

Facts and Figures from World Development Indicators 2007

The attached backgrounders provide regional highlights from the World development Indicators 2007.

Regional summaries

With 1.9 billion people **East Asia and the Pacific** is the largest of the World Bank's six developing regions.

- Between 2004 and 2005, regional GDP grew by 8.9 percent, the highest growth in the developing world and higher than its average of 7.1 percent a year over the period 1995 to 2005.
- Foreign direct investment and exports are the two major drivers of economic growth. FDI reached \$96.9 billion and merchandise trade as share of GDP reached 75 percent in 2005; both were the highest among all regions.
- In 2006, the region also had the highest stock market capitalization, \$3 trillion.
- The region also leads all developing country regions in high-technology exports, which are 34 percent of manufactured exports.
- Strong economic growth has lowered poverty rates faster than anywhere else in the world.
- In education, the region has achieved universal primary education, as well as gender equality in access to primary and secondary education.
- In health, almost 90 percent of pregnant women receive antenatal care, and 87 percent of the births are attended to by skilled health staff. Infant and under-5 mortality are among the lowest compared with other regions. The fertility rate is at the replacement level reflecting low fertility of a few large countries such as China, Vietnam, and Thailand. But problems remain. Even though the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 59 per 1,000 in 1990 to 33 in 2005 in the region, for most countries, achieving a two-thirds reduction will be difficult.
- The region lags in infrastructure. At present only 79 percent of its population receives water from an improved source, 51 percent has access to improved sanitation facilities, and approximately a third of its roads are paved.

The developing and transition economies of **Europe and Central Asia** grew at 6.0 percent in 2005, compared to 3.9 percent a year for the decade (1995-2005).

- Foreign direct investment increased from \$3.3 billion in 1990 to \$73.6 billion in 2005.
- Production of electricity in the Europe and Central Asia region has been increasing in the last decade, but is yet to reach its 1990 level which most possibly contributed to a reduction of CO₂ during the same period. However, an important shift in the production of electricity is under way due to: the steep decline in the use of oil; shifting from coal to gas; and expanded use of hydropower and nuclear energy.
- Under-five mortality rates remain among the lowest in developing regions: at 32 deaths per 1,000, the rate in Europe and Central Asia is about the same as in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- But progress in other indicators of wellbeing has either stalled or worsened.
- Although the region had the highest access rate to an improved water source (92 percent) and improved sanitation facilities (85 percent) in 2004, these rates have remained unchanged since 1990.
- With about 100 personal computers per 1,000 in 2004 and 900 fixed line and mobile phone subscribers per 1,000 in 2005, it leads all developing country regions in access to computers and telephones.

The **Latin America and the Caribbean** region has the highest gross national income (GNI) per capita of all developing country regions but the lowest average annual growth of 0.8 percent over the period 1995-2005.

- The region as a whole ran a trade surplus for the last three years, reaching \$57 billion in 2005. As a result, many countries in the region were able to reduce their external financing needs and their public debt profiles improved.
- Total debt service was 22.5 percent of exports in 2005, 9 percentage points lower than 2003 and 16 percentage points lower than 2000.
- At 77 days, it takes longer to start a business in the region than in any of the developing regions. But during 1990-2005, the region attracted the most investment in infrastructure with private participation—more than \$400 billion.
- In 2005, investment in telecoms with private participation accounted for about 62 percent, with less than 1 percent going to the water & sanitation sector.
- The region has the highest life expectancy at birth, 72 years, and the lowest under-5 mortality rate.
- Most children complete a full course of primary education, and the region has reached the MDG goal of providing universal primary education.

Middle East and North Africa at one time had the highest population growth rate in the world, exceeding Sub-Saharan Africa, but then slowed in the 1990s.

- In the period 1995-2005 economic growth was 4.1 percent. In 2005, the growth of output per capita was 2.4 percent.
- With 760 cubic meters of internal freshwater resources per capita, the Middle East and North Africa ranks well below all other regions.
- The region has a well-developed infrastructure. Over 75 percent of its population has access to improved sanitation facilities and water sources.
- The region has made some impressive improvements in education—almost 90 percent of its children complete primary education—but there is a gap in educational achievement by gender. Among young adults 15-24 years of age, only 77 percent of the women were literate in 2006 compared to 89 percent for males.
- The region spends heavily on the military. Even though military spending dropped from 4.1 percent of GDP in 2003 to 3.7 percent in 2005, it is still the highest of all developing regions.

South Asia has the lowest GNI per capita (\$690) and one of the lowest levels of child immunization rate for measles, with over one third of children not immunized.

- It has the lowest rate of female literacy among all regions—63 percent for young and 45 percent for adult women—and, at 37 percent, one of the lowest rates of access to sanitation facilities.
- The region has undergone a major demographic transition in the past 25 years, reducing its total fertility rate from 5.2 births per woman in 1980 to 3.1 in 2005.
- Although not on track to meet the goal of reducing child mortality by two-thirds, the region nevertheless had an impressive decline from around 130 deaths per 1,000 in 1990 to 83 in 2005.
- The economy, which grew by 5.6 percent a year in the period 1995-2005, is in large part due to growth in India.
- At 19 percent of GDP, South Asia depends more heavily on agriculture than any other region.
- With only about 16 personal computers per 1,000 in 2005, South Asia lags behind all other regions except Sub-Saharan Africa in access to personal computers.
- South Asia is, however, business-friendly, requiring only 33 days to start a business in 2006, the second lowest among developing regions.

In **Sub-Saharan Africa** life expectancy has declined from 49 to 47 years since 1990.

- The main reasons for declining life expectancy are the increased infant mortality rate and unprecedented high adult mortality caused by AIDS. A few countries show the declining trend in national HIV prevalence rate, but the region remains the worst affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Progress has been made in the economy over the past decade. For the second year in a row, GDP grew at over 5 percent, posting 5.7 percent growth in 2005.
- FDI increased thirteen-fold between 1990 and 2005, from \$1.2 billion to \$16.5 billion.
- In 2006 two thirds of the countries in the region made at least one positive reform to make doing business easier, putting Sub-Saharan Africa in third place in business reforms.
- And, between 2000 and 2005, fixed line and mobile phone subscribers per 1,000 people increased from 31 per 1,000 to 142 per 1,000. This growth was mainly driven by a seven-fold increase in mobile phone subscribers.

The charts used in this backgrounder are available in electronic format. Please contact Richard Fix at (202) 473-3399 or rfix@worldbank.org.

For more information visit:

www.developmentgoals.org - for a more in depth look at the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

www.developmentgoals.org/atlas-mdg - for the Online Atlas of the MDGs

www.worldbank.org/data - for more information on development data and the World Bank's data work

Key indicators: regional data from the WDI database

People

	Population		Life expectancy at birth years 2005	Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 2005	Youth literacy rate		Child malnutrition % under-weight 2005	Prevalence of HIV, adults % ages 15-49 2005
	millions 2005	average annual growth % 1980-2005			Male % ages 15-24 2006	Female % ages 15-24 2006		
East Asia & Pacific	1,885	1.3	71	33	98	97	15	0.2
Europe & Central Asia	472	0.4	69	32	99	99	5	0.7
Latin America & Caribbean	551	1.7	72	31	96	96	..	0.6
Middle East & North Africa	306	2.4	70	53	89	77	15	0.1
South Asia	1,470	2.0	63	83	80	63	..	0.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	743	2.6	47	163	78	68	30	5.8

Environment

	Surface area	Freshwater resources	Forest area	Average annual deforestation	Energy use per capita	CO ₂ emissions	Access to improved sanitation facilities	Access to improved water source
	thousand sq. km 2003	cubic meters per capita 2004	% of total land area 2005	% 1990-2005	kg of oil equivalent 2003	per capita metric tons 2002	% 2002	% 2002
East Asia & Pacific	16	5,019	28.4	-0.2	1,124	2.7	51	79
Europe & Central Asia	24	11,139	38.3	0.0	2,847	6.9	85	92
Latin America & Caribbean	20	24,402	45.5	0.4	1,186	2.4	77	91
Middle East & North Africa	9	746	2.4	-0.5	1,189	3.4	76	89
South Asia	5	1,236	16.8	-0.2	486	1.0	37	84
Sub-Saharan Africa	24	5,229	26.5	0.6	703	0.8	37	56

Economy

	GNI	GNI per capita		GDP per capita	Services	Gross capital formation	Exports of goods and services	Total Debt service to exports
	Atlas method ^b \$ billions 2004	Atlas ^b \$ 2004	PPP ^c \$ 2004	Average annual real growth % 2003-04	% of GDP 2004	% of GDP 2004	\$ billions 2004	% 2004
East Asia & Pacific	3,073	1,630	5,910	8.0	41	38	1,326	6.1
Europe & Central Asia	1,955	4,140	9,150	5.9	60	23	912	22.0
Latin America & Caribbean	2,228	4,050	8,120	3.1	59	21	649	22.5
Middle East & North Africa	673	2,200	6,080	2.4	48	26	295	8.9
South Asia	1,017	690	3,140	6.9	54	31	201	16.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	554	750	2,000	3.4	52	19	221	8.8

States and Markets

	Starting a business	Stock market capitalization	Military expenditures	Paved roads	Fixed line and mobile phone subscribers	PCs	High-technology exports	Expenditures for R&D
	Time required days January 2005	\$ millions 2005	% of GDP 2004	% of total 1999-2003 ^a	per 1,000 people 2004	per 1,000 people 2004	% of manufactured exports 2004	% of GDP 1996-2003 ^a
East Asia & Pacific	50	3,010	1.8	2,220	496	38	34	1.44
Europe & Central Asia	31	1,863	2.7	1,014	898	98	8	0.94
Latin America & Caribbean	77	1,471	1.3	1,596	496	88	15	0.56
Middle East & North Africa	40	201	3.7	387	389	48	3	..
South Asia	33	877	2.8	417	119	16	4	0.73
Sub-Saharan Africa	62	800	1.6	379	142	15	4	..

