

Budget Decisions: What would you fund?



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and suggested activities in class
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People's Republic of Bozatta

Stats

Population: Around 125,000. Much of them are spread over a large area, and in remote places. Some are malnourished.

Education: Free for children under 8 years old. There are no universities and most colleges are for vocational or technical subjects.

Resources: Rich in natural resources like; gold, silver, copper, oil, gas, diamonds. Farmland is very fertile and foreign countries have taken an interest.

Trade: No developed links. Far from the sea (land locked). No Airports.

Budget Decisions

You are the Budget Department of the new South American country of Bozatta, which has just been created from parts of northeastern Argentina and south western Brazil. Located in a lush tropical environment, the country is abundant in natural resources. Most of the indigenous people experience a poor quality of life and the nation is listed as a "less economically developed" country.

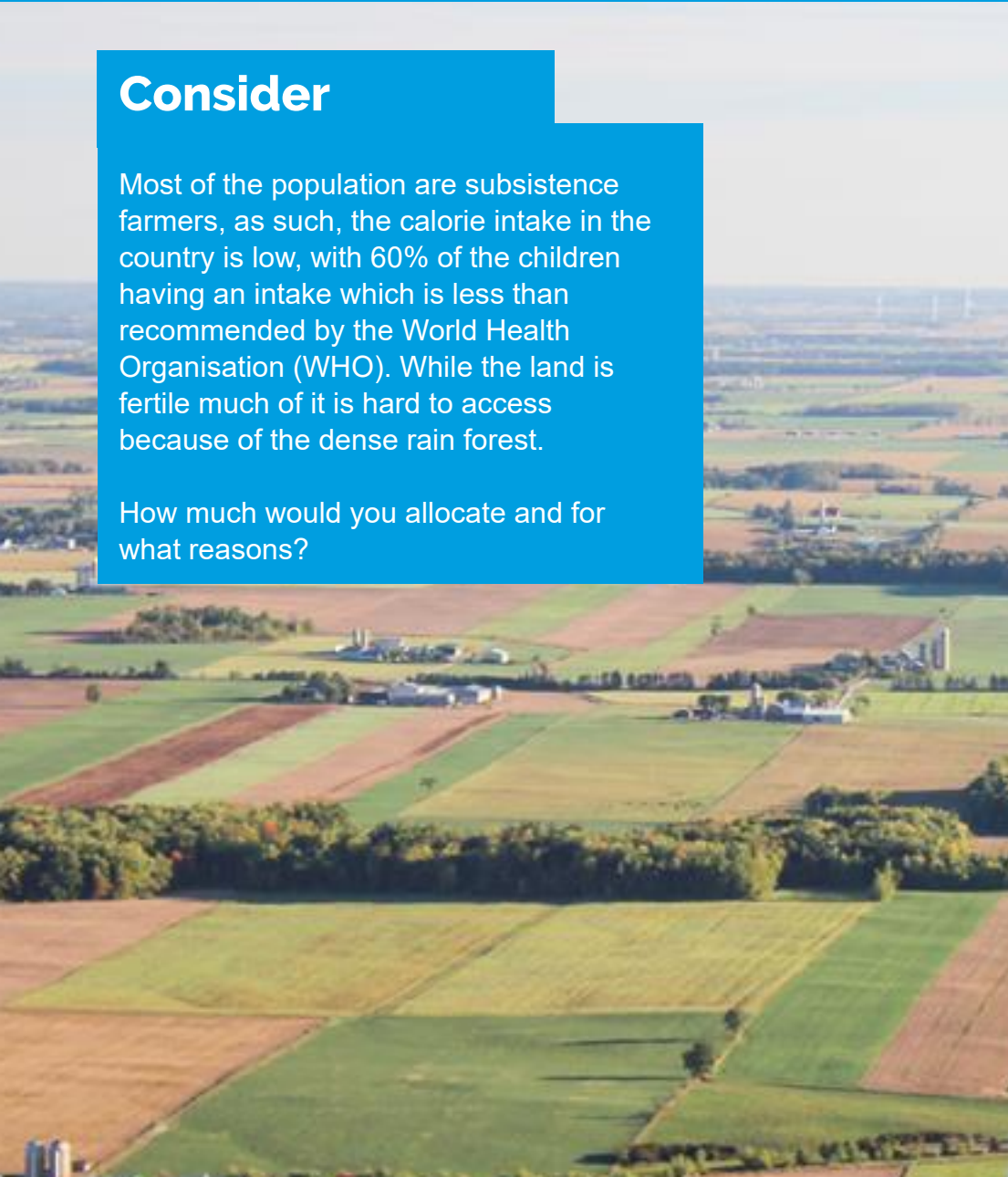
The Prime Minister has asked you to lead a team to decide how to spend this year's budget. Your team has been given \$100 million. Decide what percentage of the budget should be spent on each program and your reasons. Be detailed as the citizens are counting on you.

