

Globalisation at the Crossroads

Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries

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**Policy Coherence and policy Coordination in the implementation of SDGs:
*Not a choice but a necessity***

Potential overall links to SDGs

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What would it take to achieve the SDGs?

Policy Coherence and Coordination

- Through the SDGs - for the first time – the **international community** established a collectively agreed set of **universal goals** under a new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Compared to MDGs, the new development Agenda represented **a step change in ambition** seeking – not just to reduce poverty by half – but to “eradicate” it in “all its dimensions” within 15 years.
- Achieving these – not only desirable and necessary - but also ambitious goals will require a **new** and **equally ambitious** approach to **international cooperation and partnership** – and a level of coordination that generates policy coherence among IOs and between IOs and donor countries.
- In this connection, a key message of this presentation is that – given the international commitment to universal goals – working **together** and **coordination** better is no longer an **option** but an absolute **necessity** and a **game-changer**.

***“If you want to go fast, go alone;
If you want to go far, go together”.***

An African proverb

SDGs: a paradigm shift in development agenda

- The absolute nature of the SDGs – i.e, eradicate poverty, energy for all, sanitation for all, health for all, etc, implies explicit understanding of the following conditions:
 - Acceptance of **collective responsibility** for fulfilment of social and economic rights among the world population by the global community as a whole;
 - A high rate of **economic growth** – at least a minimum of 7% to be sustained for considerable period;
 - A fundamental shift in focus, towards **countries** of greatest need and **sectors/goals** requiring urgent attention.
 - In terms of sectors/goals, poverty “eradication” will continue to pose a challenge and, therefore, requires collective action – because globally, poverty can only be eradicated (i.e, to zero) if it is **eradicated everywhere**;
 - This immediately points attention to a group of developing countries where poverty is **systematically higher** and has been most difficult to reduce– that is, the 48 countries classified by the UN as **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** ;

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (48)

Africa 34, Asia 9, Caribbean 1, Pacific 4



Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

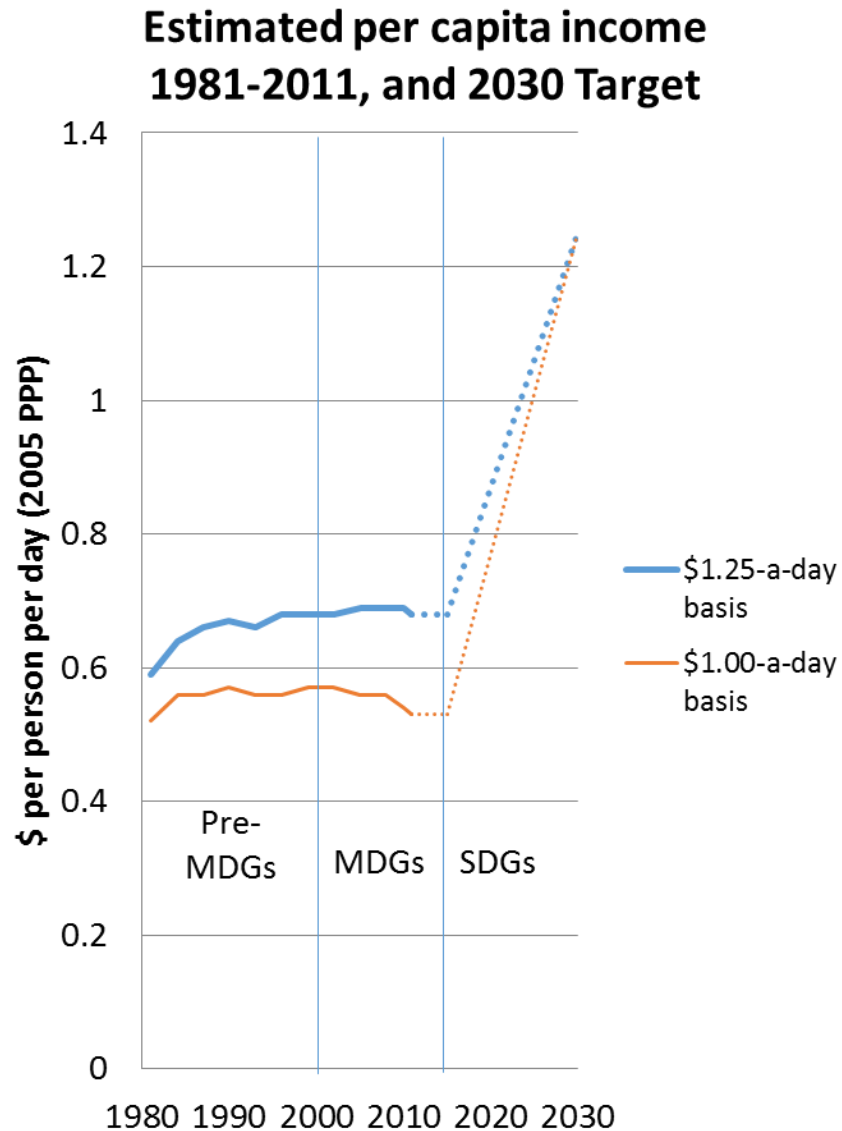
LDCs as a battle ground for SDGs!

