

JORDAN BADIA PROJECT

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of Life means the living conditions experienced by people and their overall well-being. Often, they may be affected by economic factors, such as income, housing, employment and the availability of food, water and consumer goods. However, social factors are also important and people's health and education, for example, are crucial to their well-being. Increasingly, some people consider the quality of their surrounding environment (landscape, air, water etc.) to be important. The term "Quality of Life" is difficult to define because every person has their own experience and expectations. For some a high quality of life can only be achieved in a town or a city, for others a rural environment. Many people will strive to obtain a higher quality of life only to find that it does not bring the contentment that they expected. A high quality of life is usually associated with urbanisation and high technology, yet these can bring stresses and strains. In reality a simple nomadic life may be **perceived** as a more acceptable way of life?

TASK C1: Quality of Life

1: Complete the questions in Figure C1.

2: Study the representative sample of data in Fig.C2, which compares several contrasting countries. What does the data tell you about the differences between the four countries and what other data would be useful to enable you to make more meaningful comparisons?

| Source: www.prb.org | UK | Italy | Dem. Rep. Congo | Jordan |
|--|---------|---------|-----------------|----------|
| Population mid-2008 | 65 mill | 60 mill | 67 mill | 5.8 mill |
| Population 2050 (projected) | 77 mill | 62 mill | 189 mill | 9.7 mill |
| Infant Mortality Rate per '000 | 4.9 | 4.2 | 92 | 24 |
| Population below 15 yrs | 18% | 14% | 47% | 37% |
| Population over 65 yrs | 16% | 20% | 3% | 3% |
| Life expectancy at birth (M/F) | 77/81 | 79/84 | 49/55 | 69/74 |
| Annual births minus deaths | 198,000 | -7,200 | 2.1 mill | 140,000 |
| Population undernourished | <2.5% | <2.5% | 74% | 6% |
| Natural habitat remaining | 63% | 47% | 93% | 95% |
| Urban population | 80% | 68% | 33 | 19% |
| Population using adequate sanitation | 100% | - | 20% | 98% |
| GNP per capita (US\$) | 34,370 | 29,900 | 290 | 5,160 |

Fig. C2: Some comparative statistics

3: Does any of the data upset any pre-conceived ideas that you might have had about Jordan?

Fig.C1: Quality of Life

QUALITY OF LIFE

1 Write down 5 things that you consider to be essential to **your** quality of life

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



2 Now read the following:

The Bedouin

Traditionally the desert dwellers (Bedouin) of Jordan live a nomadic existence. They move from one grazing to another taking their goats, donkeys and camels with them. They live in big goat hair tents with very few personal items other than cooking utensils, blankets and their clothing. Families are often quite large, five or six children being quite usual. Today many Bedouin are being attracted away from the nomadic way of life by the opportunities offered by a seemingly better existence in settlements.

3 Now list 5 things that a desert Bedouin might consider to be essential to his quality of life

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE

2 Study Fig.C2 outlining some **Basic Human Needs** and then....

3 Write down a list of 5 things that you think that you could use as indicators of people's standard of living; in other words data that you could actually measure and then use to produce a shaded map.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

