

Countries with Special needs: (African Countries, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS & MICs)

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Countries with Special needs – At a glance

- African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and Middle Income Countries are considered to be countries in special situations (UN, 2013).
- **Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) include the 90 most vulnerable member States of the UN (OHRLLS, 2012)**
- On average they experience **increased GDP over the years** and they made some progress towards achieving MDGs **but that progress is not substantial comparing with other developing countries**

- **The growth of these countries made over the years is rooted with systemic flaws. For example, uneven and jobless economic growth is chronic ‘weak spot’ for the countries with special needs.**
- **Even their economic structure has been locked with traditional production method.**
- **Another loophole is their production and export basket which is concentrated.**
- **LDCs, LLDCs, SIDs are highly dependent on aid.**
- **These countries are more or less marginalized with respect to global market access.**

Countries with Special needs in 'Millennium Declaration of 2000'

LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and their special needs and vulnerabilities are all specifically mentioned in the Millennium Declaration of 2000.

- **For LDCs** in Millennium Declaration, special focus is given to **market access, debt relief** and **development assistance for LDCs**.
- **With respect to SIDS**, Millennium Declaration emphasized on implementation of **Barbados Programme of Action** dedicated to SIDS. Other than this, ensuring the special needs of SIDS being considered while developing the **vulnerability Index**.
- **In case of LLDCs**, their '**geographic handicapped**' status highlighted. Particularly, in paragraph no. 18 of Millennium Declaration of 2000 , it was stated

“We recognize the special needs and problems of the **landlocked developing countries**, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and **to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.**”

Dedicated/ Exclusive Programmes for Countries with Specific Need

There are exclusive/ dedicated Programmes for the three vulnerable groups of countries namely LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS

I. Program Dedicated to/ Exclusively for Least Developed Countries (LDCs):

- An exclusive Programme named **The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA)** for LDCs was adopted in **2011**.
- **Halving the LDCs through graduation** by 2020 was set as the prime objective in the IPoA.
- IPoA emphasized on building **productive capacities** and achieving graduation through **structural transformation**.
- It reconfirmed commitments to provide **DFQF market access** to LDCs and to allocate **0.15 – 0.2 % of GNI** to LDCs. (OHRLLS 2012).

Dedicated/ Exclusive Programmes for Countries with Specific Need (Contd.)

II. Program Dedicated to/ Exclusively for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs):

- **The Almaty Programme of Action (APoA)**— addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries was adopted in **2003**.
- It focuses on **Transit Transport Cooperation** for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries.
- The goal of the ApoA is to **form partnerships to overcome** the specific problems of the landlocked developing countries that result from their **geographical handicaps** i.e. lack of territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets.

Dedicated/ Exclusive Programmes for Countries with Specific Need (Contd.)

III. Program Dedicated to/ Exclusively for Small Island Developing States (SIDS):

- **The Barbados programme of Action (BPOA)** for SIDS was adopted in **1994**. This programme was reviewed and renewed in 2005 in the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation.
- The Strategy of the program addresses actions that should be taken in namely **natural resources and environmental threats**; economic issues; social issues; governance etc.

Mapping LDCs with respect to LLDCs, SIDS, Conflict countries, Non- Conflict Countries and Fragile countries

Source: Developed by Author based on UN data

Note: Here, Y denotes 'yes'

LDCs	LLDCs	SIDS	Conflict Countries ¹	Fragile Countries ²	Environmental Vulnerability Index ³
Afghanistan	Y		Y	Y	Vulnerable
Angola			Y	Y	At risk
Bangladesh				Y	Highly Vulnerable
Benin					Vulnerable
Bhutan	Y				At risk
Burkina Faso	Y				At risk
Burundi	Y		Y	Y	Vulnerable
Cambodia			Y		Vulnerable
Central African Republic	Y		Y	Y	Resilient
Chad	Y		Y	Y	At risk

Mapping LDCs with respect to LLDCs, SIDS, Conflict countries, Non- Conflict Countries and Fragile countries (Contd.)

LDCs	LLDCs	SIDS	Conflict Countries	Fragile Countries	Environmental Vulnerability Index
Comoros		Y	Y	Y	Vulnerable
Democratic Republic of the Congo			Y	Y	Vulnerable
Djibouti					Resilient
Equatorial Guinea					At risk
Eritrea			Y	Y	At risk
Ethiopia	Y		Y	Y	At risk
Gambia					Vulnerable
Guinea			Y	Y	At risk
Guinea-Bissau		Y	Y	Y	Vulnerable
Haiti		Y	Y	Y	Highly Vulnerable

Mapping LDCs with respect to LLDCs, SIDS, Conflict countries, Non- Conflict Countries and Fragile countries (Contd.)

