The Global Wellbeing and Resilience Index

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About the Project

The Global Wellbeing and Resilience Index (GWRI) measures the wellbeing and resilience of populations across various dimensions. It provides a comprehensive assessment of how well countries are ensuring the wellbeing and resilience of their populations. The GWRI is multidimensional. It uses a multidisciplinary approach to measure the factors driving wellbeing and resilience, especially in settings affected by armed conflict and fragility.

The GWRI combines quantitative data (e.g. pollution levels, population health, biodiversity) and qualitative assessment data (e.g. societal trust, institutional integrity) to assess countries' performance in areas relevant to wellbeing and resilience. Between 2020 and 2024, we developed the GWRI using a multidisciplinary and multi-staged approach. The project met with 58 women peacebuilders, experts in health, policy and law, gender, economics, development, fragility and conflict to identify key areas for societal wellbeing. The project used these areas and a literature review of existing indices to develop a new framework and index. The research team mapped the index's dimensions and items to 48 publicly available datasets and identified 435 candidate variables for the GWRI. The team then assessed all variables for methodological soundness and coverage, and reduced redundancy in the data. The final index reports scores for 119 countries using 188 indicators organised in five dimensions.

Dimensions and Sub-Dimensions: The GWRI has five dimensions, which peacebuilders and experts identified as essential to wellbeing and resilience - health, the environment, state institutions, livelihoods and social cohesion. Within and overlapping these dimensions, we identified 34 sub-dimensions. (See Table 1)

Table 1. Index Dimensions and Sub-Dimensions

SUB-DIMENSIONS	DIMENSIONS				
	Health	Environment	State institutions	Livelihoods	Cohesion
Environmental threats					
Climate Change	■	■			
Air Pollution	■	■			
Natural resources management					
Biodiversity		■			
Land and Water Pollution Management		■			
Sustainable Consumption and Food Security	■	■	■	■	
Water and Sanitation	■				
Quality of institutions					
Right to Personal Expression					■
Societal Trust					■
Power Sharing					■
Institutional Integrity			■	■	■
International Reputation			■		■
Structural violence					
Conflict and Government Oppression	■		■		■
Systemic Oppression and Violence					■
Resilience		■	■	■	■
Socio-economic outcomes					
Urban development			■	■	
ICT Accessibility			■	■	
Participation in Education				■	
Labour Conditions and Employment			■	■	■
Financial Status				■	
Household Resource Management				■	
Health over the life course					
Child and Adolescent Health	■				
Reproductive Health	■				
Sexual Health	■				
Infectious Diseases	■				
Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco, Road Safety and Health Services	■				
Interpersonal violence					
Violence Against Children	■				
Violence Against Women	■			■	■
Online Violence			■		
Health systems performance					
Health Services Processes	■		■		
Health Services Delivery	■				
Mental Health Services	■				
Elder Care Services	■				
NCD Services	■				
Disability Services	■			■	

Key Findings

- **The Global Wellbeing and Resilience Index (GWRI)** is a new tool for peacebuilders, policymakers, civil society and researchers. It accounts for the complexity of systems that promote societal wellbeing and resilience, especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCAS). It can be used in multiple ways at the local, national and global levels:

  - **Identifying Areas of Need:** The GWRI produces scores for each dimension, in addition to a country's global score. It also offers an indicator-level breakdown and ranking. This will enable peacebuilders to identify areas that require urgent attention and learn from similar settings.

  - **Resource Allocation and Mobilisation:** Peacebuilders, policymakers, service providers and international organisations can use the GWRI to understand where a country is struggling. The GWRI can support more effective allocations of resources to address the most pressing needs.

  - **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The GWRI provides a framework for monitoring peacebuilding and societal wellbeing initiatives over time, helping to assess whether interventions are improving wellbeing and resilience.

  - **Policy Development and Strategic Planning:** Policymakers can develop targeted policies that address specific needs in dimensions where their country scores are low. The GWRI can be used to inform long-term strategic planning.

  - **Advocacy and Awareness:** Civil society can use the GWRI data to develop local advocacy initiatives.

  - **Programme Design:** The GWRI can guide the design and implementation of programmes aimed at improving specific dimensions of wellbeing, such as health or social cohesion.

