United Nations

Committee for Development Policy

2025 Monitoring Report

São Tomé and Príncipe

February 2025

Table of content:

Notes

Summary

São Tomé and Príncipe graduated from the LDC category in December 2024. The country faces significant macroeconomic challenges, with slow GDP growth. While consistently exceeding graduation thresholds in GNI per capita and Human Assets Index, its Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) has increased to 40 in 2024, surpassing the graduation threshold of 32, largely due to devastating floods in December 2021. The country continues to grapple with high inflation, substantial debt and persistent external vulnerabilities. For graduation preparation, the government has established an Inter-Ministerial Governing Body and opted to integrate transition measures into its new National Development Plan (2025-2039) rather than developing a formal Smooth Transition Strategy, while working closely with UN agencies and development partners to support its transition from an aid-dependent economy to a more private sector-oriented one.

Macroeconomic situation

São Tomé and Príncipe, a small island developing state off the western coast of Africa, is at a pivotal juncture in its economic development. Classified by the World Bank as a lower-middle-income country, it is set to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category in December 2024. Like many small island nations, its recent macroeconomic performance highlights significant vulnerability to external shocks, with the country's economic landscape revealing a mix of structural challenges and potential opportunities.

Despite making notable progress in human development indicators and achieving a high GDP per capita, São Tomé and Príncipe's economic and environmental vulnerabilities remain acute. This is evident in the country's ranking of 137th out of 187 countries on the ND-GAIN Index, which assesses vulnerability to climate change. The ranking underscores the country's substantial exposure to environmental risks, such as rising sea levels and increasing temperatures, which threaten its long-term viability (ND-GAIN, 2024). The archipelagic nature of the country also fragments its internal market, increasing isolation from the African mainland and deepening its reliance on imports for essential commodities like food and fuel (AfDB, 2024). Moreover, the limited diversification of its economy further exacerbates its vulnerability to external shocks and climate change impacts.

The residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the growing challenges posed by climate change and global economic instability, have deepened São Tomé and Príncipe's structural weaknesses, compounding the difficulties the country faces. Despite these difficult challenges, there are signs of economic recovery, with real GDP growth projected to rise to 2.2 per cent in 2024 (see table 1) and reach 3.2 per cent in 2025, according to UN DESA. This mild recovery is expected to be driven by improvements in agriculture, a gradual recovery in tourism, and the expansion of infrastructure projects (IMF, 2024). However, significant downside risks remain. Delays in externally financed projects could hinder recovery, and the pace of implementing critical reforms will be key to ensuring long-term economic stability. The country's heavy reliance on the service sector, which accounts for 73.5 per cent of GDP, highlights the urgent need for diversification (World Bank, 2023).

Inflation presents another significant challenge. By the end of 2023, inflation had surged to 20.1 per cent, a substantial increase from 8.1 per cent in 2021, driven by high global commodity prices, persistent supply chain disruptions, and necessary domestic price adjustments (AfDB, 2024). Although inflation is projected to ease to 16.1 per cent in 2024 and further to 9.5 per cent in 2025, the rising cost of living continues to strain household purchasing power. In response, the government has implemented measures to alleviate the burden, including customs exemptions on essential goods, absorbing transportation costs, and imposing price controls on staple foods (World Bank, 2023). However, these measures are temporary and

do not address the underlying structural issues (IMF, 2023).

São Tomé and Príncipe has shown some improvement in its fiscal management, with the fiscal deficit turning from 2.2 per cent of GDP in 2022 to a surplus of 1.1 per cent in 2023 and 4.0 per cent in 2024. This progress stems from fiscal consolidation efforts and enhanced domestic revenue collection, particularly following the implementation of Value-Added Tax (VAT) in June 2023.

However, the country faces significant external challenges. While the current account deficit is expected to improve from 19.3 per cent in 2023 to 11.4 per cent in 2024, the country's economic vulnerability is highlighted by its depleted net international reserves as of August 2023. This situation is exacerbated by a stark trade imbalance, with imports representing 35.4 per cent of GDP in 2022 compared to exports at only 3.6 per cent.

