



THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN FACTS & FIGURES

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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, ZākZc°c°6hV°VcY°i] Z°EVX^ X°VcY°dcZ°c°AVi°c°6b ZgXV#

Bhutan was the last LDC to graduate on 13th





Focus area I: Investing in LDCs to leave no one behind

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 countries. However, adolescent motherhood remains common in many LDCs.

Investing in youth and education: More than 100 million young people were out of school in the LDCs, more than double the world average. Although the number of young people in LDCs still lack basic reading and writing skills.

Promoting maternal and child health and wellbeing: The overall fertility rate in the LDCs had their family planning needs met with modern methods, which is a positive trend. However, the overall fertility rate in the LDCs is still high, and the number of children under five years of age is still high. The overall mortality rate in the LDCs is still high, and the number of children under five years of age is still high. The overall mortality rate in the LDCs is still high, and the number of children under five years of age is still high.

Universal Social Protection: People in the LDCs enjoy lower levels of social protection than in 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: To 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 the LDCs that lack access to safe drinking water is still high, and the number of people without access to safe drinking water is still high.

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 connection, the digital divide remains a significant challenge. Bridging the digital gap between those with access to Science, Technology, and Innovation and those without is a key priority.

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 a shift towards the industrial and service side of agricultural activities. Nevertheless, the scale of agricultural production remains small, and efforts are needed to build resilience.

Productive Capacity: The core task of increasing national economic output requires an approach combining enterprise development, skills formation, and infrastructure investment. Existing large enterprises can have a multiplier effect on the economy, and supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to increase their productive capacity domestically is a key priority.

Energy: Bridging the energy 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

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

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