Measures or Indicator of Development

**GNI** (economic): gross national income—the total income of a country, divided by the total population making it comparable between countries with different size populations. Shows a country’s wealth: HIGH in **HICs**. It is a fairly important measure as it is difficult to develop without adequate income.

**Birth Rate** (social): the number of births per 1,000 people in the population per year. LOW in **HICs** as countries develop, women stay in education longer & put careers before starting a family; become educated about family planning & have more choice about their lives.

**Death Rate** (social): the number of people who die per 1,000 people in the population per year. The more developed a country the better the health care so death rate lowers.

**Infant Mortality Rate** (social): the number of babies born alive that die before their first birthday per 1,000 people per year. Indicates how good healthcare is and/or importance given to women’s health.

**Number of doctors** (social): the number of doctors per 1,000 people. HIGH in **HICs** as they have the money to afford adequate/good health care.

**Life expectancy** (social): average age a person in a country lives to. **HIGH** in **HICs** as they have the money to afford adequate/good health care.

**Literacy Rate** (social): the % of people with basic reading and writing skills. **HIGH** in **HICs** as they can afford comprehensive education & can regulate & uphold compulsory education for all children.

**Access to safe water** (social): % of people who have a reliable supply of clean water. **HIGH** in **HICs**. Shows if a country has modern infrastructure to capture, store, clean & supply people with adequate water.

**Human Development Index (HDI)** a combination of economic and social indicators that gives a bigger & more detailed picture of how a country is developing and includes standard of living & quality of life.

Problems: ANY measure, social or economic, used on its own can be misleading because:

- Some countries have high GNI but the people don’t have a good quality of life. Wealth could be unevenly distributed with a few super rich; some people may be denied rights/freedoms; exposed to conflict etc
- Death rate can be higher in some **HICs** than LICs/NEEs eg **UK** have older populations as life expectancy increases & the UK’s death rate is higher than for eg **Ivory Coast** with a youthful population
- Countries may develop some aspects before others. Eg more is spent on education than women’s health so using just literacy rate as an indicator may make a country seem more developed than it really is or just using Infant Mortality Rate lower than it really is.
- Averages hide variations between regions in countries & between different groups. Eg the high development score of the few super-rich in cities will inflate the average score; this may not represent the majority of people who are very poor especially in rural areas. Eg Botswana is one of the richest countries in Africa but has one of the largest differences between the richest and poorest.
- Data can be unreliable; data changes very quickly & be of date; can be hard to collect correctly; the governments may be corrupt & give false data.
DEVELOPMENT GAP

Development Gap: the difference in levels of development between the richest and poorest countries in the world. Many believe that the gap between the HICs and LICs is getting wider.

Causes of Uneven Development (the development gap)

Poorest: Chad & Ethiopia. This can lower quality of life due to malnourishment or lack of income as there are few crops to sell.

Poor farm land mountainous countries eg Nepal or ones with poor soil cannot produce a lot of food. People with little to sell means the government gets less money from taxes and therefore has less to spend on developing the country eg healthcare/education.

Lack of raw materials. It is difficult for countries to earn money to spend on develop-
ment as they have few primary products to export and it is expensive for them to develop secondary industries as they have to import the primary products.

Lots of natural disasters. Countries like Bangladesh (which floods regularly) have to spend a lot of money rebuilding after disasters.

Quality of life is reduced & the government has to pay for rebuilding rather than spend money on development projects.

Poor trade links: not much money can be made trading with just a few countries.

Debt: countries that are heavily in debt can end up using the money it makes to pay back the debt or even just the interest leaving little to spend on development.

Primary Economies: Countries with economies based on primary products make the least money as they earn less money & the income is less reliable as prices fluctuate.

HICs can also force down the price when they buy from poorer countries.

Historical Development: Countries that were once colonies eg India helped supply food and minerals to their ruling country eg UK. There was some investment in the colonies but it focussed on things that helped the ruling country. This made the ruling countries rich & kept the colonies poor. Borders of some colonies were set by the ruling country with no regard to tribal or cultural differences causing tensions & instabilities, many are still on going today, reducing further the ex-colonies’ capacity to develop.

Political: poor governance does not help a country develop. Money that could be spend on development is used to fund weapons etc (some conflicts today were caused by historical development).

