# Talking about global disparities

Omair

Hi Omair! Do you know much about global disparities?

Hi Mateo! I know a bit. It's when countries have differences in things like wealth, education, and health, right?

Yes, exactly! Some countries are richer and have better schools and hospitals.

I heard that countries like the US and Germany have more resources than countries like India and Nigeria.

True. But do you know how they measure these differences?

Not really. Maybe they use some kind of index or data?

I think so too. And what about ways to fix these disparities? Any ideas?

I guess things like aid programs or fair trade could help.

Yeah, but we should find out more. How about we ask our teacher or look it up online?

Good idea! Let's ask our teacher tomorrow and search for some info now.

Cool! I'll start looking up some articles. Talk to you soon!

Thanks, Mateo! See you later!

Read the dialogue between Omair and Mateo and try to think of examples of global disparities. Share your results in class.

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# Disparities between four countries

Have a look at the reports from four different countries regarding the factors education, nutrition, health and income, then answer the related questions.

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| Finland    Finland is a country that generally performs well in many aspects of human development, including nutrition, health, education, and income. The country's nutrition standards are high, with widespread access to healthy food options and low levels of food insecurity. Finland's healthcare system is robust, offering high-quality care to all citizens, resulting in high life expectancy and low infant mortality rates. Education is another strong area for Finland, with its education system being renowned globally for its quality and equity. Income levels in Finland are relatively high, and the country has a strong social security system that helps to mitigate income disparities.  Finland excels in nutrition, health, education, and income, showcasing robust systems in each area. | Nepal    Nepal faces significant challenges in terms of nutrition, health, education, and income. Malnutrition remains a critical issue, with many children suffering from stunting. The healthcare system, though improving, is still underdeveloped, with limited access to quality healthcare, especially in rural areas. Education in Nepal has seen improvements, with increasing enrollment rates and efforts to enhance the quality of education. However, income levels remain low, and a significant portion of the population lives below the poverty line, struggling to meet basic needs.  Nepal struggles with nutrition, health, and income, though there are improvements in education. |
| South Africa    South Africa exhibits a mixed performance in nutrition, health, education, and income. Nutrition is a concern, with a substantial segment of the population facing food insecurity and malnutrition. The healthcare system is advanced in urban areas but struggles to provide adequate services in rural regions. Education in South Africa shows significant disparities; while some schools offer high-quality education, others are severely under-resourced. Income inequality is a major issue, with a wide gap between the wealthy and the poor, despite being one of the more developed economies in Africa.  South Africa has disparities in nutrition, health, education, and income, with urban-rural and rich-poor divides. | Afghanistan    Afghanistan faces severe challenges in nutrition, health, education, and income. Malnutrition is widespread, particularly among children. The healthcare system is under severe strain, with limited access to medical facilities and professionals, resulting in poor health outcomes. Education is disrupted by ongoing conflict, with many children, especially girls, lacking access to schools. Income levels are extremely low, with a significant portion of the population living in poverty, exacerbated by ongoing instability and lack of economic opportunities.  Afghanistan faces severe challenges in nutrition, health, education, and income due to ongoing conflict and instability. |

Name three aspects in which Finland excels according to the source text.

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Describe the main challenges Nepal faces in terms of human development.

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Explain the disparities in South Africa's education system as mentioned in the source text.

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# Group work

Form groups of four and choose one of the four countries where many aspects still need improvement. Think about what could be done in these countries to reduce the differences compared to other countries. Also discuss: Can other countries contribute to improving the situation in this country?

