LEAF Benchmark

**Mali**

Living in Mali would be difficult because it is an underdeveloped country. In Mali, the per capita income, which measures the wealth and comfort of a country, is $600 (Menzel). That means that the average family is living on about $1.65 per day. Most people would not be able to meet their basic needs of food,water and shelter. Life expectancy is the average age that people in a certain country live to. The life expectancy for women in Mali is 49 years of age and for men it is 46 years (Menzel). This very low life expectancy suggests that the people of Mali have limited access to healthcare and resources, such as food, water, and shelter. Starvation and disease could be causing people to live such short lives. The literacy rate of a country measures the percentage of people who can read and write. The literacy rate of Mali is 31% (Menzel). This would indicate that not many people in Mali can read or write, so few people are able to go to school. With limited access to education there would not be a lot of opportunities for good jobs in Mali, contributing to lack of resources for a better life. Life in Mali would be a struggle, because it is a very underdeveloped country.

**Work Cited**

Menzel, Peter, and Charles C. Mann. *Material World: A Global Family Portrait*. San Francisco: Sierra Club, 1994. Print.