Table 1. Selected macroeconomic data for São Tomé and Príncipe , 2018-2024

Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GDP growth rate (per cent, constant price)	2.9	2.2	3.1	1.9	0.1	0.4	2.2
Inflation rate (%)	7.9	7.7	9.8	8.1	18.0	20.1	16.1
Government revenue (billions of national currency)	2.1	2.1	2.7	2.6	3.2	3.4	4.8
Government expenditure (billions of national currency)	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.5	3.3	4.0
Government balance (billions of national currency)	-0.2	0.0	0.3	-0.2	-0.3	0.2	0.7
Government balance (per cent of GDP)	-2.0	-0.1	2.9	-1.5	-2.2	1.1	4.0
Net ODA received (millions of US dollars)	52.2	51.8	93.1	73.0	55.2		
Balance of Payments (millions of US dollars)							
Current Account	-75.1	-90.0	-59.6	-95.2	-79.4		
Goods, Credit (Exports)	16.0	13.1	13.9	20.8	21.9		
Goods, Debit (Imports)	132.9	126.4	116.7	152.0	164.7		
Balance on Goods	-116.8	-113.2	-102.8	-131.2	-142.9		
Services, Credit (Exports)	82.2	59.4	35.4	54.5	75.1		
Services, Debit (Imports)	64.3	63.2	43.4	49.1	54.6		
Balance on Services	17.9	-3.8	-8.0	5.3	20.5		
Balance on Goods and Services	-98.9	-117.0	-110.8	-125.9	-122.3		
Balance on Income	-2.7	-0.5	2.9	2.7	10.5		
Balance on Current Transfers	26.5	27.5	48.2	27.9	32.4		
Capital Account	29.9	14.9	18.7	37.0	44.8		
Financial Account	-65.9	-24.3	-43.6	-62.3	-105.1		
Direct investment (net)	-21.3	-23.3	-46.3	-58.9	-126.6		
Portfolio investment (net)	0.1	0.4	-0.5	-2.5	8.1		
Financial derivatives (other than reserves) and employee stock options	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other investment (net)	-31.8	-6.4	-18.4	-7.2	21.5		

	-12.9	5.1	21.6	6.3	-8.1		
Reserve assets	-12.9	5.1	21.6	6.3	-8.1		
Reserves (months of imports)	2.6	2.9	5.5	4.4	3.5		

Source: GDP growth and inflation are from UN DESA, World Economic and Social Prospects (WESP) 2025 edition, Government balance is from IMF, World Economic Outlook (WEO) Database. Net ODA is from OECD, OECD.Stat. All external sector indicators are from IMF, Balance of Payment Data Reports.

The debt situation remains concerning, with the debt-to-GDP ratio reaching approximately 106% in 2023. The country is grappling with post-HIPC external arrears amounting to 2 per cent of GDP. A major fiscal risk arises from the debt of the national electricity company, EMAE, to the fuel supplier, ENCO, which reached US$182 million in 2022, representing 33 per cent of GDP (IMF, 2024). Despite these concerns, the IMF considers the country's debt sustainable, contingent on continued fiscal consolidation, energy sector reforms, and responsible borrowing practices (IMF, 2023).

The government of São Tomé and Príncipe, with support from international partners, has initiated key structural reforms. A staff-level agreement for a 40-month, US$20 million Extended Credit Facility was reached with the IMF in March 2023, but approval is pending due to uncertainties over fuel import financing (IMF, 2024). This approval is vital for securing further policy reforms and development partner support. Efforts to attract investment are underway, though the FDI approval process remains slow, and institutional capacity is limited (UNCTAD, 2024).

In addition, the government has made progress in addressing domestic imbalances, notably through the introduction of VAT and the removal of fuel subsidies in 2023. The central bank has halted monetary financing of the budget and tightened liquidity (IMF, 2023). However, further reforms are needed to address both domestic and external imbalances, advance fiscal consolidation, and accelerate energy sector reforms (IMF, 2024).

The long-term economic transformation of São Tomé and Príncipe hinges on transitioning from a public sector-driven, aid-dependent model to a more inclusive and sustainable private sector-oriented economy. This transformation is crucial for generating employment opportunities, increasing revenue, and protecting the country's natural resources. Key areas for reform include human capital development, private sector growth, energy efficiency, connectivity, and institutional capacity (World Bank, 2023). Building resilience to climate change and improving natural resource management will also be critical to sustaining this transformation.

