

Key messages

The report offers four main findings:

1 A significant share of the world population still lives in **difficult** and in some cases **deteriorating development conditions**.

2 There is still much to be achieved, especially in terms of the **quality of human development**, even in the richest regions.

3 **Environmental sustainability** is a major concern for both **developed** and **developing countries**.

4 **Governance** is the world's most pressing development challenge.

Addressing these challenges requires action on four policy fronts:

1 Strengthen **environmental and health systems** to improve **healthy life outcomes**.

2 Build **knowledge-based economies** with **integrated education** and **labour market systems**.

3 Forge **strong links** between **government effectiveness** and **democratic governance**.

4 Prioritize the most **challenged countries** and ensure **human security** in **conflict-stricken countries**.