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: 1.74%

ECONOMIC GROWTH
• The average GDP annual growth for the LLDC group in 2006 was 7.1%.
• The GDP of LLDCs grew in average by 8% per annum for the period 2003-2006.

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$ 10.1 billion in 2002 to US$ 16.1 billion in 2006.
• The ODA allocated to infrastructure 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.
• Since 2003, World Bank lending relevant to the Almaty Programme of Action reached more than US$800 million for over 30 projects.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT
• The total FDI received by LLDCs increased from US$3.9 billion in 2000 to US$11.8 billion in 2006.
• The net FDI inflows to LLDCs in 2006 were 4.51% of their GDP.
• The share of total world FDI inflows going to the LLDCs in 2006 was 0.9%.

TRADE
• In 2006, LLDCs generated only 0.61% of world merchandise exports and 0.57% of world merchandise imports.
• The value of merchandise exports from LLDCs rose to US$68.4 billion dollars in 2006 from US$32.8 billion dollars in 2003.
• The exports increase in 2006 was mainly driven by the global oil and gasoline prices surge.
• As of June 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 51.1% in 2006.
• As of February 2008, 9 LLDCs had reached the completion point, 4 were at the decision point, and 2 were at the pre-decision point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.
• In 2006, five LLDCs 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 2006, up from about 974,000 km in 2003.
• Nevertheless, the quality of road networks in LLDCs remains poor, with only about 33% of the total roads paved in 2006.
• The combined rail network of all LLDCs is roughly 35,000 km.
• In 2006, the average of main line telephone and cellular service connections per 100 inhabitants in LLDCs was 13.7.
• 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 2.9% of the population used the Internet in LLDCs in 2006, compared to 11% in developing countries and 60% in developed 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 56 years.
• The maternal mortality ratio in 2007 in LLDCs was 619 per 100,000.
• The infant mortality rate in 2006 in LLDCs was 75 per 1000.
• The estimated adult HIV prevalence rate in LLDCs (age 15-49) at the end of 2005 was 5.5%.

REFERENCES

• The State of the World’s Children, 2008 UNICEF