

# 1D: Standards of Living



## Lesson Focus Question

- How do living standards in Canada compare with those of developing countries and what is being done to close the poverty gap and improve human development around the world?

**Main Reference** Cranny, M., Moles, G. (2010). *Counterpoints: Exploring Canadian Issues*. Toronto: Pearson.

**Reading:** Ch. 12L Living Standards p. 386-400 (start with quick read through)

**Teacher Presentation:** Keynote 2

**Image:** Children living in extreme poverty

**Source:** <http://eduspaces.net/csessums/weblog/>

## Some Main Ideas in Ch. 11:

- The gap between “have” and “have-not” nations
- The challenges of developing countries
- Defining and measuring living standards
- The inequity of food distribution
- Increasing mortality rates in some countries
- The causes of poverty
- Dealing with inequity
- The proliferation of and denial of human rights
- Causes and challenges of Highly Indebted Countries
- The “silver-spoon” mentality
- Breaking the cycle of poverty
- The plight of women and children
- The needs and challenges of providing better health care
- Advancement through small-scale improvements
- Development of “global” solutions
- The intricacies of foreign aid & Canada’s role

The first few of these central concepts are covered by this lesson, the corresponding keynote & *Counterpoints* p. 386-400. The rest are covered by the next lessons.

## Define the following terms briefly, using an example if possible:

- Human Development Index (HDI)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- standard of living

- adult literacy rate
- Gross Domestic Product
- per capita
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- infrastructure
- characteristics of developed vs. newly industrialized vs. developing countries
- Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs)
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- mortality rate
- World Bank & International Monetary Fund (IMF) and their role in the economies of developing countries
- bilateral aid

**Questions p. 388-390**

1. What would Canada have to do to improve its ranking on the UN Human Development Index?
2. Should Canada feel any responsibility to nations at the bottom of the index? Why?
3. What should the UN do to hold nations to their commitments? How can citizens keep their governments accountable to the MDGs?

**Questions p. 392-393**

4. Why is it difficult to accurately measure levels of economic development?
5. What are some problems faced by people moving from rural to urban areas in developing countries?

**Questions p. 394-395**

6. What is the purpose of the Human Poverty Index? How effective is it in highlighting the differences between rich and poor countries?
7. What do you think are the five most important basic needs that must be met for a person not to be considered impoverished?

**Questions p. 396-400**

8. How has the debt burden in developing countries prevented governments from looking after basic needs?

9. Should the countries with the highest debt loads have their debts forgiven (erased)? Why or why not?

**Notes on the Poverty Cycle or other notes from teacher presentation or your own sources:**