



**14.12.2015 - The 2015 Human Development Report 'Work for Human Development' will be launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia today. The report examines the links, both positive and negative, between work and human development in a rapidly changing world of work.**

The report argues for a broader notion of work, one that goes beyond the jobs framework, to confront both persistent challenges such as human deprivations, inequalities, unsustainability, and gender imbalances in paid and unpaid work – as well as emerging ones – erosion of jobs, skills gaps, climate change and others.

“Work is the means for unleashing human potential, creativity, innovation and spirits”, says Selim Jahan, Director of the Human Development Report Office. “It is essential to make human lives productive, worthwhile and meaningful. It enables people to earn a living, gives them a means to participate in society, provides them with security and gives them a sense of dignity. Work is thus inherently and intrinsically linked to human development”, he adds.

It is important to recognize that the link between work and human development is not always positive. 830 million people are classified as working poor who live on under \$2.00 a day. Over 200 million people, including 74 million youth, are unemployed, while 21 million people are currently in forced labour.

With better health and education outcomes and reductions in extreme poverty, 2 billion people have moved out of low human development levels in the last 25 years, the report says. Yet in order to secure these gains and galvanize progress, a stronger focus on decent work is needed.

In realizing the post-2015 international agenda it will be critical to enable youth, who make up 50% of the global population, and women, holding up half the sky, to find work opportunities that enable them to participate constructively, creatively and equitably in society.

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