Reducing social inequalities: an essential step for development and wellbeing

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![Graph showing the relationship between income inequality and problems](image)
Health and social problems are worse in more unequal countries.

Index includes:
- Life expectancy
- Maths & literacy
- Infant mortality
- Homophobia
- Imprisonment
- Teenage births
- Trust
- Obesity
- Mental illness (incl. drug and alcohol addiction)
- Social mobility


Better

Worse

Low Income inequality

High

Better

Worse

Low Income inequality

High

Social mobility is lower in more unequal countries

Wilkinson & Pickett, The Spirit Level

Differences in Life Expectancy within a small area in London

Travelling east from Westminster, each tube stop represents nearly one year of life expectancy lost

1 Source: Analysis by London Health Observatory using Office for National Statistics data. Diagram produced by Department of Health
Greater equality

- Economic stability, poverty reduction
- Social cohesion, social capital, relationships
- Human capital development, equality of opportunity
- Sustainable and diverse environment
- Health, wellbeing & happiness