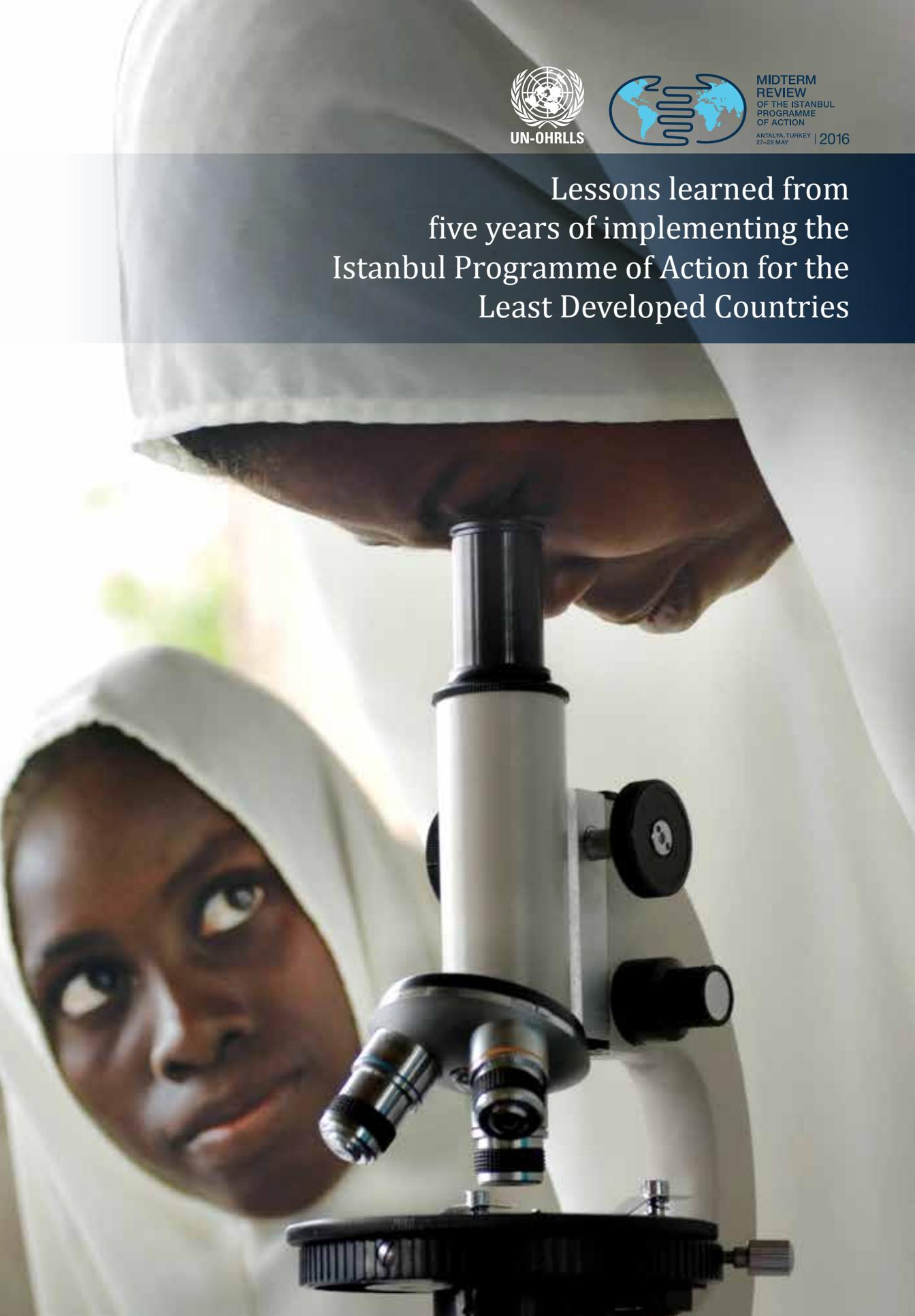




MIDTERM  
REVIEW  
OF THE ISTANBUL  
PROGRAMME  
OF ACTION  
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# Lessons learned from five years of implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries





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**UN-OHRLS**

## 1.0. Introduction

In May 2011, Member States of the United Nations adopted the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA)<sup>1</sup> for the decade 2011-2020 at the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Istanbul, Turkey. The IPoA constitutes an ambitious policy agenda agreed by the international community to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the LDC category. This vision was translated into eight priority areas: productive capacity; agriculture, food security and rural development; trade; commodities; human and social development; multiple crises and other emerging challenges; mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building; and good governance at all levels.

Being at the midpoint of the implementation of the IPoA, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) invited LDCs to review the status of the implementation of the IPoA at the national level and to highlight among others, lessons learned, challenges faced (including new and emerging challenges) and initiatives needed to overcome them. In some LDCs, National Reports were prepared with the support of the Resident Coordinator system and UNDP country teams. At the time of writing the present report, 28 LDCs had submitted their mid-term national progress reports<sup>2</sup> to OHRLLS. OHRLLS is grateful to all LDCs that have shared their experiences.

While this publication is primarily based on the submitted National Reports, it also draws upon other relevant publications. In addition, the current publication does not in any way capture the entirety of experiences across LDCs and priority areas of the IPoA.

The rationale of this report is to highlight some of the success stories and select country experiences as a way of sharing some lessons learned from the implementation of the IPoA at the national level and encourage peer-learning among LDCs. The report is structured as follows: the next section highlights examples of how LDCs have mainstreamed the IPoA into their national plans. Section 2.0 provides select case examples under each priority area. The report concludes in section 3.0 with a summary table.

### 1.1. Mainstreaming the IPoA into national plans

Mainstreaming the IPoA into national development planning processes usually proceeds through three complementary steps. The first is the formulation of a national long-term

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<sup>1</sup> *Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020*: <http://unohrlls.org/UserFiles/File/IPoA.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> LDC National Reports are available at <http://unohrlls.org/national-reports-mtr-ipoa/>

vision, which provides the direction, consistency and focus required to sustain structural transformation. The second step is operationalizing the national long-term vision through the formulation of medium-term national development and sectoral plans and strategies. The third step is to use the annual government budget as the key implementing vehicle of medium-term national development and sectoral plans and strategies that integrate the IPoA (State of the LDCs Report, 2013).

Since the adoption of the IPoA in 2011, there have been a range of efforts by LDCs in integrating the provisions of the IPoA into national policies and development frameworks. Several LDCs, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (*hereafter* Lao PDR), Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania and Tanzania aligned their development plans and frameworks with the priority areas of action of the IPoA. The seventh National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2011-15, of the Lao PDR, for instance, aimed to secure at least 8 per cent GDP growth per annum, achieve the MDGs by 2015, and take substantial steps towards graduation from LDC status by 2020 (UN, 2012; National Reports).

In most cases, the long-term vision aims for the kind of radical economic transformation required to either graduate from LDC status or attain middle-income country status, which loosely equates to exiting the LDC category. The target year varies across countries: 2021 for Bangladesh, 2022 for Nepal, 2025 for Ethiopia and Tanzania, 2030 for Zambia, and 2035 for Guinea, Liberia, Niger and Sierra Leone (State of the LDCs Report, 2013).

In Asia, countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Nepal have included clear timetables for graduating from the LDC category in their national development plans (UN, 2016). The Government of Nepal prepared an approach to the graduation from the LDC status by 2022 (Nepal National Report, 2016). Some countries have started preparing assessments of the impact that the loss of the LDC status would have on official development assistance flows and trade preferences, including through an exchange of views with already graduated countries (UN, 2016).

## 2.0. Priority Areas

This section highlights a selection of country-examples under each priority area and extracts key messages.

### 2.1. Productive capacity

#### **Private investment and establishing economic zones to stimulate economic diversification**

During the IPoA implementation period, Bangladesh was one of the few LDCs that increased its share of manufacturing value added in GDP. This strong manufacturing base is underpinned by the highly labour-intensive textiles, ready-made garments and footwear plants. The vibrant private sector played a catalytic role in fostering structural change in the country. The Government has made efforts to create an enabling environment for private sector investment through among others, operating the Export Processing Zones (EPZs), which it deems as the most preferred destinations for both domestic and foreign investments. The EPZs are therefore used to promote rapid industrialisation and stimulate private investment. The country has observed a gradual increase in investment and exports as a result of the EPZs.

Similarly, garments continue to be Cambodia's key engine of growth. The year-on-year growth rate for the garment sector was about 14.1 per cent by mid-2014. In addition, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows are rising due to the return of relative labour market stability and investors' renewed appetite for the construction and real estate sectors, leading to growing construction materials imports. Construction has overtaken tourism and crops. The present robust economic growth therefore presents an opportunity to, among others, continue the automation of business processes; complete competition and investment laws that enhance the investment climate, improve trade facilitation and; increase the attractiveness of Special Economic Zones (World Bank, 2014). Furthermore, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are a crucial part of the Cambodian economy, contributing to both economic and social development. They play an important role in creating jobs. An estimated 40%-50% of total employment in Cambodia can be attributed to SMEs<sup>3</sup>.

Lao PDR sustained an annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of about 7 per cent and above during the first five years of implementing the IPoA<sup>4</sup>. According to the Lao PDR National Report (2015), while the growth of the economy is largely based on the natural

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<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/70858880474dce1595069f11d57e6c63/Cam+SME-Financial+Services+and+Products.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

<sup>4</sup> Extracted from World Development Indicators on 18 April 2016. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG/countries>

resource sector, the processing industries exhibited some positive results and contributed to diversifying away from natural resource sectors. Key industries include food processing (21 per cent of total processing production), spare parts (18 per cent), mineral products (16 per cent), and beverages (15.5 per cent). The annual gross production value of processing industries between 2011 and 2015 was about 13 per cent, on average. Similar to Bangladesh, Lao PDR also sought to attract private investors through the implementation of special economic zones. In 2012–2013, 206 factories were operating within these zones. As an example, in the capital city, Vientiane, over 60 per cent of the zone has been developed. 28 companies have been registered in this zone with a total investment value of more than US\$40.6 million. In addition, to promote the increase of productivity and to upgrade the quality and standards of the SMEs' goods and services, the Government completed the implementation of a project to construct a model factory. Of the four factories in this project, Indochina Cassava Flour Factory received the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) *Outstanding and Fast Growing SME Award*. At present, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and concerned sectors are in the process of establishing a system and an agency for certifying SME quality and standards (Lao PDR National Report, 2015).

Other countries such as Benin, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Tanzania also established industrial zones and clusters in different parts of the country in order to accelerate the industrialisation process and create jobs. As reported by the World Bank<sup>5</sup>, in an industrial zone outside Addis Ababa, the Chinese-owned Huajian factory – which opened in 2012 and became profitable in its first year of operation – reportedly plans to expand its workforce to 30,000 as part of a \$2 billion investment.

Manufacturing FDI has led to increased job creation among sectors in some LDCs. In Tanzania and Uganda, although manufacturing is not always the largest sector in capital investment, it has generated the largest number of jobs. In Tanzania, a foreign investor survey reported that manufacturing was the largest job creator among sectors over the period 2008–2009, averaging 36,303 jobs per year and accounting for 43 per cent of total jobs created by FDI. Uganda's investor survey divided jobs into full-time and part-time types, and showed that manufacturing achieved the highest job creation in 2012, both in full-time (23 per cent of total) and part-time (79 per cent of total). In Ethiopia, manufacturing accounted for 28 per cent of total employment opportunities (the largest non-agricultural sector in terms of job-creating FDI) between 2008 and 2014 (Chen et al. 2015).

The share of the manufacturing sector in total GDP also increased in Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mauritania between 2011 and 2014<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2015/06/30/africa-still-poised-to-become-the-next-great-investment-destination>

<sup>6</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.IND.MANFKD.ZG>. Data extracted on 18 March 2016.

## **Investing in transport and transit infrastructure to improve connectivity and stimulate socio-economic development**

Due to Government efforts, the infrastructure gap in Mauritania has been narrowing. According to the Mauritania National Report (2015), the construction of a vast network of intercity modern roads (about 4,600 km of paved roads) opened up the capitals of the regions (Wilayas) and almost all sub-districts (Moughataas). Ethiopia, which is landlocked, has experienced remarkably strong economic growth driven in part by public infrastructure investment<sup>7</sup>. Between 2009/10 and 2014/15, the national level road length increased from 48,800 to 58,247 kilometres (Ethiopia National Report, 2015). Non-traditional donors, particularly China and India, have been important sources of financing for infrastructure development in Ethiopia<sup>8</sup>.

Starkey and Hine (2014) provide examples of significant social and economic benefits in Ethiopia, Nepal and Uganda from upgrading footpaths to motorable roads. Investments in initial connectivity through rural roads has also resulted in greater school enrolment (in Bangladesh and Ethiopia) as well as improved staffing at village-level primary schools in Zambia. The improvement of roads (as well as railway and communication) networks in Angola has reduced delays and transaction costs, and increased connectivity<sup>9</sup>.

