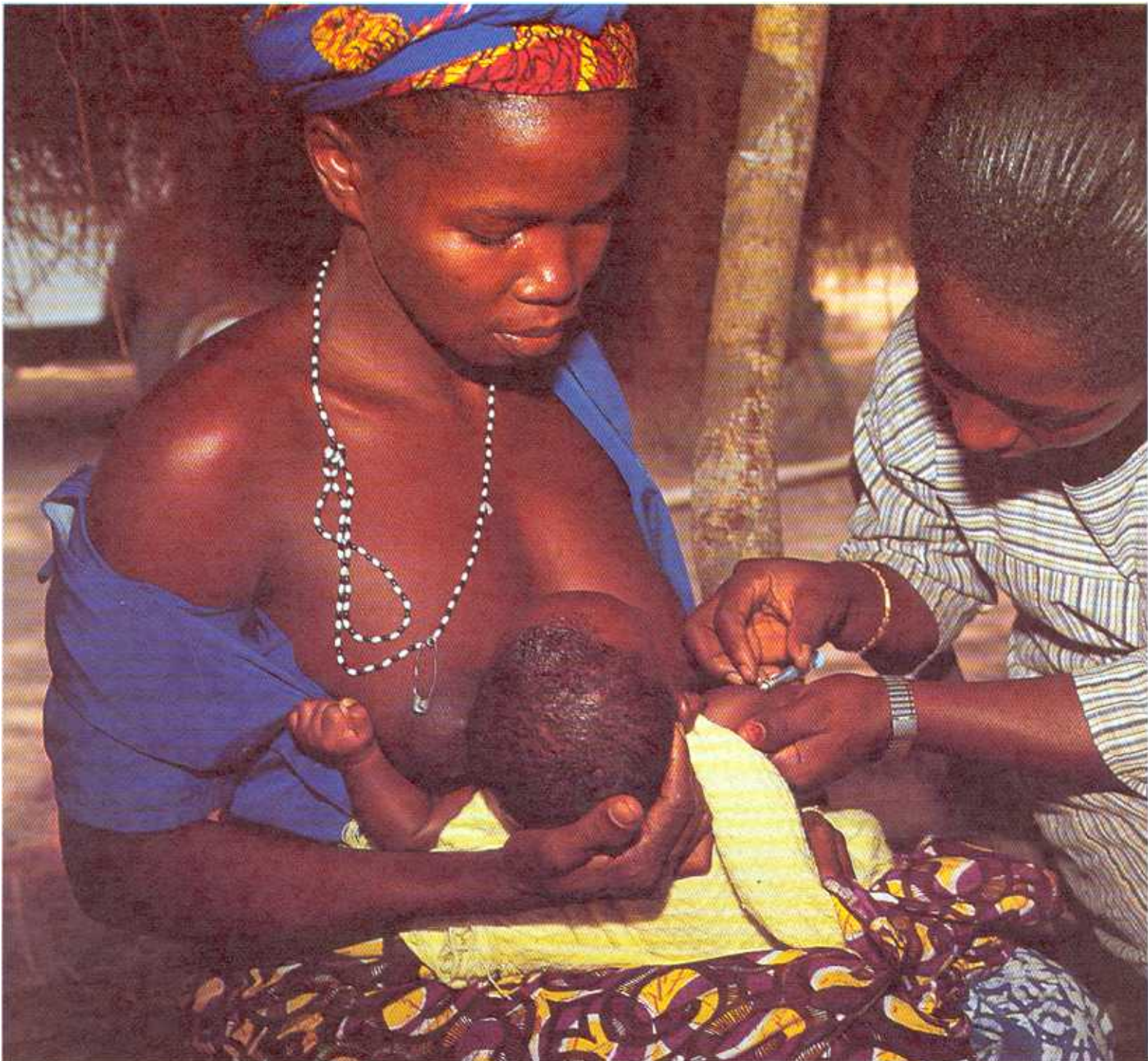
the UN's first *Human Development Report* published by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990 as a process of widening the range of people's choices.



## *The balance sheet on human development*

There have now been six editions of the annual *Human Development Report*. Together they enable us to draw a fairly accurate portrait of the progress of human society. Contrary to the often tormented images of emaciated children, economies over-

whelmed by a tide of debt and mismanagement, and even the weather as a hostile force whose spite seems to worsen over time, the truth for most countries and most people is that life in the last 50 years has become more liveable and probably also more fulfilling.



