

Glossary

THE HUMAN POPULATION

A

age structure the classification of members of a population into groups according to age or the distribution of members of a population in terms of age groups

arable land farmland that can be used to grow crops

D

demographic transition the general pattern of demographic change from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates, as observed in the history of more-developed countries

demography the study of the characteristics of populations, especially human populations

F

fertility rate the number of births (usually per year) per 1,000 women of childbearing age (usually 15 to 44)

I

infrastructure the basic facilities of a country or region, such as roads, bridges, and sewers

L

least developed countries countries that have been identified by the United Nations as showing the fewest signs of development in terms of income, human resources, and economic diversification

life expectancy the average length of time that an individual is expected to live

M

migration in general, any movement of individuals or populations from one location to another; specifically, a periodic group movement that is characteristic of a given population or species

S

survivorship the percentage of newborn individuals in a population that can be expected to survive to a given age

U

urbanization an increase in the ratio or density of people living in urban areas rather than in rural areas