Djibouti has constructed or rehabilitated roads to improve connection with neighbouring countries. For example, the construction of the 62 kilometres Tadjourah - Dorra-Balho (Ethiopia border) route and the 18 kilometres Djibouti-Loyada (Somalia border) has helped to increase trade and contribute to strengthening the role of Djibouti as a regional logistics hub (Djibouti National Report, 2015). During the IPoA implementation period in Ethiopia, about 90 per cent of the 656 km railway line project running from Sebeta (Addis Ababa) to Dewonle (Djibouti border) were constructed (Ethiopia National Report, 2015). The rehabilitation of the 752 km Djibouti-Ethiopian Railway linking the two capitals was completed in June 2014. An expansion of the Doraleh Port is expected to quadruple revenues and significantly benefit Djibouti's economy. In 2015, its capacity increased to 830,000 containers, up from 160,000 containers in 2004<sup>10</sup>.

The Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda have committed to the development of a standard gauge railway that links the landlocked LDCs of Rwanda and Uganda with Mombasa port in Kenya. This project entails the section from Tororo (Eastern Region of

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<sup>7</sup> See [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/11/25/090224b083440c38/1\\_0/Rendered/PDF/Trajectories0f0country0applications.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/11/25/090224b083440c38/1_0/Rendered/PDF/Trajectories0f0country0applications.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.et.undp.org/content/dam/ethiopia/docs/Financing%20for%20Development\\_January2015updated.pdf](http://www.et.undp.org/content/dam/ethiopia/docs/Financing%20for%20Development_January2015updated.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> See also the State of the LDCs 2016 (*forthcoming*)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.housingfinanceafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015\\_CAHF-yearbook\\_22.10.2015.compressed.pdf](http://www.housingfinanceafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015_CAHF-yearbook_22.10.2015.compressed.pdf)

Uganda) to Gulu and Pakwach (Northern Uganda)<sup>11</sup>. Engineers from the Rift Valley Railways are rehabilitating the Tororo–Gulu–Pakwach railway line, which spans some 500 kilometres and has not been in use for over two decades. The Engineering Division of the Uganda People’s Defence Force has also been commissioned to support those efforts. Work on the Mbale–Tororo axis has been completed, and services have resumed along that section. Repairs to the line include removing anthills, replacing missing slippers and demolishing houses previously built by encroachers within a radius of 30 metres from the railway line (UNCTAD, 2014b).

Senegal has undertaken some measures to modernise railways to enhance regional integration and trade as well as the agricultural and mining sectors. They include: operationalising the Regional Express Train (TER Dakar AIBD); completion of the feasibility study project for the Ziguinchor - Tambacounda - Dakar Railway; and rehabilitating the Dakar - Bamako railway line (Senegal National Report, 2015).

The overall road network in Lao PDR increased from 39,584 km in 2010 to 51,597 km in 2014. In addition, tarred roads increased from 5,427 km in 2010 to 8,272 km in 2014. The Government has also taken important steps to develop national highways to link domestic roads to neighbouring countries along the economic corridors at the regional level, aligned with ASEAN integration (Lao PDR National Report, 2015).

There have been several other initiatives to enhance transport networks in both Africa and Asia. One example is the Northern Corridor Transit Agreement to which Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda are contracting parties and which also extends to South Sudan. The agreement facilitates both overseas trade and trade among its members (UN, 2016). Progress is underway to operationalize the Trans-African Highway, a pan-African undertaking to extend the continent’s highway network and construct many smaller connecting roads<sup>12</sup>. The Asia Highway Network has helped improve flows of goods between some Asian LDCs and neighbouring countries. The Infrastructure Fund of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, established in 2013, is an innovative initiative to mobilize the region’s resources for infrastructure development. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has also been supporting investment in infrastructure development in the region. For example, between 1992 and 2010, its Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation<sup>13</sup> Programme had invested some \$15 billion in projects covering sub-regional roads, airports and railways, as well as power facilities and tourism infrastructure (UN, 2015).

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<sup>11</sup> See <http://www.au-pida.org/tororo-gulu-pakwach-standard-gauge-railway-part-mombasa-kigali-railway-project>

<sup>12</sup> State of the LDCs 2016 Report (*forthcoming*)

<sup>13</sup> Member Countries include Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

Maritime traffic constitutes the main transport mode through which most LDCs conduct international trade. Benin has taken significant measures to develop its maritime transport and port infrastructure, as this sector accounts for more than 90% of its trade. The port of Cotonou is the source of 45-50% of Government revenue and 80-85% of customs revenue. These measures include the following: continuing rehabilitation work related to the operation of the new container terminal; continuing the process of exploration for the construction of the second deep-water port at Seme-Kpodji; construction of dry ports in Parakou and Tori, and the construction of a Maritime Affairs Centre (Benin National Report, 2015). Maritime piracy, particularly off the coasts of East and West Africa, poses a growing threat<sup>14</sup>.

Most of the increase in air transport in LDCs was driven by Ethiopia and Bangladesh. One success story has been the role of air transport in the growth of the Ethiopian flower industry. The Government made state-owned land near the airport affordable for flower farms, reducing the cost of transportation and facilitating market entry, while also coordinating between flower exporters and the national airlines, resulting in 87% of firms using them for transporting their goods. The airline assisted with leasing of cargo planes as well as running up to 10 daily flights for transporting flowers to the major auction markets (Gebreyesus and Iizuka, 2010)<sup>15</sup>. In addition, subsidised loans by the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) have been the prime source of long-term investment financing for firms in the floriculture industry in Ethiopia. Almost two-thirds of firms in the industry have relied on loans from the DBE. Given the success of DBE loans to the floricultural industry, private banks have now also started lending to the industry (UNECA, 2016b).

### **Reducing the energy challenge in some LDCs through the implementation of the energy-mix, with support from partners**

LDCs face significant challenges in accessing electricity<sup>16</sup>. According to UNECA (2016a), insufficient water in the reservoirs at some of the biggest sources of hydropower in Zambia - Lake Kariba and Itezhi Tezhi - led to the increase in rationing of electricity throughout the country. Power cuts now average 10-14 hours a day, affecting industries, commerce and domestic customers. The decline in water levels was due to below average rainfall in the 2014/15 rainy season in Zambia. As observed by LDC IV Monitor (2014), in Bhutan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, electricity production comes overwhelmingly from hydropower, suggesting a need for greater diversification.

In Mauritania, energy production capacity has increased over the past six years, reaching 360 megawatts (MW) in 2015. The use of electricity expanded to about 61% of the

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<sup>14</sup> See also the State of the LDCs 2016 Report (*forthcoming*)

<sup>15</sup> See also the State of the LDCs 2016 Report (*forthcoming*)

<sup>16</sup> In 2012, a meagre 34.5% of the population in LDCs had access to electricity (UN, 2016)

population, by 2014. The country has been championing the renewable energy movement in Africa. Solar energy now powers 30 per cent of Nouakchott's (the capital city) energy use, with 50 per cent of the city's energy needs likely to be covered by solar in the next several years. The Government launched the high voltage electric interconnection project between Nouakchott and Nouadhibou and between Nouakchott and Toubine in Senegal, with the aim of exporting the surplus power to Mali and Senegal (Mauritania National Report, 2015), hence yielding regional benefits<sup>17</sup>. In addition, a solar panel manufacturing company has been established, with partnership between the state (40%), a foreign partner (34%) and a private national (26%).

Energy infrastructure development is one of the most important strategic investment areas for the Government of Ethiopia. The country is implementing mega energy infrastructure projects, including the Great Renaissance Hydroelectric Power Project on the Blue Nile River and other Hydro Power and Wind Plant Projects. As a result, the country's energy generating capacity has doubled from 2,000 MW in 2009/10 to 4,000 MW in 2014/15. During the same period, national electricity service coverage has increased from 41% to 60% (Ethiopia National Report, 2015).

Bangladesh prepared a Power System Master Plan (PSMP-2010) to improve and expand electricity supply to support GDP growth of more than 7 per cent. The Renewable Energy Policy calls for the renewable energy share to be 10% by 2020. The Solar Home System (SHS) run by the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), a public infrastructure financing entity, is deemed to be one of the largest and the fastest growing off-grid renewable energy programmes in the world. More than 3 million SHSs have already been installed under IDCOL programme in the off-grid rural areas of Bangladesh and about 13 million beneficiaries are getting solar electricity. In addition, more than 65,000 SHSs are now being installed every month under the programme, with an average year-to-year installation growth of 58%. Moreover, around 70,000 people are directly or indirectly involved with the programme (Bangladesh National Report, 2016).

According to the Bangladesh National Report, a key element of the programme's success is its innovative, targeted subsidized SHS delivery and financing scheme. IDCOL works with a number of participating non-government organizations, known as partner organizations, which sell, install, and maintain the SHSs. IDCOL provides targeted subsidies that permit reductions in SHS prices for low income customers, as well as support microcredit financing. At the core of the success is a strong partnership between IDCOL and its participating organizations in terms of specifically defined responsibilities, a system of checks and balances, smart incentives, and trust.

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<sup>17</sup> See also <http://blogs.worldbank.org/nasakiliza/powering-africa-s-renewable-energy-revolution>

The Government of Bhutan has been taking initiatives to promote alternative renewable energy through the 2013 Alternative Renewable Energy Policy. Consequently, the Bhutan Development Bank Limited has financed 900 biogas plants and 10 solar heating systems have been installed (Bhutan National Report, 2015). In addition, Bhutan was one of the three LDCs that signed a framework agreement for energy cooperation on electricity in November 2014. The other LDCs that were party to this agreement are Afghanistan and Nepal (UN, 2015).

The use of renewable energy is also at the core of many rural electrification programmes currently being pursued in multiple LDCs. One success story is the construction and effective community-driven management of more than 1,000 micro-hydro plants in 52 districts in Nepal (UN, 2014a). With the encouragement and support from Nepal's Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) in collaboration with multilateral partners, communities come together to build a micro-hydro plant that can also meet the energy needs of neighbouring villages. While the micro-hydro plants are built and run by the community, AEPCC provides support to the micro-hydro plant, which extends to transiting it from the construction phase to the management phase. In one town, Darbang, industries including a metal workshop, several furniture manufacturers, a cement block manufacturer, poultry and dairy farms, among others, sprung up after the Ruma Khola Micro Hydro Power Plant came into operation in 2009<sup>18</sup>.

Lao PDR has been exploring the potential of off-grid renewable electrification. At present, solar power has been expanded and installed in rural areas for more than 12,709 households, or 1.3 per cent of total households in 430 villages. A solar energy installation with a capacity of 236 KW, which is linked to the on-grid electricity network at Wattay International Airport, has been completed (Lao PDR National Report, 2015).

LDCs such as Guinea and Uganda recently initiated major hydropower projects. Uganda is poised to reach 920MW of electric power up from the current 850MW with completion of small hydro-electricity dams in 2016/17. In addition, the country is on course to ensure energy access to all by 2030 with almost 98% of all districts with electricity connectivity under the rural electrification project (Uganda National Report, 2016). Other renewable energy projects are being planned or are under way in Ethiopia and Lesotho (wind), Ethiopia and Rwanda (geothermal) and Mauritania (solar) (UN, 2014a). In Cambodia, a Rural Electrification Master Plan focusing on the use of renewable energy is also being implemented. Some major improvements include expanded transmission and distribution networks and the connection of several locations. This includes a 115KV-transmission line from the Thai border to supply electricity to Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap and Battambang

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/02/05/renewable-energy-powers-rural-nepal-into-the-future>

Province, as well as a 230KV transmission line from Cambodia- Vietnam border to Phnom Penh (Cambodia National Report, 2015).

Guinea has also committed to increasing the scale and reliability of its electricity supply. As part of these efforts, a new dam and hydropower plant on the Konkouré River at Kaleta were initiated and completed. This has almost tripled Guinea's hydroelectric generating capacity – from 128 MW in 2012 to 368 MW in 2015. Plans are underway to build a 550-MW Souapiti hydropower scheme in the coming years, also on the Konkoure River, as well as a 90-MW Fomi hydroelectric project in the upper Niger River Basin. Together with efforts to build and refurbish transmission lines and distribution networks, the completion of these flagship hydropower projects will ensure sustainable access to energy to households and firms and critical services, therefore accelerating growth and development in Guinea.

Rwanda's progress in renewable energy is embedded in a larger, systemic framework that invests in the provision of inclusive, decentralized production of green energy technologies. The country aims to achieve 70 per cent access to electricity by 2017 – a substantial increase from 19 per cent in 2012 – and to increase electricity-generation capacity more than tenfold, from 100 in 2012 to 1,160 MW by 2017. The strong direction taken by Government policy has provided the framework for a range of investments. One such investment is a solar field funded by development partners. The \$23.7 million project is the first utility-scale, grid-connected, commercial solar field in East Africa. The field generates 8.5 MW and has increased Rwanda's power-generation capacity by 6 per cent. Construction began in February 2014 and was completed by July. It produced an estimated 15 million kilowatt-hours in its first year, sending power to a substation 9 km away. The solar field is linked to a central server in Oslo, Norway, and can be monitored remotely via the Internet (UNECA, 2016a).