**A baby is immunized at a mobile health clinic in Sierra Leone.**

*Despite a growing number of health clinics, each year 40 million newborn children are not properly immunized.*



This balance sheet on human development begins optimistically, recording the remarkable steps taken by humanity in improving its condition in an historically very short span of time. But there is an immense job yet undone, and there are many complexities, economic, political and social, that have to be overcome to realize the planet's true potential. Only our world's selfish and often archaic institutions, habits and lifestyles keep the billions of people still struggling for a decent living from being able to live in security and comfort.

The essentials of progress over the last three decades are simply put.

**On average:**

- Life expectancy has increased from 46 years to 63.
- The mortality rate of children under five has been halved.
- Two-thirds of all one-year-olds are now immunized against major childhood diseases.
- Developing countries have made primary health care accessible to 72 per cent of their people and safe water available to 68 per cent, and per capita calorie supply as a percentage of requirements has increased from 90 per cent to 107 per cent.
- Adult literacy has risen from 46 per cent to 65 per cent,

the number of children in primary school has increased sixfold and at secondary school eighteenfold.

- Although the South's average per capita income is only six per cent of the North's, its social progress has been so effective that its average life expectancy is now a remarkable 80 per cent of that of the rich industrialized world, and its average literacy rate a significant 66 per cent.

It is quite astonishing that this progress has been made despite inadequate resources, an often inhospitable international economic climate and, in many countries, not always the wisest or most responsive of governments. If this kind of momentum can be achieved in less than perfect conditions then it is not hard to imagine the further steps that can be made in a more democratic, socially aware and responsibly managed world.

*“progress has been made”*

**The unmet needs are vast:**

- 800 million people go to bed hungry every day.
- Nearly 900 million adults still cannot read or write.
- 1.5 billion people have no access to primary health care.
- 1.75 billion people are without safe water.
- 100 million people are completely homeless.
- A billion people eke out the barest existence in perpetual poverty.
- 40 million newborn children are not properly immunized. Fourteen million die every year before they reach the age of five and 150 million are malnourished. Twelve times as many women in the South die in pregnancy or childbirth as in the North.



© Jeremy Hartley/Panos

There are also enormous differentials, even within those countries which are apparently 'making it'. In urban areas, in developing countries as a whole, there is double the access to safe water than there is in rural areas. Female literacy rates are only two-thirds those of men. And the better-off people often appropriate a major share of social subsidies.

Of all the disparities in human development, surely the most marked division is the North-South one, and there are also very significant differences among regions in the South.

### The North

The industrialized countries provide for most of their inhabitants a relatively easy life. Almost everyone has access to clean water, sanitation, clothes and primary health care. Almost everyone can eat to their satisfaction.

Nevertheless, there are a number of industrialized countries where poverty is still very much in evidence despite the overall abundance in society at large.

All over the industrialized countries unemployment in the last decade has worsened, seemingly becoming an intractable problem. It is substantially above the post-war norm, becoming increasingly chronic and long-term. Few countries put a large amount of resources into retraining the unemployed, despite the fact that in most societies there are a significant number of unfilled vacancies. Paradoxically, there are a number of cases where unemployment and unfilled vacancies have risen at the same time.

Even within the most prosperous of the industrialized countries there are often grave inequalities between men and women. In education, this is particularly apparent at college level and is very marked in scientific and technical subjects.

Educational disparities are replicated in the workplace. On average, roughly half as many women work in the labour force as men. Those women who do get jobs are significantly worse paid and are at much greater risk of unemployment. In all societies men play the dominant role in decision-making, whether it be in business or government. Even in those countries where women do enter parliament in large numbers – Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia – women are no more than one-third of legislators.

All the advanced industrial societies are finding

that, under the pressure of increased wealth, greater leisure time, more rapid communications and, for a significant minority, growing unemployment, their lifestyles are changing so fast as to precipitate a sea-change in cultural norms. The traditional post-industrial revolution Western nuclear family is under quite serious threat. Single parents now head an increasing number of homes. Many divorces are the consequence of the contemporary sense

of individual freedom. But this freedom has a high price – individual trauma, the disruption of children's lives and family impoverishment. Crime and misbehaviour are rising as the signs of personal distress appear more manifest.

