# 3.7 Access to health care and education

People who live in the world's most liveable cities often have access to good health care services, including doctors, public and private hospitals, specialist clinics and over-the-counter drugs. They also have access to a range of schools and other education facilities, such as training centres and universities. In many liveable cities, including those in Australia, school education is not only compulsory, it is free.

Often cities in Canada, the USA, Australia and Western Europe rank highly for health care and education, while African cities are the lowest ranked in the world for these services.



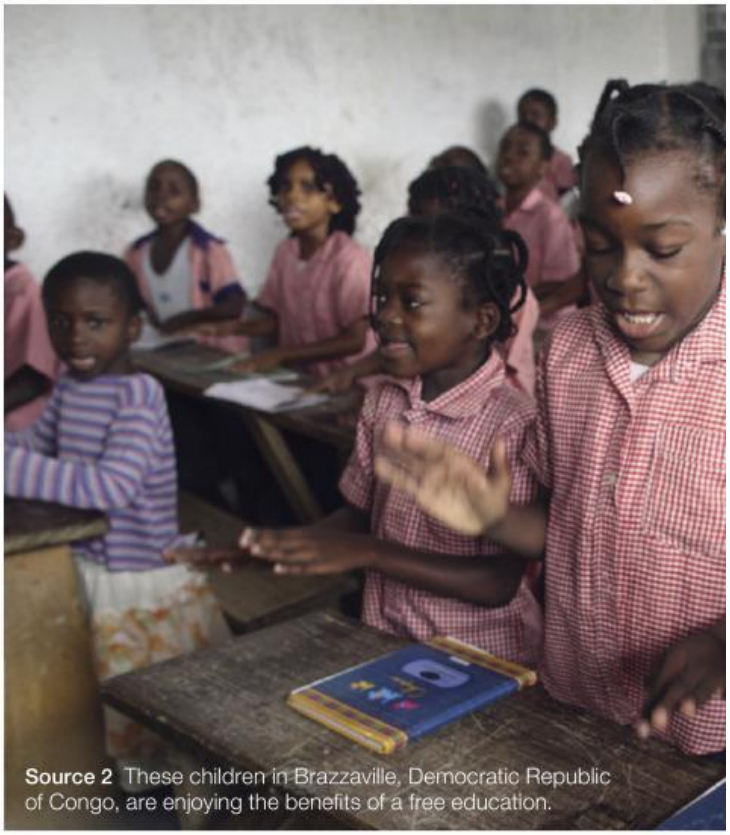
**Source 1** A modern operating theatre at a hospital

## The situation in the developing world

When examining access to health and education in developing countries it is easy to think that nothing can be done to improve the situation. Yet there have been some significant improvements in recent years.

The number of mothers who die while giving birth each year, for example, has almost halved since 1990. The main reasons are thought to be: improved care in hospitals and birth clinics; better education of girls and women; and better access to health care professionals, such as maternal nurses and doctors. Though the current rate still means that 800 women a day die while giving birth, the improvements in the last two decades give hope that this rate will decline even further.

Worldwide, 89 per cent of all primary school–aged children now attend school. Although 67 million children worldwide are not at school, this is a vast improvement on 1999 when the number of children not enrolled in primary school was 106 million. The countries that have made the greatest improvements in this area are the poorest countries of sub-Saharan Africa. In many of these countries, such as Rwanda and Mali, it is believed that abolishing school fees has been the main factor behind this improvement.