In Kiribati, development of the energy supply infrastructure has occurred under the 2012-15 national plan with a special focus on renewable sources of energy. The Solar Energy for the Outer Islands project costing US\$5.3 million, implemented by the Kiribati Solar Energy Company and funded by development partners, was completed in 2015 providing 2,010 solar home kits, 281 solar kits to, among others, businesses and teacher residences, and 8 hybrid mini-grid systems for high schools on 18 islands. An additional 10,000 small solar lighting kits are being provided with funding assistance from a development partner for delivery and installation on all outer islands (Kiribati National Report, 2015).

### **Implementing institutional and legal reforms to improve the investment climate**

Myanmar's re-integration in the global trade network is creating an environment ripe with opportunity for both domestic and foreign firms. In 2013 and 2014, Myanmar's

economy grew at over 8 per cent in real terms<sup>19</sup>. With a more stable, reformed political system, Myanmar has revamped most of its domestic legislation to encourage foreign direct investment and regional integration, among others. The new Myanmar Foreign Investment Law includes many preferable provisions for foreign firms, and also addresses problems with the exchange rate. As a result, a total of 1,001 foreign enterprises in 12 sectors from 41 countries were provided with permits. The total pledged investment value from these foreign enterprises was US\$ 58.03 billion at the end of October 2015. Among the investments, the oil and gas sector was the largest and accounted for 33.9%. Power, the second leading sector, accounted for 33.3%, and manufacturing, the third leading sector, accounted for 10.6% of the total permitted amount of foreign investment (Myanmar National Report, 2016).

Over the past decade, Senegal has made significant progress related to the business environment, through among others, the adoption of a new Law on Public Private Partnership, and introducing an electronic process for business registration. Since November 2007, entrepreneurs can register at the one-stop shop, which takes care of what was formerly done through seven different procedures. Four of the procedures are taken care of by having the four relevant agencies dispatch one of their civil servants to the one-stop shop. These are: the tax authority to register the bylaws; the Commercial Registry to register the company bylaws; the NINEA to get a company identification number; and, the Labour authority to register workers and commencement of operation. They are all physically present in the same location and there is a timesheet kept by the coordinator of the one-stop shop that indicates the precise time with which every person in the room delivers the document<sup>20</sup>. The implemented reforms helped reduce from 11 to 4 the number of procedures to start a business and its cost from 122% to 64% of income per capita. Improvements were also noted in the transfer of property and protection of minority investors (Senegal National Report, 2015). Other LDCs such as Lesotho made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop for company incorporation and by eliminating the requirements for paid-in minimum capital and for notarization of the articles of association (Lesotho National Report, 2015).

With the exception of 2013, Rwanda's economic performance since 2011 has been robust, with the annual GDP growth averaging about 7% or more. Significant economic reforms, including privatization, investment facilitation and trade liberalization helped achieve strong economic growth (UNCTAD, 2014a). The growth of the Rwandan economy so far can mainly be attributed to growth of the services sector (UNECA, 2016b). The Government, private sector and development partners have rolled out major investments in ICT infrastructure. A national fibre-optic backbone network spanning about 3,000 kilometres has been laid

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<sup>19</sup> Extracted from World Development Indicators

<sup>20</sup> See <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreconomies/senegal/starting-a-business/>

throughout the country, providing faster internet access to a wider range of broadband services. It connects all districts, nine main border posts and several other public and private institutions, such as schools and health centres. This includes the connection to the main route of Gatuna–Kigali and Kigali–Rusumo, allowing international connectivity to the submarine cable with a view to acquiring affordable and reliable connectivity (UNCTAD, 2014a). The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) recently named Rwanda as the highest ranked Least Developed Country in this year's Affordability Drivers Index (A4AI, 2015/2016). According to the report, the country's success is due, in part, to the ambitious policies the country is pursuing.

The tourism sector has, however, been the strongest driver of growth, ranking first in investment attraction out of all sectors in Rwanda. Between 2011/12 and 2012/13, tourism receipts increased by 13 per cent. This was equivalent to 40 per cent of total exports, making tourism the largest foreign exchange earner in Rwanda (UNCTAD, 2014a; UNECA, 2016b).

### **Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility**

Some companies have been implementing Corporate Social Responsibility activities. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the mining sector has played a catalytic role in the provision of basic public services. Mining companies have financed projects in the electricity and transport sectors, which benefited the local communities. Examples of such projects include: (i) the development of a power station by Randgold in Kibali (oriental Province), (ii) the construction of roads and bridges by Banro in Twangiza (South Kivu), (iii) the construction of four hydroelectric plants, and (iv) a transmission line by Tenke Fungurume Mining in the Katanga province. Mining companies have also provided basic public services such as healthcare, agriculture extension services, water supply, and education for host communities (IMF, 2015). In Lesotho, some of the Corporate Social Responsibility activities that have been implemented and have economic value are in the tourism sector and agriculture, in particular, the provision of support to farmers to improve production of wool and mohair (Lesotho National Report, 2015).

## **2.2. Agriculture, food security and rural development**

### **Adopting and implementing agriculture policies and programmes to improve food security**

In 2010, the Government of Bangladesh adopted a Country Investment Plan (CIP), a roadmap for agriculture, food security and nutrition, based on the National Food Policy. A major component of the CIP programme covers social safety net provision, through the vulnerable group feeding programme and a number of schemes with cash allowances and stipends to help the most vulnerable. As a result of this programme, there has been increased availability and access to food by the poor evidenced by the decline in the vulnerable population

benefitting from the feeding programme, from over 8 million people in 2010 to around 6.5 million in 2013/14 (Bangladesh National Report, 2016).

Togo has recorded some success in the agriculture sector. In 2015, the country recorded a cereal balance surplus of about 16%. This was an increase of about 3 percentage points relative to the cereal balance between 2009 and 2012. In addition, the prevalence of undernourishment declined from 16.5% in 2012 to 11.6% in 2014. Among others, these successes were a result of the implementation of the National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Programme as well as the distribution of 53,500 kits of agricultural inputs to vulnerable farmers, 50% of whom were women and youth (Togo National Report, 2015).

In Benin, the food insecurity rate declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 11% in 2013. Some of the initiatives that have contributed to these results include: investment in storage facilities; strengthening the negotiating capacities of marketing associations; and ensuring food supply to areas facing deficits in food (Benin National Report, 2015).

### **Provision of input subsidies and irrigation to improve food security**

In Tanzania, the Government has been supplying critical inputs such as fertilizers and improved seeds through a subsidy programme. According to the Tanzania National Report (2015), between 2010/11 and 2014/15, a total of 2.5 million households in 24 regions benefited from input subsidies. As a result of the input subsidy programmes, food availability in the country increased by 15 percentage points. To stimulate productivity, the Government also imported over 2,000 tractors, which were sold or loaned to farmers on a smart-subsidy basis (Tanzania National Report, 2015).

Malawi's food security situation improved, especially since the implementation of the Fertiliser Input Subsidy Programme. However, growth in the agricultural sector has been unstable as output depends on rain-fed agriculture, which is by nature unpredictable. With the erratic rainfall that has been worsened by effects of climate change, the agriculture sector has experienced a reduction in output. Efforts to develop irrigation infrastructure through the Green Belt Initiative, for example, have so far been limited due to low investment and reduced farmer capacities to undertake conservation agriculture and climate change adaptation technologies that are being introduced to both large scale as well as small scale farmers (Malawi National Report, 2015). Similarly, the Burkina Faso National Report (2015) highlighted that the decline in productivity in 2014 was partly a result of the late rains in some areas (Burkina Faso National Report, 2015).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in Lesotho has been promoting the development, generation and adoption of appropriate agricultural technologies and farming methods to address effects of climate change. Emphasis has been mainly on irrigation

technologies. In 2013/14, about 400 cubic metre irrigation systems were completed in Hachere as an addition to the five existing irrigation systems. Three other irrigation systems have been established in Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek and Quthing. Through the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Programme (SANReMP), a total of 95 small dams and ponds were completed while 108 roof harvesting tanks were also constructed. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security undertook agricultural research, procured agriculture machinery, enhanced geographical information systems and provided a subsidy to increase the area planted through the Intensified Crop Production project. The research and the subsidy are financed by the Government. As a result of all these efforts, the crops yields are projected to rise by 7.5% tonnes per annum, covering about 50% of arable land in the medium term (Lesotho National Report, 2015).

Despite the late start of the rainy season and the rainfall deficit experienced in Senegal, agricultural production increased and its contribution to GDP was about 6.9%, compared with 6.8% recorded in 2013. The introduction of short-cycle seeds, in the adaptation programme, helped mitigate the negative impact of the rainfall deficit (Senegal National Report, 2015).

### **Reduction of post-harvest losses due to increase in grain storage capacity**

In Zambia, there has been a noticeable reduction of household level post-harvest losses. The country's Food Reserve Agency has reduced crop wastage loss to below 1%. This was achieved through the increase of grain storage capacity to 117,000 metric tonnes after the construction of 27 storage sheds (Zambia National Report, 2015). In Tanzania, the Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme has enabled 5,100 farmers to increase their storage capacity and reduce post-harvest losses through knowledge sharing and provision of equipment. The farmers groups have been able to produce nearly 3,000 metric tonnes of maize for sale to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) at competitive market prices. As a result, the NFRA was able to increase emergency stocks of food for insecure populations (Tanzania National Report, 2015).

### **Development partners' participation and Public-Private Partnerships in the agriculture sector**

Cash crops have a significant contribution to Madagascar's agricultural production and exports. Between 2013 and 2014, production of vanilla, coffee and cloves increased by 6.4%, 41% and about 100%, respectively. These results are due in part to the partnership between the state, the private sector and farmers, with technical and financial support (Madagascar National Report, 2015).

Development partners and multilateral agencies such as the World Bank have in recent years offered financial support to LDCs such as Tanzania and Uganda through the provision

of subsidised agricultural inputs. In Tanzania, three of the five targeted regions for fertiliser and seed inputs have been reporting huge surpluses (for example, Mbeya region alone had an officially recorded 2,000 tonnes surplus of rice<sup>21</sup>), such that at any one time Government storage facilities, with a carrying capacity of about 250,000 tonnes, were always full, compelling the Government to lift food export bans, which have prevailed since independence. The Government announced in Parliament that it intends to promote cereals as a tradable good without export restrictions. In Uganda, support by 20 development partners to the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA) and National Agricultural Advisory (extension) Services (NAADS) has proven useful as the country has been the main source of food for South Sudan and eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (LDC IV Monitor, 2014).

## 2.3. Trade

### **Simplification and harmonization of customs, border and transit procedures to facilitate trade**

Over the past decade, Zambia has pursued liberal trade policies in order to promote economic diversification and generate export-led growth. Zambia's trade has been dominated by traditional exports such as copper and cobalt, which accounted for about 80 per cent of total export earnings. During the period under review, the country's focus has been on increasing the values, volumes and product range of non-traditional, value-added export products from industry as well as expanding markets. Some of the major programmes aimed at enhancing trade have been: Export Promotion and Market development through activities such as trade missions, market research and facilitating the participation of the private sector in trade shows and exhibitions; and enhancing Trade Facilitation through the creation of One Stop Border Posts. Currently, a one-stop border post is operational at Chirundu Border with Zimbabwe (Zambia National Report, 2015). The application of an automated system for customs data and one-stop border posts at Chirundu has cut the border crossing time from nine days to about nine hours (UN, 2014). A similar facility is underway at Nakonde Border. The aim is to reduce the time taken to clear goods at border posts and facilitate trade. Due to these programmes as well as improved productive capacities, there has been a steady growth in Non-Traditional Exports (NTEs), both in absolute terms and relative to total exports. The NTEs accounted for 9 per cent of total exports in 2010 and grew to 21.8 per cent by 2014. A total of 250 products were exported to 188 countries notably within Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Asia (Zambia National Report, 2015).

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<sup>21</sup> President Kikwete, 5 September 2012, during his acceptance speech after being awarded the Leadership Award in Promoting Food Security in the region offered by the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

Through initiatives such as the improvement of customs procedures and the use of modern container handling equipment, Tanzania has been able to reduce average container dwell time from 13.3 days as of 2010/11 to 10.3 days in 2014/15 (Tanzania National Report, 2015).

