



I TOOK A LEAP OF FAITH. DID I MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION?

On November 3, 2020 I arrived in Mombasa, Kenya and later moved to Marimanti, Kenya near the center of the country shortly thereafter. Today, I submitted a question to Chat GPT to see how it would answer. Posing the same question to various humans would be difficult because of our sundry biases. I asked it: “If you were to objectively evaluate experiencing life on earth as a resident living in western industrialized nations compared to living in a non-urban setting in East Africa, which choice would a reasonable person choose? Important criteria in this choice include: mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health, personal safety, environmental hazards, economic well-being, indebtedness, taxation, wealth gap within society, personal freedom, community cohesion, social stability, political affairs, corporate involvement in power and control of populations, governmental transparency within a democratic context, livelihood options, work-life balance, and stability of family life. It would be your task to quantify somehow these varying criteria so as to weigh and make a final evaluation rather than just list advantages and disadvantages. Please provide the rationale used in your weighting of these included factors as well as easily understood charts and graphs to make your analysis more easily understood by various types of learners.”

ChatGPT said:

To undertake such a complex comparison, we need to break down and assign quantitative weights to each of the criteria mentioned—considering their relative importance in shaping the

quality of life. This would involve some subjective decisions based on widely accepted measures of well-being. The analysis will then lead to a calculated, evidence-based outcome.

Step 1: Identifying the Criteria and Weighting

We need to categorize the factors and assign weight to them according to their importance in determining the overall quality of life. Here's a suggestion for weighting the criteria, which will guide the analysis:

- **Mental, Physical, Spiritual, and Emotional Health (20%)**
- **Personal Safety (10%)**
- **Environmental Hazards (5%)**
- **Economic Well-being (15%)**
- **Indebtedness (5%)**
- **Taxation (5%)**
- **Wealth Gap within Society (5%)**
- **Personal Freedom (10%)**
- **Community Cohesion (5%)**
- **Social Stability (5%)**
- **Political Affairs (5%)**
- **Corporate Power and Control (5%)**
- **Governmental Transparency (5%)**
- **Livelihood Options (5%)**
- **Work-Life Balance (5%)**
- **Stability of Family Life (5%)**

Step 2: Evaluating the Criteria

For each factor, we need to collect available data or use a reasonable estimate to rate the two experiences—living in a Western industrialized nation versus a non-urban setting in East Africa—on a scale from 1 to 10. Here's how this might look:

Criteria	Western Industrialized Nation (Score)	Non-Urban Setting in East Africa (Score)
Mental, Physical, Spiritual, Emotional Health	6 (stress, lifestyle diseases)	8 (community, simpler lifestyle)
Personal Safety	7 (rule of law, but urban crime)	6 (less crime, more natural hazards)
Environmental Hazards	5 (pollution, urban challenges)	7 (cleaner, natural environment)
Economic Well-being	8 (higher wages, developed economy)	5 (subsistence, lower wages)
Indebtedness	5 (high personal debt)	8 (lower debt levels, simpler economy)
Taxation	4 (high taxes)	7 (lower taxes)

Criteria	Western Industrialized Nation (Score)	Non-Urban Setting in East Africa (Score)
Wealth Gap	3 (larger gap)	6 (smaller but increasing gap)
Personal Freedom	8 (liberal democratic systems)	7 (varies, generally stable)
Community Cohesion	6 (individualistic societies)	9 (stronger community ties)
Social Stability	6 (social unrest, polarization)	7 (stronger traditions)
Political Affairs	6 (democracy, but corruption exists)	5 (varies, stable but sometimes authoritarian)
Corporate Power	4 (high corporate control)	7 (lower corporate influence)
Government Transparency	6 (good, but mixed outcomes)	5 (less transparent, improving)
Livelihood Options	8 (diverse economy, many jobs)	5 (subsistence agriculture, limited jobs)
Work-Life Balance	5 (long working hours, urban grind)	7 (simpler life, more family time)
Stability of Family Life	6 (stressful environments, weak family ties)	8 (stronger family bonds, simpler life)

Step 3: Quantitative Analysis

Using these ratings and the assigned weights, we can calculate a total score for each scenario. The formula for each scenario would be:

$$\text{Total Score} = \sum (\text{Weight} \times \text{Score})$$

Let me calculate these totals for both Western industrialized nations and non-urban settings in East Africa.

Based on the quantitative analysis, the total weighted scores are as follows:

- **Western Industrialized Nations:** 7.1
- **Non-Urban Settings in East Africa:** 7.7

Interpretation:

While both scenarios offer their own advantages, the non-urban setting in East Africa has a slightly higher total score, largely due to higher ratings in areas like community cohesion, mental and spiritual health, lower indebtedness, and stronger family life. The lower wealth gap and simpler lifestyle also contribute positively to this score.

On the other hand, Western industrialized nations score higher in areas like economic well-being, personal freedom, and livelihood options but are dragged down by higher stress, taxation, wealth disparity, and corporate influence.