- By historical standards, LDCs performance in MDGs was significant – and yet – by 2015, **only one LDC**, LAO PDR, was on track to meet all MDGs. **Question:** if LDCs had difficulty achieving the **less-ambitious MDGs** when growth and global environment was favourable, why should one expect that they will achieve the more ambitious SDGs in 15 years (now only 13 left) and at a time when the external environment is less favourable?
- By the time the international community was preparing for the **new post-2015 development agenda**, nearly half of the population of the 48 LDCs – some 400 million people - remained in extreme poverty (less than \$1.25/per day), compared with less than a quarter in other developing countries;
- According to UNCTAD, on average, “nearly a **third** of LDCs population has no access to clean water source, and nearly **two-thirds** has no access to sanitation facilities and **one in twelve children** still die before their fifth birthdays, and **one in four** of those who survive do not attend school”.
- On average, 69% of the LDCs’ population works and earns income from rural area – largely agriculture – in some cases, such as Ethiopia, the proportion is 80%. This, in effect, means with the LDCs represent the group of countries where poverty is prevalent and systemic.

LDCs as a battle ground for SDGs!

- The scale of the challenges facing the LDCs is such that achieving SDGs and sustaining them beyond 2030 will require a marked shift in implementation - from **isolated and uncoordinated approach** to continuous consultation, maximization of resource use and policy coherence in providing support to the beneficiary countries.
- An important lesson from the assistance provided to LDCs during MDGs has been that **uncoordinated** support mechanisms often lead to **fragmented outcomes and unbalanced performance** between countries – depending, of course, on the country and the level of engagement of IOs in specific countries. In order for LDCs to achieve the SDGs, therefore, policy coordination and coherence is a must!
- The greatest challenge in meeting the SDG's poverty agenda is how to accelerate growth in per capita income of the poorest people in LDCs, which has remained stagnant around \$.60 to \$.70 cents/per day (in PPP terms) for over the last 20 to 30 years. In fact, in some African LDCs, per capita income are as low as \$.30 to \$.40 cents/per day (in PPP terms).
- As shown in the next slide, to reach the SDG's objective by 2030 – i.e, to eradicate poverty by lifting the per capita income of the poor from \$.60 cents/per day to the minimum poverty rate of \$1.25/per day - will require doubling and in some cases three-fold increase in consumption per capita income. This is an enormous undertaking and will require a coordinated and collective approach to fighting the incidence of poverty.