### **Expanding regional cooperation and enhancing supply side capacity to promote trade**

Several initiatives to boost intra-regional trade have been undertaken. For example, in June 2015, a Free Trade Area among the Member/Partner States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established<sup>22</sup>. About a third of the LDCs are Members of this Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA). According to the Brookings Institute (2015), available data show that merchandise exports among the members of this new FTA have steadily increased from \$2.3 billion to \$36 billion between 1994 and 2014. Over that period, the share of intra-regional trade in total exports increased from 7 per cent to 25 per cent. While these shares are low relative to European (70 per cent) or Asian (50 per cent) standards, the trend clearly suggests that trade among the Tripartite members grew faster than their trade with the rest of the world. TFTA could accelerate this trend by further stimulating intra-regional trade. When fully implemented, the TFTA will create a large market with 626 million customers (about 8 per cent of the world's population) with a rapidly emerging middle class.

The Greater Mekong Subregion investment framework pipeline of potential projects for the period 2013-2022 includes more than 200 projects in 10 sectors, with an estimated investment value in excess of \$50 billion (UN, 2015). Lao PDR, which has, among other efforts, participated in Free Trade Areas such as ASEAN, experienced an increase in international trade over the IPoA period. The gross value of exports during the last five years is estimated to be US\$14.1 million, with an annual growth rate of 12 per cent. The main export products are minerals and mining products (48%), processing industries (23%), hydropower (16%), and agricultural goods, at 8 % (Lao PDR National Report, 2015).

With respect to enhancing supply side capacity, the establishment of Kiribati Fishing Limited (KFL) in 2012 made a breakthrough and a major development change by bringing fishery development to the shores of Kiribati for the first time and consequently creating more benefits to the local community in terms of employment and training. The main factor that has contributed to the diversification of local export-oriented productive capabilities has been the expansion of the fishing industry. Kiribati Fish Limited is a joint venture of Kiribati and foreign partners. The project is worth \$11m and the factory was officially opened in 2012. It was established to increase revenue from the fisheries sector, increase local employment opportunities and promote trade activities in terms of exports to the Japanese, Australian and Korean markets (Kiribati National Report, 2015).

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.tralac.org/images/docs/7531/tfta-agreement-june-2015.pdf>

## 2.4. Commodities

### **Investing in value addition to enhance productivity and in some instances, create productive jobs**

Due to the abundant and renewable resource base in Ethiopia's large population of cattle, sheep and goats, the Government has identified the leather and leather products value chain as one of the top four most promising industries in the country due to its strong backward linkages to the rural economy, and potential for poverty reduction. The sector is labour-intensive with the potential to be a major source of employment all along its value chain. To date, over 10,000 formal jobs have been created as have thousands of informal handicraft and trading activities. Out of the 17 large shoe factories, 14 are engaged in exporting. About 1,000 small and microenterprises are also engaged in the production of footwear (USAID, 2013).

The Government of Bangladesh is implementing several sectoral policies with special incentives, which ultimately aim to enhance productivity and vertical diversification, ensure value addition and increase value retention. The Government had undertaken initiatives to export finished jute products instead of raw jute. Jute is no longer on the list of three leading commodities in export, which accounted around 8 per cent in 2009-10. Instead, vegetables had been newly added on the list (Bangladesh National Report, 2016). Bangladesh has the potential to further broaden its scope within jute and realize higher value added from its rich jute resources (Kathuria and Malouche, 2016).

Zambia exports up to 95 per cent refined copper in the form of copper cathodes. This process represents a number of value added stages after mining but is still considered to be an upstream activity. To that end, significant investments have been made, including the construction of two new smelters and the expansion of an existing one to 850,000 tonnes per annum (the biggest copper smelter in Africa and the fifth largest in the world). Consequently, further processing along the value chains (downstream), which produces semi-fabricates, including copper plates, sheets and strips, and copper wire, is growing over time, albeit at a relatively slow pace. Tellingly, the production of high-end semi-fabricates is almost exclusively undertaken by a single company (UNCTAD, 2015b).

Economic growth in Angola was projected to slow to 3.9 per cent in 2014, from 5.9 per cent in 2013, mainly due to a temporary decline in oil output and a deceleration in agriculture sector growth (from the previous year's unusually high growth following the end of a prolonged drought). However, growth in the non-oil economy remains robust (7.3 per cent), mainly driven by ongoing investments in the agriculture, manufacturing, electricity and services sectors, and is expected to off-set the transitory decline in the oil sector and create the necessary conditions to spur the much needed economic diversification and job creation (IMF, 2014).

## **2.5. Human and social development**

### **Implementing free education policy and provision of school feeding programmes to increase school enrolment**

According to UNDP (2008), one of the most effective measures in achieving universal education is to abolish primary school user fees. Many LDCs have taken this important step, enabling millions of extra children to enrol in primary school. In Tuvalu, primary education is not only free, but enrolment of students in primary school is also compulsory by law and every parent must ensure their children are enrolled. The average net enrolment ratio for primary education between 2010 and 2015 was around 99.2 per cent (Tuvalu National Report, 2016).

In some countries, free education extends to Secondary education. In Bhutan, the Government provides free education up to grade 10 and dedicated the largest portion of the 11th five-year plan to education and health. The net primary enrolment rate reached 95% in 2014 from 62% in 2000 (Bhutan National Report, 2015). Similarly, in Kiribati, primary and junior secondary components of schooling are compulsory and free. In addition, in 2015, the Kiribati Government approved the provision of subsidised stationery for students. In Eritrea, basic education is compulsory and the Government offers free education from primary to higher education (Eritrea National Report, 2015).

Uganda has been implementing Universal Primary and Secondary Education programmes. This led to a three-fold rise in children in primary school, and the elimination of the gender gap between 1997 and 2014. Secondary school enrolment has correspondingly risen from 814,087 in 2007 to 1,362,739 in 2014 narrowing the gender gap from 72.7% in 2006 to 88.3% in 2014. One of the measures taken by the Government of Uganda to accommodate the rising numbers in enrolment was to establish a school facilities grant to match this enrolment with requisite school infrastructure (Uganda National Report, 2016). The National Report identifies the low quality of education and training in primary and secondary schools as well as vocational institutes as an existing challenge arising from the pace of government investments being slower than the surge in enrolment.

The Government of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in collaboration with the United Nations, continued to expand the School Feeding Programme by increasing the coverage of pupils in five regions including Dodoma and Arusha. An evaluation conducted in 2012 in the 16 Councils showed an increase in school attendance and reduction of dropouts. Apart from the schools which are supported by the United Nations, other schools, especially those in agricultural zones, provide meals during harvest periods. The Government's plan is to ensure that meals are provided to all schools throughout the school calendar. In that regard, the Government has continued to sensitize parents and other stakeholders to contribute resources including grain to ensure sustainable

provision of meals to children at school to promote attendance and retention (Tanzania National Report, 2015).

In Guinea, the Government set up a social safety net to meet the needs of vulnerable groups. One of the country's initiatives is the extension of the school feeding programme through the opening of canteens in schools (Guinea National Report, 2015).

A number of LDCs including Zambia increased access to education for the disadvantaged through creating awareness of the potential of Children with Special Education Needs. According to the Zambian National Report (2015), these efforts led to an increase in the number of Learners with Special Education Needs (SEN) from 175,361 in 2008 to over 220,000 in 2013 at primary school level. Lesotho provides bursaries to orphaned and vulnerable children. The country attributes the low enrolment rates in secondary schools to unaffordable fees for most poor families as bursaries are only provided to orphaned and vulnerable children (Lesotho National Report, 2015). Sudan provides direct support to poor students in primary, secondary and higher education (Sudan National Report, 2016). In Burkina Faso, scholarships are provided for girls at the secondary education level (Burkina Faso National Report, 2015). This could have contributed to the slight increase in the participation of females at secondary level. According to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, the percentage of students in secondary education who are female in Burkina Faso increased from 42.5% in 2010 to 45.7% in 2014<sup>23</sup>.

### **Initiatives to promote health and health equity**

Bhutan has met all health-related MDGs. The Government of Bhutan is committed to providing free access to basic healthcare and included this commitment in the constitution. Life expectancy increased from 48 years in 1980 to 68 years in 2013 (Bhutan National Report, 2015). Several actions contributed to this success, including the construction of more health centres. According to the National Report, Bhutan's eligibility to graduate from the LDC status is a testimony to the immense socio-economic progress that the country has made so far. During the triennial review of the list of LDCs undertaken by the UN's Committee for Development Policy in March 2015, Bhutan was found eligible for graduation from the LDC category for the first time, as it met the income and human asset criteria.

The implementation of the DOTS Global strategy / Stop Tuberculosis through technical and financial support of partners have helped reduce the prevalence of tuberculosis in Benin, which declined from 142 to 115 cases per 100,000 between 2000 and 2015 (Benin National Report, 2015). In Cambodia, the proportion of people with HIV/AIDS declined from 1.6% in 2000 to 0.6% in 2014 due to effective prevention and control mechanisms launched under the 'Combating AIDS National Programme'. In addition, the number of health centres

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<sup>23</sup> Extracted from <http://data.uis.unesco.org/> on 28 April 2016

increased from 506 in 2008 to 577 in 2014 (Cambodia National Report, 2015). In Lesotho, the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV linkages model allow the Laboratories to supply pregnancy kits in order to facilitate early detection of pregnancy. The programme has developed a tool called the Lesotho Obstetric Record (LOR) that monitors women during pregnancy, labour and postnatal (Lesotho National Report, 2015).

Maternal mortality in countries such as Bhutan, Djibouti, Nepal, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu is less than half of the LDC average. Initiatives that contributed to the lower than average maternal mortality in these countries included: provision of free essential drugs to the poor and vulnerable; increasing access to health care by constructing new health care centres and implementing mobile outreach clinics; and deploying doctors to health centres in remote villages (State of the LDCs Report 2016, forthcoming).

In Nepal, the Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) are primary contact points for health information and provide services to communities. At present, 52,000 FCHVs are actively working across the country. FCHVs provide counselling on family planning, safe motherhood, safe abortion, immunization and disease control programmes. The Ministry of Health has established at least a Sub-health Post in each Village to provide basic health services to people. In addition, the Government has strengthened the capacity of the village health workers at community level to identify and track all pregnant women to attend antenatal care to address prevailing problems (Nepal National Report, 2016). This could have contributed to the decline in maternal mortality. Between 2011 and 2015, maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) declined from 328 to 258<sup>24</sup>.

### **Bridging the ICT and health sectors to improve healthcare**

In Bangladesh, the Government's efforts and successes in the use of information and communication technology for improvement of maternal and child health is playing a vital role in scaling-up e-Health nationwide. Mobile phone health service is being provided from all district hospitals. Clients' grievances are received and resolved through an SMS system from 800 hospitals and health organizations. In addition, a high-end telemedicine service is being provided from 43 hospitals (Bangladesh National Report, 2016). According to the WHO (2011), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is responsible for the content of the text messages for mass SMS health campaigns and coordinates with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for their broadcast. The SMS messages for health staff members and for the SMS subscription service are prepared by the Department of Management Information Systems, which coordinates directly with participating mobile operators. Mass broadcasts of SMS health messages ensure that an estimated 55 million mobile telephone users will receive reminders and information

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<sup>24</sup> World Development Indicators - <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT/countries?display=default>.  
Extracted on 02 May 2016

regarding health campaigns. Similarly, the implementation of the SMS service directed to nearly 100,000 health staff members has helped the Ministry reduce time lags in the communication of urgent health information to health care practitioners. This service has also streamlined the workload at the Ministry's headquarters, reducing paperwork and the use of fixed line telephony.

Myanmar faces a number of issues in maternal health, including a high infant mortality rate and challenging levels of child malnutrition. Over 70% of births occur outside clinics or medical services. It is hard for many women and their families to get information about maternal and child healthcare. 'Maymay' (meaning 'mother' in the Myanmar language) is a maternal healthcare app designed by a local start-up, Koe Koe Tech, and developed with the Population Services International (PSI), a global health organization dedicated to improving the health of people in the developing world. It makes available a wealth of useful maternal, child health and wellness information to women during and after pregnancy. It sends information messages about maternal and child health regularly to expectant mothers, their partners, families, and parents of young children. The service also improves access to health professionals and treatment as required, by allowing users to search a database of information on the location and contact details of health workers and clinics. To ensure information is relevant, PSI's doctors localize texts from the Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action, supported by International Agencies. All messages are approved by Myanmar's Ministry of Health. By May 2015, the Maymay app had over 11,000 active users, and is being introduced to many more of Myanmar's communities (ITU and UNESCO, 2015).

### **Preparing youths for work through skills development and youth entrepreneurship**

A major challenge for young people in LDCs is the considerable difficulty they experience in finding decent and secure employment<sup>25</sup>. Senegal has adopted an Operational Action Plan for Youth Employment. The Government's efforts led to the following results: recruitment of 4,255 qualified agents in various public services and 4,156 people in education and training in 2014; placement of more than 1,913 young people in companies as part of the national state employers convention; and training of 931 young people in the development of self-entrepreneurship (Senegal National Report, 2015).