### The South

Each of the Third World's continents has its own story. Asia, with 70 per cent of the world's population, has seen phenomenal progress economically, socially and politically over the last three decades. Life expectancy has increased from 46 to 64 years and the number of children in school has increased from 57 per cent to 71 per cent. Nevertheless, the differences between regions are so large that we can see the picture more clearly if we look at Southeast Asia and East Asia first and South Asia second.

*grave  
inequalities  
between  
men and  
women*



Some countries in **East and Southeast Asia**, in particular, China, Singapore and Hong Kong, have achieved fairly rapid reductions in infant mortality – of around five per cent a year. Around 85 per cent of the region's children are immunized – a higher proportion than the average for the industrialized countries.

In several countries people can now expect to live beyond 70. At the same time contraceptive practice is commonplace – 66 per cent of all couples use it, compared with 70 per cent in the industrialized countries. Not surprisingly, population growth is much lower than the average for developing countries.

One important reason for this general state of improving well-being is the decision made years ago to redistribute land more equitably and to emphasize employment-intensive economic growth.

Now many of those countries, like the industrialized countries which they are close to emulating, are building future growth on the foundations of high levels of health and education and advanced, diversified production structures. South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong are the three countries most advanced in this way. But Thailand and Malaysia are not far behind.

**South Asia**, while not exhibiting such spectacular success, has also made measurable progress over the past 30 years. Bangladesh has raised its average life expectancy from 40 to 53 years but, nevertheless, this is still 10 years lower than the average for developing countries. But immunization coverage of one-year-old children has shot up from one per cent to 60 per cent. In Sri Lanka it is now 89 per cent.

Economic growth over the last two decades has averaged only three per cent and high population growth has eaten into that. Gross National Product (GNP) per capita remains low, particularly in Nepal (\$180) and Bangladesh (\$170).

Inequality is severe throughout the region, between rich and poor, male and female, and different ethnic groups and religions. In the rural Punjab, landless families have an infant mortality rate 36 per cent higher than those of landowning families.

The greatest number of poor are concentrated in only two countries, Bangladesh and India. Only two-thirds of the people have access to basic health services and clean water; female life expectancy in particular is low.

**Latin America and the Caribbean** have been the site of impressive achievements in human development, despite the rather dramatic slow-down in the improvement in well-being during the difficult 1980s. Between 1960 and 1980 the under-five mortality rate dropped from 157 to 72 per 1,000 live births. Average life expectancy is now only seven years short of that in the industrialized countries. In Barbados, Costa Rica and Cuba people actually live longer than they do in the industrialized countries.

This region has the highest education levels of the developing world. Some countries, Argentina, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Uruguay, Trinidad and Tobago, have literacy rates of over 95 per cent. With 40 scientists and technicians per 1,000 people, the region is well above the developing world average of 10.

The economic collapse of the 1980s resulted in an immense setback. In some countries child malnutrition and infant mortality started to rise again.

Moreover, in good times and in bad, the fruits of life in a number of countries are shared badly. The top one-fifth of the population in Brazil earns 26 times more than the bottom fifth. In Peru the bottom 40 per cent receive only 13 per cent of the national income. (In Morocco it is 21 per cent, in India 20 per cent and Indonesia 23 per cent.)







*Two-thirds of the world's population live in rural areas, earning 25-50 per cent less than town dwellers.  
A farmer builds a stone wall in Burkina Faso.*

© Jeremy Hartley/Panos



Some countries, too, still have a long way to go, even to match the regional average. Only just over half Nicaragua's population has access to safe water, and in Bolivia, Haiti, El Salvador and Paraguay it is much less than half. Likewise, Bolivia, Paraguay and El Salvador have very low rates of school enrolment.

Latin America is one of the most urbanized parts of the developing world. Two-thirds of the population now live and work in the cities. Women are playing an increasing role in society – the proportion of women in the work-force has been growing steadily. A higher proportion of women than men have migrated from rural areas to towns and cities. Moreover, some 40 per cent of those new urban households are headed by women. Women, too, are increasingly educated. More girls than boys are in secondary schools, and female literacy is only five per cent less than that of men.

The revolution in oil prices has given many of the states of the **Middle East and North Africa**

some of the developing world's fastest increases in income. At the same time there has been a remarkable improvement in human development. Life expectancy has jumped from 47 to 62 years, mortality rates for children under five have been reduced by almost two-thirds, access to health services is the highest in the developing world and access to safe water second only to Latin America. Nevertheless, there still remain 60 million adults who are illiterate and there are 40 million people living below the poverty line.