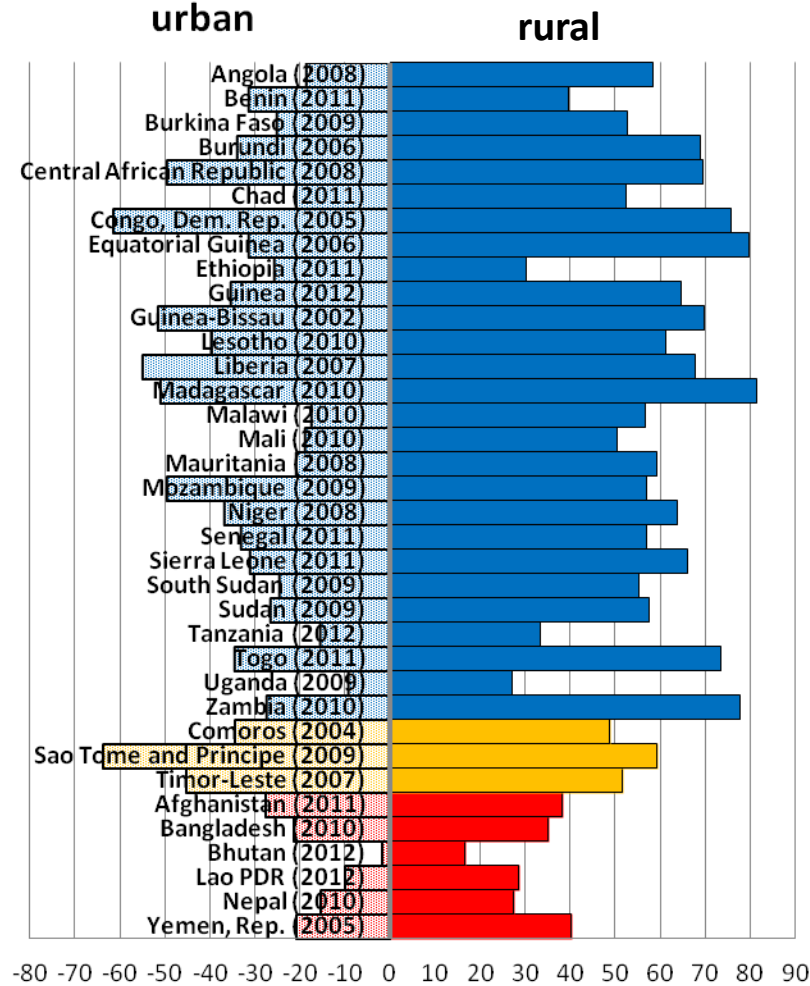
The challenge of eradicating poverty in LDCs