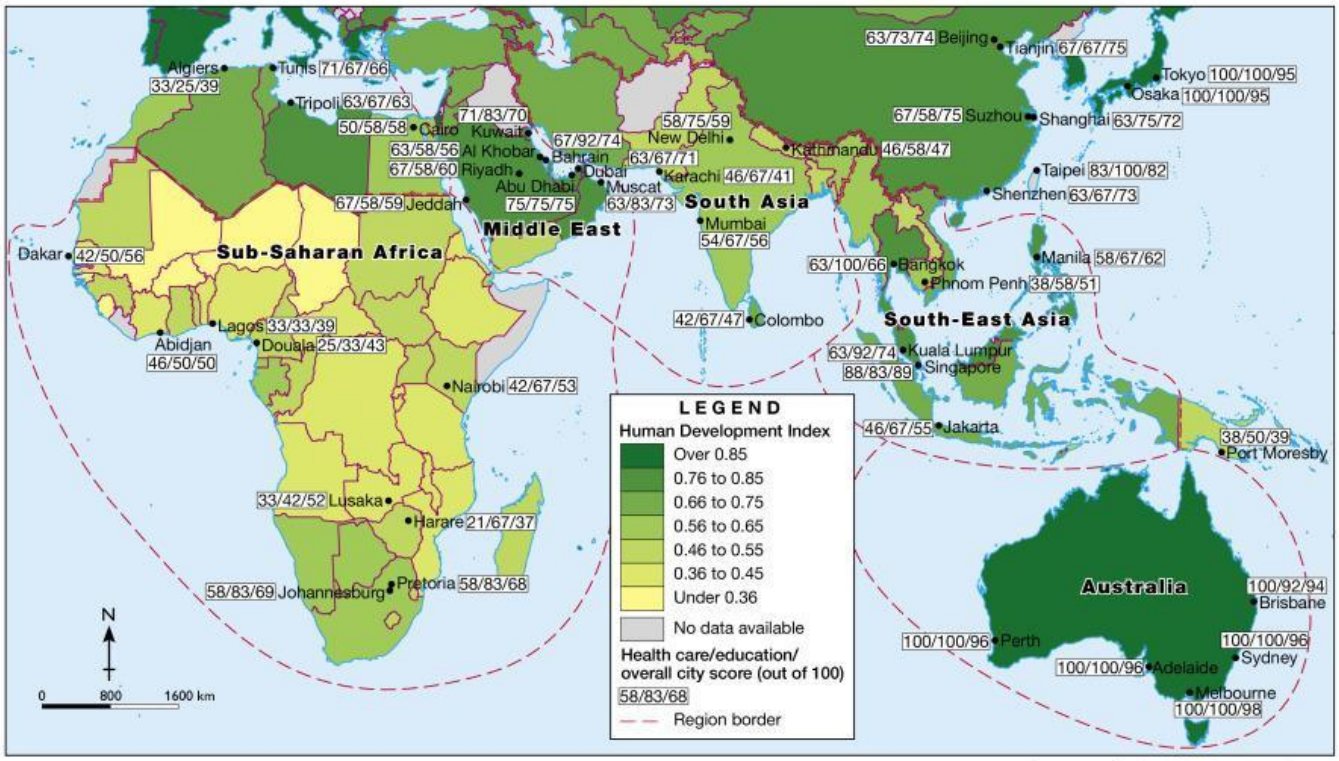


**Source 2** These children in Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, are enjoying the benefits of a free education.



Licensed to Patrick Marzohl, from Margaret River High School until 2021-3
LIVEWORKSHEETS

AFRICA, SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND AUSTRALIA: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX




**Source 3**

Source: Oxford University Press



## Check your learning 3.7

### Remember and understand

1 What improvements have been made in health care and education in developing countries?

2 What changes have led to these improvements?

### Apply and analyse

3 Why do you think educating girls is a key part of lowering the maternal death rate?

4 Examine Source 3. The map shows health care and education scores in selected cities in Africa, Asia and Australia. The map also shows each country shaded according to the **Human Development Index (HDI)**. This uses measures of life expectancy, literacy and **gross domestic product (GDP)** to show the living standards in each country.

- **a** In which region is HDI the lowest?
- **b** How do cities in this region score for health care and education?
- **c** In which region is HDI the highest?
- **d** How do cities in this region score for health care and education?
- **e** Write a short paragraph describing the connection between living standards (as shown in the HDI), health care and education in the cities of the regions shown on the map.



Licensed to Patrick Marzohl, from Margaret River High School until 2021-05-25
LIVEWORKSHEETS