

References

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QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE POPULATION AND PROBLEMS OF ITS PROVISION IN THE CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)

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The article examines the essence of the concept "Quality of life of the population". The urgency of improving the quality of life of the population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is substantiated. The tendencies of changes in quantitative indicators of the quality of life of the population, as well as the country's position in the world ranking of human development are shown.

In the modern world, the quality of life of the population is the most important criterion for the well-being of society. The quality of life of the population is the most important social category that characterizes the structure of human needs and the possibility of meeting them.

In the scientific literature, until now, there is no unity of views of scientists on the essence and quantitative indicators of the quality of life of the population.

The world health organization in 1994 defined the quality of life as «the perception that an individual has of his place in existence, in the context of the culture and the system of values in which he lives, in relation to his objectives, his expectations, its standards and concerns. It is a broad conceptual field, encompassing in a complex way the physical health of the person, his psychological state, his level of independence, his social relations, his personal beliefs and his relation with the specificities of his environment».

The quality of life of the population is also considered as a complex characteristic of the level and conditions of people's life, reflecting the possibilities and degree of their satisfaction of material, spiritual and social needs and the subjective perception of life and its individual aspects.

The concept of quality of life involves the formation of not only objective factors that determine the quality of life (food, housing, employment, education, etc.), but factors that determine a person's subjective perception of the level of their well-being, including such concepts as happiness, job satisfaction, family life situation, housing conditions, etc.

The problem of ensuring a high standard of living is especially important for a number of African states, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, with an area equivalent to that of Western Europe. The country has exceptional natural

resources. In addition to a wealth of minerals (notably cobalt and copper), the country has immense hydropower potential, vast arable land, tremendous biodiversity and is home to the second largest rainforest in the world.

In today's conditions, the standard of living of the population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo does not meet world standards. Among the most important factors that destabilize the quality of life of the Congolese are civil wars, disease, high poverty, low economic development of the country, significant problems in the development of social infrastructure, degradation and poverty in the rural regions of the country [1].

Poverty remains very widespread in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the country ranked third in the world for the number of poor people, and the situation has deteriorated further since the COVID-19 pandemic. An estimated 73% of its population, or 60 million people, lived on less than \$ 1.90 a day in 2018 (the level set as the international poverty line). Thus, nearly one in six people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

For a quantitative assessment of the quality of life of the population, various methodological approaches are used. In particular, in the world practice the indicator "Human Development Index" is used. The Human development index (HDI index) reflects achievements in basic human capabilities in three fundamental dimensions – a long and healthy life, an adequate education, and a decent standard of living. The variables representing these three dimensions are life expectancy, educational attainment and income (Fig. 1).

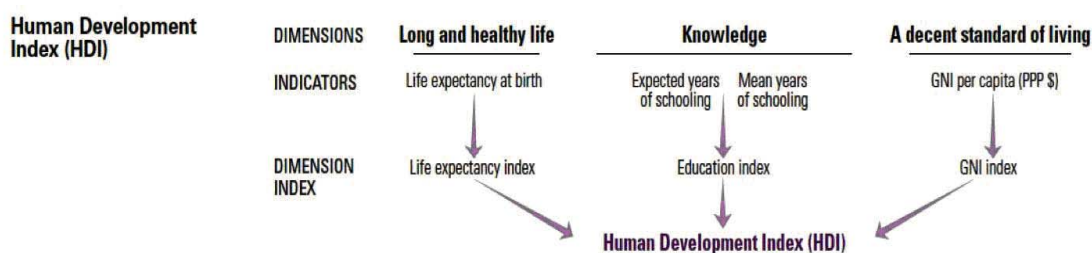


Fig. 1. Indicators of HDI

Source: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>.

We have studied the dynamics of the indicator "Human Development Index" of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a long-term period from 1980 to 2020 (Fig. 2).

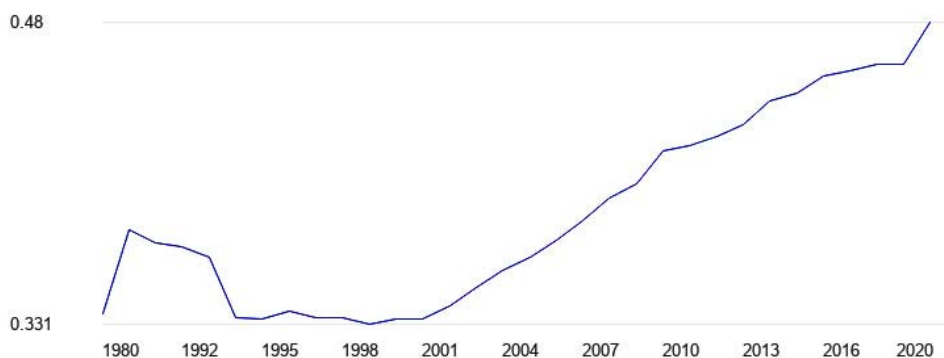


Fig. 2. Indicators of the dynamics of the human development index of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

More detailed data on the dynamics of this indicator for the period 2013–2020 are presented in Fig. 3.