Hub focus countries
Hub project countries
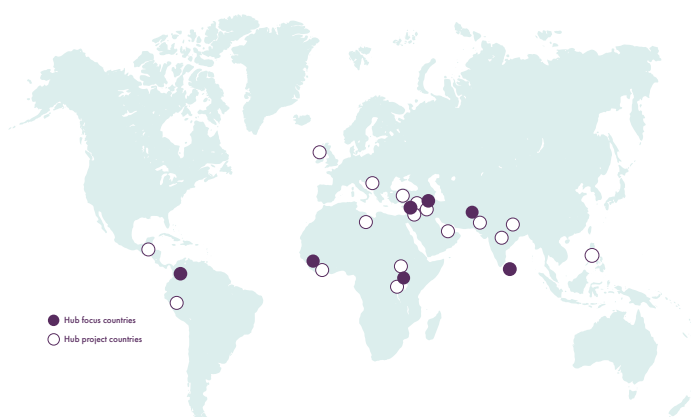
- **Priority Setting:** International organisations can use the GWRI to identify priority areas and countries that require additional support.

- **Research:** The GWRI is a comprehensive multidimensional dataset that can be used to analyse factors that contribute to wellbeing and resilience, especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings. It can also be used to identify research gaps in existing research.

- **Policy Recommendations:** Researchers can use the GWRI to develop evidence-based policy recommendations aimed at improving societal wellbeing and resilience.

- **The GWRI shows that health, the environment, formal and informal institutions, livelihoods and social cohesion are the pillars of wellbeing and resilience, according to women peacebuilders and fragility and conflict experts.** Within these dimensions, the most important areas that peacebuilders and experts identified are: environmental threats such as climate change and air pollution; natural resource management (e.g. biodiversity and water and sanitation); quality of institutions (e.g. right to personal expression, societal trust and power sharing); structural violence (e.g. conflict and government oppression); socio-economic outcomes (such as education, labour conditions and employment and management of resources in the household); health status (such as child and adolescent health and reproductive health); interpersonal violence (against children, women and online); and health systems performance (e.g. processes and delivery, and some specialist services, such as mental health, disability and elder care). The GWRI measures how countries fare in these and other domains to provide insights for action to peacebuilders, policymakers, civil society and researchers.

- **Health is the dimension in which countries generally fare best, with scores aligning with overall performance across dimensions.** Health showed the smallest gap between top and bottom performers, with a 39-point difference between Australia and Haiti. High-income countries like Sweden, Canada, and Finland consistently ranked at the top, while fragile and conflict-affected settings such as Yemen, Afghanistan and Haiti ranked lowest, highlighting the impact of instability on health outcomes. Regional disparities were evident, with Western European and Nordic countries generally outperforming regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Conflict-affected countries reported worse health conditions

due to ongoing conflicts preventing healthcare delivery. Middle-income countries such as Brazil, Argentina, China and India showed more variation across dimensions but maintained relatively high health scores. Gender disparities were significant, with women facing higher risks of mental disorders and worse oral health, while men were at greater risk from air pollution, substance use, and road injuries. Age also impacted health outcomes, with young people in low-income countries more susceptible to infectious diseases. Globally, young women experienced a higher mental health burden compared to older men.

- **Livelihoods is the dimension with the greatest disparities around the world.** Yemen ranks lowest at 120th and Norway highest at 1st, demonstrating the greatest inequality in this dimension. Fragile and conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan, Haiti and Venezuela also rank poorly, reflecting severe economic instability and limited opportunities. The livelihoods dimension examines economic stability and opportunities, revealing that more young women are not in employment, education or training (NEET) than young men globally, with larger gaps in regions such as Central, Western, and Southern Asia, Latin America and Africa. Financial inclusion is poor in low- and middle-income countries, especially for women, with only 11% having a bank account compared to 47% in high-income countries. These findings underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve economic opportunities and financial inclusion, particularly in the lowest-ranked and most vulnerable countries.

