



### Keywords

**literacy:** the ability to read and write

**life expectancy:** how long people can expect to live

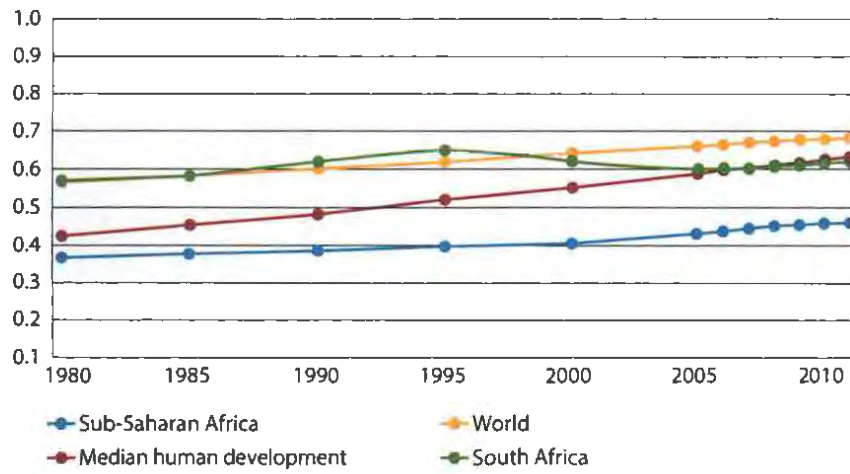
## The Human Development Index (HDI) – life expectancy, education, per capita GDP

The United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) has replaced GDP as a more reliable indicator of development. The HDI takes three indicators into account, not just income. The three indicators are:

- purchasing power or wealth of individuals (GDP) per capita
- **adult literacy**
- **life expectancy.**

The HDI gives countries a score between 0 and 1 for wealth, health care and education.

Country	HDI (2010)	Rank
Norway	0,938	1
USA	0,902	4
UK	0,849	26
Russia	0,719	67
China	0,633	91
South Africa	0,601	113
Lesotho	0,427	142
Zimbabwe	0,140	172



**Table 2.1: The Human Development Index for eight selected countries 2010**

Source: Adapted from [http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR\\_2011\\_EN\\_Tables.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2011_EN_Tables.pdf) (accessed on 9 June 2012)

**Figure 2.1: Human Development Index Trends 1980–2010**

Source: Adapted from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/> (accessed on 9 June 2012)

South Africa’s HDI dropped between 1990 and 2005 because of the impact of HIV and AIDS on the death rate (see Figure 2.1). In recent years, the HDI has been rising as life expectancy increases. You can also see how our HDI compares to that of Sub-Saharan Africa and the world.

One area that has been given little attention is measuring the quality of life and the environment. The number of people who can live comfortably on Earth is connected to how we use our environment. As the population grows, we clear forests for our settlements and farms, overgraze pastures, overfish the seas and pollute our atmosphere. This leads to fewer people being able to lead healthy lives. Some people and countries abuse the environment more than others. Developed countries use much more petrol in cars, pollute the atmosphere more, eat more meat and create more waste.

People view quality of life in different ways. There are non-material benefits that are often more highly valued by people than material objects. Among these are good and safe working conditions, a satisfying family life, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, and a non-violent environment. To have a high standard of living does not necessarily mean that you have good quality of life.