Agriculture

Consider

Most of the population are subsistence farmers, as such, the calorie intake in the country is low, with 60% of the children having an intake which is less than recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). While the land is fertile much of it is hard to access because of the dense rain forest.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?



Transportation

Consider

The river tributaries are the main form of transport for the nation. There are few roads and the rail network is underdeveloped. There are no airports.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

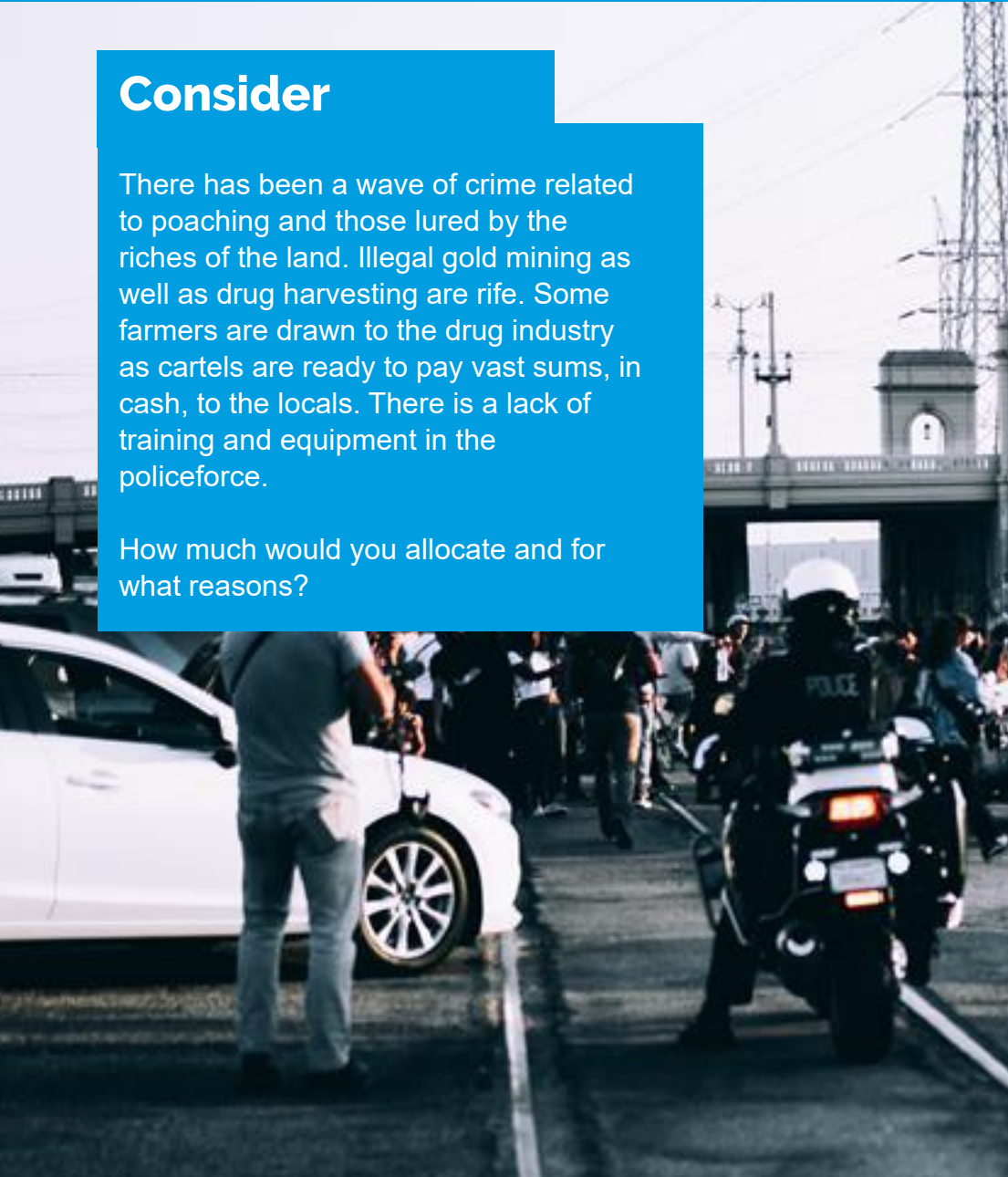


Police

Consider

There has been a wave of crime related to poaching and those lured by the riches of the land. Illegal gold mining as well as drug harvesting are rife. Some farmers are drawn to the drug industry as cartels are ready to pay vast sums, in cash, to the locals. There is a lack of training and equipment in the policeforce.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?



National Defence

Consider

Countries along the border of Bozatta may not respect its independence. The government does not want conflict but wish to defend itself if necessary.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?



Education

Consider

Over 90% of the country has not received a formal education. Bozatta's capital, Gatanga, has high schools and some technical colleges. There are other smaller schools, but they are scattered around the country. There is no university but there is tremendous potential if one was built.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

Infrastructure

Consider

Despite having a great number of rivers and lakes there are hardly any hydropower stations in the country. Only the lucky who live in the city few microwaves, electric hobs, computers and other electrical devices.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

Resources

Consider

Iron, gold, diamonds, and oil is plentiful in the nation. The country could finance much of the nations budget from the profits generated by mining and resource extraction. At present, there are no mines or wells. Be warned, international environmental groups are keen to prevent such developments.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

Social Services

Consider

