

# Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)



## Facts and Figures

### 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 the 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 increased 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 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 and 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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- » *"Improving Trade and Transport for Landlocked Developing Countries—World Bank Contributions to implementing the Almaty Programme of Action" October 2008, World Bank.*
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