

Assistance Committee) list of developing countries.⁸ Iran was also excluded. The countries of the Former Soviet Union and Eritrea were omitted because of data problems.

In addition, data on small island developing countries and the new countries of Eastern Europe (i.e., the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the states of the former Yugoslavia) are frequently unavailable. Although some of these countries have been considered regardless, the results are at least partially misleading in their case. Although every effort has been made to fill data gaps, when data commonly compiled by universal organisations such as the UN or the World Bank have been unavailable for a particular country, the country has received a "zero" for that particular indicator. This methodology is unlikely to introduce systemic biases into the results because the unavailability of data is usually correlated with a poor commitment to sound policies. Nevertheless, anomalies resulting from data gaps do occur and should be carefully considered when interpreting the results.⁹

The 25 indicators have been arranged into five clusters (the number of separate indicators in each cluster is in brackets):

3.1 Commitment to people (5 indicators)

This cluster assesses a government's commitment to health, education, a reasonable level of military expenditures, the equality of men and women, and an appropriate policy towards population growth.

The World Bank considers adequate expenditures on health and primary education as important means of improving the social conditions of the poor (especially primary school enrollment and under-five mortality rates).¹⁰ An index (inspired by the UNDP's Human Development Index¹¹) has been applied measuring countries' expenditures as a percentage of GNP.¹²

⁸ Bahamas, Brunei, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, UAE.

⁹ The first cluster suffers from the most data gaps.

¹⁰ IBRD, World Development Report, 1990, p. 46.

¹¹ Each year, the UNDP groups countries into high, medium and low human development groups on the basis of an index measuring longevity, educational attainment and access to resources. These are the "outputs" of development. The index itself situates countries within the range of observed outcomes, the maximum score being one (1) and the minimum score being zero (0).

¹² In the case of health expenditures, countries were compared to other countries within the same Human Development Group to lessen possible biases against least developed countries.