The potential of women remains largely unrecognized. Male-female disparities are the widest in the world. Female literacy is a mere 39 per cent, and only 15 per cent of the official labour force are women.

The countries that have oil have shot far ahead of those without. GNP per capita varies from \$480 in Sudan to \$15,770 in the United Arab Emirates. Even those oil-rich countries that now have reasonably good human development have index rankings that lag far behind other countries with a similar GNP.

Political instability and disproportionately high military expenditures threaten the region's future and could well thwart the chance of upgrading health and education in line with the region's wealth.

*for most of the  
1980s economic  
growth was less  
than population  
growth*

Inequities in the region have led to large numbers of migrant workers, both skilled and unskilled, leaving the poorer Arab countries for the richer. While their remittances are an important source of hard currency for their home country, the migrants drain their homeland of much-needed skills and vitality.

For all its setbacks **Sub-Saharan Africa** has taken important strides forward in its human development. Since 1960 infant mortality rates have fallen by 37 per cent and life expectancy has increased from 40 to 52 years. Adult literacy has increased by two-thirds.

For most of the 1980s economic growth was less than population growth, although there are now signs that the trend is reversing.





**Women are increasingly joining the ranks of the world's paid workforce.**  
*A woman welding in Niger.*





More than half the population has no access to public health services; two-thirds lack safe water; 18 million people suffer from sleeping sickness; malaria kills hundreds of thousands of children every year; AIDS is spreading fast, devastating many families, and in the poorest countries a quarter or more of the children die before the age of five.

The economic catastrophe of the 1980s, the result of bad economic management, debt, drought and war, has pushed unemployment up to the 100 million mark, four times what it was a decade ago. Real wages have fallen by almost a third.

Women, disproportionately, bear the brunt of work in the fields, and girls are much less well educated than boys. So rare are the opportunities at home that many migrate, often hopelessly, to look for work in the overcrowded cities.

War, ethnic unrest, border conflicts and the attempt to end racial domination have created large numbers of refugees (six million) and disabled (50 million). Altogether, including those made homeless by natural disasters and difficult socio-economic conditions, there are 35 million displaced people.

*“refugees  
are fleeing  
war, ethnic  
unrest and  
border  
conflict”*

© Ron Gilling/Panos



## Comparisons and contrasts

If we look at these criteria of progress in more detail the course of this argument becomes even more clear.

Overall life expectancy goes hand-in-hand with a country's income level. But there are enough exceptions to prove that if a country is intent on putting life before riches it can achieve a significant improvement even in modest circumstances.

Improvements in literacy rates have transformed the ability to read and write within a generation. This has given people access to knowledge not only for improving their own lives but also for shaping a more informed and shrewd opinion about the world outside.

Overall, the percentage of people living in absolute poverty has fallen, although not at a fast enough rate to diminish the total number of poor. But in Africa the percentage of poor has actually increased and now amounts to about half the total population.

Food, health, water, sanitation and education are the basic elements of human survival and fulfilment. Without these at a minimally satisfactory level, humankind does not fully progress. In most parts of the Third World there have been significant advances in the availability of all of these. Only in Africa has progress slipped back on a wide front.

Food production has made a quite noticeable advance. The daily supply of calories in the developing world increased from 90 per cent of total requirements in 1965 to 107 per cent in 1985. The dark lining in the silver cloud is that the countries that most needed to improve have increased food availability least. In the poorest countries the supply of calories increased from only 88 per cent to 90 per cent of total requirements. At least 16 African countries saw an actual decline.

During the 1980s a number of developing countries came close to providing primary health care for all – South Korea, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Tunisia and Jordan in particular. But most developing countries fall far short of this target.

Progress in improving water and sanitation has been much slower than in health. Yet for many countries a dollar spent on clean water and good sewers would produce a greater improvement in the quality of life than a dollar spent on doctors or hospitals.

Just as it seemed that modern science could short-cut many of the hazards of underdevelopment, an apparently new disease has torn many poor countries asunder, both in lives lost and broken and, cumulatively, in the loss of some of society's most educated and active members.

The HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) epidemic has infected around eight to 10 million adults and half of them are likely to develop AIDS sometime in the next decade. It is estimated that a further 15 million new cases of HIV infection will be added in the 1990s – more than half in the developing world, with a high proportion in eastern and central Africa and the likelihood of a rapid increase in infected people in India and Thailand. Apart from the loss of usually young life, the financial implications in terms of medical costs are staggering.

Educational improvement, by comparison, is a success story. By the end of the 1980s an impressive 80 per cent of all children of primary school age were enrolled. Several countries in the developing world were close to the goal of universal primary education. Even in Africa progress has been rapid: half the children now attend both primary and secondary school.

All this progress bodes well for the future economic opportunities of the South. With four times as many students in primary school and twice as many in secondary school as in the North, it is developing a competitive edge.

All these advances together strongly suggest that for most of the world's people life is steadily becoming more liveable. Unfortunately, population growth eats away at many improvements and means that a growing number of people, albeit a smaller percentage of the whole, continues to suffer from severe deprivation. Since 1960 the population of the



developing world has doubled. In Africa, in particular, this phenomenal rate of increase shows little sign of abating. Elsewhere, however, the rate of growth is falling. For too many countries, the economic slowdown of the 1980s and the still high population growth meant they were caught in a sharp pincer movement.

The question for the developing countries, ever more pressing given the difficult economic environment they confront, is how to maximize the use of the resources they have. Above all, how to find productive employment for their ever-growing, albeit better educated, workforce. It is not just population growth that has pushed up the size of the labour force; it is partly the sharp increase in women seeking paid work, and also poorer families trying to increase the number of income earners in the family.

## *Lop-sided development*

This review of the progress of the developing world, good as it is in terms of accomplishments for many countries, would have presented a more positive picture if so many countries did not succumb to such severe inequalities – between urban and rural areas, between men and women, and between rich and poor – both in income levels and in their access to public services.

For a start, two-thirds of the people live in rural areas. But in many countries they receive less than a quarter of the resources spent on education, health and sanitation, and they earn 25 per cent to 50 per cent less than those who live in the towns and cities. Political and economic power, particularly in the early stages of development, is concentrated in urban



*By the end of the 1980s, 80 per cent of the world's children were enrolled in primary school. A young girl learns to write in Dhaka, Bangladesh.*

© Liba Taylor/Panos



areas. The consequence is a very lop-sided, often self-destructive, kind of development.

Male-female differentials are another source of severe inequality in many countries. During the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s women did share in the progress taking place in many developing societies, but in a number of important respects life did not improve for them as fast as it did for men.

Women, disproportionately, carry the burden of work. Throughout the Third World women are not, as widely perceived, merely mothers and housewives but are often a crucial contributor to the family's food supply. In Africa, in many cases, women are expected to produce or purchase nearly all the food eaten at home. Women typically work about 25 per cent more hours than men.



In many developing countries more girls than boys die young, the reverse of the situation in the industrialized countries. Girls get less to eat, receive less medical care and when pregnant do not receive the care and attention sufficient to minimize the maternal mortality rate. No other North-South gap is wider than the maternal mortality rate. In the industrialized countries it is often less than 10 per 100,000 live births. In some developing countries it is as high as 1,000.

Educational opportunities for women still lag behind those of men. In the developing world the female literacy rate is three-quarters that of males; in many countries the gap is more than that. However, slowly, the gap is beginning to narrow.

The social dividend of investing in women's education is immense. In Bangladesh child mortality is five times higher for children of mothers with no education than for those whose mothers have seven or more years of schooling. Better educated women also have much smaller families.

The income gap that most tears at the fabric of society is the one between rich and poor. Many developing countries have far more uneven income distribution than the United States, the most unequal of the industrialized countries.

Government social expenditure on public services, if carefully managed – as it was in Sri Lanka during the 1960s and 1970s – can do much to reduce such severe disparities. But there are many cases where free or subsidized services do not reach many of the poor. Such services are concentrated in the urban areas and information about them is more accessible to the better-educated who then manage to pre-empt the benefits.

Moreover, it is often overlooked that even free services have a cost. To get to a school or a clinic takes both time and, if it is a bus ride away, money. The very poor have neither.

Too often, in any event, government expenditures are not even targeted to reach the poor. In the Philippines in the early 1980s, annual subsidies to private hospitals catering to upper-income families exceeded the total resources appropriated to primary health care and mass health programmes, including malaria and schistosomiasis eradication.