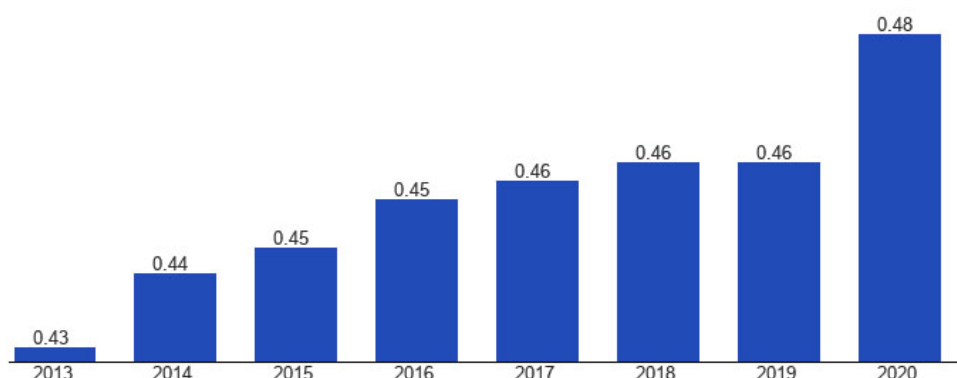


Fig. 3. Values and indicators of the dynamics of the Human Development Index of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period 2013–2020

The average value for Democratic Republic of the Congo during that period was 0.385 points with a minimum of 0.331 points in 1999 and a maximum of 0.48 points in 2020. The latest value from 2020 is 0.48 points. For comparison, the world average in 2020 based on 185 countries is 0.724 points. The position of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the world human development rankings in 2020 is shown in Fig. 4 [2], [3].

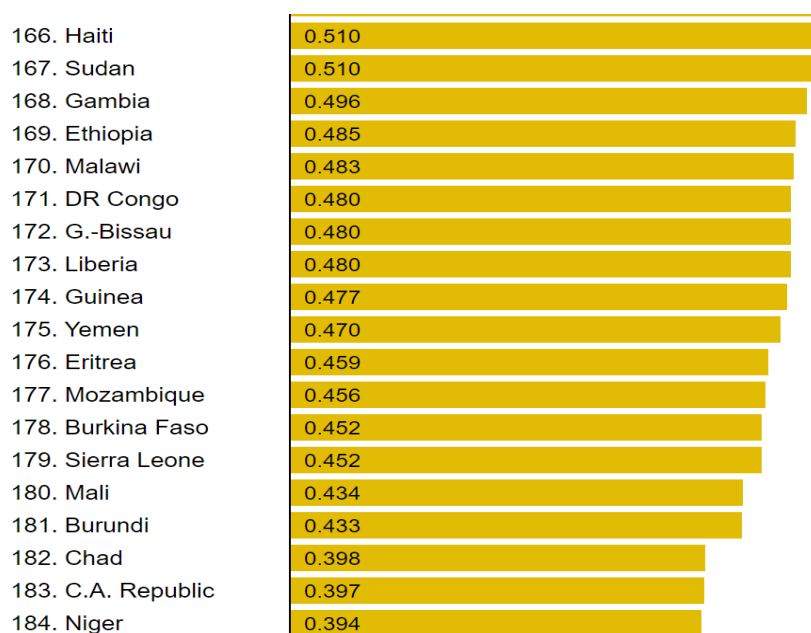


Fig. 4. Democratic Republic of the Congo in the world rankings on the Human Development Index

Thus, the country has 171 positions in the world ranking and according to the generally accepted classification it belongs to the group of countries with a low level of the human development index. According to our assessment, in order to solve the problem of improving the quality of life of the Congolese, it is necessary to develop the social policy of the state in the following main areas:

- increasing the level of income of the population;
- improving the health status of people based on the comprehensive development of the health care system;
- improving the quality of nutrition of the population;
- development of the education and culture system;
- increasing the level of employment of the population and improving working conditions, etc.

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