São Tomé and Príncipe's natural resources offer significant potential for economic development. The country's high level of maritime and terrestrial biodiversity presents opportunities for eco-tourism, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable fisheries. Furthermore, increasing investments, particularly from China, are expected to support infrastructure development and growth across various sectors (AfDB, 2024). However, realizing these opportunities will require overcoming significant structural challenges and advancing comprehensive reforms across multiple sectors (World Bank, 2023).

The country's political landscape is intrinsically linked to its economic development. São Tomé and Príncipe, a relatively young democracy since gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, has experienced political instability, which has affected the implementation of economic reforms (UNECA, 2024). Frequent changes in government and coalition-building dynamics can delay policy decisions and create inconsistencies in reform implementation. The country's reliance on external aid and concessional financing further complicates its political economy, as the government must balance external conditionalities with domestic political realities (IMF, 2024).

Despite these challenges, São Tomé and Príncipe have maintained a relatively stable democratic system, providing a foundation for addressing its economic difficulties. The successful implementation of ongoing

reforms, coupled with strategic investments in key sectors and continued international support, will be critical for the country's long-term economic recovery and sustainable development (AfDB, 2024). The decisions made in the coming years will shape São Tomé and Príncipe's economic trajectory for generations to come.

LDC Criteria and Supplementary Indicators

GNI per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe continues to trend upwards, as has Human Assets Index (HAI), both surpassing LDC graduation thresholds for several years now, as shown in table 2. As for the Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI), it increased considerably in 2023, reaching over 40, which now places São Tomé and Príncipe above the LDC graduation threshold of 32 or below. The increase in EVI is largely attributed to the devastating floods at the end of December 2021 which affected about 9,000 people.

Table 2: Indicators for LDC Identification, São Tomé and Príncipe, 2020-2025

Year	GNI per capita	HAI (66 or above)	EVI (32 or below)
2020	1,777	86.80	31.05
2021	1,873	87.67	30.91
2022	2,017	88.87	31.86
2023	2,152	90.03	40.48
2024	2,306	91.08	40.23
2025	2,466	91.35	40.16

Source: CDP Secretariat, Time series estimates (LDC criteria) dataset (2002-2024), available at https://bit.ly/LDC-data

Note 1: For GNI per capita, Year refers to the year of a (actual or hypothetical) review. The data reflects the latest three-year average available for a review, i.e., the value for 2025 refers to the average values for the years 2021-2023. Data differ from previous official triennial review data due to data revisions.

Note 2: For EVI and HAI, Year refers to the year of a (actual or hypothetical) review. The timeliness of source data varies by indicator; generally, criteria capture data up to two years prior to a review. See the 'read me' in the source.

Note 3: Data differ from previous official triennial review data due to data revisions, changes in data sources, methodological changes and most notable, changes in composition of the composite indices HAI and EVI. Minor differences can also occur due to rounding.

Table 3 provides additional information on key economic and social indicators for São Tomé and Príncipe from 2018 to 2022. The economic indicators reveal several challenges as the country approaches its LDC graduation in December 2024.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a percentage of GNI has declined from 13.5 per cent in 2018 to 9.6 per cent in 2022, despite a spike to 19.4 per cent in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The country's external debt vulnerability has increased, with debt as a percentage of GNI rising from 64.8 per cent in 2018 to 71.3 per cent in 2022. The current account deficit has shown some improvement, reducing from -19.6% of GDP in 2018 to -14.6 per cent in 2022, though significant external imbalances persist.

Access to electricity has improved from 71 per cent in 2018 to 78% in 2022, although reliability remains a challenge with frequent power cuts. Access to basic drinking water has remained stable at 77.3 per cent. The education sector shows limited progress, with mean years of schooling increasing only marginally from 5.8 to 5.9 years, while female labour force participation remains low at around 37-38%, constraining the transition to a more inclusive economy.

A notable positive trend is the significant increase in internet connectivity, with users rising from 38 per

cent in 2018 to 57 per cent in 2022. This digital progress could support the country's economic transformation efforts, particularly in developing the private sector and improving institutional capacity. For more SGIs, see Annex.

