



Economic Relations Division (ERD)
Ministry of Finance
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



United Nations
Department of Economic
and Social Affairs

*Regional Meeting on Financing Graduation Gaps of Asia-Pacific LDCs
Dhaka, Bangladesh 28-30 October 2014*

Session 7
**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
Implications for LDCs**

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**A changing development context – sustainable
development at the core**

- **Meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.**
- **Sustainable development is not only an environmental issue.**
- **Sustainable development should be at the core of the new development agenda**

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Overarching challenges for the post-2015 Development Agenda

- Addressing the unfinished agenda of the MDGs
- Balanced integration of economic, social & environmental dimensions of sustainable development
- The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has defined 17 goals and 169 targets
- Submitted its Report to GA on 12 August 2014 (A/68/970)

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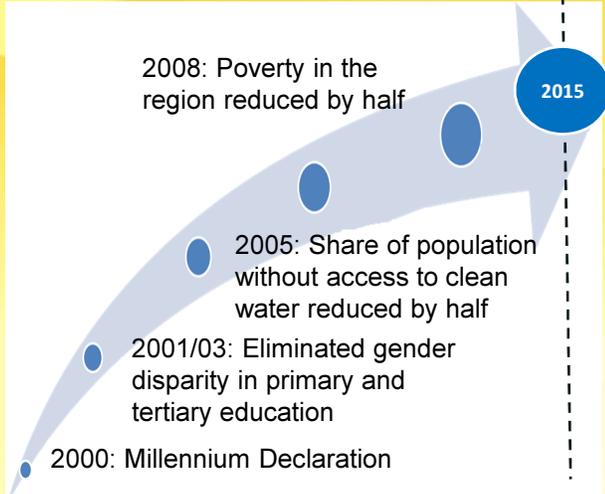


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MDGs in Asia-Pacific



2008: Poverty in the region reduced by half

2015

2005: Share of population without access to clean water reduced by half

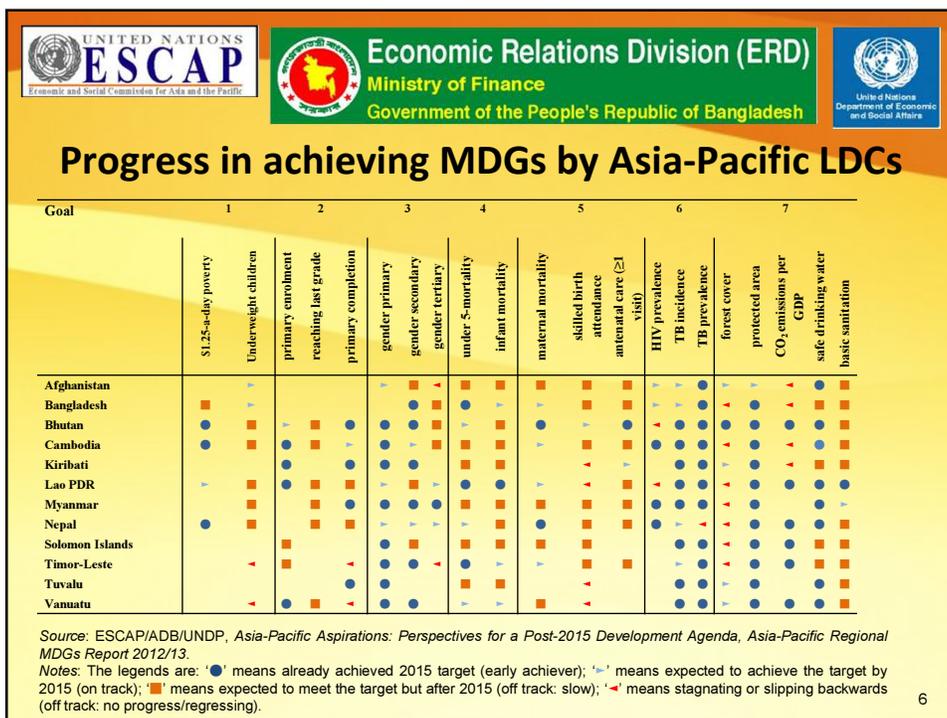
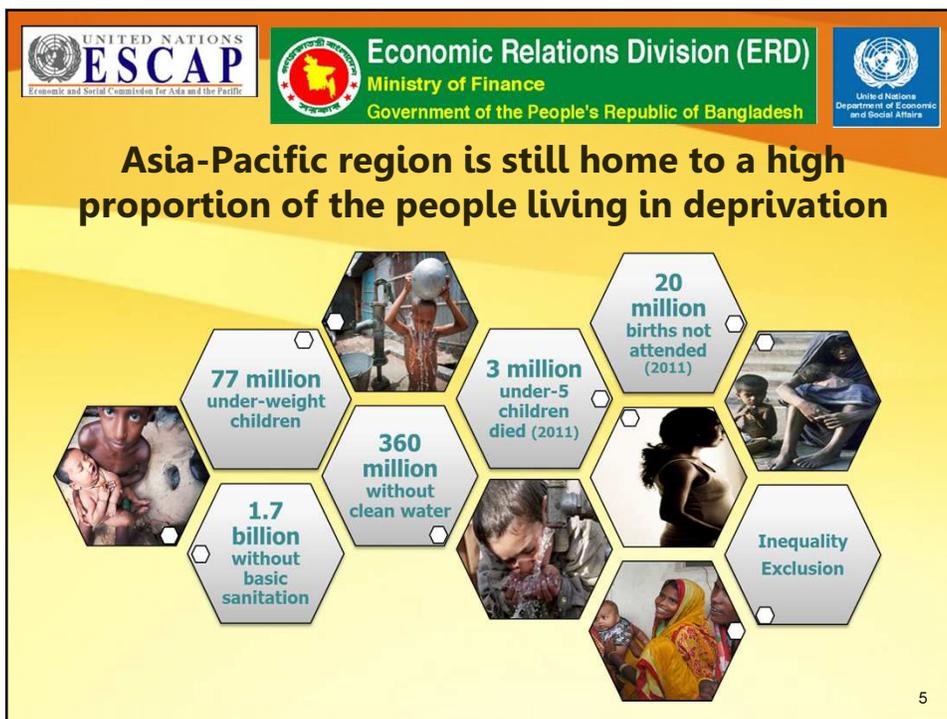
2001/03: Eliminated gender disparity in primary and tertiary education