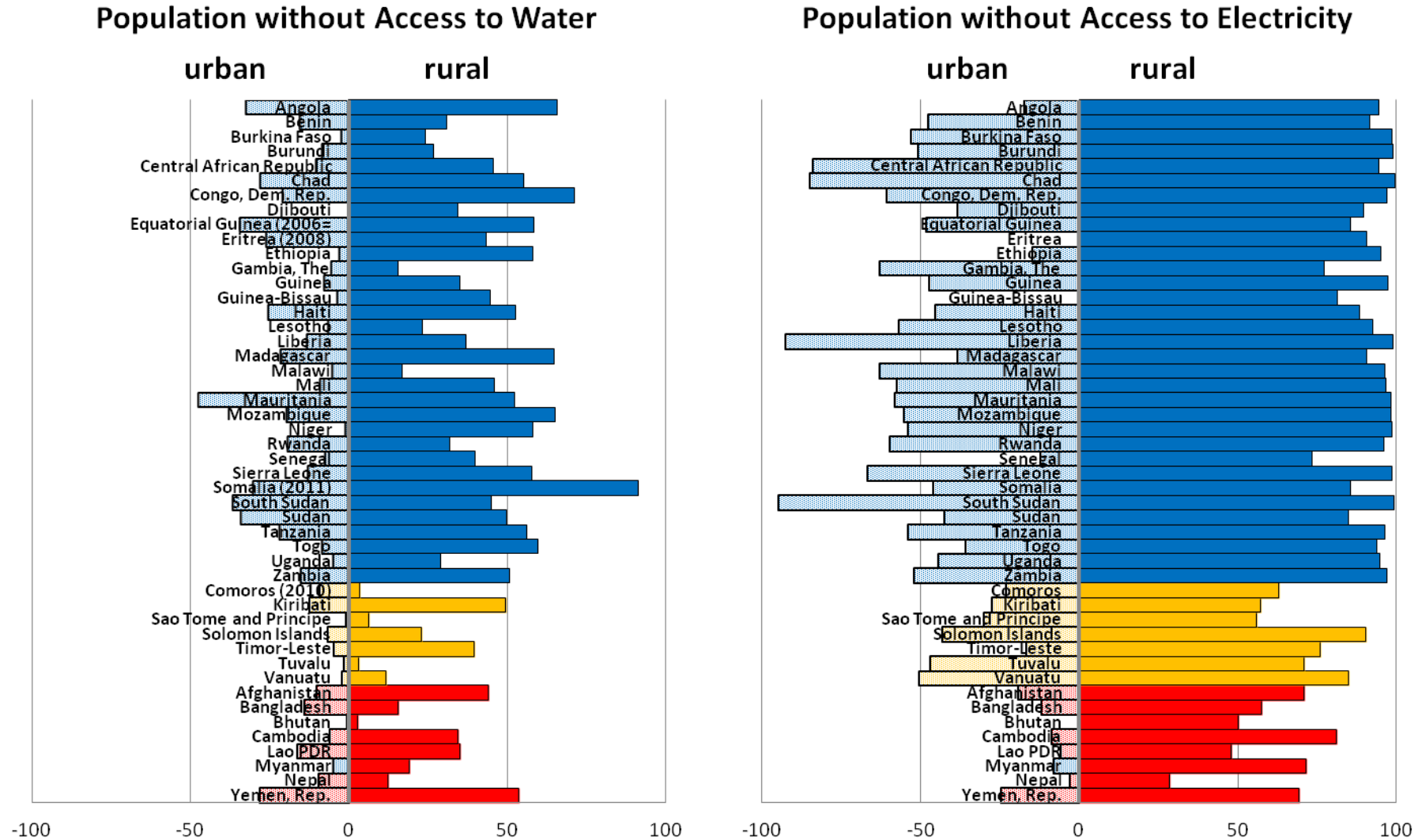
- Poverty eradication means *doubling* the daily consumption income of the poor in just 15 years...(SDG 17.11)
- ... they have *stagnated* around \$0.60 to \$0.70/per day for the last 20-30 years
- As shown in the next slides, the challenges are much higher in rural LDCs – and reinforces the argument for coordination

Poverty rates are twice as high in rural than urban areas – but the rural area are difficult to access and create impact without policy coordination, given the diversity of rural needs

