

Taking it further 1

Ghana and development

What is a developed country?

A developed country is one in which most people have a good standard of living.

In a developed country, you'd expect people to have things like these:

- enough money and food
- the chance to earn a living
- the chance of a good education
- access to good healthcare
- access to a clean safe water supply, electricity and other basic services.

How is development measured?

There are many ways to measure how developed a country is. We call the measurements **development indicators**. Here are some examples:

Indicator	Definition	The value for	
		Ghana	UK
Under-5 mortality rate	The number of children, out of every thousand born alive, who die before their 5th birthday	112	6
Life expectancy	How long people can expect to live, on average	59 years	79 years
Adult literacy rate	The percentage (%) of people aged 15 and over who can read and write a simple sentence	58%	99%
GDP per capita	The total value of the goods and services a country produces in a year, divided by the population; it gives you an idea of how well off the people are	\$2500	\$33,200

The first three indicators in the table are **social** indicators: they tell you about how people live. The fourth is an **economic** indicator: it is about money. Together, different indicators help you to build up a good picture of the standard of living in a country.

The human development index

There is one special indicator that combines data on education, literacy, life expectancy and GDP per capita. It is called the **human development index** or **HDI**. It is used as a quick way to compare countries. It comes out as a number between 0 and 1. The nearer to 1 the better.

Different stages of development

Every country is at a different stage of development. Some are much more developed than others. This is usually because they are able to set up industries and sell the goods they made to other countries. The money they earn helps to improve people's lives.

Countries like China and India are now developing fast, through industry. Some countries are a long way behind.

So where does Ghana stand?

On the human development index:

- Ghana ranks 135 out of 178 countries. (The UK ranks 16)
- Ghana is among the top 10 most developed African countries (but some of the 10 are much better off than Ghana).

Overall, Ghana is seen as a stable, peaceful country with great potential, but with many people still living in poverty.

The Millennium Development Goals

Nearly all of the world's countries belong to an international organisation representing the many member countries called the **United Nations** (or **UN**). This was set up to promote peace, and economic development.

In 2000, the UN agreed on a set of 8 goals, to achieve by 2015. They include:

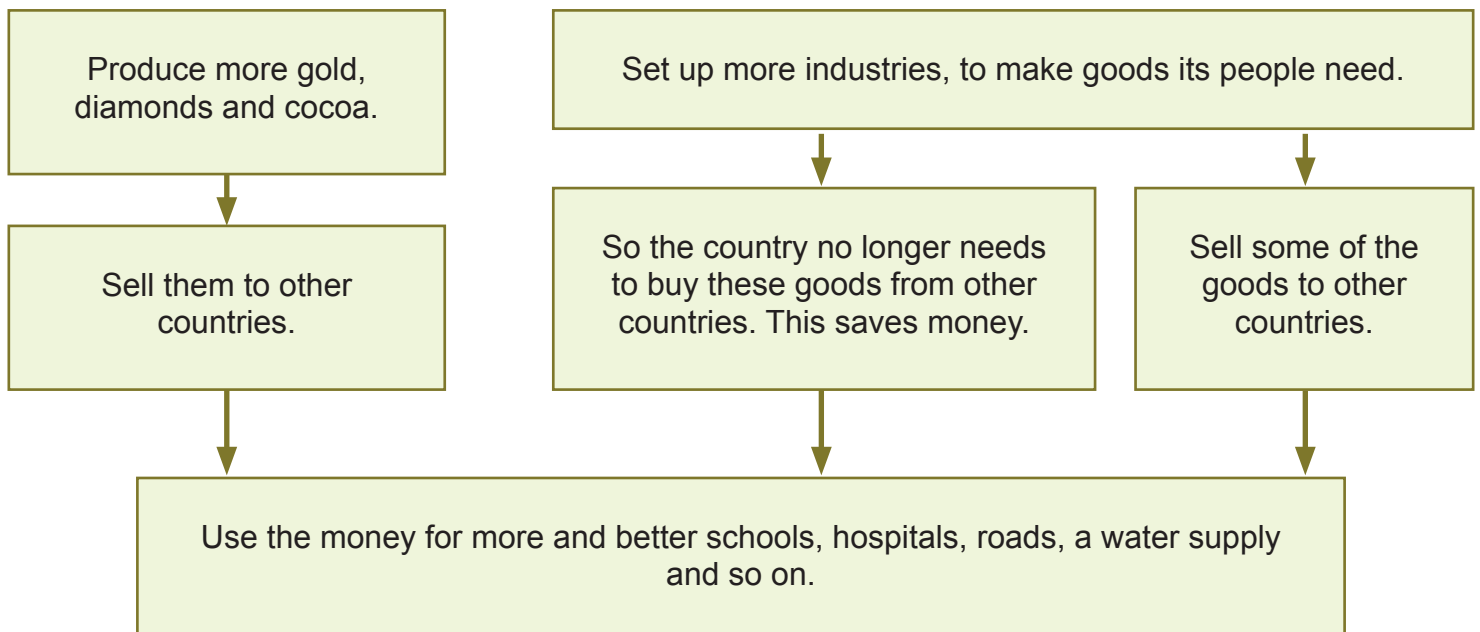
- to wipe out extreme poverty and hunger
- to ensure that all children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
- to reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate.

Ghana's government is now working hard to meet these goals for Ghana.

Money for development

Meeting the Millennium Development Goals will cost a great deal.

The richer UN countries have agreed to put up some money, to help the poorer ones. But these countries don't want to rely on aid. They want to earn more money for themselves, through trade. This flowchart shows some of what Ghana aims to do:



Things to do

1. Ghana is keen to develop its tourism industry:
 - a. Draw a flow chart to show how this could help Ghana to develop.
 - b. Design a large poster, to put up on motorway hoardings, to invite people to visit Ghana.
 - c. Design a leaflet to tell people about Ghana as a tourist destination. You could use an A4 page folded in three. You may need to find out more about Ghana's tourist attractions, such as its National Parks, from the internet. See if you can use a desktop publishing package to create your leaflet.
2. Find out more about the United Nations: where it is based, and what it does. Is the UK a member? Write a short report for the class.
3. Development indicators tell you about the standard of living in a country. But there is a great deal they don't tell you. For example, are the people friendly? What's the food like there? What kind of music is popular? What sports do people play? Imagine you have been invited to spend a few months in Ghana. Write a list of questions you'd want to ask about it, before you go. (Then see if you can find out the answers!)