In an effort to improve the situation of young people, Burkina Faso has created a Special Programme of Employment for Youth and Women (PSCE) site whose overall objective is to contribute to the reduction of unemployment and underemployment of youth and women. This led to a creation of 3,882 jobs. In addition, 2,613 youths benefitted from entrepreneurship training (Burkina Faso National Report, 2015). In Lesotho, since the 2012/2013 financial year, 500 youths have been equipped with entrepreneurship skills.

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<sup>25</sup> See State of the LDCs 2016 Report, forthcoming

30% of the trained youths started their businesses using their own savings (Lesotho National Report, 2015).

The Bangladesh Government has devised a special scheme for providing training and temporary employment to unemployed youths under the National Service Programme (NSP). Primarily, the educated youths of the working areas are given three months' training in ten specific modules. After completion of the training, they are offered temporary employment locally for two years in different sectors of the Government. The concerned youths would be able to engage themselves in employment/income generating activities in the near future from the experience gathered from two years temporary attachment<sup>26</sup>. A total of 83,626 youths have been trained in order to engage in temporary employment for two years. As of June 2015, 81,355 of the total trained youths were engaged in temporary employment in the different national organizations (Bangladesh National Report, 2016).

### **Improving access to shelter through government-built condominiums, the case of Ethiopia**

Since 2005, Ethiopia has been implementing the Integrated Housing Development Programme (IHDP), an ambitious Government-led low and middle income housing programme. This programme was implemented in Addis Ababa and 55 other cities. The first phase of the IHDP has been successful in many respects and led to the construction of 171,000 housing units. There were, however, a number of unanticipated challenges facing the programme. The most pressing was the affordability of the units for low income households, with the cost increases in the price of condominium houses making them unaffordable to many low income households. The inability to pay the monthly mortgage and service payments forced many households to move out of their unit and rent it out rather than risk losing it through bank foreclosure. In order to address these challenges, a new and enhanced second phase of the IHDP was launched in 2011. This phase involved a new housing project in Addis Ababa divided into four different groups based on various payment arrangements, including an option for low-income households<sup>27</sup>. Between 2010/11 and 2014/15, the number of low cost houses constructed and developed by the Government in urban areas and transferred to the citizens were about 174,190 (Ethiopia National Report, 2015).

### **Progress towards gender equality and empowerment of women through legal reforms**

Senegal adopted a gender parity law in 2010 to ensure proper representation of women in all elected offices, among others. The law also stipulates that all party lists must be composed

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<sup>26</sup> <http://oldsite.dyd.gov.bd/nsp.php>

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.housingfinanceafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015\\_CAHF-yearbook\\_22.10.2015.compressed.pdf](http://www.housingfinanceafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015_CAHF-yearbook_22.10.2015.compressed.pdf)

of equal numbers of women and men. As a result of this law, the country experienced an unprecedented increase in the proportion of women in parliament from 24% in 2007 to 43% in 2012<sup>28</sup>. In 2012, it was the country that had made the greatest gains in the world in women's representation in a single election (Senegal National Report, 2015; Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2015).

Among the LDCs, Rwanda has the highest proportion of women in parliament (64%). This is partly a result of the government approving a new constitution in 2003 that included a quota system for women at all levels of government. The legislation mandated that 30 per cent of all seats, including those in parliament, should be reserved for women. In the recent elections, women also won nearly half of the non-reserved seats (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2015). In addition, progressive legal enactments have constituted significant steps towards redressing customary practices that marginalize women in land control. In particular, the 2005 land law (Organic Land Law No. 08/2005) guarantees equal ownership rights for men and women; and, under the Land Tenure Regularisation programme, legally married wives must be registered as co-owners of the land. Based on data from the Rwanda Natural Resources Authority, 26 per cent of the total registered land in Rwanda was owned by women in 2013, and 54 per cent was jointly owned by female and male spouses (UNCTAD, 2015a).

### **Implementing social safety nets to ensure dignity and income for vulnerable populations**

LDCs are taking significant steps to expand social protection to all older persons. In Bangladesh, for instance, the Old Age Allowance Programme reached an estimated one-fifth of older persons aged 60 and over, and approximately one-third of older persons aged 65 and over in 2008 and 2009. In Nepal, a universal non-contributory pension scheme was introduced in 1995 that granted everyone older than 75 years a pension, with the eligible age reduced to 70 in 2009 (and to 60 years in one part of the country). Furthermore, universal retirement pensions are paid in Kiribati from age 70 (UNESCAP, 2015; Nepal National Report, 2016). In Lesotho, an old-age pension scheme for all citizens aged 70 years and above helps provide security to elders with no pension benefits<sup>29</sup>. In 2015, Tuvalu established a new Incapacity Support Scheme for the Disabled to provide a monthly support payment of \$70 to those most vulnerable in the community. This is similar to the Senior Citizens scheme which was introduced in 2009 to financially assist citizens above 70 years of age (Tuvalu National Report, 2016).

In Togo, the Government has taken action to strengthen social protection to enable all population groups to benefit and have a minimum of essential services for their welfare.

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<sup>28</sup> Senegal's 2012 elections were the first to be held since the adoption of a gender parity law

<sup>29</sup> See the State of the LDCs 2016 Report, forthcoming

These actions led to, among others, an increase in the proportion of the population receiving health insurance from 5.3% in 2013 to 5.8% in 2014 (Togo National Report, 2015).

In Tanzania, the Government has established conditional cash transfer programmes through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) with a view to support poor households. TASAF supports poor households through a scheme known as Productive Social Safety Net Programme. A total of 274,493 beneficiary households were targeted from 1,976 villages in 41 Project Area Authorities. By the end of the financial year 2013/14, a total of 266,601 poor beneficiary households (about 97.1 per cent) out of the targeted 274,493 had been enrolled (Tanzania National Report, 2015).

## **2.6. Multiple crises and other emerging challenges**

LDCs face unprecedented exposure and vulnerability to financial and economic crises, natural disasters and climate change-related shocks. Such exposure and vulnerability to shocks impinge upon human and social progress and economic development.

### **Enhancing disaster preparedness to limit the effects of climate change**

The earthquake that hit Nepal in April 2015 led to a death toll of about 9,000 people and injured around 23,000 people. In addition, about 0.9 million houses in the 14 hard hit districts were damaged and an estimated 8 million people were affected. The total estimated economic loss of this event was Rs 700 billion. After the devastating earthquake, the Government organized an International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction, which was attended by its neighbours and donors. Through this event, the Government mobilised over \$4.1 billion for post-earthquake reconstruction. In addition, the Government has since constituted a high-level authority body, called the "National Reconstruction Authority" for reconstruction of infrastructure damaged from the earthquake, houses and cultural heritage sites. In addition, the National Building Code for building seismic resistant houses in the country has been revised (Nepal National Report, 2016). In addition, The National Report further indicates that the country has prepared a National Action Plan on Adaptation (NAPA) and Local Action Plan for Adaptation (LAPA) to mitigate and adapt to the growing impacts of climate change in Nepal. To facilitate the implementation of these plans, Nepal adopted a climate change budget code system in order to ensure sufficient resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Bangladesh has a long history of natural disasters, including floods, cyclones, tornadoes, and earthquakes. The WorldRiskIndex, which examines the risk of becoming a victim of a disaster resulting from an extreme natural event for every country worldwide, ranked Bangladesh fifth in 2014<sup>30</sup>. Despite the increase in disasters resulting from extreme weather

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<sup>30</sup> <http://i.unu.edu/media/ehs.unu.edu/news/4070/11895.pdf>

events and an average loss of 1.8 per cent GDP to disasters annually, the country has been resilient to these disasters largely through a paradigm shift from disaster response to risk reduction (Bangladesh National Report, 2016). One of the most significant achievements of Bangladesh in disaster management has been its ability to bring dramatic reductions in deaths due to natural disasters. In the past five decades, Bangladesh has been visited by severe tropical cyclones, including Bhola (1970), Gorky (1991) and Sidr (2007). Bhola caused an estimated 300,000 deaths; Gorky was responsible for more than 138,000 deaths. The death toll for Sidr was slightly above 4,000 (UNISDR, 2015). According to UNISDR, Bangladesh's major success in reducing mortality from tropical cyclones is supported not only by cyclone shelters but also by a slow but steady improvement in the provision of basic education, health and sanitation, and by a reduction in the number of people living below the poverty line.

In addition, to mitigate or reduce the disaster risk, as a part of the preventive measures in the long run, the Government has taken comprehensive action including the following: establishment of early-warning and disaster information network with Disaster Management Information Centres; interactive voice response (IVR) and the bulk short messaging system for weather advisory and early warning; provision of life-jackets and solar lanterns to fishermen in coastal districts and 1,200 radio sets to 14 community radio stations to disseminate early warning signals; and excavation of a total of 54.4 km length canals since 2010. The Government has also initiated a project to construct 200 multipurpose cyclone shelters in 78 upazilas (sub-districts) of 14 coastal districts. Bangladesh established two innovative funds, including the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) from the Government's own budget. From 2009-10 to 2014-15, a total of Tk. 30,000 million has been allocated to BCCTF. As of July 2015, 360 projects have been undertaken with an estimated cost of Tk. 23,198 million. 297 projects are being implemented by Government, semi-government and autonomous agencies while 63 projects are being implemented by NGOs (Bangladesh National Report, 2016).

On the policy side, Bangladesh adopted the NAPA which was intended to identify areas of immediate priority response to the adverse impacts of climate change. The NAPA identified 15 priority activities, including general awareness raising, capacity building, and project implementation in vulnerable regions, with special focus on agriculture and water resources. The NAPA was further updated in 2009 and identified 45 adaptation measures, of which 18 were immediate and medium term. The NAPA considered only urgent and immediate priorities for adaptation and was not a comprehensive plan. In 2009, the NAPA was followed by the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP). This core document provides strategic direction on climate change. Furthermore, Bangladesh has already prepared a roadmap towards formulating a comprehensive National Adaptation Plan with a view to reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience (Bangladesh National Report, 2016).

The 2014 WorldRiskIndex rated Vanuatu as the most at-risk country in the world<sup>31</sup>. From 1972 to 2015, 44 significant disasters struck Vanuatu, causing more than 300 deaths and rendering almost 16,000 households homeless (EM-DAT, CRED, 2015). It is estimated that they also affected more than 500,000 people with a total damage of more than \$650 million (EM-DAT, CRED, 2015). A significant disaster that hit Vanuatu in 2015 was a tropical cyclone, Pam, which struck the capital, Port Vila, and caused catastrophic damage and losses in Vanuatu's 22 inhabited islands. The cyclone adversely affected 60% of the total population, destroying up to 17,000 buildings and more than 95% of the agriculture sector (Government of Vanuatu, 2015). As a response to the disasters, some of the risk reduction measures that Vanuatu has implemented or in the process of implementing include: "disaster-proof" building codes, improved engineering design standards, coastal land-use planning, institutional design with respect to response procedures and early warning measures, preparedness drills and pre-positioning disaster relief packages. Improving communication systems for the outer islands are also priority needs<sup>32</sup>.

In 2013, Vanuatu established the National Warning Centre, which provides faster and more accurate assessments of possible threats and the data collected are shared regionally and with neighbouring countries. In addition, Vanuatu is one of the first among Pacific island countries to mainstream disaster-risk management into national planning. It started the process of integrating disaster management with the establishment of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) in 2012. The Government undertook a risk governance assessment to analyse Vanuatu's climate change and disaster risk governance capacity and needs from the national to local levels. The recent establishment of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorological, Geo-hazards, Energy, Environment and Disaster Management reflects the political commitment of the Government to streamline the implementation of climate change and disaster-risk reduction programmes and associated institutional arrangements in Vanuatu<sup>33</sup>.

### **Limiting price volatility through stockholding, providing subsidies and creating a price monitoring system**

According to the National Report for Togo (2015), to reduce the effects of external shocks such as price volatility, the Government has, among others, established the National Food Security Agency (ANSAT) to ensure adequate stock in case of shortages and help curb rising food prices. The stock levels increased from 4,539.1 tonnes in 2011 to 14,107.7 tonnes in 2014.

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<sup>31</sup> <http://i.unu.edu/media/ehs.unu.edu/news/4070/11895.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> UN-OHRLLS (*forthcoming*). Mechanisms for Crisis Mitigation and Resilience-Building for Least Developed Countries

<sup>33</sup> UN-OHRLLS (*forthcoming*). Mechanisms for Crisis Mitigation and Resilience-Building for Least Developed Countries

One of the objectives of Zambia's Food Reserve Agency (FRA) is to stabilise prices by procuring and selling cereals at administered prices. In addition, the FRA holds stock for food security and famine relief. The country's stockholding programme was able to reduce aggregate price volatility over time<sup>34</sup>. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Government created a regulation fund in order to guarantee the stability of consumers' goods and ensure strategic stocks (Democratic Republic of Congo National Report, 2016).

