

## *Women and Children*

- poverty creates even more hardships for women and children
- most developing societies are male dominated
  - women and children have little to no legal rights and are often treated like property
  - in some African societies, women and children eat only after the men are full
    - leads to malnutrition
  - many women and children have to work 12 hour days to help their families survive
  - literacy rates are often higher in men than women
- demographers have proven that fertility and the status of women go hand in hand with development
- if the status of women improve, then other things follow
  - the higher the education, the fewer children are born
  - the higher the education, the fewer children die of treatable illnesses
    - more knowledgeable about immunization, clean water, and good nutrition

## *Children*

- **infant mortality rates** - rate the number of kids who die under the age of 5
- being the weakest and most vulnerable, children are often the first victims of war, disease, etc.
- most developing countries have little educational opportunities, and are too often exploited as child labour
  - sex trade, factories, farm hands, thievery...

- since 1990, UNICEF has published an annual progress report on the status of children

- rates on a scale of 0-100

- based on 5 factors

- infant mortality rates

- underweight children

- numbers of children who do not attend school

- risk of war

- risk of AIDS/HIV

- according to their list, 8 out of 10 countries are in Africa...

- Canada and other developing countries rate consistently less than 5 out of 100, whereas Angola rates a 96 (from 1998)