Global Links

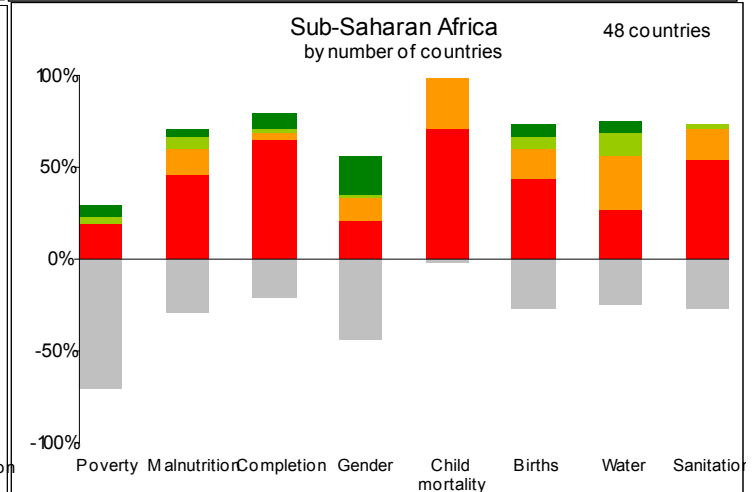
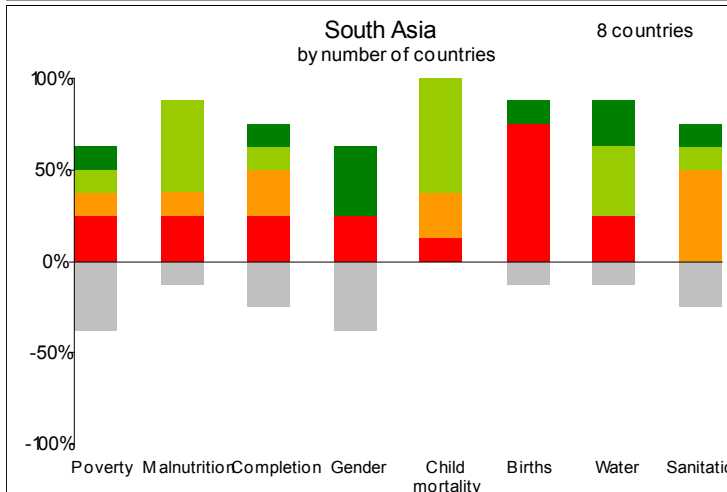
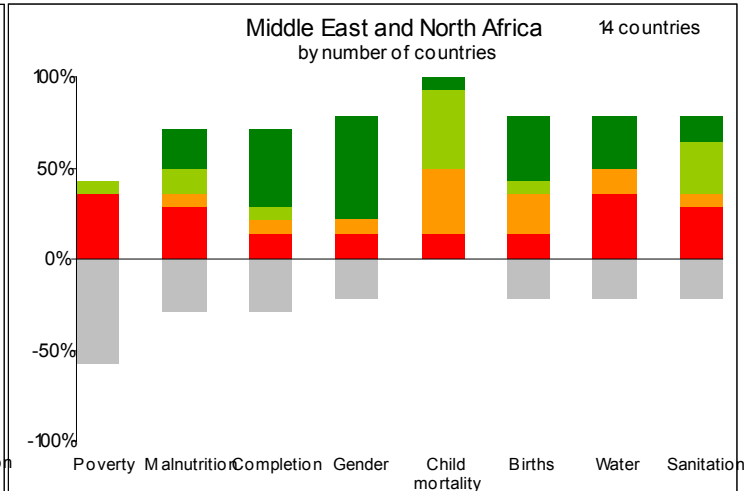
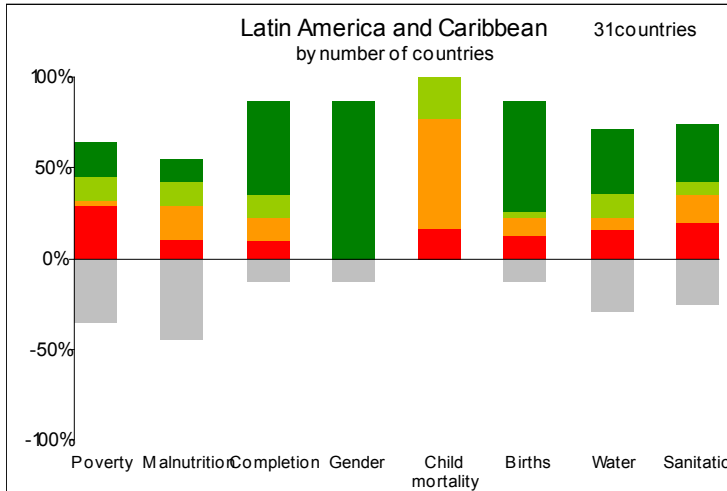
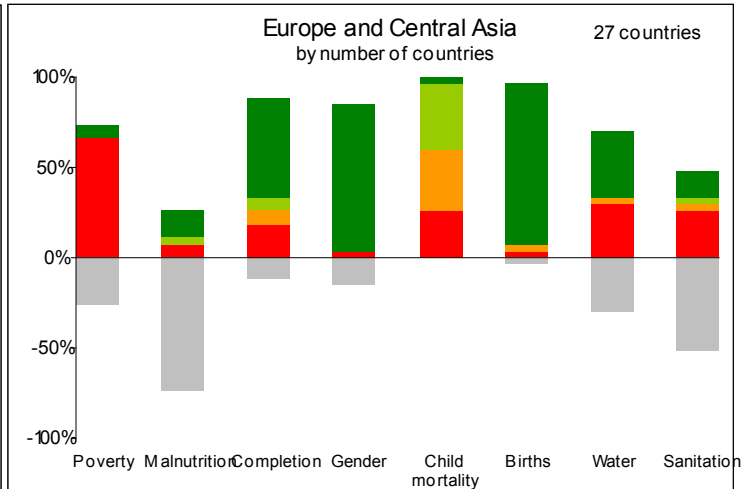
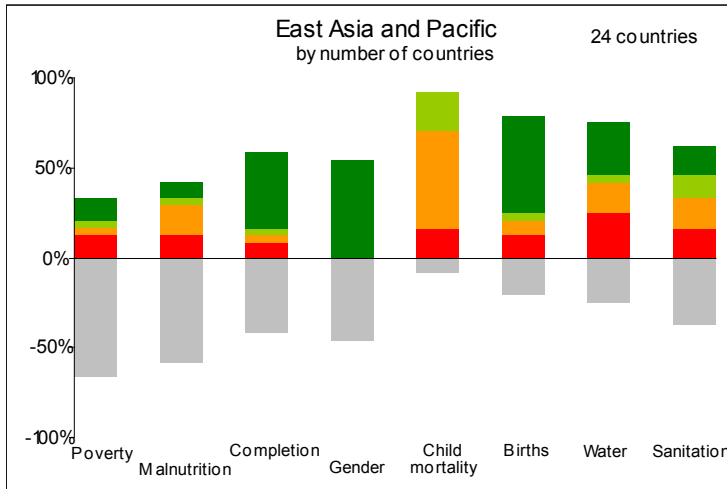
	Merchandise trade	Gross private capital flows	Total external debt	Foreign direct investment	Net aid flows		Remittances received	
	% of GDP 2004	% of GDP 2004	\$ millions 2004	\$ millions 2004	Total \$ millions 2004	% of GNI 2004	per capita \$ 2004	millions 2004
East Asia & Pacific	75	11.4	621	96,898	9,497	0.3	5	45,053
Europe & Central Asia	69	20.3	834	73,687	5,731	0.2	11	31,363
Latin America & Caribbean	44	9.8	728	70,017	6,309	0.3	11	48,201
Middle East & North Africa	58	..	153	13,765	26,946	3.9	88	24,001
South Asia	31	5.4	191	9,869	9,260	0.9	6	35,558
Sub-Saharan Africa	58	14.2	215	16,559	32,620	5.5	44	8,728

Note: Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

a. Most recent year available. b. Atlas method; see WDI *Statistical methods*. c. Purchasing power parity; see *About the data* in WDI table 1.1.

Source: 2007 World Development Indicators database, World Bank, 15 April 2007.

Progress toward the MDGs by region



East Asia and Pacific

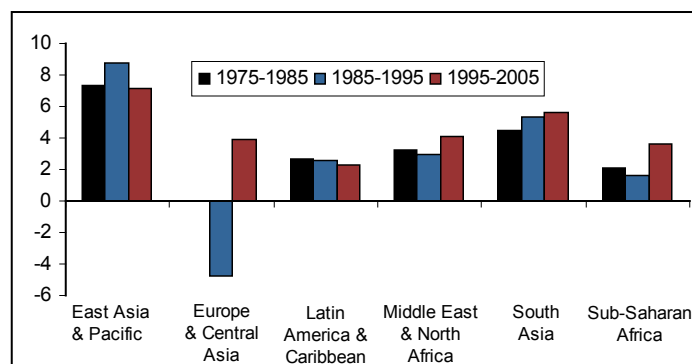
East Asia and the Pacific well on the path to the Millennium Development Goals

East Asia and the Pacific, which comprises 30 percent of the world's population, has recorded the largest reductions in poverty since 1981. It has exceeded the MDG target of cutting poverty in half by 2015. The region has, on average, also achieved the MDG targets of universal primary education, with a completion rate of 98 percent, as well as gender equality in access to primary and secondary education. In health, the fertility rate is at replacement level, almost 90 percent of pregnant women receive antenatal care, and 87 percent of the births are attended to by skilled health staff. Infant and under-5 mortality are among the lowest of all developing regions.