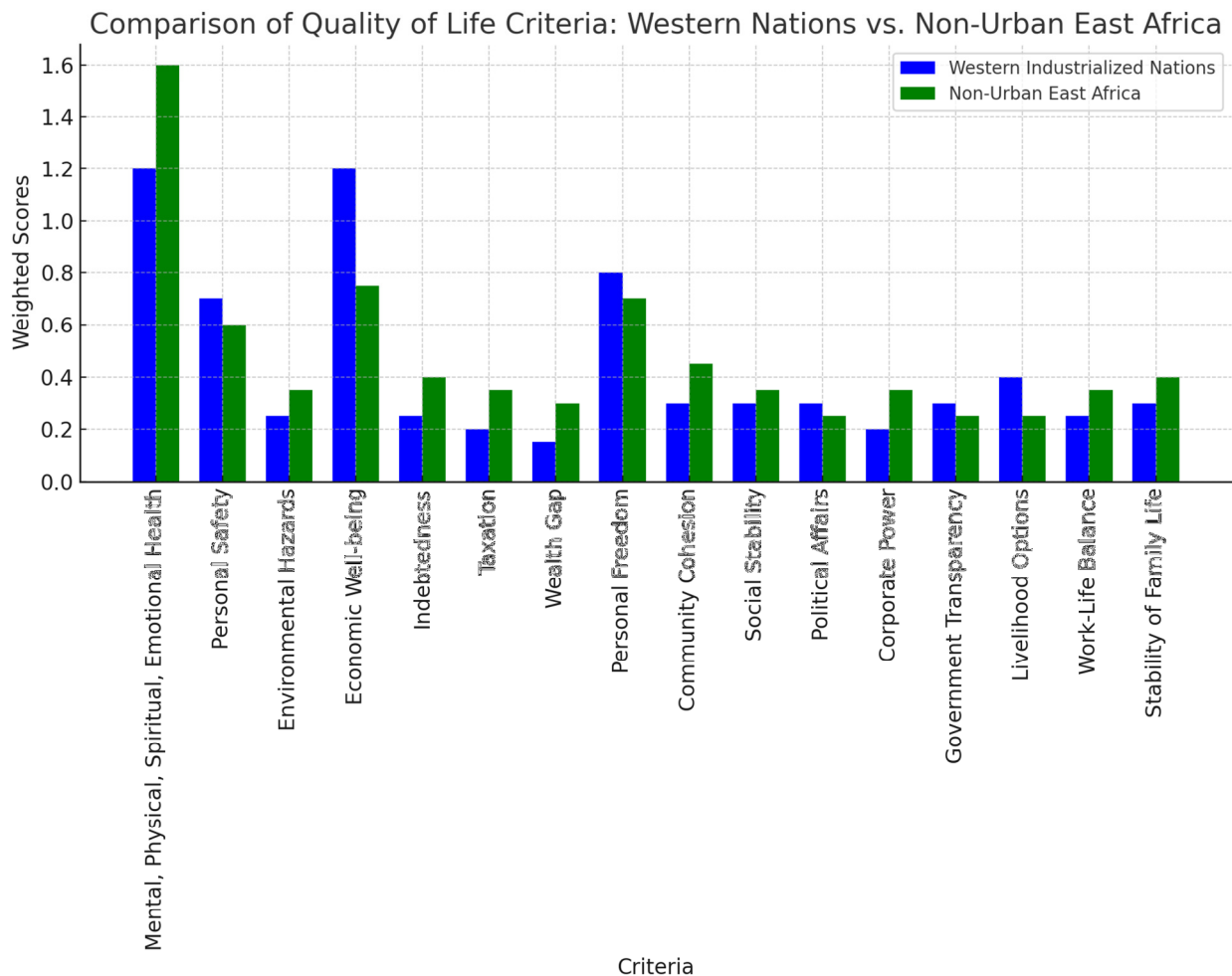
Weighting Rationale:

- **Health and Well-being (20%):** This was weighted heavily because mental, physical, and emotional health have long-term impacts on life satisfaction.
- **Personal Safety (10%):** Safety is a key factor in day-to-day living, hence its significant weight.
- **Economic Well-being (15%):** A strong economy can greatly enhance opportunities for better living conditions and advancement.
- **Personal Freedom (10%):** Personal autonomy is crucial in shaping individual happiness and fulfillment.

Conclusion:

Given the slightly higher score, a reasonable person might prefer the non-urban setting in East Africa based on overall well-being factors, especially if they prioritize mental health, community cohesion, and family stability over economic advantages and personal freedom.

Here's a graphical representation of the comparison: Comparison of Quality of Life Criteria: Western Nations vs. Non-Urban East Africa



The bar chart visually compares the weighted scores of quality of life criteria between Western industrialized nations and non-urban settings in East Africa. It highlights the areas where each location excels or falls behind, providing a clearer understanding of how the total scores were derived.

In general, non-urban East Africa scores higher in areas such as community cohesion, mental health, and family stability, while Western nations have advantages in personal freedom, livelihood options, and economic well-being. This helps to illustrate why the non-urban setting in East Africa has a slight edge overall.

DO YOU THINK THAT CHAT GPT IS CORRECT?