According to the Burkina Faso National Report (2015), the low inflation rate recorded by the country can be explained by the provision of subsidies to the cost of some oil products and other consumer products, including cereals. Similarly, Liberia subsidised rice and fuel to stabilise their cost and make them affordable to citizens (Liberia National Report, 2015).

In Guinea-Bissau, one of the measures adopted by the Ministry of Commerce to cope with external shocks was the creation of a monitoring system for prices of necessary products, in 2015, to avoid the uncontrolled rise of prices and to allow it to adopt mitigation strategies (Guinea Bissau National Report, 2015). To reduce price volatility in Bangladesh, the Government relied on improving information systems for stocks and production and ensured free movement of food supplies, among others (Bangladesh National Report, 2016).

### **Emerging challenges such as the Ebola crisis derailed development progress**

LDCs are also vulnerable to health threats including the recent Ebola crisis in West Africa. The Ebola outbreak was estimated to have significantly reduced economic growth prospects in the three affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) by at least 2 to 3 per cent in the short to medium term. It was further projected that the three countries would experience reversals in their efforts to reduce poverty and generate decent jobs and food security for at least the next five years (State of the LDCs 2016 Report, forthcoming). The World Bank estimated that the three countries would lose \$1.6 billion in forgone economic growth in 2015 as a result of the epidemic<sup>35</sup>.

Until mid-2014, Liberia was on a stable path in implementing its ambitious medium-term development strategy. However, the deadly Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, which lasted for 16 months and resulted in a death toll of about 4,000 people, reversed the gains. The twin effects of the EVD and declining global commodity prices on the economy in the medium term have continued to affect the implementation of the country's development agenda and the implementation of the IPoA. The lack of structural transformation and economic diversification has limited poverty reduction efforts in Africa, which remains increasingly vulnerable to shocks (Liberia National Report, 2015).

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/tad/events/AL-Annelies%20Deuss.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/01/20/ebola-most-african-countries-avoid-major-economic-loss-but-impact-on-guinea-liberia-sierra-leone-remains-crippling>

## 2.7. Mobilising financial resources for development and capacity building

### Wide range of tax efforts to mobilise domestic resources

Mauritania has experienced a rapid and significant increase in tax revenue collection over the past years. The ratio of tax revenues (excluding those from natural resources) to GDP improved by more than 50 per cent since 2010, reaching an estimated 22 per cent of GDP in 2013. Corporate Income Tax (CIT) doubled to 4 per cent. Payroll tax and VAT increased by about 60 per cent. This increase does not include revenues associated with extractive industries. The amount of tax revenues generated by mining activities reached 5 per cent of GDP in 2013. Mauritania-specific factors largely explain the increase in revenue collection. For example, the rise of CIT can be explained by the end of the CIT exemption in 2012 and by the end of the minimum tax revenue (2.5 per cent on turnover) collected by customs. CIT revenues rose by 1.3 per cent of GDP to 3.7 per cent in 2012, while minimum tax revenue increased from 0.8 per cent to 1.4 per cent of GDP. While the latter tax is similar to a royalty at 2.5 per cent, it is creditable against the CIT and collected by customs. This point is important because it reinforces the coordination between the ministries of finance and mining, and improves the quality of valuation of exported minerals (IMF, 2015b).

In Tuvalu, contribution to the Government budget has been progressively rising, from around \$10 million in 2012 to at least \$23 million in 2015. This is largely due to the Government being more proactive in international fishery management. In addition, the Government has continued to deposit a portion of excess and windfall revenue into the main investment account of the Tuvalu Trust Fund (TTF). The fund was setup in 1987 to enable the Government to invest in international financial markets, which can provide financial returns to buffer and assist financing of national budget deficits (Tuvalu National Report, 2016). In Liberia, when four local authorities simplified their formula for assessing property values, revenues jumped by 3-5 times. In Rwanda, annual tax revenue increased by 6.5 times after automating the collection process, which reduced errors and opportunities for fraud (The Economist, 2015).

### Mobilising external financial resources

After increasing in 2013, bilateral official development assistance (ODA) flows to the LDCs dropped sharply in 2014, reaching \$43.7 billion, a decline of 9.3% in real terms from the 2013 level. As a share of DAC GNI, aid to LDCs decreased from 0.11 per cent in 2010 to 0.09 per cent in 2014. However, the preliminary report from OECD shows that bilateral aid to the poorest countries rose by 4% in real terms<sup>36</sup>. This rise in ODA needs to be nurtured and

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-aid-rises-again-in-2015-spending-on-refugees-doubles.htm>

further enhanced. The gap between DAC donors' ODA flows to LDCs and the lower bound United Nations target of 0.15 per cent continues to be around 0.06 per cent of donor GNI. Another reflection of this is the reduction in the number of countries that provide at least 0.15 per cent of gross national income (GNI) in ODA to LDCs. Only eight members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) reached this goal in 2014 compared to 10 members in 2010.

Despite progress made in improving the quality of aid, challenges persist. Commitments on delivering untied aid have yet to be fulfilled, with 13% of ODA channelled to LDCs in 2013 still subject to requirements regarding suppliers in donor countries. Many LDCs are also confronted with the challenges of fragmentation and predictability of ODA (UN, 2015; UN, 2016). For example, the medium-term predictability of aid for Benin was estimated at 53% against a target of 76% by 2015 (Benin National Report, 2015). It is well documented that unpredictable aid forces governments to disproportionately cut investments in physical and human development, therefore depressing expected economic and social returns from these investments.

LDCs have continued to join hands with their partners in implementing the principles of aid effectiveness. In order to manage aid and development assistance cooperation, the Government of Tanzania has been implementing the Joint Assistance Strategy (JAST). As a result, this has made possible the harmonization and alignment of aid systems with the priorities of the government of Tanzania, hence avoiding the challenges and constraints faced in relation to aid fragmentation, donor coordination, volatility and unpredictability of aid flows or other factors limiting the development impact of ODA (Tanzania National Report, 2016).

Similarly, other external resources such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) have remained low. Following very strong growth between 2005 and 2010, overall FDI flows to LDCs have remained broadly constant over the past five years, accounting for 1.9 per cent of world's total FDI (UN, 2016). In addition, FDI inflows are concentrated in a few sectors and a small number of LDCs. In 2014, five LDCs accounted for 58 per cent of the total in 2014. Access to climate change finance and other innovative sources of finance continues to be challenging for LDCs. On trade, there has also been consistent calls for enhancing market access opportunities for and trading capacities of LDCs so that they can reap due benefits from global and regional trading regimes.

## 2.8. Good governance

### Enhancing good governance through increasing efficiency, transparency and participation

Since 2010, 12 additional LDCs were considered compliant with the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), increasing the total to 14. In addition, 8 LDCs were EITI candidate countries at the end of 2015. Compliance means that the country has published satisfactory EITI reports and has a functioning EITI process to oversee and improve levels of transparency and accountability further. For example, Chad reached EITI compliance in 2014. A new unit created in response to recommendations by previous EITI reports in the country is dedicated to tracking Government revenues from oil, gas and mining companies. The unit - called *Cellule de Collecte et Centralisation des Recettes du pétrole (CCCR)* - monitors that companies' payments are adequately recorded and the revenues flow to the right accounts (State of the LDCs 2016 Report, forthcoming).

Among Asian LDCs, the biggest change over the past five years took place in Myanmar, which made significant progress towards a democratic system, culminating in a largely free and fair election at the end of 2015 (State of the LDCs 2016 Report, forthcoming; Myanmar National Report, 2016).

Senegal and Lesotho are among the top 10 performers in Africa on the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, having made significant improvements. The Mo Ibrahim Index ranked Senegal 9<sup>th</sup> out of 52 States in 2014. On the Transparency International ranking, Senegal was ranked 69<sup>th</sup> in 2014 down from 77<sup>th</sup> in 2013 (Senegal National Report, 2015).

Many LDCs have continued to make steady progress in strengthening budget preparation, execution and monitoring, hence improving the transparency of public spending, expenditure control, fiscal management and the efficiency of public spending (UN-OHRLLS, 2014). For example, at least nine LDCs have systems in place for tracking allocations on gender equality. In addition, efforts have been made to improve tax and customs administration and to broaden the tax base (UN, 2014). In 2015, the National Assembly Ministry in Cambodia implemented its mandate successfully. As a result, abnormalities caused by mismanagement in ministries and agencies have declined (Cambodia National Report, 2015).

In Mauritania, a new procurement code was adopted and the suggested bodies (regulatory authority, Audit Board and Committees of Procurement) have been operational since January 2012. This reform is a qualitative leap with regard to the involvement of various stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, which will ensure more fairness and transparency. Regarding corruption, an orientation law and an action plan of the national fight against corruption strategy have been developed. Civil society has established two observatories for the fight against corruption (Mauritania National Report, 2015).

While Public financial management systems are still weak and fiduciary risks are substantial, South Sudan has made progress in setting in place key reforms, with the support of international partners. Some of the reforms that have been implemented include: the use of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), introduction of South Sudan Electronic Payments System (SSEPS), and the enactment of the Public Financial Management and Accountability Bill and the Taxation Act. The 2011 Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessment indicated that a robust budget classification/coding system has been used in formulating the budget to allow for expenditure to be tracked by sector, spending agency, activity, and department/unit. The audit backlog has been reduced to one financial year and a comprehensive tax reform is also under way (UNDP, 2015).



**UN-OHRLS**

## 3.0. Summary Table

Summary Table: IPoA Lessons Learned [Select Examples]