If one combines this review of urban-rural, male-female and rich-poor disparities, it is obvious that those most severely affected by inequality are poor, rural women. There are around one billion of them and their numbers are growing. Many are illiterate. Their incomes have not increased and in many countries have fallen. They receive no medical attention in child-bearing and their children are deprived of health care.

All this reminds us of the tremendous task still before us, despite the giant steps the world has taken over the past 30 years.







## *Debt burdens and retrenchment*

The opportunities realized during the 1960s and 1970s began to disappear in the 1980s, particularly in Africa and Latin America, rather less so in Asia. A growing mountain of debt compelled a large number of developing countries to take their foot off the economic and social accelerator. Indeed, for a number of them it meant going into reverse. In the 1990s, fortunately, recovery is under way.

The total external debt of developing countries multiplied thirteenfold over the past two decades, from \$100 billion in 1970 to \$1,350 billion in 1990. The debt is now so huge and new lending so small that the net flow is actually reversed – towards the richer countries. Between 1983 and 1989 rich-country creditors received a staggering \$242 billion in net transfers.

The debt is highly concentrated. Over half is held by just 20 countries, with Brazil, Mexico and Argentina holding the most. Overall, the two continents that have suffered truly massive economic setbacks because of their debt burden are Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. The debt of Sub-Saharan Africa is 100 per cent of its GNP. In Latin America it is 50 per cent. Even today, after a decade of retrenchment and adjustment, only some of these countries are back to where they were 10 years ago.

It comes as no surprise to learn that between 1960 and 1989 the countries with the richest 20 per cent of the world population increased their share of global GNP from 70.2 per cent to 82.7 per cent, and the countries with the poorest 20 per cent of the world population saw their share fall from 2.3 per cent to 1.4 per cent. The absolute difference in per capita income between the top and the bottom increased from \$1,864 to \$15,149.

Wage earners have borne the brunt of the crisis. In Africa and Latin America wage cuts of a third to a half were not exceptional. In Latin America unemployment grew by six per cent a year and in Africa

by 10 per cent. Rapid food price rises added to the squeeze. The removal of food subsidies, together with devaluation and decontrol, meant that food prices rose faster than other prices.

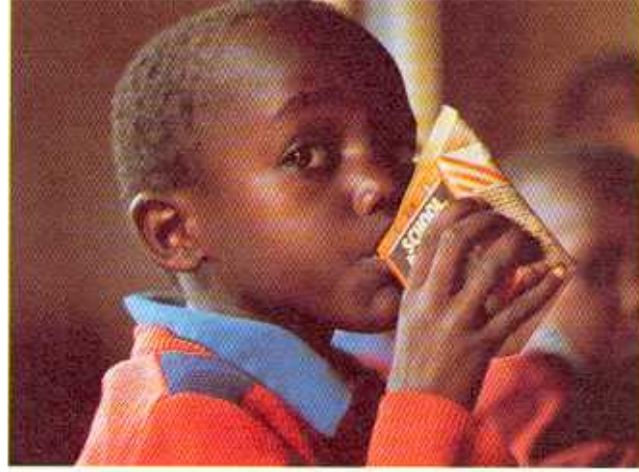
Governments felt forced to cut back on social services. Some, which started well by redirecting resources towards priority areas, were finally overwhelmed by the scale of the retrenchment they had to make. It was absolutely impossible to maintain social spending at the accustomed level.

*wage  
earners  
have  
borne the  
brunt of  
the crisis*”

Even in a number of rich countries poverty has become more manifest. In the United States there has been a sharp rise in the number of homeless, and in London people are sleeping on the streets or in the parks in cardboard tents.



# Tetra Laval: A Vision of Food Supply



A dedication to making more food available to more people.

**IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE** to take this opportunity to express Tetra Laval's support and alignment with the principles, objectives and activities of the UN. The most significant field of endeavour we have in common with the UN is food availability, our core business.

Food availability is also one of the world's most critical issues. Today, there are already over one billion hungry and undernourished people in the world. Tomorrow, there will unfortunately be many more. The UN Population Division has estimated that, between 1990 and 2025, the world's population will have grown from five billion to over eight billion people, increasing mostly in the Third World.