LDCs	LLDCs	SIDS	Conflict Countries	Fragile Countries	Environmental Vulnerability Index
Kiribati		Y		Y	Extremely Vulnerable
Lao People's Democratic Republic					At risk
Lesotho	Y				Vulnerable
Liberia			Y	Y	Vulnerable
Madagascar					Vulnerable
Malawi	Y			Y	At risk
Mali	Y				Resilient
Mauritania					At risk
Mozambique			Y		At risk
Myanmar				Y	Vulnerable

Mapping LDCs with respect to LLDCs, SIDS, Conflict countries, Non- Conflict Countries and Fragile countries (Contd.)

LDCs	LLDCs	SIDS	Conflict Countries	Fragile Countries	Environmental Vulnerability Index
Nepal	Y		Y	Y	Vulnerable
Niger	Y			Y	Resilient
Rwanda	Y		Y	Y	Vulnerable
Samoa		Y			Highly vulnerable
Sao Tome and Principe		Y			At risk
Senegal					Vulnerable
Sierra Leone			Y	Y	Vulnerable
Solomon Islands		Y	Y	Y	Vulnerable
Somalia			Y	Y	Vulnerable
South Sudan	Y			Y	N/A

Mapping LDCs with respect to LLDCs, SIDS, Conflict countries, Non- Conflict Countries and Fragile countries (Contd.)

LDCs	LLDCs	SIDS	Conflict Countries	Fragile Countries	Environmental Vulnerability Index
Sudan			Y	Y	Vulnerable
Timor-Leste		Y	Y	Y	N/A
Togo				Y	Vulnerable
Tuvalu		Y			Extremely Vulnerable
Uganda	Y		Y	Y	Vulnerable
United Republic of Tanzania					At risk
Vanuatu		Y			Vulnerable
Yemen					Vulnerable
Zambia	Y				Resilent

¹ Cortez and Kim (2012) and UN-OHRLLS (2009)

² OECD, 2013

³ SOPAC and UNEP , 2005

Note: EVI has five categories: Extremely Vulnerable, Highly Vulnerable, Vulnerable, At risk and Resilent

MDG Performance of Countries with Special Needs

Africa's MDG Progress

	Progressing areas	Lagging areas	Remarks
Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net primary School Enrolment • Gender parity in primary education • Immunization coverage • Stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lagged behind in poverty reduction • Chronic Hunger poverty (Particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa) • Millions of youth are unemployed • Health system are underdeveloped • Low resilience to natural disaster. • Continued loss of forest coverage • Difficulties in meeting targets on Water and Sanitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa's progress is uneven. Progress is varying across and within countries.

LDCs' MDG Progress

	Progressing areas	Lagging areas	Remarks
Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	Primary school enrolment rate has substantially increased from 57 to 79 per cent during the period 1999-2008.	<p>None of the LDCs have been able to meet all the MDGs. This indicates that LDCs as a group has left behind in the implementation of the MDGs</p> <p>In LDCs more than 47% of the population is still living in extreme poverty.</p>	LDCs are vulnerable to external shocks. For example, average GDP of LDCs is only 3.8% in 2011 while annual average growth rate is 7.3% from 2001 to 2010. This is partially from the global financial crisis and rest from declining external support.

Summary of progress on selected MDG indicators in the LDCs by region group

MDG target	Indicators	African LDCs	Asian LDCs	Small island LDCs	Total LDCs
1.1	Proportion of population below US\$1.25 (PPP) per day	Slow Progress	On track	Slow Progress	Slow Progress
1.5	Employment-to-population ratio	Slow Progress	Off track	Slow Progress	Off track
1.9	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Off track	Slow Progress
2.1	Net enrolment ratio in primary education	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress
2.3	Literacy rate of population aged 15–24 years, both sexes	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress
3.1	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress
4.1	Under-five mortality rate	Slow Progress	On track	On track	Slow Progress
4.2	Infant mortality rate	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress

Summary of progress on selected MDG indicators in the LDCs by region group (Contd.)

MDG target	Indicators	African LDCs	Asian LDCs	Small island LDCs	Total LDCs
4.3	Proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Off track	Slow Progress
5.1	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress
6.1	HIV prevalence among population aged 15–24 years	Off track	Off track	Off track	Off track
7.1	Proportion of land area covered by forest	Off track	Off track	Off track	Off track
7.8	Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved drinking water source	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	On track	Slow Progress
7.9	Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress	Slow Progress

Source: Authors' calculations based on UN data on MDGs.

