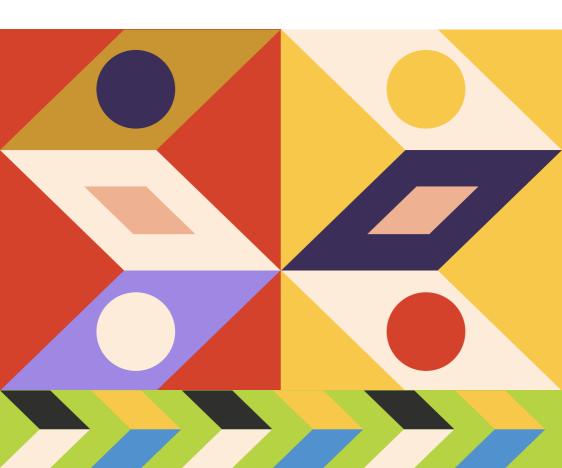


THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN FACTS & FIGURES

FEBRUARY 2024



What are the Least Developed Countries?

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are a group of 45 United Nations Member States characterised by their low socio-economic development and high vulnerability to external shocks. These countries are largely agrarian economies that suffer from low investments and productivity. There are 33 LDCs in Africa, eækec ic Ahia acd ihe Paci c acd dce ic Laiic Ab egca.

Bhutan was the last LDC to graduate on 13th



Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: LDCs have consistently demonstrated a reduction in adolescent birth rates in recent years, with double-digit declines seen in 25 out of the 45 countries. Likewise, they narrowed gender gaps in secondary school enrolments — including a double-digit decrease in twelve df ihe 45. Hdl ekeg deheiie ac agggegaie faæ df 13% ic addæhceci bigh gaieh, ieec motherhood remains common in many LDCs.

Investing in youth and education: Ic 2022, 21.9% df chiadgec ic egb agn-hchddaage were out of school in the LDCs, more than double the world average. Although the ailegach gaile gdhe fgdb 57% id 66% beil eec 2013 acd 2023, b dge i hac 360 b iaidc people in LDCs still lack basic reading and writing skills.

Promoting maternal and child health and wellbeing: The overall fertility rate dgleeed id 3.96 big hh eegl db ac ic 2022. Bn 2021, 59% df l db ec df geegddj ciike age in the LDCs had their family planning needs met with modern methods, which l ah hiiaal eaabeadl ihe l dgad akegage df 76.8%. The icfaci b dgaain gaie, ai 44.8 eeg1000 ake big hh, ih 62% highegi hac ihe l dgad akegage df 28.2. Ic 2019, 1.4 b iaaidc icfacih died befdge geachicg iheig ghi bighdan b acn fgdb egekeci abae dg treatable conditions, such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, and malaria.

Universal Social Protection: People in the LDCs enjoy lower levels of social eglieciidc cdb eaged id dihegdekeadeicg caiidch. Ocan 14% age cdkeged bn ai æahi dce agea df hdciaaegdieciidc, encaj dicg heaahcage acd hickcehh bece ih. Ocan 6.2% df ihe æbdj gfdgce (acd jj hi 4.2% df l db ec ic ihe æbdj gfdgce) aciikean cdcigbj ieh id a eechidc hcheb e, cdb eaged id 53.1% (acd 55.6% geheeciikean) ic other developing countries. The high degree of informality in the economies of the LDCs limits the expansion of social safety nets.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Ic 2022, dcan 37% df eedeæ ic LDCh had accehh id bahic dgckicg I aieghegkiceh, cdb eaged id 73% df eedeæ gadbaæn Ic dgdegid achieve universal access to safe drinking water in the LDCs, there would have to be a 20-fold increase in current rates of progress. The proportion of the population in LDCh I iih accehh id bahic hngiece faciaiieh iccgeahed fgdb 29% ic 2015 id 34% ic 2022, bj i ihih geb aich fagbeæl ihe I dgæl gaie df 75%.

Focus area II: Leveraging the power of Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development of LDCs

While three quarters of people in the LDCs are covered by a mobile broadband ceil dgk, dcanabdj i 36% j he ii, cdb eaged id 93% ic high-iccdb e cdj cigeh. Ciiioech df LDCh (gehidecih acd cdc-gehidecih) æd dcan 1,357 eai ecih ic 2020, cdb eaged l iih 875 ic 2011. Ah a hhage df gadbaa gj geh, ihai cj b begih aab dhi oegd. The UN Techcdadgn Back fdgLDCh eænh a higci caci gdæ ic adkaccicg Science, Technology, and Innovation and bridging the digital gap between those dcace acd df ice.

Focus area III: Structural transformation as a driver of prosperity in the LDCs

Agriculture: Employment in agriculture in the LDCs has steadily declined over the years, though it continues to employ nearly half of the population and constitutes the primary source of income in rural areas. There is consequently higci caci edieciiaaid adkacce hig cij gaaigachfddp aiidc bn cgeaiicg ackh I iih the industrial and service side of agricultural activities. Nevertheless, the scale of ihe aggicj aj ge hecidgaahd ge ecih ihe ceed fdgLDCh id dikeghifn iheigecdcdb ieh to build resilience.

Productive Capacity: The core task of increasing national economic output requires an approach combining enterprise development, skills formation, fdgb aaoaiidc acd ihe aeeacaiidc df cel iechcdadgieh aaadf l hich gj ge extensively in the Doha Programme of Action. Existing large enterprises can have a gdæ id eaan iciegcaiidcaaan ic bj iadicg iheigegd æ ic gadbaahj eean chaich, ah l eaa as supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to increase their productive capacity domestically.

Energy: Accehh id eæcigiciin ic ihe LDCh iccgeahed hj bhiaciiaæn fgdb 37.8% ic 2012 id 56.25% ic 2021. Hdl ekeg ihege geb aich a ægge diheagin beil eec gi gaa acd j gbac ageah: 80.28% ic idl ch acd ciiieh acd dcan 45.48% ic gi gaaageah. Td bridge this gap, more investment is required in both electrical grid and off-grid solutions.

Focus area IV: Enhancing the participation of LDCs in international trade and regional integration

Trade and Commodities: Beil eec 2017 acd 2021, LDCh enedgh df gdddh acd hegkiceh ggel ai ac accj aagaie df 5.1%, haighi an fahiegihac ihe gehi df ihe I dgad ai 4.9%. Ic 2021, ic ihe ihgdeh df ihe COVID-19 eacdeb ic, LDCh hhage df I dgad enedgh df gdddh acd cdb b egciaahegkiceh I ah 0.93%, I hiæ fdgib edgh ii I ah 1.3%, hib iaagid ihe egekidj h neag Bj i dkegaaaic 2021, ihe kaaj e df LDCh hegkiceh enedgh geb aiced 32% beadl ege-eacdeb ic ækeah. The LDC hhage df I dgad cdb b egciaa hegkiceh enedgh decaiced fgdb 0.53% ic 2020 id 0.49% ic 2021, deb dchigaiicg i hai

Focus area VI: Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards

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