Consequences of Uneven Development:

Uneven development as resulted in extreme social & economic differences between countries. Look at the extreme differences between UK & Chad.

Death Rate: 9.4 / 10.5

Birth Rate: 12 / 43

Migration Rate per 1,000 ~3.2 / +2.5

GNI: $44,300 / $2,300

Life Expectancy: 81 / 51 years.

Total Fertility Rate: 1.88 / 5.9

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 4 / 72

Access to safe water 100% / 50%

Maternal Mortality Rate per 100,000: 9 / 856

Mean age of first birth: 28.5 / 17.9 years

Number of doctors per 1,000 2.83m / 0.04

School Life Expectancy: 18 / 7 years (boys 9 years; girls 6 years)

Literacy Rate 22.3% (31% boys; 15% girls) / 99%

Want to find out more or about other countries visit the CIA Factbook website.

How the Development Gap can be reduced

Aid: Given by one country to another as money or resources eg food, doctors. It can help a country develop especially if it is spent on development projects eg constructing schools to improve literacy rates, building dams and wells to improve clean water supplies & providing farming knowledge and equipment to improve food supply. It doesn’t always work: it can fall into the hands of corrupt governments & is wasted; once the money runs out the projects stop working especially if it requires outside expertise and can be withdrawn at any time.

Debt Relief: When the sum a country owes another is either cancelled or reduced means they have more money to develop. Eg When Zambia’s £4 billion debt was cancelled in 2005 it had enough money to start a free healthcare programme for millions of people living in rural areas and improved their quality of life.

Fairtrade: when farmers in LICs get the right price for their produce eg coffee. This improves their standard of living & allows farmers to better provide for their families eg send their children to school. An additional ‘premium’ earned from Fairtrade products is also spent on development projects in the area where the goods were grown eg building schools, roads, health centres.

This improves the quality of life for the population of the whole area not just the farmers.

Industrial Development: By developing secondary & tertiary industries increases a country’s & helps improve levels of development as income, skills and infrastructure are improved.

Intermediate or Appropriate Technology: This involves the use of tools, machines & systems especially to increase food supply that are simple to use, affordable to buy or build, and easy to maintain by people in LICs & do not need to rely on HICs. Eg the use of solar powered LED light-bulbs in Nepal allow people to work in their homes or businesses for longer, & children to study after dark. This increases skills, industrial output & income which helps reduce the development gap as standards of living & quality of life is improved. (Also see Resources 2: “Increasing food supply’/hot deserts pg ) - magic stones & sand dams).

TNCs: Are companies that locate in or produce and sell products in more than one country eg Coca Cola, Sony, Unilever. Their offices and HQs tend to be located in richer countries. TNCS improve development by creating jobs & people in poorer countries get a more reliable income compared to jobs in farming. These companies also spend money in LICs to improve infra-
structure eg build roads & brings in new technology. Factories of these companies are usually located in poorer countries because labour is cheaper, there are fewer regulations, which mean they can make more profit. It can cause the multiplier effect. (see Uniliver, India pg 35)

Micro Finance: This is when small loans are provided to PEOPLE in LICs who cannot borrow money from banks. This enables them to start their own business & become financially independent. As more people earn money it causes the multiplier effect & governments earn more through taxes & spend money on development projects.

Tourism: (Kenya)

- Kenya has tried to develop economically through tourism. It has been able to do this due to its physical features eg its wildlife, warm climate & beautiful scenery such as savannah grasslands, tropical beaches & coral reefs.

- Kenya has tried to promote tourism, particularly to families, is by reducing the costs of visas for adults & providing free visas for children; as there is a lot of competition from other countries offering similar (or better) holidays and this makes it Kenya cheaper & more attractive. K

- Successes: the numbers of tourists increased from 0.9 million visitors in 1995 to 1.8 million in 2011. Tourism helped Kenya develop economically as over 12% of Kenya’s GNI is from tourism and it provides 600,000 jobs (10% of all employed). Quality of life was also improved as its HDI score has increased from 0.45 to 0.55 since 2000.

- Failures/problems: Tourism hasn’t been fully successful in reducing the development gap as only a small proportion of the money earned from tourism goes to the locals and the rest goes to big companies based in HICs eg TUI

- Not all countries have features that appeal to tourist so are unable to develop economically through tourism.