

Issues Note for Theme 1

Investing in people in LDCs: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind

Issues Note

Human development has been placed at the heart of the United Nations since its inception. Article 55 of the Charter set the achievement of "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development" as a fundamental aspect for "peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote". The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development renewed this commitment with the overarching principle of leaving no one behind. The idea of equality among nations and among peoples justifies placing the special needs of the Least Developed Countries as a priority, illustrated by the focus received by LDCs since the creation of the category in 1971.

The pathways to overcome the structural constraints of the LDCs have become narrower since the establishment of the category. Human development, an end in itself rooted in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is key to achieve prosperity and stability for all. Fast progress in human development in the LDCs is a requisite to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and other international development objectives.

The promise of human development is the cornerstone of the international efforts to support the LDCs in overcoming their structural constraints. The success of the UN development agenda lies in the delivery of this promise in the LDCs.

Recovering from COVID-19

The World Bank estimates that global extreme poverty rose in 2020 for the first time in 20 years and expects a total rise of

majority of employment, limits the expansion of social safety nets, which tend to

Despite significant progress, the human toll caused by the infant mortality rate remains disproportionately high at 44.8 per 1000 live births, 62% higher than the world average of 28.2. In 2019, 1.4 million children died before reaching one year of age in the LDCs, many from preventable or treatable conditions, such as pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria. It is expected that the health and socio-economic impact on the pandemic may undo years of progress. Reducing child mortality can be achieved by establishing preventative and curative interventions that target the leading age-specific causes of death and the most vulnerable populations. This entails access to vaccination to prevent infectious diseases, better nutrition, and improved quality of health services².

Access to sexual and reproductive health is key to achieve the SDGs, the goals agreed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and other internationally agreed goals. Meeting the need for modern contraception, and sexual and reproductive health services and ensuring sexual and reproductive health care of the best quality, based on scientific evidence and made available to all is central for poverty reduction and the achievement of the SDGs in the LDCs.

Non-communicable diseases are responsible for a large share of deaths globally³. These include cardiovascular diseases, cancer, respiratory diseases, and diabetes, among others. LDCs need more resources to build up their health, education and social protection systems to address the double burden of disease from high maternal mortality or elevated levels of undernourishment with a simultaneous rise of obesity, diabetes and other diseases more common in more developed countries.

Overlapping dimensions of human development underscores the important role of health systems in achieving the SDGs and 3 (em)J5.15 0Tw 41.84 0 Td(need (i)1 (t)G)a-1 (or)-3 (e)J09h32 0 Td(h Tc 0.173 Tw 0.4 0 Td(r)-3 (i)1hea)Tj-0.0g.w -14.94 -