2000: Millennium Declaration

Unfinished Agenda

- Hunger**
- Infant mortality**
- Under-5 mortality**
- Maternal mortality**
- Reaching last grade in primary education**
- Basic sanitation**

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Moving from the MDGs to the SDGs

MDGs

- To eradicate [extreme poverty and hunger](#)
- To achieve [universal primary education](#)
- To promote [gender equality and empowering women](#)
- To reduce [child mortality](#) rates
- To improve [maternal health](#)
- To combat [HIV/AIDS](#), [malaria](#), and other diseases
- To ensure environmental [sustainability](#)
- To develop a global partnership for development



Asia-Pacific SD priorities

- Eradicating poverty and narrowing inequality
- Pursuing sustained and inclusive economic growth
- Gender equality and empowerment
- Building resilience to environmental and economic shocks
- Responding to population dynamics and urbanisation
- Enhancing resource efficiency and natural resource management
- Deepening regional integration and connectivity

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Sustainable development priorities for Asia-Pacific LDCs

A. End extreme poverty and promote sustainable growth

Some key Issues facing AP LDCs	Related OWG goals	Policy Implications
Decline in extreme poverty, but still large number of people living just above the extreme poverty line	Eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 (1.1); reduce at least by half the proportion of people living below national poverty lines by 2030 (1.2)	Stronger policy focus on poverty eradication; increased resources in sectors/areas that reduce poverty
Inclusive and sustainable economic growth	Sustain per capita economic growth; at least 7% in LDCs (8.1)	Promote inclusive and sustainable growth; productive capacity development, economic diversification and human resources development key areas
High deprivation in access to basic services	Provide universal access to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030 (6.1); ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services (7.1)	Increased investment in basic services; improve access and affordability; renewable energy
Low social protection expenditure	By 2030 implement nationally appropriate social protection measures including floors (1.3)	Comprehensive and if feasible universal social protection systems; avoid ad-hoc approach and fragmentation
High inequality of income, opportunity and power linked with disparities in access to productive assets and basic services, as well as discriminatory policies and regulations	Ensure equality of economic opportunity for all women and men, including equal rights to economic resources as well as access to basic services (1.4)	Much more concerted efforts in reducing income inequality and social disparities; mainstream in national policies and strategies

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Sustainable development priorities for Asia-Pacific LDCs

B. Pursuing sustained and inclusive economic growth

Some Key Issues facing AP LDCs	Related OWG goals	Policy implications
Insufficient decent and productive employment	Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all who seek employment including for marginalized groups (8.5)	Reform labour laws and improve working conditions and safety standards
Over one billion people employed in the informal sector	Encourage formalization of informal sector activities and employment (8.3)	Skills development policies and programmes
High youth unemployment	Substantially reduce the number of youth not in employment, education or training by 2020 (8.6)	Promote employment-intensive manufacturing and services;
Resource intensive growth	Improve progressively global resource efficiency (8.4)	Decouple economic growth from environmental degradation

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C. Gender Equality and Empowerment:

