

Key policy messages

Session 1 : MDGs in Asia and the Pacific - trends and prospects

- I The latest trends in achieving the MDGs by the LDCs in Asia and the Pacific show mixed results. On the one hand, LDCs are among early achievers in gender parity in primary and secondary education, HIV prevalence, TB incidence and its prevalence, protected areas and CO2 emissions. On the other hand, they are lagging behind in reducing hunger, ensuring girls and boys reach last grade in primary education, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and providing basic sanitation.
- I While progress has been made in improving the availability and quality of official statistics on MDGs, there are persisted gaps in their indicators, needed for monitoring policies and achievement outcomes. Those gaps reflect the lack of capacity of national statistical systems in LDCs to collect, produce, disseminate and analyze data on MDGs.
- I Infrastructure plays a major role in the achievement of the MDGs; including *inter alia* by providing access to global and regional markets for the LDCs, access to health facilities, education and other social services at the national and subregional levels. There is a need to develop the capacity of the relevant government offices to work together with private sector and civil society to make infrastructure interventions more effective in achieving the MDGs.
- I Widening social disparities, not only inter-country, but more evidently within countries, especially between rural and urban centers, are increasingly destabilizing communities in the LDCs. Further efforts are needed in MDG-related areas such as health care, gender mainstreaming and social equality. There is a need to strengthen institutional capacity of national and local governments in the LDCs to formulate and implement policies that address the varied development concerns of key social groups and enable the countries achieve the MDGs.

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