But problems remain. Preliminary estimates suggest that almost 170 million people live on less than \$1/day, over 75 percent of them in China. For most countries, achieving a two-thirds reduction in child mortality will be difficult. And this is made more difficult by pervasive inequalities in countries: survey data for seven countries show that, on average, under-5 mortality is 88 per 1,000 among the poorest fifth of the population, compared with just 31 among the richest fifth. As of 2004, half the population lacked access to improved sanitation facilities, and prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women increased from 24 percent in 2003 to 27 percent in 2005.

Growth remained strong

East Asia and the Pacific, which has grown at an average rate of about 8 percent a year for the past two decades, was once again the top performer among developing regions in 2004. China achieved a growth rate of 10.1 percent, while Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia exceeded 6 percent growth. Export growth in these countries was particularly strong, ranging from 10 to 28 percent in 2004.



East Asia & Pacific: regional data from the WDI databases

	Population	Life expectancy at birth	GNI per capita	Primary completion rate	Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary	Child malnutrition	Under-5 mortality rate	Prevalence of HIV, Adult	Access to improved water source
	millions	years	Atlas ^a \$	%	%	% under weight	per 1,000	% ages 15-49	%
	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2000-05 ^b	2005	2005	2004
East Asia & Pacific	1,885	71	1,630	98	99	15	33	0.2	79
Europe & Central Asia	472	69	4,143	92	96	5	32	0.7	92
Latin America & the Caribbean	551	72	4,045	98	102	..	31	0.6	91
Middle East & North Africa	306	70	2,198	89	92	15	53	0.1	89
South Asia	1,470	63	692	82	87	..	83	0.7	84
Sub-Saharan Africa	743	47	746	58	86	30	163	5.8	56

Selected economies

Cambodia	14	57	430	92	87	36	87	1.6	41
China	1,305	72	1,740	98	98	8	27	0.1	77
Indonesia	221	68	1,280	101	97	28	36	0.1	77
Lao PDR	6	56	430	76	84	..	79	0.1	51
Malaysia	25	74	4,970	94	109	11	12	0.5	99
Mongolia	3	67	690	97	116	..	49	0.1	62
Myanmar	51	61	..	79	104	32	105	1.3	78
Papua New Guinea	6	56	500	54	87	..	74	1.8	39
Philippines	83	71	1,320	97	106	28	33	0.1	85
Thailand	64	71	2,720	82	101	..	21	1.4	99
Vietnam	83	71	620	94	94	28	19	0.5	85

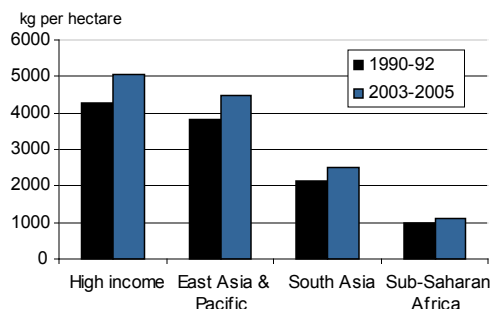
Note: Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

a. Atlas method; see WDI Statistical methods. b. Most recent year available.

Cereal yield is approaching that of high income economies

Global demand for food is projected to double in the next 50 years, as urbanization proceeds and income rises. However, arable land per capita is shrinking. Growing demand for food has been met by agricultural intensification. Cereal yields have increased in most developing regions, with East Asia realizing the highest cereal yield in developing regions. In the 2003-05 period the region produced 4460 kilograms per hectare, higher than the average yield in high-income economies in 1990-92, and more than 4 times that of Sub-Saharan Africa.

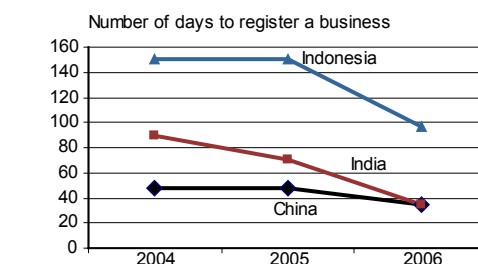
Cereal yield in East Asia is approaching that of high-income economies



Business reform--big improvements in China, Indonesia, and India

The fewer obstacles there are to starting a business, the more businesses will be created in the formal sector. Firms that go from the informal sector to the formal sector pay taxes and grow faster. Between 2004 and 2006 both China and India cut business start-up time to 35 days. And Indonesia shortened the time to register a business from 151 days to 97 days. During the same period, China also reduced the cost and minimum capital requirements for starting a business.

Starting a business just got easier in China, India, and Indonesia

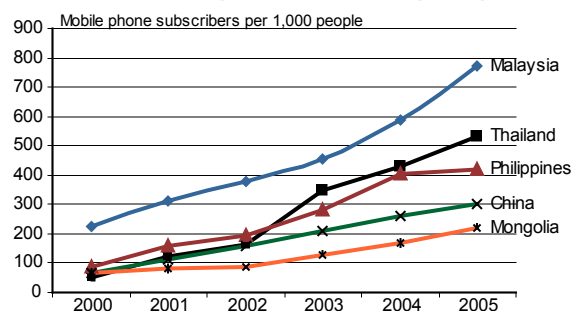


Source: WDI table 5.3 and Doing Business 2007

Malaysia leads East Asia and the Pacific in mobile phone subscribers per capita

The use of mobile phones has been growing rapidly in East Asia & Pacific countries, and in most of these countries, more people have access to mobile phones than fixed line phones. In Malaysia, there are almost 800 mobile phone subscribers out of every 1,000 people. Since 2000, access to mobiles has increased by about 10 times in Thailand and by about 5 times in China and the Philippines.

Malaysia leads East Asia & the Pacific in mobile phone subscribers per capita

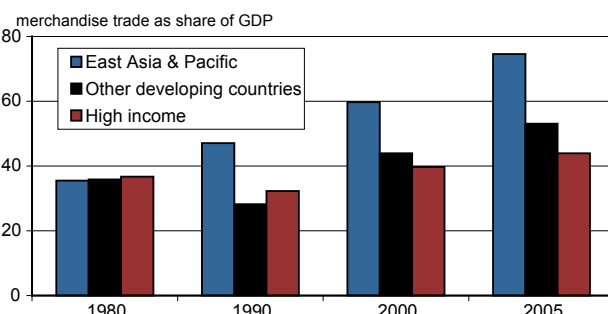


Source: WDI table 5.10 and ITU

East Asia and Pacific: led in growth of trade

The nominal value of world merchandise trade in 2005 rose by 13 per cent to \$21.1 trillion or 47 percent of global output. Merchandise trade by developing countries – especially exports -- has grown significantly faster than for high-income countries, continuing the trend since 1990. As a result, developing economies have gained market share. The East Asia and Pacific region has been the leader and has continued to benefit from rapidly expanding trade. In 2005, the region's merchandise trade rose to 75 percent of GDP, up from 47 percent in 1990.

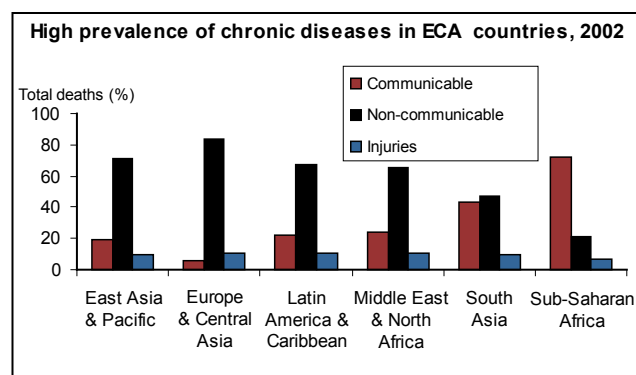
East Asia and Pacific leading in the merchandise trade



Europe and Central Asia

The region has made impressive gains in poverty reduction. Between 2002 and 2004, an estimated 2 million people were lifted out of poverty, and currently less than one percent of the region's population is living on less than \$1/day. But progress in other indicators of wellbeing has either stalled or worsened. Although the region had the highest rate of use of improved water sources (92 percent) and improved sanitation facilities (85 percent) in 2004, these rates have remained unchanged since 1990.

Prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the population ages 15-49 increased between 2003 and 2005, with 90 percent of those infected living in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Life expectancy at birth has remained unchanged at 69 years, the only region other than Sub-Saharan Africa to show no gains in the past 15 years. Non-communicable diseases, usually chronic conditions, are responsible for 84 percent of all deaths, and this, along with an aging population (nearly 12 percent over age 65) will place a considerable strain on the health budget of many countries in the region.