LLDCs' MDG Progress

	Progressing areas	Lagging areas	Remarks
Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)	LLDCs have experienced a positive trend in some of the MDG indicators – Primary education, reducing HIV and AIDS prevalence rates.	Poverty levels are still high and progress is also slow on reducing hunger, child and maternal mortality and improving access to sanitation.	Wide and growing income equalities in LLDCs are getting in the way of eradicating poverty.

SIDS' MDG Progress

	Progressing areas	Lagging areas	Remarks
Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	SIDS made progress in the areas of gender, health and certain educational and environmental goals.	In comparison with other continent, SIDS made less progress in meeting MDGs. Even SIDS regressed in economic terms particularly in poverty reduction and debt sustainability.	

MICs' MDG Progress

	Progressing areas	Lagging areas	Remarks
Middle Income Countries (MICs)	<p>MICs are on track to achieve the MDG 1 target of poverty reduction.</p> <p>Several MICs are close to achieve MDG 2.</p>	<p>MICs are facing a number of challenges including uneven income distribution, environmental pollution and degradation, limited access to sanitation, lack of capacity to upgrade their manufacturing sector, lack of adequate healthcare systems in several countries.</p>	<p>Although MICs are expected to achieve the target of poverty reduction, this mask the reality that almost three-quarters of the world's poor people live in MICs. The underlying fact is in MICs income distribution is more uneven comparing with low and High income countries.</p>

Others Burning issues- Climate Change

- Climate change is a hot topic. This issue of climate change was captured in the **MDG 7 i.e. Ensure environmental sustainability.**
- **Recent News:** The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP19 or CMP9 was held in Warsaw, Poland from 11 to 23 November 2013, extending by one day more than scheduled. This is the 19th yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 9th session of the Meeting of the Parties (CMP 9) to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol .
- **Measuring the risk of Climate Change :** There are a number of Indices to measure the risk of climate change.
- **The Global climate Risk Index (CRI)** analyzes to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather related loss events (Storms, floods, heat waves etc.) The Global climate Risk Index (CRI) analyzes to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather related loss events (Storms, floods, heat waves etc.) (Harmeling, S and Eckstein, D, 2012)

Top 5 LDCs in Climate Risk Index

Rank CRI 2011	Country	Overall CRI Score	Death Toll		Deaths per 100.000 inhabitants		Losses in million US\$ PPP		Losses per unit GDP in %	
2	Cambodia	7.00	247	9	1.64	3	1,049.46	17	3.10	5
8	Lao People's Democratic Republic	15.33	43	25	0.68	7	218.18	35	1.25	9
22	Madagascar	35.50	38	27	0.17	24	25.22	66	0.12	36
24	Myanmar	36.00	164	12	0.26	20	39.46	62	0.05	51
26	Afghanistan	36.83	10	52	0.03	66	508.38	23	1.71	7

Top 5 LLDCs in Climate Risk Index

Rank CRI 2011	Country	Overall CRI Score	Death Toll		Deaths per 100.000 inhabitants		Losses in million US\$ PPP		Losses per unit GDP in %	
12	Paraguay	20.00	10	52	0.15	27	2,542.15	10	6.25	2
19	Bolivia	31.33	101	19	0.95	5	32.52	63	0.06	48
26	Afghanistan	36.83	10	52	0.03	66	508.38	23	1.71	7
27	Niger	37.33	9	54	0.06	48	117.83	50	1.01	12
29	Nepal	38.00	191	10	0.63	8	10.92	74	0.03	64

Top 5 SIDS in Climate Risk Index

Rank CRI 2011	Country	Overall CRI Score	Death Toll		Deaths per 100.000 inhabitants		Losses in million US\$ PPP		Losses per unit GDP in %	
23	Dominican Republic	35.67	12	49	0.12	34	189.34	39	0.20	29
37	Haiti	42.00	33	32	0.33	16	4.69	80	0.04	54
68	Tonga	60.67	0	88	0.00	84	5.21	78	0.68	15
77	Trinidad and Tobago	68.33	2	74	0.15	27	0.73	104	0.00	89
81	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	70.00	0	88	0.00	84	1.47	92	0.12	36

Challenges of the countries with Special needs

Area of Challenges of African Countries:

- **Dependence on natural resources and the extractive sectors.**
- **Vulnerability to any shock related to primary commodities' market.**
- **Dependency of the political whims of aid providers.**
- **Inadequate Infrastructure deficit.**
- **Political instability and recurrent conflicts.**

Africa is largely an exporter of raw materials and natural resources. But mostly, Africa's production activities confined in adding low value to the raw materials. Eventually, Africa's export basket contains raw materials and low value added products.

