

# Shifts in Socioeconomic Stature in South Asia

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are the 4 largest countries in South Asia in terms of population. Around a quarter of all humans on earth live in these 4 countries with some of the highest population growth rates in the world - around **2% for Pakistan** and **2.5% for Afghanistan**.

This graphic charts the course of development in these countries using a number of indicators taken from the World Development Indicators (WDI) database of World Bank. WDI is a collection of numerous data sources and covers all types of socioeconomic indicators of more than 200 countries as well as sovereign entities across the world.

Data was taken for the 4 largest countries in South Asia for both the latest and earliest years when numbers for all 4 of these countries were available.

The data are shown according to the following specification:



Quite a vivid story of the development trajectories in these countries can be told through these charts. Bangladesh leapfrogging ahead of Pakistan and India in some key aspects, the impacts of perpetual wars on Afghanistan but still a somewhat inspiring situation vis a vis a few indicators as well as the stagnation Pakistan has witnessed, all of these can be observed.

No matter the past, the future of these nations is going to be even more important for our entire world. In a rapidly aging developed world and China, the potentially billions of young people in these countries will chart the course of history of not just this region but also the entire world. We must strive and hope for a better picture on this graphic 20 years from now.