Europe & Central Asia: regional data from the WDI database

	Population millions 2005	Life expectancy at birth years 2005	GNI per capita Atlas ^a \$ 2005	Primary completion rate % 2005	Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary % 2005	Child malnu- trition % under- weight 2000-05 ^b	Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 2005	Prevalence of HIV, adults % ages 15-49 2005	Access to improved water source % 2002
Europe & Central Asia	472	69	4,143	92	96	5	32	0.7	92
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Sub-Saharan Africa	743	47	746	58	86	30	163	5.8	56
<i>Selected economies:</i>									
Albania	3	75	2,570	97	99	14	18	..	96
Armenia	3	73	1,470	91	108	3	29	0.1	92
Belarus	10	68	2,760	100	105	..	12	0.3	100
Bulgaria	8	73	3,450	98	100	..	15	0.1	99
Croatia	4	76	8,290	91	104	..	7	0.1	100
Czech Republic	10	76	11,220	104	101	..	4	0.1	100
Estonia	1	73	9,060	101	114	..	7	1.3	100
Georgia	4	71	1,320	87	103	..	45	0.2	82
Hungary	10	73	10,070	95	107	..	8	0.1	99
Kazakhstan	15	66	2,940	114	106	..	73	0.1	86
Kyrgyz Republic	5	68	450	97	105	7	67	0.1	77
Latvia	2	71	6,770	92	115	..	11	0.8	99
Lithuania	3	71	7,210	98	110	..	9	0.2	..
Macedonia, FYR	2	74	2,830	96	103	..	17	0.1	..
Moldova	4	68	930	92	109	4	16	1.1	92
Poland	38	75	7,160	100	109	..	7	0.1	..
Romania	22	72	3,910	93	105	3	19	0.1	57
Russian Federation	143	65	4,460	94	110	..	18	1.1	97
Slovak Republic	5	74	7,950	99	104	..	8	0.1	100
Tajikistan	7	64	330	102	84	..	71	0.1	59
Turkey	72	71	4,750	88	84	4	29	..	96
Ukraine	47	68	1,520	114	102	1	17	1.4	96
Uzbekistan	26	67	520	97	96	8	68	0.2	82

Note: Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

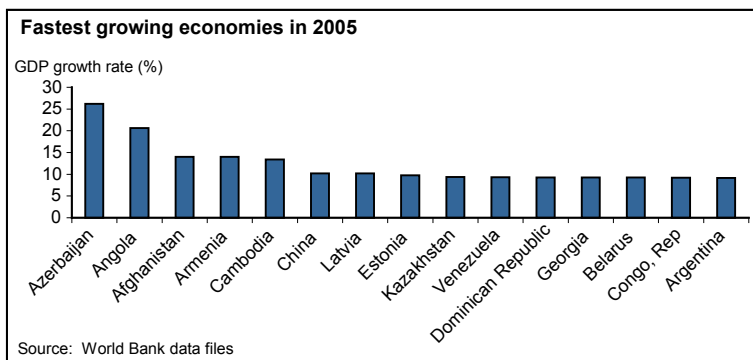
a. Atlas method; see WDI *Statistical methods*. b. Data are for the most recent year available. c. Excludes data for Transistria.

Source: 2007 World Development Indicators database, World Bank, April 2007.

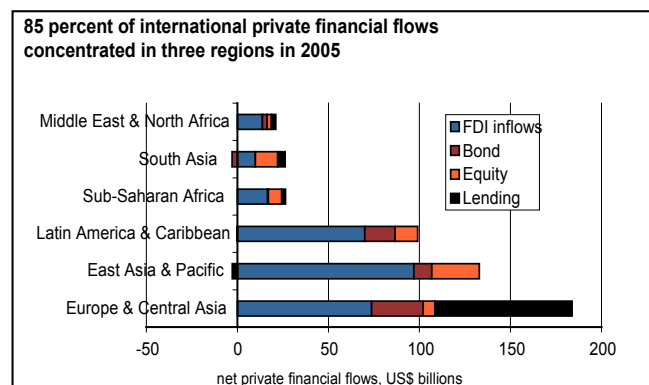
High oil prices boosted growth rates

The rising demand for oil and natural gas has sustained high growth rates in the resource rich countries of the region. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan grew at more than 9.5 percent a year from 2000 to 2005, and Russia's GDP increased by 6.2 percent per year. The regional average growth rate of 5.4 percent a year between 2000 and 2005 also reflected progress in Eastern European countries that are entering the European Union.

In 2005, regional growth declined to 6.0 percent from 7.2 percent in 2004, still the best performance in the developing world outside East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia. Seven out of the top fifteen fast growing countries were from this region.

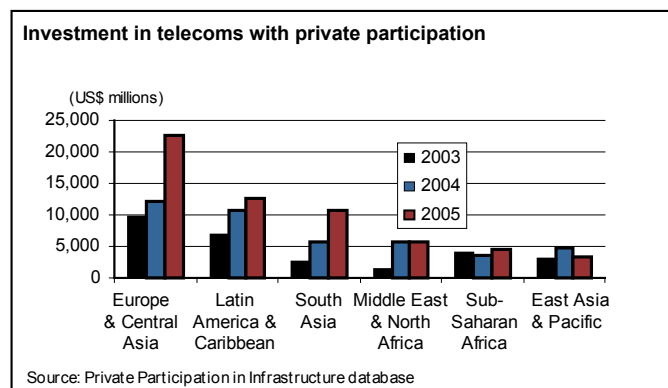


Global private financial flows have increased rapidly in both gross and net terms. By 2005, total gross capital flows recorded in the balance of payments exceeded 32 percent of global output. While high-income countries still account for the lion's share, all types of private financial flows to developing countries saw large increases in 2005. With \$73.7 billion net inflows of foreign direct investment, \$34.7 billion net portfolio investment, and \$75.5 billion bank lending and trade-related credits, Europe and Central Asia region continued to lead other developing countries in the second consecutive year.



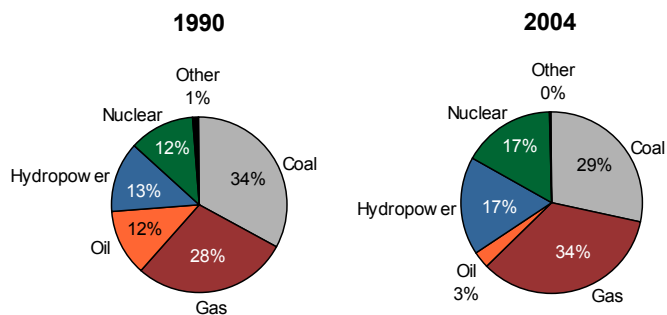
Europe and Central Asia outpace other regions in investment in telecoms with private participation, 2003-2005

Information and communications technology has the potential for reducing poverty and fostering growth in developing countries. Mobile phones provide market information for farmers and business people, the Internet delivers information to schools and hospitals, and computers improve public and private services and increase productivity and participation. The developing countries of Europe and Central Asia attracted more private investment in telecoms than any other developing country region during 2003-2005. During the same period, the number of mobile phone subscribers in the region more than doubled from about 300 per 1,000 people, to 624 per 1,000 people.



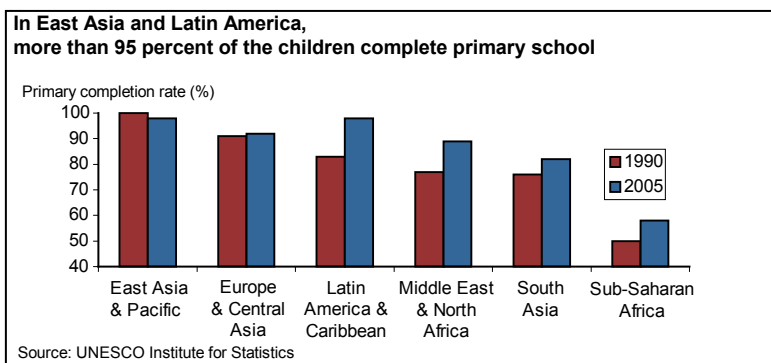
Europe and Central Asia: shifting towards cleaner production of electricity

Production of electricity in Europe and Central Asia region has been increasing in the last decade, but is yet to reach its 1990 level (1960 billion kilowatt hours in 2004, compared to 2210 kWh in 1990). However, an important shift in production of electricity is under way. Because of a drastic decline in use of oil and shift from coal to gas, the share of fossil fuels in electricity production has fallen from three-quarters to two-thirds. Hydropower (30 percent) and nuclear power (38 percent) have expanded, contributing to more efficient and cleaner use of energy.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Many countries in the region have made impressive gains in social indicators. With 98 percent of the children completing primary school, the region has effectively reached the MDG goal of providing universal primary education to its children. The region has achieved a secondary school enrolment rate of 86 percent in 2005, an increase of 35 percentage points since 1990. Except in three countries, over 80 percent of the population had access to an improved water source in 2004. With over 90 percent of its children immunized against measles and DPT, the region has also made impressive gains in reducing child mortality. The child mortality rates declined from 54 per 1,000 in 1990 to 31 in 2005, the lowest child mortality rate among all regions.



Despite impressive achievements in health and education, poverty rates remain high. In 2004 8.6 percent of the people in Latin America and the Caribbean were living on less than \$ 1 day, and between 2002 and 2004, the number of people living on less than \$1 a day fell by only one million people, leaving approximately 47 million people in extreme poverty. Another 74 million were living on less than \$2 a day.