Some key Issues facing AP LDCs	Related OWG goals	Policy implications
Gender equality is a prerequisite for the realization of all development goals	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls (5.1), ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making (5.5)	Promote girls' education; legislation against discrimination and forceful enforcement; removal of glass ceilings
High gender gap in labour force participation rate (49.5% in South Asia)	Recognize and value of unpaid work (5.4); ensure women's full and effective participation (5.5)	Education and awareness creation; increased investments in public services, infrastructure, social protection
Widespread violence against women and girls, manifesting in multiple forms – sexual, physical, domestic, economic, psychological and harmful practices – and resulting in disability and death	Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (5.2)	Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforce legislation for violence against women and girls

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D. Building resilience to environmental and economic shocks:

Some key Issues facing AP LDCs	Related OWG goals	Policy implications
World's most disaster-prone region, with LDCs being often on the frontline	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries (13.1)	Adopt and implement policies and plans towards resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters
Frequency of extreme weather events increased due to climate change	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (13.2)	Promote mechanisms for improved capacity to deal with climate change-related consequences
Development outlook vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks	Build resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their vulnerability to economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5)	Invest in the poor and the vulnerable groups to build their resilience

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E. Responding to dynamics of urbanization

Some key Issues facing AP LDCs	Related OWG goals	Policy implications
Increased and rapid urbanization of cities in LDCs	Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization (11.3)	Better urban and city planning and implementation
Growing urban population (1.3 billion new urban dwellers by 2050)	Access to safe, affordable accessible and sustainable transport for all, improving road safety (11.2); reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities (11.6)	Increased investments in better access to services and urban pollution control mechanisms; improved road safety standards and enforcement
Millions of people not having adequate urban facilities	Ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums (11.1)	Implementation of integrated policies and plans aimed at improving urban living conditions

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Subregional perspectives

The Pacific LDCs:

- Sustainable economic development in a context of low growth rate.
- Environmental and resources sustainability, with a particular focus on oceans biodiversity.
- Social inclusion: addressing income and gender inequalities.

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Subregional perspectives

South and Southwest Asian LDCs:

- Eradicating poverty and hunger.
- Pursuing higher, inclusive and sustained economic growth for productive job creation.
- Women's empowerment and gender equality, in a context of violence and inadequate access to health care.
- Building resilience to disasters.
- Develop surface transport networks and facilitate sub-regional transit and trade.

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Subregional perspectives

East and Northeast Asian LDCs:

- Addressing inequalities, especially with regards to the urban-rural divide, informal employment, population ageing and gender inequality.
- Resource efficiency: decoupling growth from resource use and pollution.
- Responding to population dynamics and deepening regional integration and connectivity.

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Subregional perspectives

Southeast Asia:

- Expanding access to health care: health expenditures as a percentage of GDP have lagged behind other subregions.
- Sustainable infrastructure development, with slow progress on meeting basic sanitation needs, and almost 30 per cent of urban populations living in slums.
- Disaster risk mitigation and climate adaptation.
- Managing transboundary ecosystems and transboundary environmental impacts, such as land degradation and biodiversity loss.
- Managing extractive industries for shared prosperity.
- Managing transitions in governance systems.
- Sustainable consumption and production.

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Implementing sustainable development in Asia-Pacific LDCs

A. Financing:

- Investment needs in physical infrastructure, human capital and sustainable development
- Options for raising required resources include:
 - Use the region's high foreign exchange reserves and savings.
 - Strengthen tax revenue: most LDCs of the region collect taxes amounting to far less than 25% to 35% of GDP.
 - Involve the private sector: capital markets and public-private partnerships.
- Enhance South-South, triangular and regional cooperation.

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Implementing sustainable development in Asia-Pacific LDCs

B. Science, technology and innovation (STI):

- Use STI to understand the key global challenges, draw solutions and apply a more forward looking analysis.
- Support the development of ICT to strengthen transparency, participation and share knowledge between countries.

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Implementing sustainable development in Asia-Pacific LDCs

C. Trade:

- Establish a multilateral trading regime that is fair, just and open
- DFQF provisions need to be further strengthened
- Lower trade costs, especially with regards to non-tariff costs.
- Promote green trade through “Aid for Trade”, foreign direct investment, technology transfers and trade finance funding.
- When implementing trade reforms, bear in mind the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

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Implementing sustainable development in Asia-Pacific LDCs

D. Capacity Building:

- Support evidence-based, multi-dimensional, long-term and participatory decision making at all levels.
- Enhance the statistical capacity of the LDCs and institute strong monitoring and evaluation systems
- Rely on cultural heritage and education as drivers of community development.
- Transformative vision on education and learning, as well as job qualifications, curriculum development and programmes.

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Implementing sustainable development in Asia-Pacific LDCs

E. Governance for transformation towards sustainable development:

- Call for more accountable, transparent and effective institutions.
- Emphasize the importance of effective policy coordination mechanisms to synergize objectives, for example with respect to economic diversification and social inclusiveness.
- Support institutional reforms to create an enabling environment for increased private sector participation.

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Thank you!

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