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Productive Capacity</b></p> <p><b>Promoting private investment and establishing economic zones to stimulate economic diversification</b></p>	<p><b>Bangladesh:</b> During the IPoA implementation period, Bangladesh was one of the few LDCs that increased its share of manufacturing value-added in GDP. This strong manufacturing base is underpinned by the Government's emphasis on the highly labour-intensive textiles, ready-made garments and footwear plants. The vibrant private sector played a catalytic role in fostering structural change in the country. The Government has made efforts to create an enabling environment for private sector investment through, among others, operating the Export Processing Zones (EPZs). The EPZs are used to promote rapid industrialisation and stimulate private investment. The country has experienced a gradual increase in investment and exports as a result of the EPZs.</p> <p><b>Lao PDR:</b> The country attracted private investors through, among others, the implementation of special economic zones. In 2012-2013, 206 factories were operating within these zones. As an example, in the capital city, Vientiane, over 60 per cent of the zone has been developed. 28 companies have been registered in this zone with a total investment value of more than US\$40.6 million. Between 2011 and 2015, Lao PDR sustained an annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of about 7 per cent.</p> <p><b>Cambodia:</b> Garments continue to be Cambodia's key engine of growth. The year-on-year growth rate for the garments sector was about 14.1 per cent by mid-2014. In addition, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows are rising due to the return of relative labour market stability and investors' renewed appetite for the construction and real estate sectors, leading to growing construction materials imports. Furthermore, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are a crucial part of the Cambodian economy, contributing to both economic and social development. They play an important role in creating jobs. An estimated 40%-50% of total employment can be attributed to SMEs.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Productive Capacity</b></p> <p><b>Investing in transport and transit infrastructure to improve connectivity and stimulate socio-economic development</b></p>	<p><b>Djibouti:</b> The construction of the 62 kilometres Tadjourah - Dorra-Balho (Ethiopia border) route and the 18 kilometres Djibouti-Loyada (Somalia border) route has helped to increase trade and contributed to strengthening the role of Djibouti as a regional logistics hub. An expansion of the Doraleh Port is expected to quadruple revenues and significantly benefit Djibouti's economy. In 2015, its capacity increased to 830,000 containers, up from 160,000 containers in 2004.</p> <p><b>Ethiopia:</b> The Government made state-owned land near the airport affordable for flower farms, reducing the cost of transportation and facilitating market entry, while also coordinating between flower exporters and the national airlines, resulting in 87% of firms using the airlines for transporting their goods. The airlines assisted with the leasing of cargo planes as well as running up to 10 daily flights for transporting flowers to the major auction markets. In addition, subsidised loans by the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) have been the prime source of long-term investment financing for firms in the floriculture industry in Ethiopia. Almost two-thirds of firms in the industry have relied on loans from the DBE.</p> <p><b>Benin:</b> The country has taken significant measures to develop its maritime transport and port infrastructure. The measures include: continuing rehabilitation work related to the operation of the new container terminal; continuing the process of exploration for the construction of the second deep-water port at Seme-Kpodji; construction of dry ports in Parakou and Tori, and the construction of a Maritime Affairs Centre. The port of Cotonou is the source of 45-50% of Government revenue and 80-85% of customs revenue.</p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Productive Capacity</b></p> <p><b>Reducing the energy challenge in some LDCs through the implementation of the energy-mix, with support from partners</b></p>	<p><b>Mauritania:</b> Energy production capacity has increased over the past six years, reaching 360 megawatts (MW) in 2015. The use of electricity expanded to about 61% of the population by 2014. The country has been championing the renewable energy movement in Africa. Solar energy now powers 30 per cent of Nouakchott’s (the capital city) energy use, with 50 per cent of the city’s energy needs likely to be covered by solar power in the next several years. The Government launched the high voltage electric interconnection project between Nouakchott and Nouadhibou and between Nouakchott and Toubine in Senegal, with the aim of exporting the surplus power to Mali and Senegal.</p> <p><b>Guinea:</b> The country has also committed to increasing the scale and reliability of the electricity supply. As part of these efforts, a new dam and hydropower plant on the Konkouré River at Kaleta was initiated and completed. The completion of this project has almost tripled Guinea’s hydroelectric generating capacity – from 128 MW in 2012 to 368 MW in 2015.</p> <p><b>Ethiopia:</b> Mega energy infrastructure projects, including the Great Renaissance Hydroelectric Power Project on the Blue Nile River and other Hydro Power and Wind Plant Projects, are being implemented. As a result, the country’s energy generating capacity has doubled from 2,000 MW in 2009/10 to 4,000 MW in 2014/15. During the same period, national electricity service coverage has increased from 41% to 60%.</p> <p><b>Bangladesh:</b> The Solar Home System (SHS) run by the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), a public infrastructure financing entity, is deemed to be one of the largest and the fastest growing off-grid renewable energy programmes in the world. More than 3 million SHSs have already been installed under IDCOL programme in the off-grid rural areas of Bangladesh and about 13 million beneficiaries are getting solar electricity. In addition, more than 65,000 SHSs are now being installed every month under the programme, with average year-to-year installation growth of 58%. Around 70,000 people are directly or indirectly involved with the programme. A key element of the programme’s success is its innovative, targeted subsidized SHS delivery and financing scheme.</p> <p><b>Nepal:</b> With the encouragement and support from Nepal’s Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) in collaboration with multilateral partners, communities come together to build a micro-hydro plant that can also meet the energy needs of neighbouring villages. While the micro-hydro plants are built and run by the community, AEPCC provides support to the micro-hydro plant, which extends to transiting it from the construction phase to the management phase. Over 1,000 micro-hydro plants have been built so far in 52 districts. In one town, Darbang, industries including a metal workshop, several furniture manufacturers, a cement block manufacturer, poultry and dairy farms, among others, sprung up after the Ruma Khola Micro Hydro Power Plant came into operation in 2009.</p> <p><b>Lao PDR:</b> Solar power has been expanded and installed in rural areas for more than 12,709 households, or 1.3 per cent of total households in 430 villages. A solar energy installation with a capacity of 236 KW, which is linked to the on-grid electricity network at Wattay International Airport, has been completed.</p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Productive Capacity</b></p> <p><b>Implementing institutional and legal reforms to improve the investment climate</b></p>	<p><b>Senegal:</b> Over the past decade, Senegal has made significant progress related to the business environment, through among others, the adoption of a new Law on Public Private Partnership, and introducing an electronic process for business registration. Since November 2007, entrepreneurs can register at the one-stop shop, which takes care of what was formerly done in seven different procedures. The implemented reforms helped reduce from 11 to 4 the number of procedures to start a business and its cost from 122% to 64% of income per capita.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Productive Capacity</b></p> <p><b>Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility</b></p>	<p><b>Democratic Republic of Congo:</b> Mining companies have financed projects in the electricity and transport sectors, which benefited the local communities. Examples of such projects include: (i) the development of a power station by Randgold in Kibali (oriental Province), (ii) the construction of roads and bridges by Banro in Twangiza (South Kivu), (iii) the construction of four hydroelectric plants, and (iv) a transmission line by Tenke Fungurume Mining in the Katanga province. Mining companies have also provided basic public services such as healthcare, agriculture extension services, water supply, and education for host communities.</p> <p><b>Lesotho:</b> Some of the Corporate Social Responsibility activities that have been implemented and have economic value are in the tourism sector and agriculture, in particular, the provision of support to farmers to improve production of wool and mohair.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Agriculture, food security and rural development</b></p> <p><b>Adopting and implementing agriculture policies and programmes to improve food security</b></p>	<p><b>Togo:</b> In 2015, the country recorded a cereal balance surplus of about 16%. This was an increase of about 3 percentage points relative to the cereal balance between 2009 and 2012. In addition, the prevalence of undernourishment declined from 16.5% in 2012 to 11.6% in 2014. Among others, these successes were a result of the implementation of the National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Programme as well as the distribution of 53,500 kits of agricultural inputs to vulnerable farmers, 50% of whom were women and youth.</p> <p><b>Benin:</b> In Benin, the food insecurity rate declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 11% in 2013. Some of the initiatives that have contributed to this result include: investment in storage facilities; strengthening the negotiating capacities of marketing associations; and ensuring food supply to areas facing deficits in food.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Agriculture, food security and rural development</b></p> <p><b>Provision of input subsidies and irrigation to improve food security</b></p>	<p><b>Tanzania:</b> The Government has been supplying critical inputs such as fertilizers and improved seeds through a subsidy programme. According to the Tanzania National Report (2015), between 2010/11 and 2014/15, a total of 2.5 million households in 24 regions benefited from input subsidies. As a result of the input subsidy programmes, food availability in the country increased by 15 percentage points.</p> <p><b>Lesotho:</b> The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has been promoting the development, generation and adoption of appropriate agricultural technologies and farming methods to address the effects of climate change. Emphasis has been mainly on irrigation technologies. In 2013/14, about 400 cubic metres irrigation systems were completed in Ha-chere as an addition to the 5 existing irrigation systems. In addition, the Ministry undertook agricultural research, procured agriculture machinery, strengthened geographical information systems and provided a subsidy to increase the area planted. As a result of all these efforts, among others, the crops yields are projected to rise by 7.5% tonnes per annum, covering about 50% of arable land in the medium term.</p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Agriculture, food security and rural development</b></p> <p><b>Reduction of post-harvest losses due to increase in grain storage capacity</b></p>	<p><b>Zambia:</b> The increase of grain storage capacity to 117,000 metric tonnes after the construction of 27 storage sheds led to noticeable reduction of household level post-harvest losses. The country's Food Reserve Agency has reduced crop wastage loss to below 1%.</p> <p><b>Tanzania:</b> The Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme has enabled 5,100 farmers to increase their storage capacity and reduce post-harvest losses through knowledge sharing and provision of equipment.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Agriculture, food security and rural development</b></p> <p><b>Development partners participation and Public-Private Partnerships in the agriculture sector</b></p>	<p><b>Madagascar:</b> Between 2013 and 2014, production of vanilla, coffee and cloves increased by 6.4%, 41% and about 100%, respectively. These results are due in part to the partnership between the state, private sector and farmers, with technical and financial support.</p> <p><b>Tanzania:</b> Through financial support from development partners and multilateral agencies, three of the five targeted regions for fertiliser and seed inputs have been reporting huge surpluses, such that at any one time Government storage facilities, with a carrying capacity of about 250,000 tonnes, were always full, compelling the Government to lift food export bans, which have prevailed since independence.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Trade</b></p> <p><b>Simplification and harmonization of customs, border and transit procedures to facilitate trade</b></p>	<p><b>Zambia:</b> In order to enhance trade facilitation, the country invested in one-stop border posts. The application of an automated system for customs data and one-stop border posts at Chirundu (bordering with Zimbabwe) has cut the border crossing time from nine days to about nine hours.</p> <p><b>Tanzania:</b> Through initiatives such as the improvement of customs procedures and the use of modern container handling equipment, the country has been able to reduce the container dwell time from 13.3 days as of 2010/11 to 10.3 days in 2014/15.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Trade</b></p> <p><b>Expanding regional cooperation and enhancing supply side capacity to promote trade</b></p>	<p><b>16 LDCs in Africa:</b> In June 2015, a Free Trade Area among the Member/Partner States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established. Merchandise exports among the members of this new FTA have steadily increased from \$2.3 billion to \$36 billion between 1994 and 2014. Over that period, the share of intra-regional trade in total exports increased from 7 per cent to 25 per cent. The Tripartite Free Trade Agreement could accelerate this trend by further stimulating intra-regional trade. When fully implemented, the TFTA will create a large market with 626 million customers (about 8 per cent of the world's population) with a rapidly emerging middle class.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Trade</b></p> <p><b>Expanding regional cooperation and enhancing supply side capacity to promote trade</b></p>	<p><i>(continued)</i></p> <p><b>The Greater Mekong Subregion</b> investment framework pipeline of potential projects for the period 2013 to 2022 includes more than 200 projects in 10 sectors, with an estimated investment value in excess of \$50 billion.</p> <p><b>Lao PDR:</b> As a result of participating in Free Trade Areas such as ASEAN, experienced an increase in international trade over the IPoA period. The gross value of exports during the last five years is estimated to be US\$14.1 million, with an annual growth rate of 12 per cent. The main export products are minerals and mining products (48%), processing industries (23%), hydropower (16%) and agricultural goods (at 8 %).</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Commodities</b></p> <p><b>Investing in value addition to enhance productivity and, in some instances, create productive jobs</b></p>	<p><b>Ethiopia:</b> Due to the abundant and renewable resource base in Ethiopia's large population of cattle, sheep and goats, the Government has identified the leather and leather products value chain as one of the top four most promising industries in the country due to its strong backward linkages to the rural economy, and potential for poverty reduction. The sector is labour-intensive with the potential to be a major source of employment all along its value chain. To date, over 10,000 formal jobs have been created as have thousands of informal handicraft and trading activities. Out of the 17 large shoe factories, 14 are engaged in exporting. About 1,000 small and microenterprises are also engaged in the production of footwear.</p> <p><b>Bangladesh:</b> The Government had undertaken initiatives to export finished jute products instead of raw jute. Jute is no longer on the list of three leading commodities in export, which accounted around 8 per cent in 2009-10. Bangladesh has the potential to further broaden its scope within jute and realize higher value added from its rich jute resources.</p> <p><b>Zambia:</b> Zambia exports up to 95 per cent refined copper in the form of copper cathodes. This process represents a number of value added stages after mining but is still considered to be an upstream activity. To that end, significant investments have been made, including the construction of two new smelters and the expansion of an existing one to 850,000 tonnes per annum (the biggest copper smelter in Africa and the fifth largest in the world). Consequently, further processing along the value chains (downstream), which produces semi-fabricates, including copper plates, sheets and strips, and copper wire, is growing over time, albeit at a relatively slow pace. The production of high-end semi-fabricates is almost exclusively undertaken by a single company.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Human and Social Development</b></p> <p><b>Implementing free education policy to increase access to education</b></p>	<p><b>Tuvalu:</b> Primary education is not only free but enrolment of students in primary school is also compulsory by law. The average net enrolment ratio for primary education between 2010 and 2015 was around 99.2 per cent.</p> <p><b>Bhutan:</b> The Government provides free education up to grade 10 and dedicated the largest portion of the 11th five-year plan to education and health. The net primary enrolment rate reached 95% in 2014, up from 62% in 2000.</p> <p><b>Burkina Faso:</b> Scholarships are provided for girls at the secondary education level (Burkina Faso National Report, 2015). This could have contributed to the slight increase in the participation of females at secondary level. According to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, the percentage of students in secondary education who are female in Burkina Faso increased from 42.5% in 2010 to 45.7% in 2014.</p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Human and Social Development</b></p> <p><b>Initiatives to promote health and health equity</b></p>	<p><b>Bhutan:</b> The country has met all health-related MDGs. The Government of Bhutan is committed to providing free access to basic healthcare and included this commitment in the constitution. Life expectancy has increased from 48 years in 1980 to 68 years in 2013. Several actions contributed to this success, including construction of more health centres.</p> <p><b>Benin:</b> The implementation of the DOTS Global strategy / Stop Tuberculosis through technical and financial support of partners have helped reduce the prevalence of tuberculosis in Benin, which declined from 142 to 115 cases per 100,000 between 2000 and 2015.</p> <p><b>Cambodia:</b> The proportion of people with HIV/AIDS declined from 1.6% in 2000 to 0.6% in 2014 due to effective prevention and control mechanisms launched under the 'Combating AIDS National Programme'. In addition, the number of health centres increased from 506 in 2008 to 577 in 2014.</p> <p><b>Nepal:</b> The Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) are primary contact points for health information and provide services to communities. At present, 52,000 FCHVs are actively working across the country. FCHVs provide counselling on family planning, safe motherhood, safe abortion, immunization and disease control programmes. The Ministry of Health has established at least a Sub-health Post in each Village to provide basic health services to people. In addition, the Government has strengthened the capacity of the village health workers at community level to identify and track all pregnant women to attend antenatal care to address prevailing problems. This could have contributed to the decline in maternal mortality. Between 2011 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) declined from 328 to 258.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Human and Social Development</b></p> <p><b>Bridging the ICT and health sectors to improve healthcare</b></p>	<p><b>Bangladesh:</b> The Government's efforts and successes in the use of information and communication technology for improvement of maternal and child health is playing a vital role in scaling-up e-Health nationwide. Mobile phone health service is being provided from all district hospitals. Clients' grievances are received and resolved through an SMS system from 800 hospitals and health organizations. In addition, high-end telemedicine service is being provided from 43 hospitals. Mass broadcasts of SMS health messages ensure that an estimated 55 million mobile telephone users will receive reminders and information regarding health campaigns. Similarly, the implementation of the SMS service directed to nearly 100,000 health staff members has helped the Ministry reduce time lags in the communication of urgent health information to health care practitioners. This service has also streamlined the workload at the Ministry's headquarters, reducing paperwork and the use of fixed line telephony.</p> <p><b>Myanmar:</b> A maternal healthcare app designed by local start-up, Koe Koe Tech, and developed with Population Services International (PSI). It makes available a wealth of useful maternal, child health and wellness information to women during and after pregnancy. It sends information messages about maternal and child health regularly to expectant mothers, their partners, families, and parents of young children. The service also improves access to health professionals and treatment, as required, by allowing users to search a database of information on the location and contact details of health workers and clinics. To ensure information is relevant, PSI's doctors localize texts from the Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action, supported by International Agencies. All messages are approved by Myanmar's Ministry of Health. By May 2015, the Maymay app had over 11,000 active users, and is being introduced to many more of Myanmar's communities.</p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p>PRIORITY AREA <b>Human and Social Development</b></p>	<p><b>Senegal:</b> The country has adopted an Operational Action Plan for Youth Employment. The Government's efforts led to the following results: recruitment of 4,255 qualified agents in various public services and 4,156 people in education and training in 2014; placement of more than 1,913 young people in companies as part of the national state employers convention; and, training of 931 young people in the development of self-entrepreneurship.</p>
<p><b>Preparing youths for work through skills development and youth entrepreneurship</b></p>	<p><b>Burkina Faso:</b> Burkina Faso created a Special Programme of Employment for Youth and Women (PSCE) site whose overall objective is to contribute to the reduction of unemployment and underemployment of youth and women. This led to a creation of 3,882 jobs. In addition, 2,613 youths benefitted from entrepreneurship training.</p> <p><b>Bangladesh:</b> Government has devised a special scheme for providing training and temporary employment to unemployed youths under the National Service Programme (NSP). A total of 83,626 youths have been trained in order to engage in temporary employment for two years. As of June 2015, 81,355 of the total trained youths were engaged in temporary employment in the different national organizations.</p>
<p>PRIORITY AREA <b>Human and Social Development</b></p>	<p><b>Ethiopia:</b> Since 2005, Ethiopia has been implementing the Integrated Housing Development Programme (IHDP), an ambitious Government-led low and middle income housing programme. This programme was implemented in Addis Ababa and 55 other cities. The first phase of the IHDP has been successful in many respects and led to the construction of 171,000 housing units. Between 2010/11 and 2014/15, the number of low cost houses constructed and developed by the Government in urban areas and transferred to citizens was about 174,190.</p>
<p><b>Improving access to shelter through government-built condominiums, the case of Ethiopia</b></p>	
<p>PRIORITY AREA <b>Human and Social Development</b></p>	<p><b>Senegal:</b> The country adopted a gender parity law in 2010 to ensure proper representation of women in all elected offices, among others. The law also stipulates that all party lists must be composed of equal numbers of women and men. As a result of this law, the country experienced an unprecedented increase in the proportion of women in parliament from 24% in 2007 to 43% in 2012. In 2012, it was the country that had made the greatest gains in the world in women's representation in a single election.</p>
<p><b>Progress towards gender equality and empowerment of women through legal reforms</b></p>	<p><b>Rwanda:</b> Rwanda has the highest proportion of women in parliament with 64%. This is partly a result of the government approving a new constitution in 2003 that included a quota system for women at all levels of government. The legislation mandated that 30 per cent of all representatives, including those in parliament, should be reserved for women. In the recent elections, women also won nearly half of the non-reserved seats.</p>
<p>PRIORITY AREA <b>Human and Social Development</b></p>	<p><b>Nepal, Kiribati, Lesotho and Tuvalu:</b> In Nepal, a universal non-contributory pension scheme was introduced in 1995 that granted everyone older than 75 years a pension, with the eligible age reduced to 70 in 2009 (and to 60 years in one part of the country). Universal retirement pensions are paid in Kiribati from age 70. In Lesotho, an old-age pension scheme for all citizens aged 70 years and above helps provide security to elders with no pension benefits. In 2015, Tuvalu established a new Incapacity Support Scheme for the Disabled to provide a monthly support payment of \$70 to those most vulnerable in the community.</p>
<p><b>Implementing social safety nets to ensure dignity and income for vulnerable populations</b></p>	<p><i>(continued)</i></p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Human and Social Development</b></p> <p><b>Implementing social safety nets to ensure dignity and income for vulnerable populations</b></p>	<p><i>(continued)</i></p> <p><b>Togo:</b> The Government has taken action to strengthen social protection to enable all population groups to benefit and have a minimum of essential services for their welfare. These actions led to among others, an increase in the proportion of the population receiving health insurance from 5.3% in 2013 to 5.8% in 2014.</p> <p><b>Tanzania:</b> The Government has established conditional cash transfer programmes through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF). TASAF supports poor households through a scheme known as Productive Social Safety Net Programme. A total of 274,493 beneficiary households were targeted from 1,976 villages in 41 Project Area Authorities. By the end of the financial year 2013/14, a total of 266,601 poor beneficiary households (about 97.1 per cent) out of the targeted 274,493 had been enrolled.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Multiple Crises and other Emerging Issues</b></p> <p><b>Enhancing disaster preparedness to limit the effects of climate change</b></p>	<p><b>Nepal:</b> The earthquake that hit Nepal in April 2015 led to a death toll of about 9,000 people and injured around 23,000 people. In addition, about 0.9 million houses in the 14 hard hit districts were damaged and an estimated 8 million people were affected. The Government has since constituted a high-level authority body, called the "National Reconstruction Authority" for reconstruction of infrastructure damaged from the earthquake, houses and cultural heritage sites. In addition, the National Building Code for building seismic resistant houses in the country has been revised. The National Report (NAPA) and a Local Action Plan for Adaptation (LAPA) to mitigate and adapt to the growing impacts of climate change in Nepal. To facilitate the implementation of these plans, Nepal adopted a climate change budget code system in order to ensure sufficient resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p><b>Bangladesh:</b> Bangladesh has a long history of natural disasters, including floods, cyclones, tornadoes, and earthquakes. The WorldRiskIndex, ranked Bangladesh fifth in 2014. Despite the increase in disasters resulting from extreme weather events and an average loss of 1.8 per cent GDP to disasters annually, the country has been resilient to these disasters largely through a paradigm shift from disaster response to risk reduction. One of the most significant achievements of Bangladesh in disaster management has been its ability to bring dramatic reductions in deaths due to natural disasters. In the past five decades, Bangladesh has been visited by severe tropical cyclones, including Bhola (1970), Gorky (1991) and Sidr (2007). Bhola caused an estimated 300,000 deaths; Gorky was responsible for more than 138,000 deaths. The death toll for Sidr was slightly above 4,000.</p> <p>To mitigate or reduce the disaster risk, as a part of preventive measures in the long run, the Government has taken comprehensive action including the following: establishment of an early-warning and disaster information network with Disaster Management Information Centers; interactive voice response (IVR) and a bulk short messaging system for weather advisory and early warning; provision of life-jackets and solar lanterns to fishermen in coastal districts and 1,200 radio sets to 14 community radio stations to disseminate early warning signals; and excavation of a total of 54.4 km of canals since 2010. The Government has also initiated a project to construct 200 multipurpose cyclone shelters in 78 upazilas (sub-districts) of 14 coastal districts. Bangladesh established two innovative funds, including the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) from the Government's own budget. From 2009-10 to 2014-15, a total of Tk. 30000 million has been allocated to BCCTF.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Multiple Crises and other Emerging Issues</b></p> <p><b>Enhancing disaster preparedness to limit the effects of climate change</b></p>	<p><i>(continued)</i></p> <p><b>Vanuatu:</b> The 2014 WorldRiskIndex rated Vanuatu as the most at-risk country in the world. As a response to the disasters, some of the risk reduction measures that Vanuatu has implemented or is in the process of implementing include: “disaster-proof” building codes, improved engineering design standards, coastal land-use planning, institutional design with respect to response procedures and early warning measures, preparedness drills and pre-positioning disaster relief packages</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Multiple Crises and other Emerging Issues</b></p> <p><b>Limiting price volatility through stockholding, providing subsidies and creating a price monitoring system</b></p>	<p><b>Togo:</b> To reduce the effects of external shocks such as price volatility, the Government has, among others, established the National Food Security Agency (ANSAT) to ensure adequate stock in case of shortages and help curb rising food prices. The stock levels increased from 4,539.1 tonnes in 2011 to 14,107.7 tonnes in 2014.</p> <p><b>Zambia:</b> One of the objectives of Zambia’s Food Reserve Agency (FRA) is to stabilise prices by procuring and selling cereals at administered prices. In addition, the FRA holds stock for food security and famine relief. The country’s stockholding programme was able to reduce aggregate price volatility over time.</p> <p><b>Guinea-Bissau:</b> One of the measures adopted by the Ministry of Commerce to cope with external shocks was the creation of a monitoring system for prices of necessary products, in 2015, to avoid the uncontrolled rise of prices and to allow it to adopt mitigation strategies.</p> <p><b>Bangladesh:</b> To reduce price volatility in Bangladesh, the Government relied on improving information systems for stocks and production and ensured free movement of food supplies, among other measures.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Multiple Crises and other Emerging Issues</b></p> <p><b>Emerging challenges such as the Ebola crisis derailed development progress</b></p>	<p><b>Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone:</b> The Ebola outbreak was estimated to have significantly reduced growth prospects in the three affected countries by at least 2 to 3 per cent in the short to medium term. It was further projected that the three countries would experience reversals in their efforts to reduce poverty and generate decent jobs and food security for at least the next five years.</p>

