Employment Issues in Asia-Pacific LDCs

High-Level Segment Roundtable 2
"Meeting the Challenge of Employment
Creation in Africa & the LDCs"
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Kim Hak-Su UN Under-Secretary General & Executive Secretary, UNESCAP



Asia-Pacific LDC economies: highly vulnerable Labour markets: easily affected (economic & demographic changes) Labour force: grows faster than employment

Predominant Role of Agriculture



Agriculture accounts for highest share of employment

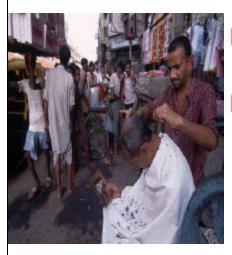
Cambodia & Myanmar ~ 70% Lao PDR 76% Solomon Isl. 79% Timor-Leste 81% Bhutan & Nepal ~ 93%

Low productivity per worker

low wages



Informality in Industry / Services



- Official unemployment figures do not reflect real challenges
- High incidence of informality in industry & services



under-employment "working poor"



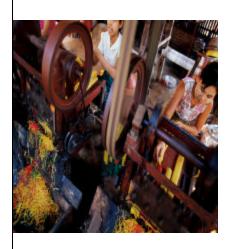
Vulnerable Groups in LDCs



- Youth unemployment: 50% of total A/P LDC unemployment
- Women: important segment of the un- & under-employed
- Child labour: persistent



Policy Options



- Decent work: key to LDC poverty reduction
- Ensure employment creation focus on macroeconomic policies & poverty reduction
- Balance economic growth with employment generation



Policy Options (contd.)



- Improve education & skills for employability
- Promote productive selfemployment & entrepreneurship
- Facilitate access to productive assets (e.g., credit)



Policy Options (contd.)



- Improve rural employment opportunities
- Create employment in postdisaster / conflict situations





Thank you!

And thanks to ILO for data used in this presentation