

Access to safe water: Measured by the number of people who have a reasonable means of getting and adequate amount of clean water, expressed as a percentage of the total population. It reflects the health of a country's people and the country's ability to collect, clean, and distribute water. In urban areas "reasonable" access means there is a public fountain or water spigot located within 200 meters of the household. In rural areas, it implies that members of the household do not have to spend excessive time each day fetching water. Water is safe or unsafe depending on the amount of bacteria in it. An adequate amount of water is enough to satisfy metabolic, hygienic, and domestic requirements, usually about 20 liters (about 4 gallons) per person per day. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Access to sanitation: Refers to the share of the population with at least adequate excreta disposal facilities that can effectively prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta. Suitable facilities range from simple but protected pit latrines to flush toilets with sewerage. To be effective, all facilities must be correctly constructed and maintained. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Activism: a policy of vigorous action in a cause, especially in politics. (Concise Oxford Dictionary)

Adult illiteracy rate: The proportion of the population over age fifteen who cannot, with understanding, read and write a simple statement about their everyday life and do simple mathematical calculations.

Band: a range of frequencies between two limits. (Cognitive Science Laboratory, Princeton University)

Census: an enumeration of people, houses, firms, or other important items in a country or region at a particular time. Used alone, the term usually refers to a population census. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Civil liberties: freedom from arbitrary interference in one's pursuits by individuals or by government. Civil liberties are protected explicitly in the constitutions of most democratic countries. For example, in the U.S., civil liberties are guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Conflict Management: interventionists' efforts towards preventing the escalation and negative effects, especially violent ones, of ongoing conflicts. Rarely are conflicts completely resolved. More often, they are reduced, downgraded, or contained. Such developments can be followed by a reorientation of the issue, reconstitution of the divisions among conflicting parties, or even by a re-emergence of past issues or grievances. Conflict management when actively conducted is, therefore, a constant process. (University for Peace)

Deforestation: The process of clearing of forests. Since trees' root systems are essential for keeping top soil in place, deforestation can bring about soil erosion. In addition, loss of trees is said to contribute to global warming because trees reduce greenhouse gases and provide shade. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Democracy: a form of government which requires the participation of the people. A political system which is characterized, *inter alia*, by the independence of the executive body, the legislative body and the judiciary, as well as free elections. (United Nations Cyberschoolbus)

Desertification: desertification is the process of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations (drought) and human activities (overexploitation of drylands). (OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms)

Developing country: Low- and middle-income countries in which most people have a lower standard of living with access to fewer goods and services than do most people in high-income countries. There are currently about 125 developing countries with populations over 1 million; in 1998, their total population was more than 5 billion. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Diplomacy: the official means by which sovereign nations conduct affairs with one another and develop agreement on their respective positions. Diplomacy is a tool of foreign policy that involves representation, bargaining, negotiation, and other peaceful means. Such arrangements may be conducted publicly or out of view, but once mutual interests and consensus are recognized, official policy formulation proceeds. (University for Peace)

Drivers of peace: factors or social dynamics that may be acting to strengthen a community's resilience to conflict. (World Bank, Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Unit)

Ecosystem: a community of plants and animals existing in an environment that supplies them with water, air, and other elements they need for life. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Environmental degradation: deterioration in environmental quality from ambient concentrations of pollutants and other activities and processes such as improper land use and natural disasters. (Glossary of Environment Statistics, United Nations, New York, 1997.)

Gross domestic product (GDP): total output of goods and services for final use produced by an economy by both residents and non-residents, regardless of the allocation to domestic and foreign claims. It does not include deductions for depreciation of physical capital or depletion and degradation of natural resources. (United Nations Development Program)

GDP per capita: The dollar value of a country's final output of goods and services in a year (its GDP), divided by its population. It reflects the average income of a country's citizens. Knowing a country's GDP per capita is a good first step toward understanding the country's economic strengths and needs. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Genocide: any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. (Article II, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Jan. 12, 1951.)

Heavy Weapons: also known as conventional weapons systems. Weapons that are larger than what any one person or small team could handle. They include: armored combat vehicles, battle tanks, large-caliber artillery systems, attack helicopters, combat aircraft, warships, and missiles and missile launchers. (United Nations Cyberschoolbus)

Human rights: the universal, indivisible, equitable, and indispensable claims and entitlements that are endowed to all persons simply by the sake of being human. (University for Peace)

Index: a numerical scale used to compare variables with one another. (Cognitive Science Laboratory, Princeton University)

Indicator: a number or ratio (a value on a scale of measurement) derived from a series of observed facts; can reveal relative changes as a function of time. (Cognitive Science Laboratory, Princeton University)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)

Least Developed Countries (LDCs): The United Nations Economic and Social Council and General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP): a low-income criterion, based on a three-year average estimate of the gross national income (GNI) per capita (under \$750 for inclusion, above \$900 for graduation); a human resource weakness criterion, involving a composite Human Assets Index (HAI) based on indicators of: (a) nutrition; (b) health; (c) education; and (d) adult literacy; and an economic vulnerability criterion, involving a composite Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) based on indicators of: (a) the instability of agricultural production; (b) the instability of exports of goods and services; (c) the economic importance of non-traditional activities (share of manufacturing and modern services in GDP); (d) merchandise export concentration; and (e) the handicap of economic smallness (as measured through the population in logarithm); and the percentage of population displaced by natural disasters. List of least developed countries: Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, D. R. of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, U.R. of Tanzania, Zambia; Asia and the Pacific: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao P.D.R., Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Yemen; Latin America and the Caribbean: Haiti (United Nations, OHRLS)

