

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Welcome to week six, part B. Our topic is understanding less developed countries and the challenges, characteristics and policies for development associated with these countries.

So what is a least developed country? By classification given by United Nations. These are countries that have low gross national income. GNI per capita and this is usually that expressed as those countries that have less than \$1,018 in terms of the GDP per capita. Also, the least developed countries are also defined by criteria of weak human assets. Well, we say that in terms of health and education. These countries do not have strong frameworks infrastructure to address the emerging issues from those areas. Finally, we also say that, uh, we have 46 LDCs globally, mostly in Africa, Asia and Pacific. And these ones are also said to be the high economic vulnerable countries.

So when we look at the hold characteristics of the least developed countries, we are simply saying they have low gross national income per capita compared to the other developed countries. They have weak human assets and also they are vulnerable in terms of economic variables. So as a have value did. Being in Kenya, then we are among some of those classifications we are portraying right now in terms of characteristics. Even though when we delve deeper into, uh, nitty gritty details of these classifications, we will also find that under our disease, we could also be having the ones at the top and the ones at the bottom of the classification within it. So Kenya may be found among the medium or among the top of the LDCs compared to other weaker nations. Nevertheless, these issues are dynamic. So at some point you may be good in one characteristics but poor in another characteristic. However, in the bigger bracket which you lie under the law of developed countries.

So the key characteristics have been mentioned. But we can say a little more like in such disease we have low income and also weak human development in terms of health and education. We also have high economic vulnerability, which means we actually rely, uh, on climate, uh, related, uh, support systems. And if climate has been challenged, then we are vulnerable because like reliance on agriculture and therefore at one point or the other, the climate is not supportive, that it means that we are doomed for hunger. Other characteristics are poor infrastructure in terms of transport, energy and even communication systems. We also have limited industrialization and diversification. Uh, therefore, all of this is done comparative to the developed countries.

So why do we need to understand the disease in terms of policy? First, we want to address the structural challenges that have already been identified. For instance, issues or matters related to poverty and underdevelopment. Also, we want to break the cycle of poverty through targeted interventions. We may also want to improve access to education, health care and even infrastructure. And finally, we may want to promote sustainability and economic diversification for a more promising livelihoods in future. So there is direct relevance when we discuss these LDCs and policy.

So some of the key policies for economic development may touch on the various aspects. For instance, we can talk of education and health care and therefore there is need to invest in human capital. When we talk of human capital, uh, nation with healthy people. It's likely to have more productivity. A nation with good education system is likely to have the manpower required to support economic development. Matters. Infrastructure development. Thinking of building roads, energy and good communication networks. This would finally support, uh, economic development in different ways. For instance, when we talk of industrialization and trade, such infrastructure is necessary for advancement in trade. We also are interested in promoting export diversification and job creation, opening ourselves to a wider market for our products. Then, on environmental sustainability, we are interested in addressing climate change and resource management. Thus, we thinking about how can we sustain ourselves with the resources we have? How can we conserve those resources, and how can we also recycle resources for future sustainability?

Some of the specific policies that can help us to drive development. Uh, for instance, microfinance programs. Which may help to support the local entrepreneurs with resources that can help them to address those local issues. For social safety nets, we can think of reducing poverty through cash transfer transfers. We have seen projects and programs where cash transfer is used to incentivize involvement in solving societal problems, as well as also providing seed money for, uh, coming up with projects to address same problems. We can also look at technology transfer. Also an area for policy boosting productivity and innovation through technology transfer. We can also look at gender equality initiatives, which empower women and minority groups through education, and also economic opportunities such that they can participate more in matters development.

So we may also want to say that it is not a walk in the park. There are challenges and opportunities for all disease challenges that we've already been mentioning like climate change, global market fluctuations and also, uh, geopolitics leading to weak institutions and also other unethical malpractices that can also render the, uh, landscape, um, being unfair and also, uh, not giving us the opportunities that we would want to get. Let's look at when these challenges emerge. They may also not only present challenges, but they may also present opportunities. So international support, technology adoption, sustainable development, uh, areas where we can look for opportunities, where we can tap into solutions for our, uh, LDCs. So we are not all closed to have the least developed countries. Uh, just looking inside and inwards for their own problems solutions. There are also global international opportunities that the LDC can tap into and also be able to address some of the pressing issues.

So now we can clearly see there is a connection between talking about our disease and policy. We open our eyes and get a few takeaways home here that our disease really faced significant challenges, but have the potential for growth they haven't reached yet. So they have a big future ahead to be able to improve their status. Then we can actually have targeted policies and international cooperations that can help us to address these issues or these problems, and thus

investing in human capital, infrastructure, sustainability can all lead to a longer term development approach. Thank you very much. And let's meet in next lesson.