## World map indicating the HDI (Countries ranked by level of high, middle or low development)

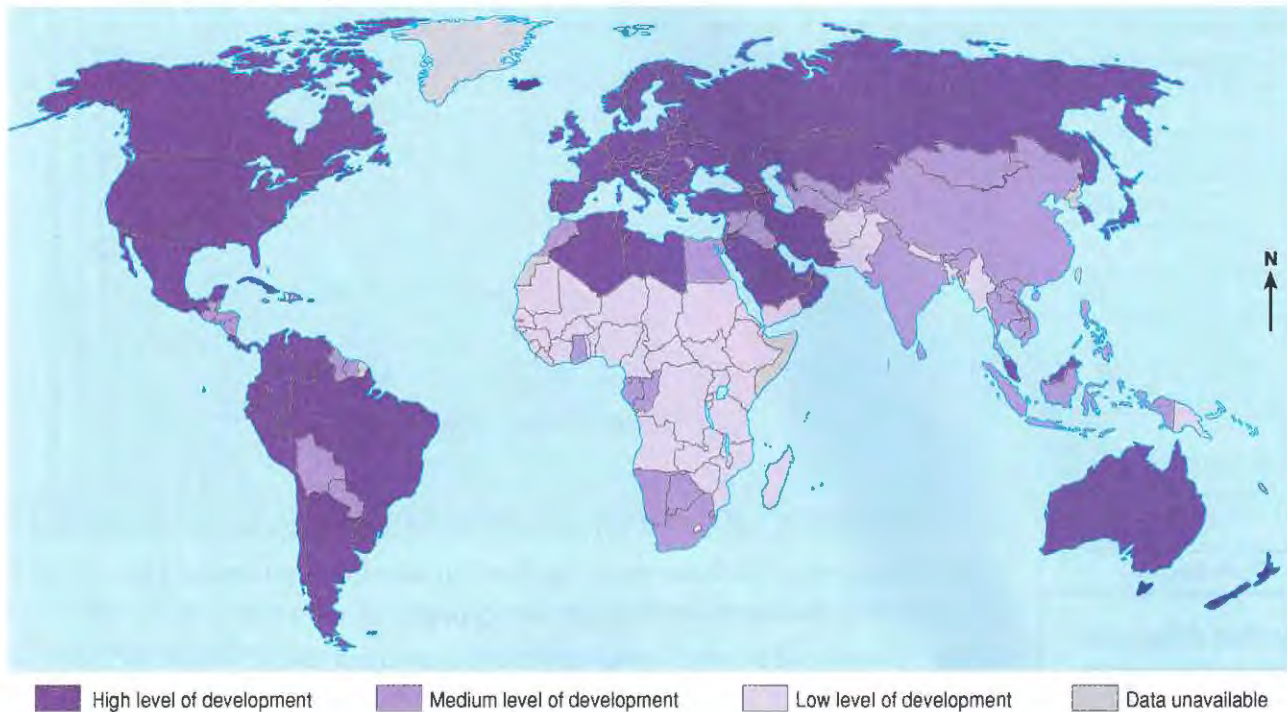


Figure 2.2: World map showing the Human Development Index.

Source: Adapted from [http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/data/hd\\_map/](http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/data/hd_map/) (accessed on 9 June 2012)

### Activity 2.2 The HDI

20 minutes

1. There are three indicators of development used to calculate the HDI: the purchasing power of individuals; education levels; life expectancy.
  - a) Which indicator of development is the most important to you? (1)
  - b) Write a paragraph explaining your choice. Consider your personal values. (4)
2. "To have a high standard of living does not necessarily mean that you have good quality of life."
  - a) Explain the difference between quality of life and standard of living. (2)
  - b) Would you give up quality of life for a higher standard of living? Give a reason for your answer. (4)
  - c) List two factors that could have a negative influence on a person's quality of life. (4)
3. Study Figure 2.2 above with an atlas and answer these questions.
  - a) Name four countries in the southern hemisphere with the highest level of HDI. (4)
  - b) Which hemisphere has the most countries with a high HDI? (2)
  - c) Which continent has the most countries with a low HDI? What historical process may have contributed to this situation? (2)

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# Differences in development around the world – comparisons of selected countries and regions



Source: Adapted from <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/archive/issue-March-2008/jolly.html> (accessed on 10 June 2012)

Figure 2.3: World map showing the North-South divide.

The simplest map to show the differences in development around the world is the one that divides the world into two groups:

- the “Developed North”: these are more developed areas, which include the richer, more industrialised countries (indicated in pale orange on Figure 2.3).
- the “Developing South”: these are the less economically developed, poorer, less industrialised countries (indicated in darker orange on Figure 2.3).

## Economic development

The Developed North has high per capita GDPs showing its wealth. However, the disadvantage of using GDP as an indicator of development is that it does not show differences in wealth between people and places in a country or region. For example, Gauteng is much richer than the Eastern Cape, but even within Gauteng some people are very rich and many are very poor.

## Social development

While development to rich people means economic development, there are other factors that indicate development:

- **Population.** Developed countries usually have a lower birth rate and slower natural increase, a lower proportion of children under the age of 12, a higher proportion of people living in urban areas, and a higher proportion of elderly people over the age of 60 than less developed countries.
- **Health.** Less developed countries have a higher infant mortality rate, a lower life expectancy rate, and fewer people per doctor and hospital than more developed countries.

Poorer countries also have lower levels of education, nutrition, energy consumption and more people engaged in agriculture. Many of these differences are related to the wealth of a country.