Areas of Challenges of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

LDCs are recognized as the poorest, most vulnerable and weakest countries.

No Noticeable positive movement regarding structural change: Reviewing the most up-to-date data and information to identify the early signals emanating from the implementation experience of the first two years (2011-2013) of IPoA shows that there is no noticeable positive movement regarding structural change in the LDC economies.

Lagging Behind in meeting MDGs: None of the LDCs have been able to meet all the MDGs indicating that LDCs as a group have been left behind in the implementation of the MDGs.

Areas of Challenges of Least Developed Countries (LLDCs)

- Landlocked Developing Countries are geographically challenged.
- Marginalized from the world economy.
- Infrastructure deficit.
- Cut off from the global flows of knowledge, capital and innovations.
- Limited productive capacities, non-tariff barriers.
- Vulnerability to external and internal shocks

Areas of Challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- SIDS are small in size. On top of that **geographic dispersion, isolation from the market, limited resources** systemically make SIDS economically disadvantaged.
- **SIDS are ecologically fragile and vulnerable.**
- SIDS confronts **environmental problems** and challenges of costal zones. SIDS are located among the most vulnerable regions in the world in relation to the intensity and frequency of natural hazards. This makes SIDS **exposed to natural shocks.**

Areas of Challenges of Middle Income Countries (MICs)

- Around three quarter of world's poor people live in MICs.
- Income distribution in Middle Income Countries(MICs) is more unequal than low and high Income Countries.
- On top of this, access to basic needs largely varies across Middle Income Countries.
- Furthermore, MICs often confront 'second generation' Challenges including aging populations, tertiary education, trade and tax policy, green growth etc.

**Reflections on priorities for the
Post-2015 Development Agenda in
view of Countries with special
needs**

Proposed Post -2015 Goals & Targets for Countries in Special Situations as per HLP, SDSN and Global Compact Reports

HLP	SDSN	Global Compact
For Least Developed Countries (LDCs)		
<p>Developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance to developing countries and <u>0.15 to 0.20% of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries</u>; other countries should move toward voluntary targets for complementary financial assistance (a target under Goal 12-<i>“Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long term finance”</i>)</p>	<p>Provide enhanced support for highly vulnerable states and Least Developed Countries, to address the structural challenges facing those countries, including violence and conflict (a target under Goal 1- <i>“End extreme poverty including hunger”</i>)</p>	<p>Double the productivity of LDC agriculture (a target under Goal 5: <i>“Good nutrition for all through sustainable food and agricultural systems”</i>)</p>

Proposed Post-2015 Goals & Targets for Countries in Special Situations as per HLP, SDSN and Global Compact Reports (Contd.)

HLP	SDSN	Global Compact
For Developing Countries*		
Support an open, fair and development-friendly trading system, substantially reducing trade-distorting measures, including agricultural subsidies, while improving market access of developing country products (a target under Goal 12: <i>“Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long-term finance”</i>)	Adopt incentives, including pricing greenhouse gas emissions, to curb climate change and promote technology transfer to developing countries (a target under Goal 8: <i>“Curb human-induced climate change and ensure sustainable energy”</i>)	Deploy investment sufficient to meet requirements for “green” transport, energy and water systems in the developing world (a target under Goal 9: <i>Modernize infrastructure and technology</i>)

Note:

** In the reports on post-2015 development agenda, developing countries overlap country group like- Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land Locked Developed Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing Countries (SIDs) and African countries.*

African Countries and priorities for Post-2015 Agenda

- I. **Managing Natural resource and extractive sector of Africa:** Africa's transformation fortunes rest heavily on how natural resources particularly the extractive sectors are managed and transformed. (UNECA, 2013) **This calls for including indicators associated with tracking of natural resource and extraction sector management in Post-2015 monitoring framework.**
- II. **Structural Transformation:** Structural Transformation calls for transforming Africa's existing low value added production system to high value added production.

For example, indicators like natural resource rent sharing; tax systems, structures and share of tax revenues to GDP, indicators of capital flight and other such measures can be incorporated in the post 2015 development agenda (UNECA 2013).

