

## [ middle column ]

[Africa: Poverty Level Still High, Says UN Agency](http://allafrica.com/stories/201011251118.html) <URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201011251118.html>>

[poverty](/cat/poverty/) , [rural development](/cat/rural-development/) , [social development](/cat/social-development/) [united nations agency](/tag/united%20nations%20agency/) [africa](/geo/1007/)



EVEN though most Least Developed Countries (LDCs) had their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growing during the past decade, the number of poor people remains on the rise, according to a new report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

"GDP growth has not yet translated into people's lives- poverty is still rising," charged Junior Davis, UN Development Programme (UNDP) advisor.

The report said that during the economic boom period between 2000 and 2007, the economies of LDCs averagely grew by over seven per cent annually, higher than an average growth for developing countries.

However, over 50 per cent of the population in LDCs still lived in extreme poverty by 2007, just before the onset of the financial crisis.

[allafrica.com](http://allafrica.com) – The absolute number of the poor in Tanzania, for instance, increased by 1.3 million during that period of high growth.

In its 2010 report, the UN body has reaffirmed its earlier warnings in earlier reports that the growth process of LDCs was fragile and unsustainable.

"That only two LDCs -Botswana and Cape Verde -have graduated from LDC status in 30 years is a clear manifestation of this fragility," said Amarakoon Bandara, Economic Advisor with UNDP during the launch of the 258-page report in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

The report called for the world's 49 poorest countries to develop their productive capacities to efficiently and competitively produce an increasing range of higher value-added goods and services through expanded investment and innovation.

"Under the current patterns of heavy dependence on exports of primary commodities and low-value-added manufactured goods, even boom periods will have little to improve the living standards of the people," contends the report.

### Relevant Links

The report further advocated for more and better-designed financing - from some four to 17 billion US dollars annually by 2030 - to cope with the difficulties posed by climate change.

The report says it has been estimated that "for every one degree centigrade" rise in average global temperatures, annual average growth in poor countries could drop by two to three percentage points, with no change in growth performance of rich countries.

"Because of their lack of social and physical infrastructure, inadequate institutions and narrow economic bases, LDCs may be exposed not just to potentially catastrophic large scale disasters but also to a more permanent state of economic distress due to higher temperatures....," said the report.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201011251118.html>

Added by T.M. Abdullah al shafi <URL: <http://zunia.org/directory/profile/?profuserid=505143&cHash=bae2acca164b720ecfd9456a8e8f13c5>> November 25, 2010

Popularity: 101