

NUMBER AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF LLDCs

31 countries: 15 in Africa
12 in Asia
2 in Europe
2 in Latin America

Total population 2008: 370 million
Annual average growth rate: 1.7%



ECONOMIC GROWTH

- The average GDP annual growth for the LLDC group in 2007 was 7.7%.
- The GDP of LLDCs grew on average by 7.6% per annum for the period 2003-2007.
- The average contraction in growth rates for 27 out of 30 LLDCs is -4.0% in 2009.

POVERTY

- 10 out of the 20 lowest-ranked countries in the human development index (2007/2008) were LLDCs.

AID

- The total ODA received by the LLDCs increased from US\$ 12 billion in 2003 to US\$ 18.6 billion in 2007.
- In 2007, only 4.3% of the ODA was allocated to infrastructure, storage and communication as compared to 8% in 2006.
- The ODA allocated to infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa increased from US\$4.4 billion in 2005 to US\$5.3 in 2006 and was projected to reach US\$6 billion in 2007.
- ODA remains the main source of external finance for LLDCs.
- World Bank lending relevant to the Almaty Programme of Action reached more than US\$800 million for over 30 projects. Total commitments since the Almaty Conference account for over US\$3 billion for 35 projects.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

- The total FDI received by LLDCs increased from US\$3.9 billion in 2000 to US\$14 billion in 2007.
- The share of total world FDI inflows going to the LLDCs in 2007 was 0.8%.

TRADE

- In 2007, LLDCs generated only 0.65% of world merchandise exports and only 0.66% of world merchandise imports.
- The value of merchandise exports from LLDCs rose to US\$84.6 billion in 2007 from US\$33 billion in 2003.
- The exports increase in 2007 was mainly driven by the rise in commodity prices of oil, gasoline and metals.
- As of July 2008, 9 out of the 31 LLDCs and 4 of the 34 transit developing countries were not members of the WTO.

DEBT RELIEF

- The external debt percentage of GNI of LLDCs as a group was 66.4% in 2003 and reduced to 48.2% in 2007.
- As of February 2009, 10 LLDCs had reached the completion point, 3 were at the decision point, and 2 were at the pre-decision point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.
- As of February 2009, a total of 11 LLDCs had received debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNICATION

- The total volume of road networks in landlocked developing countries was 1.1 million km in the period 2000-2007.
- Nevertheless, the quality of road networks in LLDCs remains poor, with only about 38.4% of the total roads paved in 2000-2007.
- The combined rail network of all LLDCs is roughly 33,000 km.
- In 2007, the main line telephone and cellular service connections per 100 inhabitants in LLDCs was 3.6 and 18.2 respectively.
- Since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, 23 LLDCs and transit developing countries acceded to or ratified 14 multilateral conventions in the area of transit transport.
- Significant progress have been made in Asia towards coordinated transport infrastructure development: it is estimated that around US\$25 billion in investment have already been committed for the development and upgrading of Asian Highway routes.

- Only 3.5% per 100 population used the Internet in LLDCs in 2006, compared to 12.7% in developing countries.

EDUCATION

- The net enrolment ratio in primary education in LLDCs in 2005 was 76%.
- The primary school completion rate, in LLDCs in 2005 was 57%.
- The total adult literacy rate in the period 2005-2007 was 56.4%.

HEALTH

- The life expectancy at birth in 2007 in LLDCs was 57 years.
- The maternal mortality ratio in 2007 in LLDCs was 619 per 100,000.
- The infant mortality rate in 2007 in LLDCs was 65 per 1000.
- The estimated adult HIV prevalence rate in LLDCs (age 15-49) at the end of 2007 was 4.8% with the exception of Afghanistan.

REFERENCES

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