Life expectancy at birth: number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of birth were to stay the same throughout the child's life. (United Nations Development Program)

Building Blocks of Peace

Light Weapons: in contrast to small arms which can be operated by one person, light weapons need to be operated by two or three people. These are usually weapons found in war situations and they include grenade launchers, mortars, light missiles, portable anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns, heavy machine guns, cannons, and various explosive devices. (United Nations Cyberschoolbus)

Literacy: The ability to read and write a simple statement about one's everyday life and do simple mathematical calculations. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Militarization: 1 : to give a military character to 2 : to equip with military forces and defenses 3 : to adapt for military use. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Mediation: a voluntary process in which two or more parties involved in a dispute work with an impartial party, the mediator, to generate their own solutions in settling their conflict. (Center for Conflict Resolution)

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): in September 2000, leaders from 189 nations agreed on a vision for the future: a world with less poverty, hunger and disease, greater survival prospects for mothers and their infants, better educated children, equal opportunities for women, and a healthier environment; a world in which developed and developing countries worked in partnership for the betterment of all. This vision took the shape of eight Millennium Development Goals, which provide a framework for development planning for countries around the world, and time-bound targets by which progress can be measured. The eight MDGs range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015. (United Nations)

Mortality rate: the ratio of deaths in an area to the population of that area; expressed per 1000 per year. (Cognitive Science Laboratory, Princeton University)

Negative Peace: the condition characterized by the absence of war and "direct" violence. Coined by Johan Galtung (Norwegian sociologist and a principal founder of the discipline of peace and conflict studies)

Non-governmental organization (NGO): any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest - NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through provision of information. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, environment or health. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. (The Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with The United Nations Department of Public Information)

OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development): an international organization that brings together 30 member countries in a forum to discuss, develop and refine economic and social policy. Members compare experiences, seek answers to common problems, and work to coordinate domestic and international policies to help members and non-members deal with an increasingly globalized world. The organization is internationally recognized as a reliable and comprehensive source of comparable economic and social data. The organization began in 1961 as a group of European and North American nations and has since expanded to include Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, Korea and four former communist nations, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and the Slovak Republic. (OECD)

Organized crime: defined by the FBI as any group having some manner of a formalized structure and whose primary objective is to obtain money through illegal activities. Such groups maintain their position through the use of actual or threatened violence, corrupt public officials, graft, or extortion, and generally have a significant impact on the people in their locales, region, or the country as a whole. (US Federal Bureau of Investigation)

Pastoralists: participants in a social organization based on livestock raising as the primary economic activity. (Merriam-Webster Online)

Peacekeeping: the maintenance of public security, civil services, and cease-fire agreements in war and conflict zones by UN or regional military, police, and civilian forces with the consent of the nation-state on whose territory these forces are deployed. (UN University for Peace)

Per capita: 1 : equally to each individual 2 : per unit of population 3 : by or for each person. (Merriam-Webster Online)

Building Blocks of Peace

Positive Peace: the condition characterized by the existence of peaceful social and cultural beliefs and norms; the presence of justice at all levels (economic, social, and political); the shared democratic use of power; and non-violence. Coined by Johan Galtung (Norwegian sociologist and a principal founder of the discipline of Peace and conflict studies)

Public goods: (also called collective goods) a very special class of goods for which the consumption by one individual consumer does not limit the consumption by others (the “nonexcludability criterion”) and for which the marginal cost of an additional person consuming them, once they have been produced, is zero (the “nonrivalrous consumption” criterion). Classic examples of public goods are national defense or clean air.

Refugee: any person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it. (United Nations OHCHR Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951)

Safe water: Water that is safe for drinking and bathing including treated surface water and untreated but uncontaminated water, such as from springs, sanitary wells, and protected boreholes. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Salinity: salinity is the increased accumulation of excessive salts in land and water at sufficient levels to impact on human and natural assets (plants, animals, aquatic ecosystems, water supplies, agriculture, or infrastructure). (National Resource Management Tasmania)

Sanitation: Maintaining clean, hygienic conditions that help prevent disease through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal. (World Bank Group Glossary)

Small Arms: refers to weapons that can be easily carried by a single person. These include handguns, rifles, carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles, and light hand-held machine guns. (United Nations Cyberschoolbus)

Subsistence agriculture: form of farming in which nearly all of the crops or livestock raised are used to maintain the farmer and his family, leaving little, if any, surplus for sale or trade. Pre-industrial agricultural peoples throughout the world have traditionally practiced subsistence farming. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Sustainability: meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity (*Hope for the Future: the Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy*, September 2003)

Sustainable development: a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are made consistent with the future as well as present needs. Those paths of social, economic and political progress that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, Brundtland Report 1987)

Terrorism: criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act. (UN Resolution 1566 [2004])

United Nations (UN): an international organization established on 24 October 1945 with currently 192 member countries. Member states agree to accept the obligations of the UN Charter, an international treaty that sets out basic principles of international relations. According to the Charter, the UN has four purposes: to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. (UN in Brief)

UN General Assembly: one of the six main organs of the United Nations, established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations. The chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. The General Assembly also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law. The Assembly meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required. (UN in Brief)