## Fun facts

### A world of difference

#### The rich “North”

- 25 per cent of the world’s population
- 80 per cent energy consumption
- 85 per cent of the world’s industry
- 85 per cent of the world’s income

#### The poor “South”

- 75 per cent of the world’s population
- 20 per cent energy consumption
- 15 per cent of the world’s industry
- 15 per cent of the world’s income

### Measures of development (2010)

	Country	Per capita GDP (US\$)	Population: birth rate per 1 000	Health: infant mortality per 1 000 births	Education: literacy %	Urban population: % of population in urban areas
North	USA	47 284	14	7	99	82
	Japan	33 805	8	2	99	66
	UK	34 920	12	5	99	90
	Spain	29 742	9	4	99	77
South	South Africa	10 498	22	43	88	61
	Brazil	11 239	19	22	90	86
	Kenya	1 600	36	54	73	22
	Ethiopia	1 016	43	80	36	17

### Activity 2.3 Differences in development

30 minutes

- Give two examples of a developed country and two examples of a developing country. (4)
- Using the current rate of exchange, convert the per capita GDP figure from US\$ to South African Rand (ZAR). (2)
- Using the table above, name the country with:
  - the lowest percentage of population in urban areas (1)
  - the lowest infant mortality rate. (1)
- Copy this table into your exercise book.

Developed countries – the North	Developing countries – the South

Write the following factors in the appropriate column: malnutrition, slow population growth, some of the population overweight, exports unprocessed raw materials, rapid population growth, piped sewerage, candles, illiteracy, exports manufactured goods, few amenities, one or two children families, low income, five plus children families, running water, electricity for all, industrialised, tanker water, many informal settlements, political instability. (20)

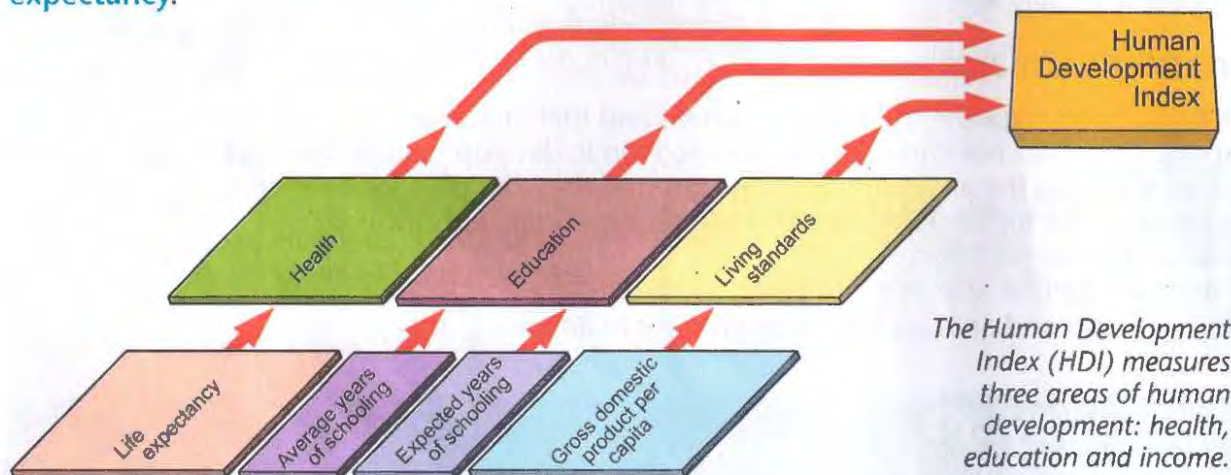
- Write a letter to a pen friend. You can choose whether you are writing from a developed or a developing country. Use the ideas listed in your table. Tell your pen friend the following:
  - where you come from, what the conditions are like
  - how many children there are in your family
  - what jobs your parents have
  - the general conditions in your area. (8)

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**index** an indicator or sign  
**life expectancy ranked** the average age at which people die in a country ordered from highest to lowest according to a set of criteria

### 3. The Human Development Index (HDI) – life expectancy, education, per capita GDP

The United Nations developed the Human Development **Index** (HDI) to emphasise the importance of people’s quality of life as an indication of development instead of only measuring economic development. The Human Development Index (HDI) measures GDP per capita, education, and **life expectancy**.



*The Human Development Index (HDI) measures three areas of human development: health, education and income.*