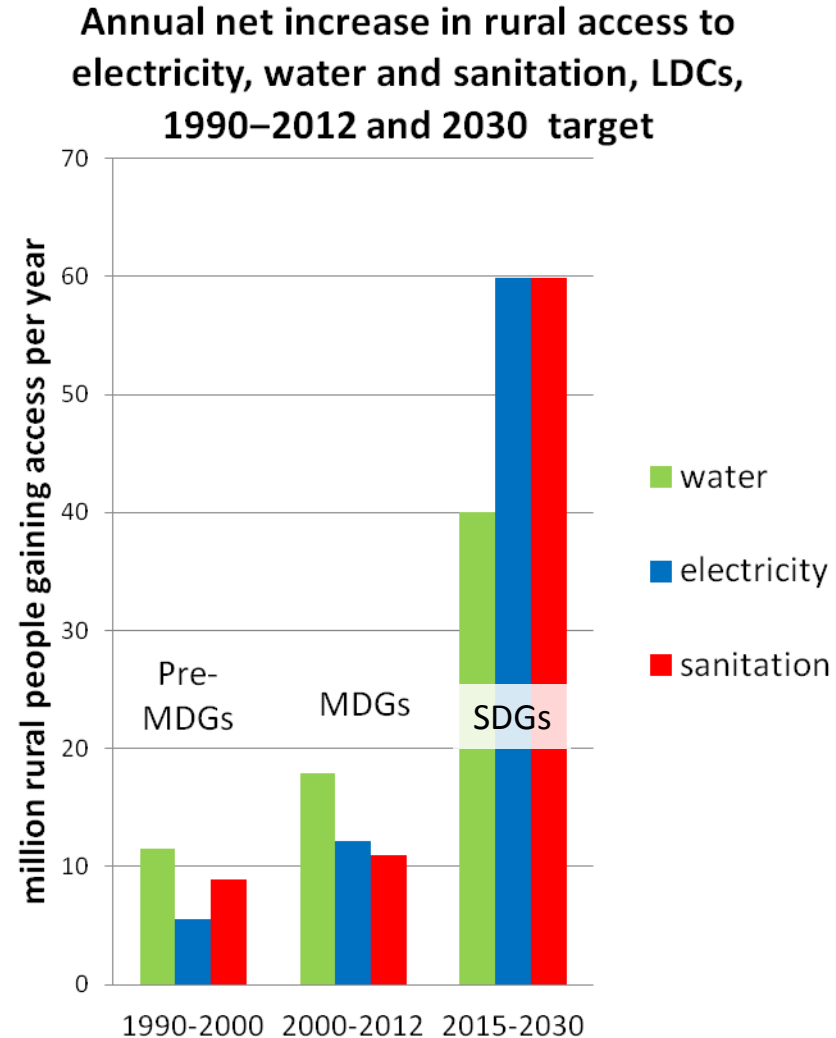
Poverty Headcount Ratio



...and infrastructure gaps between urban and rural areas are much wider and narrowing the gap will require partnership and coordination, including through public-private



Despite progress during the MDGs, meeting the SDGs by 2030 will require a seismic shift in the rate of progress – and a high-level of coordination and policy coherence



The Gender Dimension:

Within LDCs, the rural areas will pose challenges in meeting the SDGs – but **within rural areas, attaining empowerment of women and reducing poverty level among women will be even more challenging.** The multiplicity of the constraints facing rural women is such that the only way meaningful changes could come is through coordination and close consultation among the diverse gender-focused development assistance programmes.

The Diversity of constraints faced by rural women in LDCs.....!

- **Women** constitute around half of the rural and agricultural workforce in the LDCs, but they are among the **poorest, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups** in rural LDCs;
 - They face double-burden (the responsibility of “family care” and productive activities) and, therefore, tend to suffer from time and mobility constraints;
 - They carry disproportionate share of (unpaid) family labour;
 - Limited control over commercial proceeds from agriculture and non-farm activities;
 - Limited access to land, finance, markets (inputs & outputs);
 - Limited opportunity for education, training and extension service provisions,
 - There are substantial gender gap in wages across LDCs;
 - Facing discriminatory and biased treatment – from both formal and customary laws
- **Relieving these constraints** will require coordination at national (for example, between central and regional governments and local authorities) and international level (between IOs working on gender issues)

Key messages:

- The SDGs are ambitious universal goals and their achievement will depend on fulfillment of all the goals by all countries and this, in turn, **will require new approach to implementation anchored on policy coordination and policy coherence;**
- Given the enormous development challenges facing the DCs – these structurally weak economies are **likely to be the battleground on which the SDGs will be won or lost – and the rural areas in LDCs are where the battle will be hardest;**
- This reality makes the need for better **Policy Coherence and Policy Coordination among IOs and between donor countries an essential prerequisite for the success of the SDGs.**
- The emphasis given to **Global Partnership** and **Means of Implementation** in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a step in the right direction. Guided by these principles, **one hopes that IOs will continue to refine and strengthen existing policy and technical cooperation coordination mechanisms**