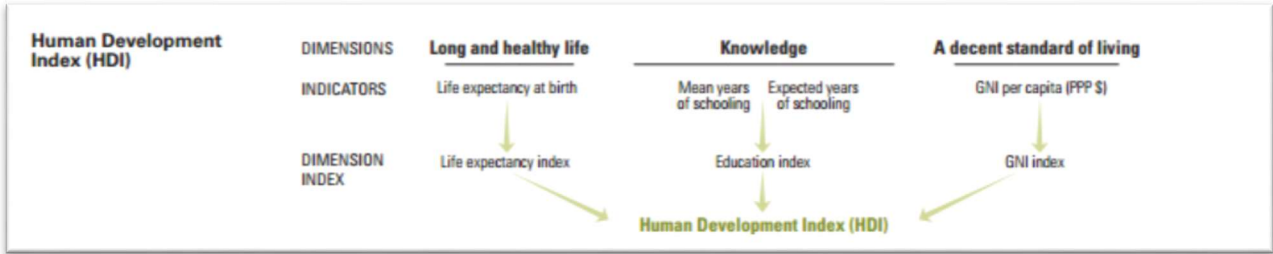


The Human Development Index: Measuring the Quality of Life

The ‘Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development’ (UNDP). It is a measure closely related to quality of life, and is used to compare two or more countries. The United Nations developed the HDI based on three main dimensions: long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living (see Image below).

Figure 1: Indicators of HDI

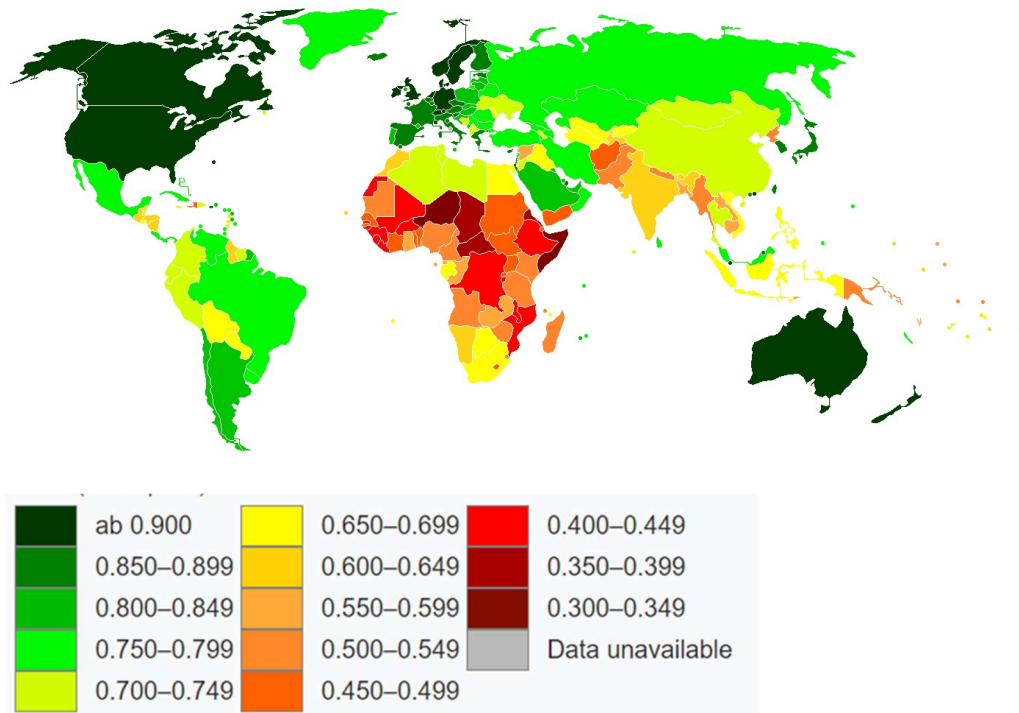


Source: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>

In 2015, the United States ranked 8th among all countries in Human Development, ranking behind countries like Norway, Australia, Switzerland, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany and Ireland (UNDP, 2015).

The closer a country is to 1.0 on the HDI index, the better its standing in regards to human development. Maps of HDI ranking reveal regional patterns, such as the low HDI in Sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 2).

Figure 2. The United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) rankings for 2014



Use Student Resource XIII, Measuring Quality of Life Country Statistics to answer the following questions:

1. Categorize the countries into three groups based on their GNI PPP (US\$), which relates to their income. List them here.

High Income:

Medium Income:

Low Income:

2. Is there a relationship between income and any of the other statistics listed in the table, such as access to electricity, undernourishment, or access to physicians (or others)? Describe at least two patterns here.

3. There are several factors we can look at to measure a country's quality of life. We have looked at a few already. What other categories would you choose to measure quality of life within different countries? List at least three in the space.