For greater global sustainability, the world needs to enhance the capacity of countries to participate in the global economy. This requires also that global poverty, hunger and over-population be addressed.

Another part of the solution lies in more food production, processing and packaging development in the future.

Companies within Tetra Laval are dedicated to making more food available to more people. For instance, when Tetra Pak, the largest of the four industrial groups within Tetra Laval, launched its first aseptic packaging system in 1961, fresh milk was able to reach people in remote countries for the first time. Last year, Tetra Pak provided packaging for over 40 billion litres of liquid food, including everything from milk, juice and water to soups and maple syrup. Because they are lightweight, compact, and do not require refrigeration, Tetra Pak packages have been used by the Red Cross and other similar organizations in disaster relief programmes.

Alfa Laval, Tetra Laval's second largest industry group, among many other things, has manufactured and installed numerous advanced purification systems to make drinking water safe and available to municipalities in countries all over the world. Alfa Laval products and systems perform key

functions in the manufacture of food, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and energy. The company is also known for its environmental engineering products, such as waste water treatment equipment.

Alfa Laval Agri has been a provider of equipment and supplies to the world's dairy farms. Over the years, this organization has contributed significantly to raising the quality of milk in many parts of the world. This industry group's most recent development is an exciting new concept called 'farm dairies' – dairy farms, usually smaller ones, with a modest complement of processing and packaging equipment added and used to supply milk directly to nearby local markets.

Tetra Laval Food rounds off the industry group foursome and does everything that Tetra Pak does – processing, packaging, and distribution – but does it for solid and viscous foods instead of liquid foods.

Food availability is clearly the most prominent 'common thread' between the UN and Tetra Laval. Food supply is a common thread between families, nations and sustainable development. It links the present with the future. On a global scale, considering the current alarming levels of hunger in an exploding world population, food supply today and food supply tomorrow will continue to be one of humanity's most critical and pressing issues.

It is an issue to which our eyes must turn toward more and more, on which our hands must work harder and harder to solve, if we are to realize our 'vision of hope' for the future.

**Göran Grosskoft**  
Chairman, Tetra Laval Group

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## *Costs and consequences*

Economic growth has now resumed in most parts of the world, even in parts of Africa, and foreign exchange and debt problems are being improved. Nevertheless, the world has lately become more conscious of many of the costs of economic change and development. There is more crime than ever before, more drug and alcohol abuse, more deaths on the road and more pollution. There is also the breakdown of the extended family and, in the industrialized countries, even of the nuclear family. Modern warfare, ever more destructive as its technological capabilities increase, has created large numbers of refugees.

nuclear family could be even more devastating. The incidence of divorce is already very high in the industrialized countries and is rising. The number of single-parent families has risen precipitously in the South. Poor women in both North and South are most hurt. They are forced onto their own resources, having to work and care for children without much support. Yet they are often less qualified than men and have to take lower-paid jobs. We are witnessing the rapid feminization of poverty.

Human development, we can see from UNDP's detailed analysis, does not necessarily mean uniform

*“economic progress is not an uninterrupted push forward”*


The toll taken from the environment by unhindered economic growth has become more apparent by the year. Pollution is accelerating the extinction of species, spreading cancer, respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases, undermining public health in general, and perhaps foreclosing many opportunities for humankind in the future.

It is ironic that environmental degradation is usually caused by affluence in the North and by poverty in the South. But it would be quite unfair if global limits were imposed on the South's development in a manner that limited its potential. The world will have to find a way to share the same environmental space in an equitable manner.

Perhaps most uncertain, some would say ominous, for the future is the impact of development on family life. The extended family rarely survives modern day economic progress. The break-up of the

human progress. The infant mortality rate may fall but human confidence and security may diminish as other changes alter the bonds and bindings of traditional life. Economic progress itself is not a straightforward matter nor an uninterrupted push forward. Its uncertainties, upheavals and setbacks can create more misery than its momentum creates happiness. And the wide discrepancies between North and South and between regions within the South are also sources of potential tension.

If our goal is the betterment of human life we are compelled to work at many levels. Economic growth certainly, but at the same time ensuring a fair and reasonable distribution of its fruits. We also have to watch carefully and attentively for its harmful side-effects and pitfalls. Only if this is done can we be sure that humanity as a whole advances and development is not just for the benefit of a privileged minority.

 This article presents a summary of the main findings of the Human Development Reports, 1990-94.