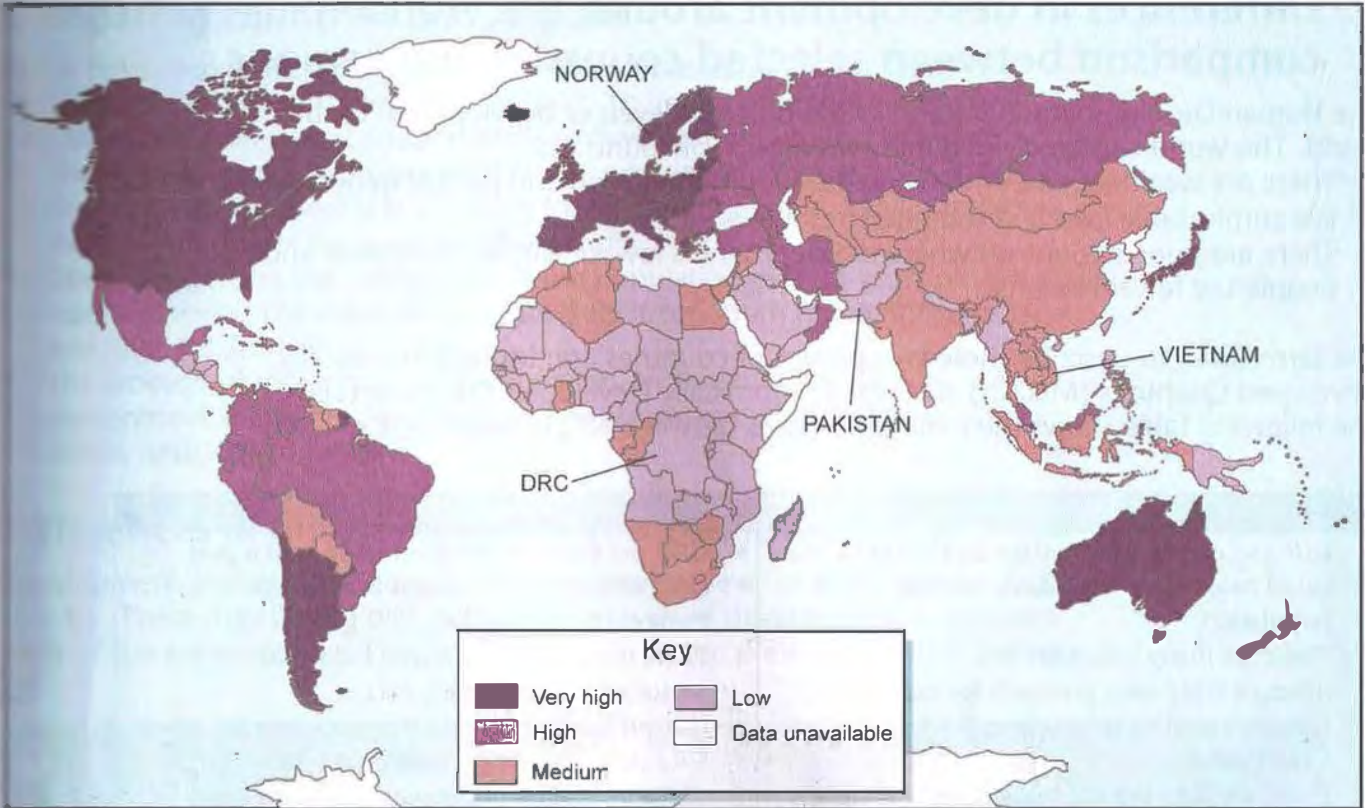
(Source: Human Development Report (statistics), UNDP. Available and adapted from: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/>)

In 2011, 187 countries in the world were assessed using the Human Development Index. The countries were **ranked** from 1 to 187. Each country was also given a value between 1 and 4 to indicate its level of development. The top ranked country was Norway. The bottom ranked country was the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). South Africa was ranked 123 out of 187 countries. South Africa scored a level 3 ranking, which indicates medium human development. The following table shows the HDI for selected countries.

Country	HDI 1-4 Ranking	GDP per capita in US\$	Life expectancy	Education – expected years children will attend school
South Africa	3	7 200	53	13.1
United States	1	43 000	79	12.4
Mozambique	4	900	50	9.2
Norway	1	47 000	81	12.6
Brazil	2	10 000	74	10.1
China	3	5 300	74	11.0

**HDI rankings**  
 1 = very high development  
 2 = high development  
 3 = medium development  
 4 = low development





*The Human Development Index rankings for 2011*

(Source: 2012 *Human Development Report*, United Nations Development Programme)

**Example of how HDI shows levels of development**

Vietnam and Pakistan have a similar GDP per capita. But life expectancy and education levels are higher in Vietnam than Pakistan. This means Vietnam will have a higher HDI ranking.

**Classroom activity 2.3**

Work on your own and answer these questions. Study the table on page 32 and the map on this page.

1. Name the parts of the world which have very high HDI rankings.
2. Name parts of the world that have low HDI rankings.
3. a) What aspects of development does the HDI measure?  
b) Do you think these are useful indicators of development? Explain your answer.
4. Explain why some countries may have a high GDP per capita, but only a low or medium HDI ranking.