Table 3: Supplementary Graduation Indicators for São Tomé and Príncipe, 2018-2022

Indicators	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ODA (% of GNI)	13.5	12.3	19.4	13.7	9.6
External debt (% of GNI)	64.8	67.4	66.5	62.9	71.3
Current account (% of GDP)	-19.6	-21.8	-12.6	-18.2	-14.6
Access to electricity	71.0	75.1	76.8	78.5	78.0
Access to basic drinking water	77.2	77.3	77.3	77.3	77.3
Mean years of schooling	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9
Female labour force participation rate	37.5	37.6	37.2	37.8	37.6
Internet users (% of population)	38.0	44.3	51.6	56.1	57.0

Source: CDP Secretariat, Supplementary graduation indicators (SGI) dataset), available at https://bit.ly/LDC-data

Productive Capacity

São Tomé and Príncipe's score on the PCI (43.1) is distancing from the average score of LDCs and converging towards the score of the ODCs (46.8). The two categories where São Tomé and Príncipe lagged behind ODCs are the Human Capital, Energy, and Structural Change. São Tomé and Príncipe also significantly lagged behind the average performance of SIDS in the Energy category and performed lower than SIDS in the composite PCI.

Table 4: Productive Capacity Index, 2022

	PCI	Human capital	Natural capital	Energy	Tran sport	ICT	Institutions	Private sector	Structural Change
São Tomé and Príncipe	43.1	35.2	34.5	54.1	48.1	34.5	50.3	46.9	46.2
Other developing countries	46.8	44.3	38.4	61.2	34.1	49.6	51.1	50.9	53.2
LDCs	30.9	27.9	49.8	26.3	19.7	25.2	38.3	37.8	41.0
SIDS	47.6	44.4	29.8	70.3	56.4	51.7	61.5	53.7	51.8

Source: UNCTADstat

Data gap

The World Bank's Statistical Performance Indicator (SPI) for São Tomé and Príncipe has improved from 45.6 in 2016 to 53.1 in 2023, which places the country in the 2nd quintile of the SPI. This compares with the Sub-Saharan African average score of 60.4 and the lower middle-income country average of 63.5.

Smooth transition

São Tomé and Príncipe graduated on 13 December 2024. The country has submitted annual national reports on smooth transition for the 2023-24 and 2024-2025 monitoring cycles. However, so far, no consultation meetings on monitoring have been held with the CDP.

The Government has been working with the RCO, UNDP, UNDESA, OHRLLS and other development partners to prepare for graduation in the past few years, particularly focusing on building resilience to ensure that the country do not fall back. A joint UN Workshop in support of the country's LDC graduation was held in São Tomé, in September 2019, co-organized by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on LDC

Graduation, the Government and the UN RCO and sponsored by Portugal. It assessed challenges and opportunities resulting from LDC graduation and gathered technical advice on the process.

In 2020, the Government established an Inter-Ministerial Governing Body for the design of the STS, integrated by relevant stakeholders, to coordinate LDC graduation. Its secretariat is integrated by the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, focal points were appointed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance, to facilitate consultations with national stakeholders.

Through technical assistance sponsored by UNDP, RCO and DESA, a Background Report for the preparation of the STS has been drafted, intended to serve as a basis for the country to formulate its STS. The Background Report resulted from various stakeholder interviews and consultations undertaken from December 2021 to May 2022, generating relevant inputs from a broad spectrum of stakeholders from the public, private and non-profit sectors. Additionally, a joint meeting with focal points from several government sectors was held in May 2022, to collect additional inputs. The document has also benefitted from technical support by the CDP and aims, essentially, at maximizing the benefits of LDC transitioning and mitigating the negative impacts of such a status change. It is aligned with the country's National Resilience and Socio-Economic Mitigation Plan in the face of COVID-19, one of the main strategic instruments currently guiding development efforts. This alignment should promote synergies in implementation and resource optimization. UNDP and UNDESA has been supporting the country on enhancing resource mobilization and

UNDP, RCO and UNDESA has also supported São Tomé and Príncipe in resource mobilization and investment facilitation. Currently, UNDP with financial support from UNDESA is helping the Government develop an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to enhance resource mobilization, diversify financing sources, and align investments with national development priorities, such as the blue economy, tourism, and climate adaptation. Additionally, UNDESA has strengthened the institutional capacity of the Agency for Trade and Investment Promotion (APCI) through tailored workshops and operational planning, positioning APCI as a strategic partner to attract and facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI). These combined efforts aim to ensure a smooth transition, resilience, and long-term sustainable development for São Tomé and Príncipe.

