The Human Development Index scores of 7 territories fell between 1975 and 2002: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Somalia, Timor-Leste, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Since 1975 the populations of these territories have experienced civil and international wars, coups, droughts, disease, economic failure and international debts. The outcome has been that life expectancy, adult literacy, school attendance and Gross Domestic Product, which are used as indicators of Human Development, have fallen.

The Central African region as a whole is the one region to have experienced an overall decline in its human development index.

Territory size shows the proportion of worldwide human un-development that occurred there between 1975 and 2002 (calculated as the fall in Human Development Index multiplied by population).

“For the next couple of years, the words economic development and reform danced on a lot of lips in Kabul. ... For a while, a sense of rejuvenation and purpose swept across the land.”

Khaled Hosseini, 2003