- **There is considerable room for improvement in the environmental performance of all countries.** The environment dimension examines how well countries address environmental challenges, with Austria being the top performer at 77 points, yet still lagging behind the best performers in other dimensions. High-income countries such as Austria, Denmark and Germany generally perform better due to robust environmental policies. In contrast, low-performing countries such as Iraq (41 points) and Afghanistan (42 points) face severe environmental challenges, including air pollution, inadequate waste management and limited access to clean water and sanitation. These issues are exacerbated in fragile and conflict-affected settings, where environmental degradation can have significant economic and health consequences. The worst environmental performers have similar scores to the worst performers in health, state institutions and cohesion. Key priorities should include preserving habitats, preventing biodiversity loss, managing flooding risks and addressing

local consequences of climate change. Overall, the GWRI underscores the critical need for global efforts to enhance environmental resilience and sustainability.

- **Fragile and conflict-affected countries (FCAS) face significant challenges in achieving high levels of wellbeing and resilience.** Countries such as Yemen, Afghanistan and Haiti consistently rank at the bottom, reflecting low scores across multiple dimensions, including health, environment, state institutions, livelihoods and social cohesion. FCAS fare worse than other countries in the health, livelihoods and environment domains, with people in these settings experiencing poorer socio-economic outcomes, recording a 19-point difference on average compared to the rest of the world. Autocracies also perform worse than democracies across all five domains, with democracies scoring an average of 11 points higher (67.38 vs. 56.48). Countries with active conflicts, such as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen, report worse environmental conditions, with an average score 13% lower than countries without conflict. These poor environmental conditions worsen health outcomes, as evidenced by the low health scores in conflict-impacted countries such as Afghanistan and Yemen, suggesting inadequate healthcare access and poor health outcomes.

- **Systemic oppression and violence are higher among women.** Violence against women and child sexual abuse: women are almost twice as likely to experience physical or sexual intimate partner violence in fragile settings than in the rest of the world. Reports of child sexual abuse is also higher in fragile settings. Average femicide rates are higher in Latin America and the Caribbean compared to the rest of the world. Eight of the 10 countries with the highest femicide rates fall within this region. Gender-based discrimination: women experience higher levels of gender-based discrimination compared to men globally.

- **The extent of missing data is of concern.** Out of 226 countries in the world, 107 do not have enough data to be included in the index rankings. Countries without a score are among the most fragile and lowest income. The majority are in Africa, suggesting the need for greater data collection efforts on this continent. Missing data hinders our ability to address the critical issues driving societal wellbeing. Limited disaggregated data: no country has enough data to compute a gender or age breakdown of the index or its dimensions. Only 129 of 188 indicators offer a gender breakdown for at least some countries, and only 92 indicators have an age breakdown.

Table 2. Global Wellbeing and Resilience Index Rankings

This table presents a comprehensive ranking of 120 countries based on the Global Wellbeing and Resilience Index (GWRI). It includes each country's overall index rank and individual rankings across five key dimensions: Health, Environment, State Institutions, Livelihoods and Cohesion. The rankings provide a multifaceted assessment of national-level societal wellbeing and resilience factors.

COUNTRY	GLOBAL RANK	DIMENSIONS				
		Health Rank	Environment Rank	State Institutions Rank	Livelihoods Rank	Cohesion Rank
Sweden	1	3	10	3	2	1
Norway	2	8	22	2	1	8
Denmark	3	17	2	4	3	18
Finland	4	6	7	1	5	26
Belgium	5	14	14	7	12	5
Switzerland	6	13	16	5	16	2
Ireland	7	18	6	12	6	11
Germany	8	2	3	9	15	33
New Zealand	9	15	21	6	8	23
Canada	10	5	31	18	11	13
Australia	11	1	40	8	9	17
Austria	12	30	1	14	10	25
Spain	13	7	4	19	18	22
Netherlands	14	29	25	16	4	6
France	15	25	8	17	17	7
United Kingdom	16	11	15	13	7	40
Estonia	17	33	20	10	14	16
Czechia	18	21	24	22	20	12
Italy	19	12	5	26	24	28
Lithuania	20	20	27	23	25	3
Portugal	21	10	19	20	29	15
Korea, Rep	22	23	34	15	22	10
Slovak Republic	23	26	9	27	26	20
Slovenia	24	22	30	37	19	14
United States	25	4	29	33	13	64
Latvia	26	58	18	24	23	4
Japan	27	9	23	21	21	69
Croatia	28	49	11	28	30	21
Uruguay	29	32	36	11	35	30
Poland	30	53	17	43	28	46
Hungary	31	59	12	46	27	36
Greece	32	55	13	31	38	38
Cyprus	33	62	28	30	36	27
Bulgaria	34	44	26	44	33	37
Singapore	35	31	67	29	31	47