Key Elements of Success	Action and Impact
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Mobilising Financial Resources for Development and Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Wide range of tax efforts to mobilise domestic resources</b></p>	<p><b>Mauritania</b> has experienced a rapid and significant increase in tax revenue collection over the past several years. The ratio of tax revenues (excluding those from natural resources) to GDP improved by more than 50 per cent since 2010, reaching an estimated 22 per cent of GDP in 2013. Corporate Income Tax (CIT) doubled, to 4.0 per cent. Payroll tax and VAT increased by about 60 per cent. This increase does not consider revenues associated with extractive industries. The amount of tax revenues generated by mining activities reached 5 per cent of GDP in 2013. Mauritania-specific factors largely explain the increase in revenue collection. For example, the rise of CIT can be explained by the end of the CIT exemption in 2012 and by the end of the minimum tax revenue (2.5 per cent on turnover) collected by customs. The coordination between the ministries of finance and mining, and the increase in the quality of valuation of exported minerals also contributed to this success.</p> <p><b>Liberia:</b> When four local authorities simplified their formula for assessing property values, revenues jumped by 3-5 times.</p> <p><b>Rwanda:</b> Annual tax revenue increased by 6.5 times after automating the collection process, which reduced errors and opportunities for fraud.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Mobilising Financial Resources for Development and Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Mobilising external financial resources</b></p>	<p>After increasing in 2013, bilateral official development assistance (ODA) flows to the LDCs dropped sharply in 2014, reaching \$43.7 billion, a decline of 9.3% in real terms from the 2013 level. As a share of DAC GNI, aid to LDCs decreased from 0.11 per cent in 2010 to 0.09 per cent in 2014. However, the preliminary report from OECD shows that bilateral aid to the poorest countries rose by 4% in real terms. This rise in ODA needs to be nurtured and further enhanced. The gap between DAC donors' ODA flows to LDCs and the lower bound United Nations target of 0.15 per cent continues to be around 0.06 per cent of donor GNI. Another reflection of this is the reduction in the number of countries that provide at least 0.15 per cent of gross national income (GNI) in ODA to LDCs. Only eight members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) reached this goal in 2014 compared to 10 members in 2010.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY AREA</b> <b>Good Governance</b></p> <p><b>Enhancing good governance through increasing efficiency, transparency and participation</b></p>	<p><b>Chad</b> reached EITI compliance in 2014. A new unit created in response to recommendations by previous EITI reports in the country is dedicated to tracking Government revenues from oil, gas and mining companies. The unit - called Cellule de Collecte et Centralisation des Recettes du pétrole (CCCR) - monitors that companies' payments are adequately recorded and the revenues flow to the right account.</p>

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