LDCs and priorities for Post-2015 Agenda

Structural Transformation: The one of the significant challenges for LDCs with regard to making progress towards structural change is to increase their value addition in manufacturing sector at a faster rate. Regrettably, share of manufacturing sector in LDCs has stagnated at around 10 per cent over the last two decades(1991-2000 and 2001-2010). This calls for appropriate attention on structural transformation of LDCs while framing Post-2015 development Agenda.

Early signals emanating from the implementation experience of the first two years (2011-2013) of IPoA.

During this period (2011-2013) one does not observe any discernible positive movement regarding structural change in the LDC economies. Rather, the LDCs are yet to reclaim the level of economic performance that they attained before the global economic and financial crisis; i.e. 2008. On the other hand, the heterogeneity within the LDC group has further aggravated during the period under review which undermine socio-economic performance. Achievement regarding those MDGs which have been mentioned in the IPoA remains quite average and often off-track. (Bhattacharya and Khan, 2013)

LDCs and priorities for Post-2015 Agenda (Contd.)

- **Productive Capacity Development** : The process of **structural transformation** of the least developed economies is largely about **developing productive capacities** which will certainly require **higher capital accumulation**, particularly by the private sector Concurrently, it is important for the LDCs to achieve **technological advancement** and become more competitive. (Bhattacharya, Khan, 2013).
- **Export Basket Diversification**: Commodity dependence in LDCs can be reduced through export basket diversification and creating value addition.
- **Building Resilience**: LDCs are vulnerable to economic shocks, natural and man made disasters. This call for building resilience so that LDCs can absorb the external shocks and can get over external shocks.

Technology Bank is exclusively dedicated for the LDCs which is an initiative originated from Istanbul Declaration adopted at the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs in 2011. The Technology Bank is to promote access of LDCs to knowledge, information, technological know-in order to develop innovative capacity required for their structural transformation

LLDCs and priorities for Post-2015 Agenda (Contd.)

For LLDCs while framing Post-2015 Development Agenda, other than structural transformation following key points are important:

- **Job Creation and attaining employment:** A development agenda that supports LLDCs' efforts in job creation and attaining employment intensive growth is critical.
- **Establish efficient transit transport systems:** The development agenda should ensure that the LLDCs are supported to establish efficient transit transport systems.
- **Greater integration of LLDCs in World trade** into global value chains is vital.
- **Tackling Climate Change:** Since LLDCs are largely exposed to climate change, it is important that the new development framework includes a goal which addresses climate change.

SIDS and priorities for Post-2015 Agenda (Contd.)

- **Unlocking the potential of the resources of ocean:** The ocean and its vast resources could be the center for generating job and employment for SIDS. For that tourism, fisheries and appropriate aquaculture will need to be unlocked.
- **Exploring commercially feasible options for providing energy** such as wind, solar, geothermal, and ocean energy, as many SIDS are particularly suited to these options because of their geographical location.
- **Tackling Health Issues:** Non-communicable diseases constitute a major obstacle for the achievement of sustainable development in SIDS.
- **Incorporating Indicators related to Climate Change:** Special consideration should be given to financing for **early warning systems** along with strengthening institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction strategies.

- **MICs and priorities for Post-2015 Agenda (Contd.)**

- Under the framework of Post-2015 Development Agenda, indicators like **inequalities** can be included as a step of reducing and monitoring inequalities in MICs.
- Moreover, agenda deals with **vulnerability of MICs to returning to low income country status** is also demanded.
- As MICs are comparatively in advanced stage, exploring e-Governments, bridging the technology gap, fostering multi sectoral approaches should be tailored for MICs. In this connection, **'technology'** can be a suitable indicator in the era of Post-2015 development Agenda for MICs.

Reflections on priorities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

Priorities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Common priorities across countries with special needs	Specific priorities of Countries with special needs
Structural Transformation	√	
Developing productive Capacitates	√	
Establish efficient transit transport systems		√ (LLDCs)
Export Basket Diversification	√	
Unlocking the potential of the resources of ocean		√ (SIDS)
Tackling Climate Change		√ (SIDS)

Reflections on priorities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Contd.)

Priorities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Common priorities across countries with special needs	Specific priorities of Countries with special needs
Job Creation and attaining employment	√	
Greater integration of LLDCs in World trade	√	
Building Resilience	√	
Managing Natural resource and extractive sector of Africa		√ (African Countries)
Exploring commercially feasible options for providing energy		√ (SIDS)
Tackling Health Issues		√ (SIDS)

Thank You