Romania	**36**	35	33	45	39	29
Costa Rica	**37**	27	37	36	41	42
Chile	**38**	52	44	35	45	32
Serbia	**39**	42	87	48	37	41
Albania	**40**	76	60	41	50	19
Thailand	**41**	24	51	79	40	51
Brazil	**42**	19	70	53	44	88
Kazakhstan	**43**	37	54	68	34	85
Panama	**44**	40	46	63	57	49
Argentina	**45**	63	82	52	59	24
Mongolia	**46**	39	88	65	58	34
Armenia	**47**	43	89	59	53	48
Russian Federation	**48**	38	71	95	32	70
Mexico	**49**	54	47	73	47	59
Mauritius	**50**	91	45	25	77	31
United Arab Emirates	**51**	34	53	58	66	55
Georgia	**52**	95	108	38	56	9
South Africa	**53**	75	66	40	62	65
Colombia	**54**	28	74	56	70	62
Moldova	**55**	65	80	75	60	39
Ecuador	**56**	70	55	51	61	76
Vietnam	**57**	77	79	61	48	63
Ukraine	**58**	68	98	89	49	35
Türkiye	**59**	41	115	76	46	61
Malaysia	**60**	51	86	66	64	60
Sri Lanka	**61**	71	48	55	67	73
Belarus	**62**	16	73	102	43	101
Indonesia	**63**	80	94	34	79	58
China	**64**	56	109	77	42	82
India	**65**	61	93	39	74	78
Dominican Republic	**66**	57	58	64	68	80
Bosnia and Herzegovina	**67**	74	69	82	52	79
Uzbekistan	**68**	36	81	57	73	92
Kyrgyz Republic	**69**	83	97	92	54	45
Peru	**70**	87	64	67	65	87
Philippines	**71**	85	56	50	89	68
Tunisia	**72**	64	106	72	88	44
Kuwait	**73**	46	111	74	75	86
Jordan	**74**	73	57	86	87	67
Qatar	**75**	47	113	60	84	75
El Salvador	**76**	48	101	93	71	84
Paraguay	**77**	66	116	80	78	66
Morocco	**78**	45	59	83	93	96
Ghana	**79**	114	105	32	69	71
Jamaica	**80**	86	107	70	51	109
Nepal	**81**	102	100	49	86	57

Rwanda	**82**	78	77	81	92	81
Azerbaijan	**83**	82	112	100	55	98
Tanzania	**84**	106	32	47	97	89
Algeria	**85**	69	102	99	83	72
Kenya	**86**	94	63	54	85	110
Lao PDR	**87**	84	50	109	82	74
Nicaragua	**88**	50	92	116	63	102
Egypt, Arab Rep.	**89**	60	83	112	94	50
Cambodia	**90**	97	41	103	76	93
Bolivia	**91**	101	84	78	72	106
Iran, Islamic Rep	**92**	67	49	105	95	103
Tajikistan	**93**	72	62	106	80	114
Malawi	**94**	90	39	62	117	94
Senegal	**95**	109	103	42	115	52
Benin	**96**	115	104	69	100	43
Côte d'Ivoire	**97**	103	52	71	107	99
Togo	**98**	98	91	97	108	53
Sierra Leone	**99**	99	85	84	110	77
Uganda	**100**	104	43	90	101	104
Venezuela, RB	**101**	81	72	115	90	107
Bangladesh	**102**	93	99	91	106	90
Burkina Faso	**103**	118	65	85	109	54
Mozambique	**104**	100	42	96	112	97
Honduras	**105**	105	75	108	91	100
Ethiopia	**106**	107	96	104	98	83
Lebanon	**107**	88	114	107	102	95
Guatemala	**108**	108	95	111	81	108
Pakistan	**109**	112	117	98	105	56
Zambia	**110**	96	35	88	111	120
Nigeria	**111**	111	76	87	113	105
Myanmar	**112**	89	68	114	103	111
Zimbabwe	**113**	92	38	110	114	117
Iraq	**114**	79	119	117	96	91
Cameroon	**115**	117	78	101	99	112
Mali	**116**	110	90	94	118	116
Guinea	**117**	113	61	113	116	113
Haiti	**118**	120	118	119	104	119
Afghanistan	**119**	116	120	118	119	118
Yemen, Rep	**120**	119	110	120	120	115