Latin America & Caribbean: regional data from the WDI database

	Population millions	Life expectancy at birth years	GNI per capita Atlas ^a \$	Primary completion rate %	Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary %	Child malnu- trition % under- weight 2000-05 ^b	Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 2005	Prevalence of HIV, adults % ages 15-49 2005	Access to improved water source % 2002
Latin America & Caribbean	551	72	4,045	98	102	..	31	0.6	91
East Asia & Pacific	1,885	71	1,630	98	99	15	33	0.2	79
Europe & Central Asia	472	69	4,143	92	96	5	32	0.7	92
Middle East & North Africa	306	70	2,198	89	92	15	53	0.1	89
South Asia	1,470	63	692	82	87	..	83	0.7	84
Sub-Saharan Africa	743	47	746	58	86	30	163	5.8	56
<i>Selected economies:</i>									
Argentina	39	75	4,470	100	111	..	18	0.6	96
Bolivia	9	65	1,010	101	93	8	65	0.1	85
Brazil	186	71	3,550	108	105	..	33	0.5	90
Chile	16	78	5,870	95	98	1	10	0.3	95
Colombia	46	73	2,290	98	104	7	21	0.6	93
Costa Rica	4	79	4,700	92	104	..	12	0.3	97
Cuba	11	77	..	94	110	..	7	0.1	91
Dominican Republic	9	68	2,460	92	111	5	31	1.1	95
Ecuador	13	75	2,620	101	..	..	25	0.3	94
El Salvador	7	71	2,450	87	100	10	27	0.9	84
Guatemala	13	68	2,400	74	91	23	43	0.9	95
Haiti	9	53	450	..	..	..	120	3.8	54
Honduras	7	69	1,120	79	109	17	40	1.5	87
Jamaica	3	71	3,390	84	104	4	20	1.5	93
Mexico	103	75	7,310	99	101	..	27	0.3	97
Nicaragua	5	70	950	76	103	10	37	0.2	79
Panama	3	75	4,630	97	109	..	24	0.9	90
Paraguay	6	71	1,040	91	101	5	23	0.4	86
Peru	28	71	2,650	100	103	..	27	0.6	83
Trinidad and Tobago	1	70	10,300	99	104	..	19	2.6	91
Uruguay	3	76	4,360	91	114	..	15	0.5	100
Venezuela, RB	27	74	4,820	92	104	..	21	0.7	83

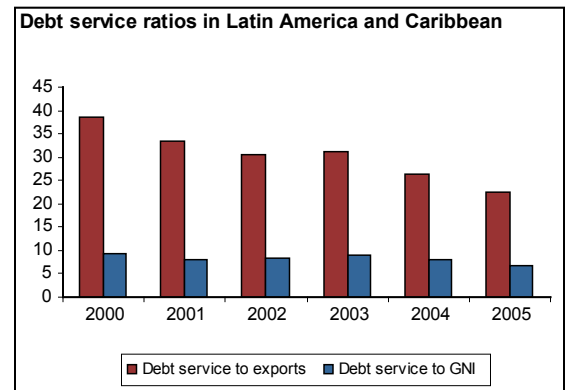
Note: Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

a. Atlas method; see WDI Statistical methods. b. Data are for the most recent year available. c. Estimated to be lower middle income (\$826-\$3,225 or less). d. Included in the aggregates for lower-middle-income economies based on earlier data. 'e. d. Included in the aggregates for lower-income economies based on earlier data.

Source: 2007 World Development Indicators database, World Bank, April 2007.

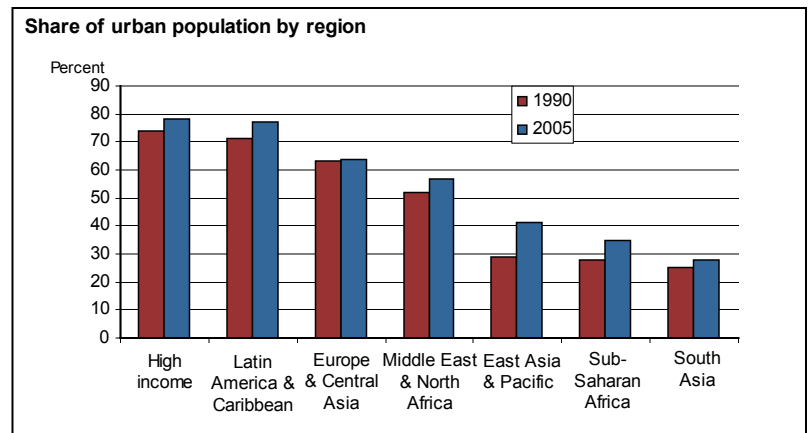
Macro conditions improved

Macroeconomic indicators show positive signs. Inflation has been brought down to single digit levels in most countries where double digit rates were common in the 1990s. The region as a whole ran a trade surplus for the last three years, reaching \$45 billion in 2005. As a result, many countries were able to reduce their external financing needs. The public debt profiles of many countries improved: total debt service was 22.5 percent of exports in 2005, 9 percentage points lower than 2003 and 16 percentage points lower than 2000. Similarly debt service ratio to Gross national income has also fallen by 2.6 percent to 8.8 percent in 2005 compared to 2000.



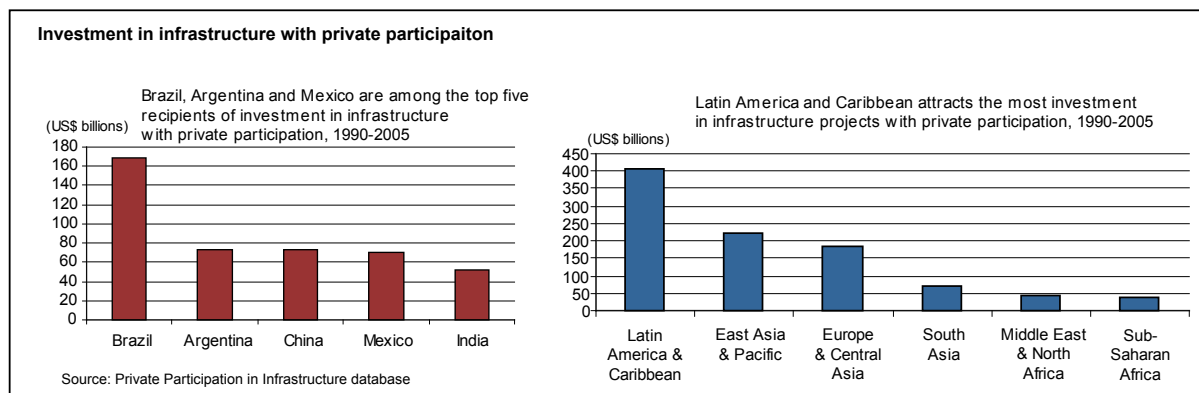
Latin America and the Caribbean: the most urbanized developing region

Today, half the world's population lives in urban areas. Urban populations are expected to grow by 1.8 percent a year through 2030—almost twice as fast as the total global population. Most of this increase will occur in developing regions. No region is more urbanized than Latin America and Caribbean. In 2005, 77 percent of the region's population lived in urban areas—almost as high as high-income economies'—and the region has four of the ten largest cities in the world in the region. However, as cities grow the cost of meeting basic needs increases, as do the demands on environmental and natural resources.



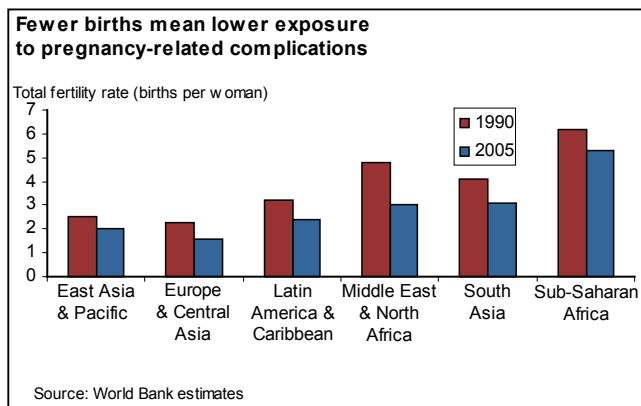
Between 1990-2005, Latin America had the highest investment in infrastructure projects with private participation

Private participation in infrastructure projects in developing countries plummeted after the 1997 Asian financial crisis and declined for several years afterward. But in 2004 and 2005 infrastructure investment increased. During 1990-2005 Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for more than 40 percent of total investment in infrastructure projects with private participation. By 2004-2005, as investment in other regions increased, Latin America & the Caribbean's share fell to about 23 percent of global investment in infrastructure projects with private participation. Three Latin American and Caribbean countries—Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, are among the top five countries with total investment in infrastructure projects with private participation, 1990-2005.



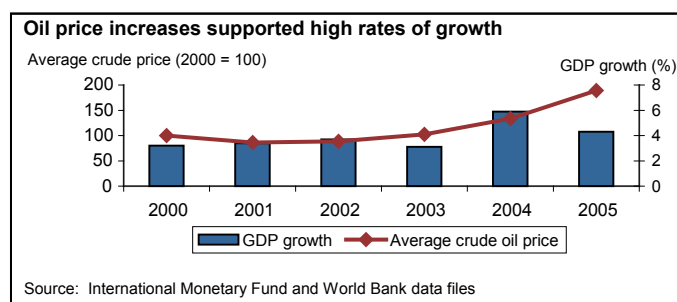
Middle East and North Africa

The region reduced the rate of extreme poverty by 20 percent between 2002 and 2004, and current estimates of a higher poverty rate, measured at \$2/day, also show declines. Health outcomes have also been improving. Between 1990 and 2005, the total fertility rate dropped by 1.8 births per woman, the largest decline among all regions. The biggest changes were in Oman and Iran, which recorded nearly three fewer births per woman. The region has made impressive improvements in education: nearly 90 percent of its children complete primary education. But this is juxtaposed with continuing differential achievements by gender. Among young adults 15-24 years of age, only 77 percent of the women were literate in 2006, compared with nearly 90 percent of men. Female labour force participation, at just over 30 percent, is the lowest among the regions, and female unemployment, at over 21 percent, is among the highest.



