

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)



Number of LDCs by Region



Facts and Figures

48 countries:

- 16 landlocked
- 11 small islands

Total population 2010:

832.33 million

Projected population 2020:

1.04 billion

Population

- » In LDCs almost 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 25.

Economic Growth

- » GDP growth is estimated to have decelerated to 4.9 per cent in 2011, down from the 5.5 per cent recorded in 2010.
- » 11 of the LDCs had their GDP advanced by close to or more than 7 per cent per annum during the last decade.

Poverty

- » Still more than half of the population lives on less than \$1.25 (PPP) per day.
- » Malnutrition prevalence among children under 5 dropped in most LDCs.

Productive Capacities

- » The share of manufacturing remained virtually unchanged over the decade, accounting on average for 10-11 per cent of GDP.
- » The production base of the majority of LDCs was dominated by natural resources-based sectors.
- » By 2010, 33 LDCs had a mobile communication subscription rate of more than 30 per cent.
- » Access to the Internet, although increasing steadily, remained low in the majority of LDCs, with only 4 out of 100 people being Internet users in 2010.
- » Per capita electricity production in LDCs rose from 132.49 Kwh in 2001 to 193.15 Kwh in 2009, which stood at just 8 per cent of the level of per capita power generation of other developing countries.

Trade

- » LDCs exports remained heavily dependent on natural resources and low-skilled manufactured goods.
- » The share of LDC exports in global exports more than doubled over the course of the past decade owing to the oil exports, exports of metals, and garment.

Education

- » The increasing numbers of primary school completers caused gross enrolment in secondary education to rise significantly, from 25 per cent in 2001 to 39 per cent in 2010/2011.

Health

- » Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) 2010: 66
- » Adult HIV prevalence rate (ages 15-49) 2009: 2.67 per cent
- » The percentage of population aged 15-49 living with HIV in the most affected LDCs ranged from 14 per cent to 24 per cent.

Water and Sanitation

- » Only 63 per cent of the population of LDCs were served with improved water sources in 2010.
- » Population of LDCs using an improved sanitation facility improved slightly from 30 per cent in 2000 to 36 per cent of the in 2010.

Gender equality and empowerment

- » On average, 56 women were enrolled in tertiary education for every 100 men in 2010/2011.
- » The percentage of parliamentary seats held by women, more than doubled, jumping from 10 per cent in 2001 to almost 23 per cent in 2010.

Environment

- » The proportion of land area covered by forest declined from 31 per cent in 2000 to 29.6 per cent in 2010.
- » The proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected increased from 9.5 in 2000 to 9.8 in 2010.
- » LDCs CO2 emissions per capita remained constant at 0.2 per cent.

Disaster reduction

- » Several LDCs started to build or strengthen disaster management capacities and implement the Hyogo Framework for Action with the aim to build or improve early warning, preparedness and response systems.

Aid

- » Net total ODA disbursements to LDCs increased significantly over the past decade to \$44 billion in 2010.
- » Net bilateral ODA flows to LDCs are estimated to have recently dropped by 9 per cent in real terms to \$27.7 billion in 2011, whereas overall ODA declined only by 3 per cent.
- » 10 donors reached the target of 0.15 per cent of GNI in ODA to LDCs.

Debt Relief

- » The share of debt service as a percentage of external debt declined markedly from 11.9 per cent in 2001 to 4.4 per cent in 2010.
- » As of January 2012, 25 out of the 32 countries that had reached the completion point of the HIPC Initiative of World Bank were LDCs.

Foreign Direct Investment

- » After reaching \$17 billion in 2008—up from \$6.6 billion in 2001—net FDI inflows to LDCs declined to \$14 billion in 2010.
- » During the last decade, FDI in LDCs increased at a much faster pace than had the GDP and trade of this group of countries.

Remittances

- » Remittances to LDCs increased significantly, soaring from \$6.8 billion in 2001 to \$24.8 billion in 2010.

Governance

- » Between April 2010 and April 2012 the number of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) compliant LDCs has increased from one to six.

References

- » *UN Secretary-General Report 2012 on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020*
- » *UN World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*
- » *World Bank: World Development Indicators 2011*



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