Recommendations

The Global Wellbeing and Resilience Index (GWRI) can be used by a range of stakeholders to make informed decisions, design targeted interventions and enhance collaborative efforts to improve the wellbeing and resilience of populations, especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The recommendations aim to address the multiple challenges highlighted by the GWRI: promote gender equality, improve health outcomes, protect the environment, improve livelihoods and support countries affected by conflict. Intersectoral and collaborative efforts are essential to achieve progress.

Governments

- **Focus on closing the livelihoods gap by addressing the following challenges.** Reduce the proportion of the population who lives in urban slums (49% LMICs vs 2% in HICs), and tackle poverty. Increase rates of completion in tertiary education: HICs record twice the completion rates LMICs. Improve financial literacy and access to financial services: 69% of people in HICs can save money and 49% have access to a bank account, compared to 43% and 13% in LMICs, respectively. Widen social protection coverage: HICs reach 78% of the population in need, compared to LMICs' 31% average coverage; food safety programmes in HICs achieve complete coverage, compared to LMICs' 59%. Tackle the NEET problem: in LMICs, 24% of youth are not in employment, education or training (NEET), versus 12% in HICs. More girls are NEET than boys everywhere. All countries should address the NEET issue, though LMICs face a bigger challenge. Improve access to accommodation services for people with disabilities: LMICs record 50% access, one-third less than HICs, which record 76%.

- **Improve the environmental performance of countries by addressing the following challenges:** Improve the protection of endangered species (current coverage: 60% HIC vs 30% LMICs). Reduce soil pollution: (HICs 69% vs LMICs 53%). Renew efforts and investments in policies and regulations: though LMICs lag behind HICs (11% vs 67%; and 41% vs 69%), both groups need to increase efforts toward a net zero economy and toward implementing regulations for energy efficiency.

- **Implement policies and programmes to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and promote gender equality.** Invest more resources in the collection of disaggregated wellbeing and resilience-related data, including by sex and age, at a minimum. Invest in improving girls' access to, and completion of, school. Improve access to the labour market for women. Address local barriers to labour market participation. Integrate GBV survivor services into mainstream sexual and reproductive services and collect systematic data on these.

- **Focus on improving potential causes of fragility to improve wellbeing and reduce the risk of conflict.** These areas include governments' capacities to raise tax revenue, their willingness to share resources across the political spectrum and redistribute resource rents equitably.

- **For conflict-affected countries:** prioritise the protection of civilians, especially vulnerable groups during and post-conflict; invest in rebuilding healthcare infrastructure and providing essential services; and promote inclusive governance and reconciliation efforts to facilitate the transition to peace and stability.

International Institutions

- **Provide technical assistance to governments** with weak statistical offices to support the regular production of wellbeing statistics and reduce the amount of missing data.

- **Promote an increase in technical assistance to fragile settings** to foster long-term institutional quality and government capacity.

Civil Society and Service Providers

- **Identify and work to change harmful gender norms** (For example, men have more right to a job, it's ok to hit your wife, girls should not go to school) that perpetuate intimate partner violence, conflict-related violence, discrimination, and gender inequality across all settings.

- **Provide gender-sensitive health and support services** including mental health support, reproductive and sexual health services, substance abuse services, and disability-aware services.

- **Collaborate with governments and international institutions** to improve healthcare access, especially in conflict-affected and rural areas.

Researchers

- **Further investigate the causes of fragility and its consequences for for societal wellbeing.**

- **Develop and validate measurement tools** that reflect local understandings of wellbeing, and the understanding of marginalised populations.

To learn more about this research project and read its publications visit: https://thegenderhub.com/stories/research-methodologies-for-women-peace-security-and-health/

This Project Profile was first published in the Hub's final report, *Gender, Justice and Security: Structural Challenges, Feminist Innovations and Radical Futures*. Go to **www.TheGenderHub.com** to read the full report and to learn more about all 38 research projects in the Hub.