

Comparing Australia and Uganda

The United Nations (UN) collects information about countries around the world. They want to know what life is like for the average person in that country. Three important measures include:

1. Income – how many people live on less than \$1.25 a day?
2. Education – how many years does the average person go to school?
3. Health – how many years does the average person live?

It is important to remember that these statistics are not true for every person in that country – these are the average. Some people are worse off and some people are better off.

Let's compare two countries – Australia and Uganda – to see how different life (on average) can be:

Indicator	Australia	Uganda
Life expectancy - how long does the average person live?	81.9 years	54.1 years
Years of school - how many years did the average adult go to school?	12 years	4.7 years
Population living on less than US \$1.25 a day - what percentage of people has less than \$1.25 a day to live on?	nil	52%
Population with access to an improved water source - what percentage of people has access to safe drinking water?	100%	64%

Source: <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/>, http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2010_EN_Table1_reprint.pdf [accessed 16 Dec 2010]

The UN uses indicators like these to work out how developed a country is. Countries around the world can then be compared with each other.

Out of 169 countries measured in 2010, Uganda was ranked 143rd, which means Uganda has a low level of development. Australia was ranked as having the 2nd highest level of development in the world.

Poverty is more than just a lack of **money** or **income**. It also means a lack of **education**, poor **health**, lack of access to safe drinking **water**, inadequate **housing** and poor **food** and **nutrition**.

Use the mind map below to show how poverty affects different parts of life for people.