The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe has chosen not to have a formal STS. Instead, it will use the new National Development Plan, 2025-2039 that will become operational soon after graduation as the main tool for smooth transition.

In its annual national report on smooth transition submitted to the CDP in 2025, the country described the current situation and national priorities. Since first meeting graduation criteria in 2015, São Tomé and Príncipe has advanced in economic and human development but faces challenges in trade concentration, poverty, and environmental vulnerability. Despite slight GDP growth, a high inflation and substantive fiscal deficits persist. An Interministerial Group is guiding a Smooth Transition Strategy, linked to the National Development Plan 2025–2039. With UN support, São Tomé and Príncipe aims to strengthen resilience, mobilize diverse funding, and boost private sector growth in tourism, agriculture, and fisheries for sustainable development.

Annex 1. Data for LDC criteria and supplementary indicators (SGIs)

LDC criteria data

The data table below shows the latest available data and corresponding year for the country based on the 2025 retrospective review.

The calculations of all composite indices and indicators are based on the refinements of the LDC criteria adopted by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) at its 25th Plenary session in February 2023.

For more detailed information on indicators and data sources, see the '*Time series estimates (LDC criteria) dataset (2000-2025)*' available on the LDC Data website.

All data are current as of 22 January 2025.

Indicator	Latest available data	Year latest available data refer to	LDC average*
GNI - Gross national income (GNI) per capita in US dollar, using Atlas conversion (3-year average)	2,465.72	2023	1,388.26
HAI - Human assets index	91.35	2023	59.42
U5M - Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live birth)	14.46	2022	59.20
STU - Prevalence of stunting	10.00	2022	29.28
MMR - Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live birth)	146.24	2020	381.86
LSEC - Lower secondary education completion rate	87.37	2023	42.60
ALR - Adult literacy rate	93.75	2022	64.26
GPIC - Gender parity index for lower secondary education completion	1.06	2023	1.00
EVI - Economic and environmental vulnerability index	40.16	2023	39.84
AFF - Share of agriculture, forestry and fishing in GDP (% of GDP)	13.08	2023	24.59
REM - Remoteness and landlockedness (location index)	52.74	2023	57.61
XCON - Merchandise export concentration (Theil index)	7.81	2023	7.76
XIN - Instability of exports of goods and services (20-year regression)	9.77	2023	12.39
LECZ - Share of population living in low elevated coastal zones (percentage of population)	21.83	2015	7.94
DRY - Share of population living in drylands (percentage of population)	0.00	2023	33.99
AIN - Instability of agricultural production (20-year regression)	4.47	2022	6.06
VIC - Victims of disasters (per 100,000 population) (15-year average)	6.70	2023	3.34

Source: Time series estimates (LDC criteria) dataset (2000-2025) available on the LDC Data website.

Supplementary graduation indicators (SGIs)

The supplementary graduation indicators (SGIs) complement the official LDC criteria. They provide quantitative, internationally comparable data for vulnerabilities and other factors that are not fully captured by the LDC criteria but that might be relevant for graduation from the LDC category.

For more detailed information on indicators and data sources, see the '*Supplementary graduation indicators (SGI) dataset (2000-2025)*' available on the [LDC Data](#) website.

All data are current as of 22 January 2025.

