

Foreword

Human livelihoods face grave threats, from demographic change to financial crises to climate change. Yet, people around the world are better educated and more connected than ever, offering new opportunities to billions. This report is motivated by two daunting challenges. The first is to develop inclusive economies that allow the poorest and most vulnerable to access those opportunities. The second is to create secure livelihoods that allow individuals, families, and communities to not just survive but thrive in the face of these threats.

This work originated from a four-day workshop held at The Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center in August 2014. An exceptional group of entrepreneurs, scholars, policymakers, and non-profit leaders gathered to discuss the future of livelihoods. As part of their conversation, they developed some of the creative new concepts for securing livelihoods highlighted in this report. The workshop was co-organised by the Economist Intelligence Unit and the OECD Development Centre as part of The Rockefeller Foundation’s Visionaries Unbound series.

This work contributes to the central mission of the Development Centre, which is to help developing countries and emerging economies find innovative solutions that promote sustainable growth while reducing poverty and improving people’s lives. The Centre brings its expertise in multi-dimensional analysis as well as its long history of tracking the trends in the global economy that have a direct or indirect impact on people’s livelihoods.

In this report, which was supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, the Development Centre takes the ideas explored in the workshop in Bellagio and extends them in important, novel ways. The authors present new data on how people around the world think about their livelihoods and on the trends that will shape livelihoods in the future. They challenge us to think deeply about the future with a set of scenarios that are provocative, yet grounded in the OECD’s research. Finally, they offer new ideas for the ways that innovations in diverse fields might be brought together to promote inclusive economies and more resilient livelihoods for poor and vulnerable people. This wide-ranging exploration is intended as a call to action to help individuals and organisations envision bold steps toward a future in which all people have secure livelihoods.

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The report is the result of a collaboration between the OECD Development Centre and The Rockefeller Foundation, under the guidance of Bathylle Missika, Acting Head of Policy Dialogue Division, OECD Development Centre. Project co-ordination and additional inputs were provided by Vanessa Fines, Martha Baxter and Federico Recalde-Ovelar. Vararat Atisophon provided statistical assistance and Myriam Andrieux provided administrative support. Fiona Hinchcliffe and Clare Rogers edited the report and the OECD Development Centre’s publications team turned the draft into a publication. The cover was designed by Aida Buendia.

The development of the livelihood scenarios featured in the book was led by Angela Wilkinson, Strategic Foresight Counsellor to the OECD Secretary-General, and Betty-Sue Flowers, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin, who also provided substantial contributions to the report. Jean-Francois Rischard provided text on the financial risks and the agricultural revolution.

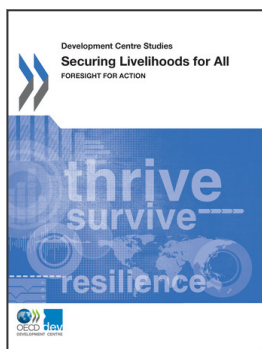
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