Medical facilities are severely lacking. There are approximately 5000 patients for every doctor. Clinics are dotted around the nation but they are difficult to resupply regularly. There are no major hospitals where MRI scans, or other advanced medical diagnosis can take place.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

Telecoms

Consider

There is a simple TV broadcast service which has two channels. Both of which end their programming after 8 pm. Landlines are sparsely installed and reserved for corporations or government. Some of the population have mobile phones, but because of irregular power generation the mobile phone towers often go down. The nation does not have access to a satellite for weather, or research purposes.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

Public Relations

Consider

The nation needs Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in order to stimulate the economy and create jobs. In order to do so developed nations and wealthy corporations need to be persuaded in order to invest. Foreign nationals also need to be given opportunities to settle in the country as they can provide technical skills and access to overseas markets – which are desperately needed.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

Technology

Consider

There is a simple TV broadcast service which has two channels. Both of which end their programming after 8 pm. Landlines are sparsely installed and reserved for corporations or government. Some of the population have mobile phones, but because of irregular power generation the mobile phone towers often go down. The nation does not have access to a satellite for weather, or research purposes.

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

Population

Consider

Due to the need for development and the sudden change this can bring, the government wishes to protect the population from the negative effects of this. How can the government protect the indigenous people who live deep in the jungle and are cut off from regular outside contact?

How much would you allocate and for what reasons?

Discussion Questions

1. What are the main issues that developing countries face today? What can other nations do to help or support their advancement?
2. Do countries have a responsibility to help other nations? If yes, then how much, if not, then why?
3. Do you feel that international organisations are providing enough help for developing countries?
4. Is it essential for countries to become industrialised? Are there any negative consequences of doing so?