Oil price increases supported high rates of growth

Continued increase in the price of oil resulted in a GDP growth of 4.3 percent in 2005, though it was lower than the 5.9 percent growth in 2004. Since 2000 growth has averaged 4.1 percent, about the same rate of increase as in the 1980s and 1990s. However it is Jordan, a non-oil economy which led the group with 6.1 percent growth over this period.



Middle East & North Africa: regional data from the WDI database

	Population millions	Life expectancy at birth years	GNI per capita Atlas ^a \$	Primary completion rate %	Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary %	Child malnu- trition % under- weight 2000-05 ^b	Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 2005	Prevalence of HIV, adults % ages 15-49 2005	Access to improved water source % 2002
Middle East & North Africa	306	70	2,198	89	92	15	53	0.1	89
East Asia & Pacific	1,885	71	1,630	98	99	15	33	0.2	79
Europe & Central Asia	472	69	4,143	92	96	5	32	0.7	92
Latin America & Caribbean	551	72	4,045	98	102	..	31	0.6	91
South Asia	1,470	63	692	82	87	..	83	0.7	84
Sub-Saharan Africa	743	47	746	58	86	30	163	5.8	56

Selected economies:

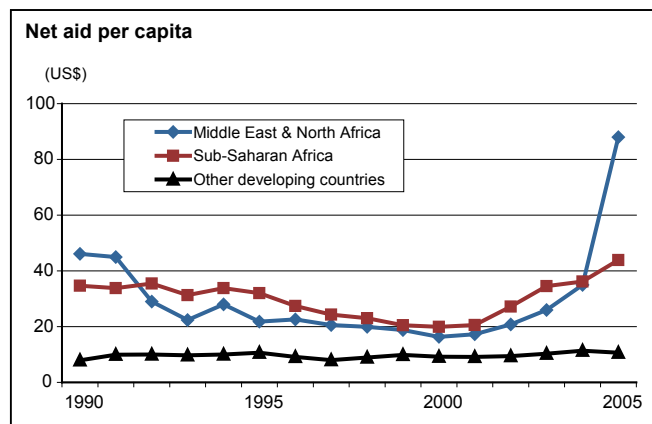
Algeria	33	72	2,730	96	102	10	39	0.1	85
Egypt, Arab Rep.	74	71	1,260	95	..	9	33	0.1	98
Iran, Islamic Rep.	68	71	2,600	96	99	..	36	0.2	94
Iraq	29	60	..	74	76	..	125	..	81
Jordan	5	72	2,460	97	102	4	26	..	97
Lebanon	4	73	6,320	90	104	4	30	0.1	100
Libya	6	74	5,530	..	106	..	19	..	..
Morocco	30	70	1,740	80	88	10	40	0.1	81
Oman	3	75	9,070	93	99	..	12	..	..
Syrian Arab Republic	19	74	1,380	111	94	..	15	..	93
Tunisia	10	73	2,880	97	105	..	24	0.1	93
West Bank and Gaza	4	73	1,230	98	104	5	23	..	92
Yemen, Rep.	21	62	600	62	61	46	102	..	67

Note: Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

a. Atlas method; see WDI Statistical methods. b. Data are for the most recent year available. c. Estimated to be lower middle income (\$826-\$3,225).

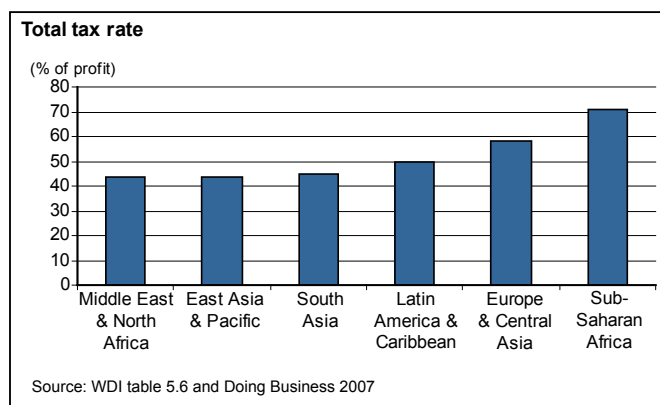
Aid flows are rising

After a period of decline and stagnation, aid flows began to pick up after the Financing for Development conference in Monterrey in 2002. Total official development assistance (ODA) rose to a record high of \$106.8 billion in 2005. However, nearly half of aid commitments were earmarked for special purposes such as debt relief, technical cooperation and administrative costs, and emergency relief and food aid. Measured on per capita basis, Middle East and North Africa region overtook Sub-Saharan Africa region and received most aid in 2005, but much of the increase went to Iraq.



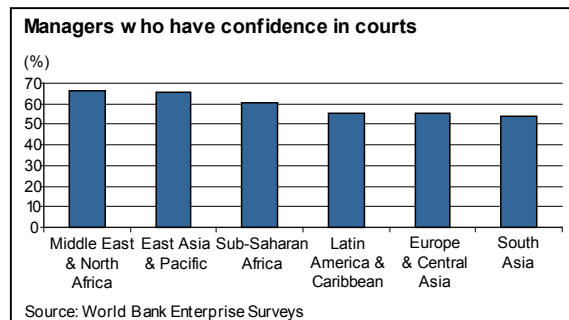
The Middle East and North Africa region has the lowest business tax rates compared to other developing country regions

Simplifying tax codes and reducing tax rates is one way to reduce corruption in tax administration. The Middle East & North Africa region has the lowest total tax rate as a percentage of profit—around 44 percent compared to 58 percent in the developing countries of Europe and Central Asia and 71 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2006 Egypt and Morocco adopted new tax codes. In Egypt the playing field for businesses was evened by eliminating all sector, location, or business-specific tax holidays and exemptions, about 3,000 in all. Businesses can file and pay taxes electronically, and in 2005 twice as many Egyptian businesses paid taxes as in 2004. In Yemen, after eliminating its production tax, the total taxes that businesses pay fell from 170 percent to 48 percent between January 2005 and April 2006.



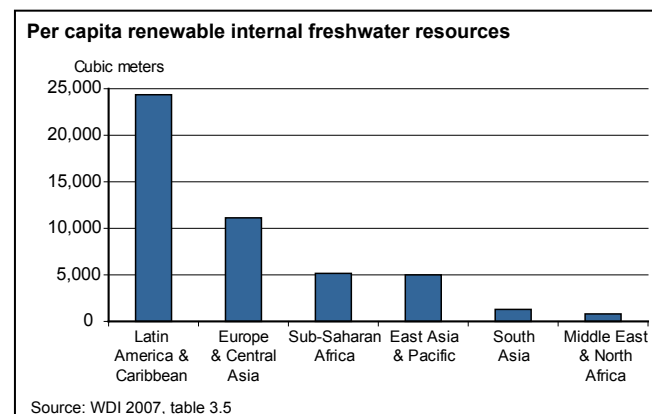
Business managers in the Middle East and North Africa region have confidence in the judicial system

A higher percentage of managers in firms in the Middle East & North Africa region have confidence that the judicial system will enforce contractual and property rights in business disputes than in any other developing country region. In Oman, 87 percent of managers have confidence in the judicial system; Morocco is 77 percent and Algeria 73 percent. But confidence remains low in Lebanon where only 30 percent of firm managers believe courts will enforce property rights.



The challenge of water scarcity

Water is the source of life and livelihood. But some 700 million people live below the water-stress threshold of 1,700 cubic meters per person year. On a regional basis, the Middle East and North Africa, with the lowest water resources per capita, faces the greatest challenge. The region has 5 percent of the world's population, but only one percent of its internal water resources. If countries do not adapt efficient water management practices the World Bank estimates that per capita water availability in the region will fall by at least 50 percent by 2050, with serious social and economic consequences

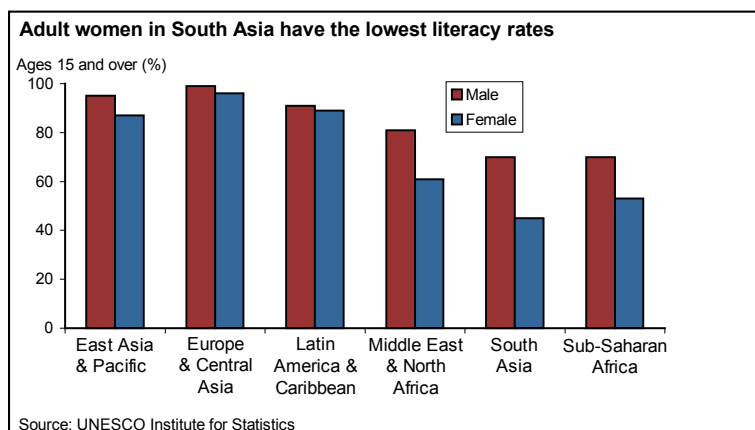


South Asia

South Asia has undergone a major demographic transition in the past 25 years, reducing its total fertility rate from 5.2 births per woman in 1980 to 3.1 in 2005. Although not on track to meet the goal of reducing child mortality rates by two-thirds, the region nevertheless had an impressive decline from around 130 deaths per 1,000 in 1990 to 83 in 2005. Primary school completion rates increased from 76 in 1990 to 82 in 2005.

