

Debt Relief

- » External debt as a percentage of GNI of LLDCs rose from 43% in 2008 to 48% in 2009.
- » Currently, 13 LLDCs receive debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

Infrastructure and Communication

- » Only 9 LLDCs have over 50% of their total roads paved; 8 countries have between 20 to 49% of their roads paved.
- » Although some progress is being made in developing and maintaining road infrastructure, outstanding challenges include inadequate resources for road funds, overloading of vehicles, and resource gap for road infrastructure development.
- » Railway remains an underutilised form of transport for LLDCs—only 9 of LLDCs have 1,000 or more kilometers of railways for freight service.
- » The total length of the Trans-Asian Railway network of 114,000 km has about 8,000 km missing links (7%); in Africa, the railway network of 74,775 km has very low density and is mostly in North Africa and Southern Africa.
- » LLDCs recorded an increase of 25% and 37% in cellular phones and internet usage respectively from 2008 to 2009.
- » The increased telephone and internet usage was made possible through liberalisation of the telecommunication sector and the resulting increased private sector investment.

Social Development

- » LLDCs have made some progress towards achieving the MDGs in primary school enrolment, gender parity in primary education and women's representation in national parliaments.
- » Food security, eradicating poverty and reducing child and maternal mortality remain major social development challenges.
- » The average adult literacy rate in the period 2005-2008 for LLDCs was 77%.*
- » The net enrolment rate in primary education in the period 2001-2009 for LLDCs was 84%.*
- » The average dropout rate for all grades in the period 2005-2008 for LLDCs was 27.6%.*
- » The average life expectancy at birth in LLDCs in 2009 was 59 years.
- » The average adult HIV prevalence rate in LLDCs (ages 15-49) was 4.8%.*
- » The average infant mortality rate in LLDCs in 2008 was 60.9 per 1,000 inhabitants.

*For adult literacy and HIV prevalence rates, data was not available for Afghanistan; for net enrolment rate in primary education, data was not available for Afghanistan and Turkmenistan; for average dropout rate for all grades, data was not available for Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Zimbabwe

References

- » *Report of the Secretary General to the 66th session of the General Assembly: Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, forthcoming (the Report will be posted on the OHRLLS website at: <http://www.unohrlls.org/en/lldc/899/>).*
- » *The Human Development Report 2010, United Nations Development Programme.*
- » *The State of World's Children, 2011, UNICEF.*
- » *Arvis, J.-F., R. Carruthers, G. Smith, and C. Willoughby, Connecting Landlocked Developing Countries to Markets: Trade Corridors in the 21st Century, Washington, DC: World Bank 2011.*



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