What is development?

Development means positive change that makes things better.

As a country develops it usually means peoples standard of living and quality of life will improve. Different factors affect a country’s level of development

**Standard of living** refers to how much money people have

**Quality of life** refers to happiness

Environmental, economic, social and political factors affect development

The development gap is the difference in standards of living between the world’s richest and poorest countries.

GNI (gross national income) is the total value of goods and services produced by a country, plus money earned from, and paid to, the other countries. It is expressed as per head (per capita)

This helps us to see which countries are HIC, NEE and LIC. This is just one way of showing development.

The most of countries in South America and Asia are NEE’s. The most of countries in North America and Europe are HIC’s

Why should be not just use wealth as an indicator?

It can hide variations between regions in the country.

Some of the wealthiest countries might still have people who are really unhappy, so does it measure all forms of development? Perhaps not.

For example, in Russia it might seem quite developed because it is high enough to be a HIC. In reality there are a small number of extremely wealthy people and a lot of very poor people.

Human development index

The united nations came up with the human development index (HDI)

* It aims to show how far people are benefiting from a country’s economic growth.
* HDI looks at:
  + Life expectancy
  + Number of years of education
  + GNI per capita
* Expressed in values 0-1 (1=highest) it allows countries to be ranked

Quality of life

A good quality of life will mean different things in different countries

* Safety
* Security
* Freedom
* Right to vote
* Women’s rights
* Happiness