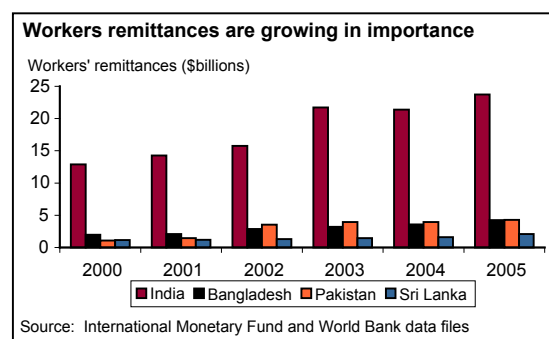
But these health and education indicators still lag behind those of other regions, except for Sub-Saharan Africa. Many children, particularly girls, do not enroll in or complete primary education, resulting in an adult female literacy rate of just 45 among women in 2006, the lowest of all the regions. Although younger adults, ages 15-25, fare better, women still lag behind men in literacy, with a literacy rate of 63 percent,

compared with 80 percent for men. Maternal mortality continues to be high, with over 560 women dying during pregnancy or childbirth, for every 100,000 live births. And 32 percent of the regional population still lives in extreme poverty, deprived of most basic social services.



Rapid growth and poverty reduction

South Asia continued its strong economic performance with a 8.7 percent growth in 2005, improving on its average growth rate of 5.6 percent over the last two decades. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh all achieved GDP growth of more than 6 percent a year. The regional economy was supported by increases in exports and additional foreign exchange earnings through workers' remittances. Workers' remittances are growing in importance to the South Asian economies. India is the largest recipient of workers' remittances, and in 2005 remittances amounted to 25 percent of its merchandise trade. For Bangladesh remittances were 46 percent of merchandise trade.



South Asia: regional data from the WDI database

	Population	Life expectancy at birth	GNI per capita	Primary completion rate	Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary	Child malnutrition	Under-5 mortality rate	Prevalence of HIV, adults	Access to improved water source
	millions	years	Atlas ^a \$	%	%	% under-weight 2000-05 ^b	per 1,000 2005	% ages 15-49 2005	% 2002
South Asia	1,470	63	692	82	87	..	83	0.7	84
East Asia & Pacific	1,885	71	1,630	98	99	15	33	0.2	79
Europe & Central Asia	472	69	4,143	92	96	5	32	0.7	92
Latin America & Caribbean	551	72	4,045	98	102	..	31	0.6	91
Middle East & North Africa	306	70	2,198	89	92	15	53	0.1	89
Sub-Saharan Africa	743	47	746	58	86	30	163	5.8	56

Selected economies:

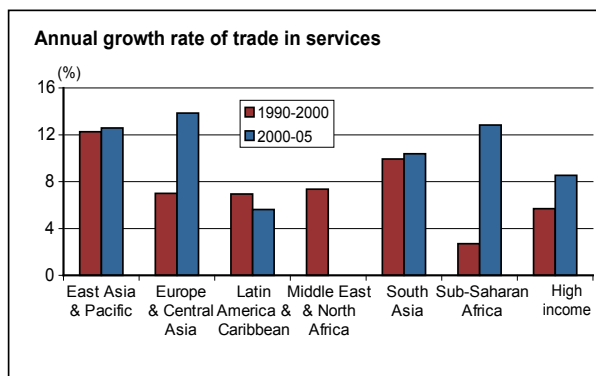
Bangladesh	142	64	470	77	101	48	73	0.1	74
India	1,095	64	730	89	87	..	74	0.9	86
Nepal	27	63	270	75	88	48	74	0.5	90
Pakistan	156	65	690	63	75	38	99	0.1	91
Sri Lanka	20	75	1,160	..	102	29	14	0.1	79

Note: Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

a. Atlas method; see WDI *Statistical methods*. b. Data are for the most recent year available.

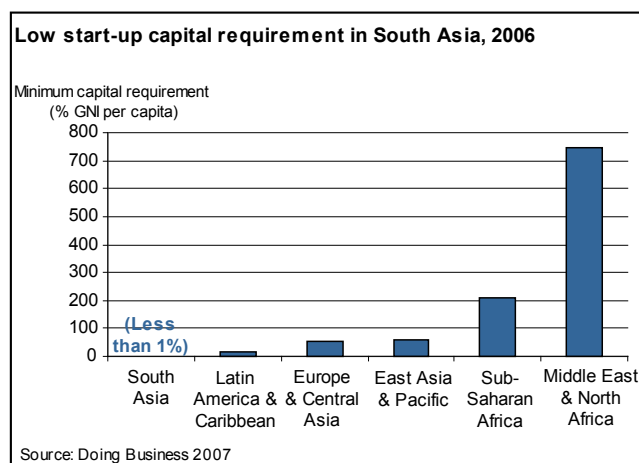
Trade in service has accelerated

Trade in services rose by 9 per cent to \$4.9 trillion in 2005, nearly six times the nominal value in 1990. Between 1990 and 2000 South Asia and East Asia and Pacific regions led the growth of trade in services. Since 2000 Europe and Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa regions have also experienced accelerated growth in service trade. The most dynamic services traders, which have seen the value of their trade in services grow at 15 percent a year since 1990, include Albania, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Estonia, and Ireland.



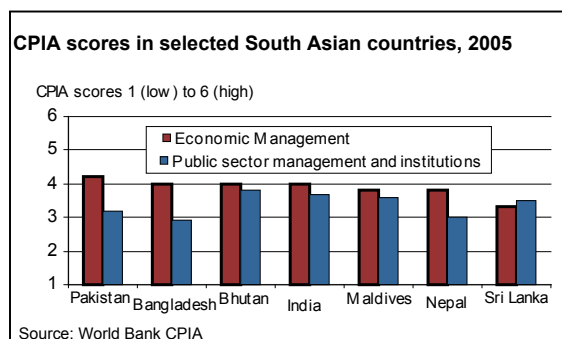
India reduces the red tape in tax registration and starting a business

Only one country in South Asia—India—made positive reforms to make starting a business easier in 2006. India simplified a complex tax registration system and more than halved the time it takes to start-up a business from 89 days in 2004 to 35 days in 2006. One barrier to starting a business in many countries is the minimum capital requirement—the amount that an entrepreneur needs to deposit in a bank before registration starts. The South Asia region has the lowest capital requirement of all developing country regions, less than one percent of GNI per capita. Most South Asian countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka have no minimum capital requirements, making it easier for small start-ups to enter the formal market.



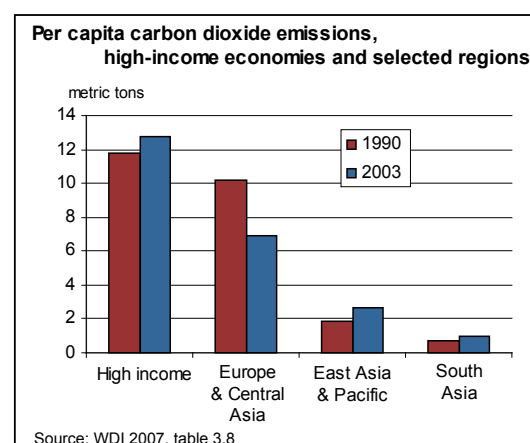
Most IDA-eligible countries in South Asia have higher CPIA scores for economic management than for public sector management, 2005

The World Bank's Country Policies and Institutional Assessments (CPIA) cover four main areas: economic management, structural policies, policies for social inclusion and equity, and public sector management and institutions. These measures, which have been publicly available for IDA-eligible countries since June 2006, are used to inform the World Bank's country policy dialogue with member governments and for other operational and research purposes. Most IDA-eligible South Asian countries, as with IDA countries as a whole, score higher on the quality of economic management (macroeconomic management, fiscal and debt policy) than on public sector management and institutions.



Higher energy use and emissions, but cleaner and more efficient

Between 1990 and 2004, energy use increased by 60 percent in South Asia and the region produced 130 percent more electricity. These have supported the region's economic growth and higher standard of living, but its emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by 4.9 percent a year, reaching an average of one metric ton a person—compared to 12.8 metric tons a person in high-income economies. At the same time the region improved its energy efficiency (from \$4.2 to \$5.5 of GDP per kg of oil equivalent measured in 2000 PPP\$) and technological improvements led to reduction of CO₂ emissions from 0.5 to 0.4 kg per dollar (PPP) of GDP.

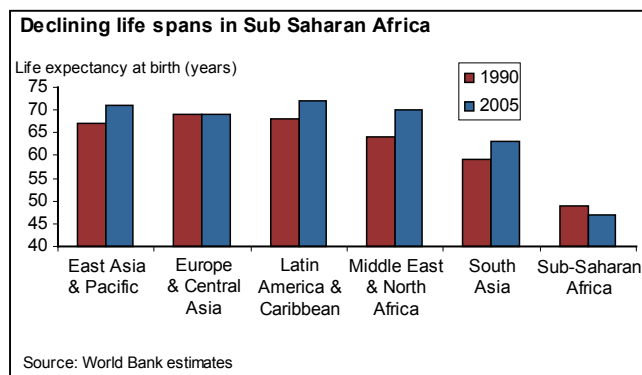


Sub-Saharan Africa

Few countries in Sub-Saharan Africa on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest proportion of people living in extreme poverty even with the recent improvement. In 2004 nearly 300 million people, over 40 percent of the population, were living on less than \$1/day. In a region of great poverty, other measures of well-being also lag behind. Life expectancy at birth declined over the past 15 years, from 49 in 1990 to 47 in 2005, and infant mortality rates increased in many countries. The majority of countries are unlikely to achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals.

But some social indicators show progress. Even the region remains the worst affected region by HIV/AIDS, some countries, such as Kenya and Zimbabwe, show the declining trend in national HIV prevalence rate. Nearly two-thirds of the children are fully immunized against measles and DPT. More than half the population (56 percent) now has access to an improved water source, and nearly 60 percent of children complete primary school. Mozambique has registered the most impressive improvement, increasing its primary completion rate from only 13 percent in 1997 to 42 percent in 2005.



