GNI per capita = US$410

Life Expectancy = 59 years

Democratic Republic of the Congo - LIDC Development

Literacy Rate = 61%

HDI = 0.43 (low)

Assess Evaluate Describe justify

Country context:

Location - in central Africa. It is almost entirely landlocked

Population - 79 million . High Birth Rate is causing rapid population growth.

Resources - It is very rich in natural resources e.g. copper, gold, oil and diamonds. It has fertile soil and ideal climatic for growing cotton, coffee and sugar.

History - DRC was a Belgian colony from 1885 to 1960. DRC became independent from Belgian in 1960.

Factors / Challenges hindering Development

Political and Social Factors - By 1960 the country was quite developed with industry booming, education and health care improving. The huge amount of money created from the mines and farms was sent to other countries. At independence there was conflict over who should rule and caused conflict and stopped development from happening due to:

- corruption (President Mobutu allowed armed forces to loot—taking goods and money)= inequality in wealth. Companies from abroad paid bribes to mine natural resources.
- International companies forced to leave = loss of jobs and wealth
- Conflict over leadership lead to damage to crops, property and infrastructure, people fled homes.
- Global demand for coltan/wolframite (used in electronic goods) lead to armed groups forcing people to work in dangerous conditions/deaths of millions via ownership Disputes

Environmental Factors - The country is very large so goods have to be transported large distances by road or rail (expensive to build). Congo river can produce HEP. Floods damage roads, settlements and hinder development.

Solutions to Development:

Increasing Trade Links - It now exports roughly as much as it imports. Exports are mainly primary goods e.g. crude oil, minerals, wood and coffee. Main imports are manufactured goods e.g. machinery, vehicles. Until recently few countries would trade with DRC because of human rights violations. Its main trading partners are Belgian, China, Italy, France and Australia.

Benefits: The economy grew by 7% between 2010 and 2012. This lead to increased wealth and improved standards of living (via education and healthcare investments). Also lead to others countries trading or the giving of Aid.

Problems: Reliance on trading primary good (low value) and vulnerable to falling global prices. Reliance on importing manufactured goods of higher prices—are vulnerable to having to pay increased prices. Uncontrolled mining lead to human rights violations.

Few TNCs - there are both advantages and disadvantages to having TNCs in a country.

Advantages: provide employment e.g. Banro employs 1500; supports development projects to improve local economy; bring money via taxes and spending on goods and service; invest in infrastructure e.g. roads and bridges.

Disadvantages: can pull out at any time; some profilts leave the country; large mines force independent small mines to close; environmental problems.

AID - billions of dollars of AID received every year (USE, UK, Belgium, World Bank).

Advantages: improve living conditions, health, education and infrastructure. Provide food and shelter. **Disadvantages**: restrictions on use od money.

SEE PAGE 72 CGP REVISION BOOK FOR 'Top-Down' and 'Bottom-Up' AID PROJECTS

Example of an LIDC:

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Dynamic development topic