Sub-Saharan Africa: regional data from the WDI database

	Population millions	Life expectancy at birth years	GNI per capita Atlas ^a \$	Primary completion rate %	Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary %	Child malnutrition % under-weight 2000-05 ^b	Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000	Prevalence of HIV, adults % ages 15-49	Access to improved water source %
	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2000-05 ^b	2005	2005	2002
Sub-Saharan Africa	743	47	746	58	86	30	163	5.8	56
East Asia & Pacific	1,885	71	1,630	98	99	15	33	0.2	79
Europe & Central Asia	472	69	4,143	92	96	5	32	0.7	92
Latin America & Caribbean	551	72	4,045	98	102	..	31	0.6	91
Middle East & North Africa	306	70	2,198	89	92	15	53	0.1	89
South Asia	1,470	63	692	82	87	..	83	0.7	84
<i>Selected economies:</i>									
Angola	16	41	1,410	..	..	31	260	3.7	53
Benin	8	55	510	65	73	30	150	1.8	67
Botswana	2	35	5,590	92	102	..	120	24.1	95
Burkina Faso	13	48	400	31	77	38	191	2.0	61
Burundi	8	45	100	36	83	..	190	3.3	79
Cameroon	16	46	1,000	62	83	18	149	5.4	66
Cape Verde	1	71	1,930	81	100	..	35	..	80
Chad	10	44	400	32	60	37	208	3.5	42
Congo, Dem. Rep.	58	44	120	39	73	31	205	3.2	46
Congo, Rep.	4	53	950	57	89	..	108	5.3	58
Cote d'Ivoire	18	46	870	43	67	17	195	7.1	84
Ethiopia	71	43	160	55	76	38	127	1.4	22
Ghana	22	57	450	72	91	22	112	2.3	75
Kenya	34	49	540	95	94	20	120	6.1	61
Madagascar	19	56	290	58	96	42	119	0.5	46
Malawi	13	41	160	61	98	22	125	14.1	73
Mali	14	49	380	38	75	33	218	1.7	50
Mozambique	20	42	310	42	82	24	145	16.1	43
Mauritania	3	54	580	45	96	32	125	0.7	53
Mauritius	1	73	5,250	97	98	..	15	0.6	100
Niger	14	45	240	28	72	..	256	1.1	46
Nigeria	132	44	560	82	82	29	194	3.9	48
Rwanda	9	44	230	39	99	23	203	3.0	74
Senegal	12	56	700	52	90	..	119	0.9	76
Sierra Leone	6	41	220	..	71	..	282	1.6	57
South Africa	47	48	4,770	99	101	..	68	18.8	88
Sudan	36	57	640	50	89	..	90	1.6	70
Tanzania	38	46	340	54	95	22	122	6.5	62
Uganda	29	50	280	57	96	23	136	6.4	60
Zambia	12	38	500	78	92	23	182	17.0	58
Zimbabwe	13	37	350	80	95	..	132	20.1	81

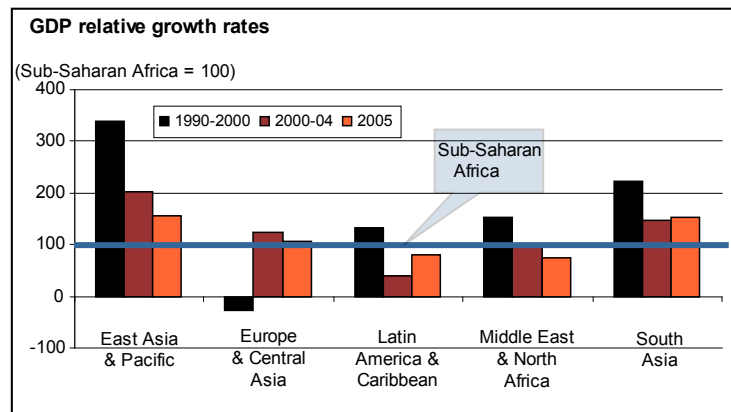
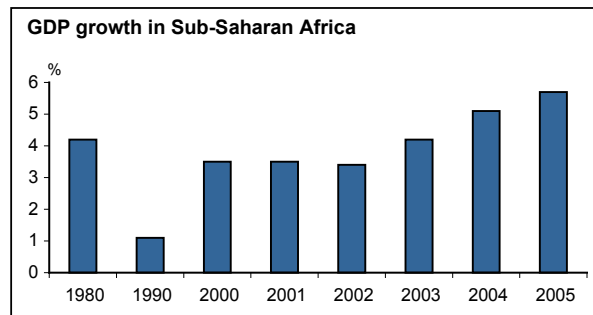
Note: Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

a. Atlas method; see WDI Statistical methods. b. Data are for the most recent year available. c. Data refers to mainland Tanzania only.

Source: 2007 World Development Indicators database, World Bank, April 2007.

Recovery in Africa

At 5.7 percent growth in 2005, GDP grew above 5 percent for the second consecutive year. South Africa the largest economy in the region grew at 4.9 percent growth. Oil producing and exporting countries such as Angola and Nigeria also did well. Twenty two out of forty eight countries had a GDP growth above 5 percent, and eight did better than the 6.6 percent growth of developing countries.

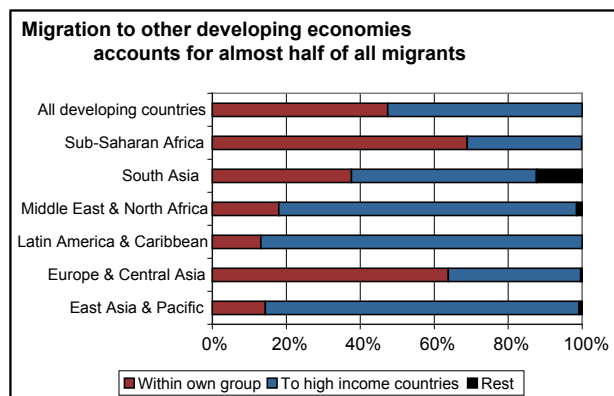


African growth rates catching up

For years GDP growth in Sub-Saharan Africa lagged behind other developing regions, but now it is starting to catch up. Although East Asia and the Pacific is still the growth leader, since 2000, GDP has grown faster in Sub-Saharan Africa than in Latin America or the Middle East and North Africa and the difference with East Asia, South Asia, and Europe and Central Asia has been falling.

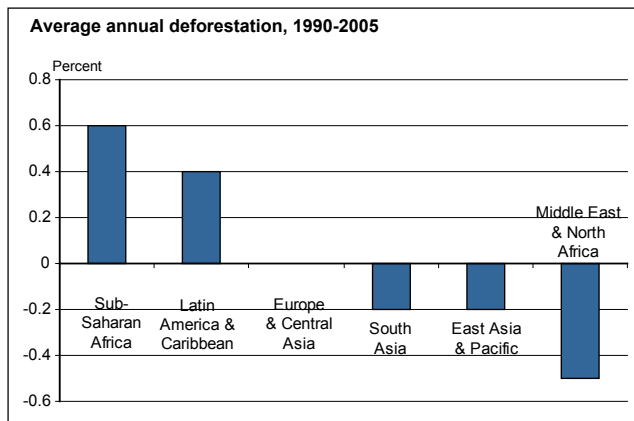
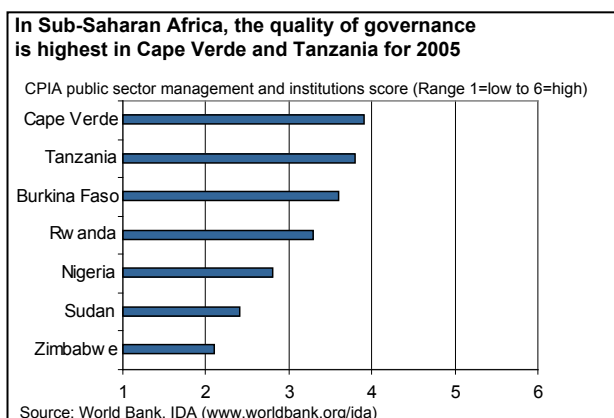
Migration

In 2005, an estimated 190 million people (3 percent of the world's population) were living in countries in which they were not born. While high-income economies are the most popular destinations, migration between developing economies account for nearly half the migrants from developing economies. Migration between developing economies occurs primarily between neighbors, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe and Central Asia regions. Proximity and the existence of migrant networks encourage migration by helping to reduce the cost and uncertainties involved in migration.



Measuring the quality of public sector management and institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa

In an annual exercise, the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), World Bank staff assesses country policies and institutions covering four main clusters: economic management, structural policies, policies for social inclusion and equity, and public sector management and institutions. The average score of the public sector management and institutions cluster can be an indicator of a country's governance system (focused primarily on economic governance). For the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Cape Verde and Tanzania score highest on this cluster. Sudan and Zimbabwe score the lowest. The average score for Sub-Saharan Africa is 3.0 in a range from 1 (low) to 6 (high).



Forest loss affects rural poor

Forest loss affects both the economic and environmental well being of the world. Many of world's rural poor people directly depend on forest products for their livelihoods. Deforestation is the main cause of biodiversity loss. And forest loss accounts for about 20 percent of global CO2 emissions. The largest toll is in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by Latin America and Caribbean. Forests still cover 26.5 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa, but between 1990 and 2005 nine percent of forest area was lost cumulatively. With two-third of the region's population living in rural areas, this poses a significant challenge.