	Indicator	Latest available data	Year latest available data refer to	LDC average*
ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY	EC01 - GDP growth rate (%)	0.40	2023	3.51
	EC02 - GDP growth volatility	1.79	2023	5.29
	EC03 - External debt (% of GNI)	76.76	2022	55.98
	EC04 - Total debt servicing (% of exports and primary income)	5.08	2023	12.22
	EC05 - Personal Remittances, received (% of GDP)	1.47	2023	6.76
	EC06 - ODA received as percentage of GNI	9.64	2022	10.85
	EC07 - Tourism receipts as share of exports	73.19	2018	13.14
	EC08 - Current account balance (% of GDP)	-14.69	2022	-4.46
	EC09 - Standard deviation of net barter terms of trade over 20 years	8.47	2021	15.11
	EC10 - Cereal import dependency	0.97	2022	0.41
	EC11 - Tax revenue as share of GDP	n/a	n/a	13.21
	EC12 - Gross domestic savings (% of GDP)	n/a	n/a	7.22
	EC13 - Adjusted net savings (% of GNI)	n/a	n/a	3.43
	EC14 - Share of employment in agriculture	11.10	2023	47.82
	EC15 - Productive capacities index	43.10	2022	30.75
	EC16 - Percentage of individuals using the internet	56.99	2022	34.20
	EC17 - Renewable electricity capacity per capita	0.01	2023	0.07
	EC18 - Percentage of population with access to electricity	78.00	2022	54.31
ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITY	EV01 - Environmental Performance Index	35.90	2024	36.42
	EV02 - Global Adaptation Index	41.46	2022	37.81
	EV03 - INFORM Climate Change Risk Index	2.40	2022	5.79
	EV04 - Economic loss from natural disaster (% of GDP)	n/a	n/a	0.03
	EV05 - Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5) in cities (population weighted)	33.75	2019	27.87
	EV06 - Access to at least basic sanitation (% of population)	47.84	2022	41.15
	EV07 - Access to at least basic drinking water (% of population)	77.34	2022	68.27
	EV08 - Freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	1.88	2021	15.81
	EV09 - Proportion of water basins experiencing high surface water extent changes	0.00	2020	28.66
	EV10 - Red list index, showing trends in overall extinction risks of species	0.79	2024	0.86
	EV11 - Change in forest cover (percentage)	-1.12	2020	-0.54
	EV12 - Domestic material consumption per capita	6.94	2022	14.84

	Indicator	Latest available data	Year latest available data refer to	LDC average*
HUMAN ASSETS	HA01 - Human development index	0.61	2022	0.51
	HA02 - Multidimensional poverty index	0.05	2019	0.27
	HA03 - Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit	22.10	2021	12.35
	HA04 - Prevalence of undernourishment	16.40	2023	21.56
	HA05 - Mortality from CVD, cancer, diabetes or CRD between exact ages 30 and 70 (%)	21.00	2019	24.93
	HA06 - Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%)	86.00	2023	76.57
	HA07 - Gross secondary school enrolment rate	87.42	2021	47.14
	HA08 - Mean years of schooling	5.92	2022	4.78
	HA09 - Learning-adjusted (expected) years of school	n/a	n/a	4.87
	HA10 - Total fertility rate (live birth per woman)	3.60	2024	3.97
	HA11 - Dependency ratio, i.e. the ratio of youth (Age 0-14) and elderly (age 65+) to population of age 15-64	71.61	2024	75.09
	HA12 - Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+) (modeled ILO estimate)	37.75	2023	53.45
INCOME	IN01 - Gross national disposable income (GNDI) per capita, market exchange rates	3,116.63	2023	1,373.28
	IN02 - GDP per capita, market exchange rates	2,962.99	2023	1,334.95
	IN03 - Gross national income (GNI per capita) at purchasing power parity conversion factors	6,210.00	2023	3,757.73
	IN04 - Gini coefficient of disposable income	34.40	2017	41.45
	IN05 - Percentage of population below international poverty line ($2.15)	15.70	2017	31.47
OTHER	OT01 - Battle deaths per 100,000, 20-year average	0.00	2023	2.79
	OT02 - Population of concern to UNHCR as percentage of total population	0.00	2024	3.33
	OT03 - Stock of persons internally displaced by conflict as percent of total population	0.00	2023	2.42
	OT04 - Intentional homicides (per 100,000 people)	3.23	2011	6.79
	OT05 - Voice and accountability, capturing perceptions of citizens' participation in selecting governments as well as of freedom of expression, association, and media	0.25	2023	-0.72
	OT06 - Government effectiveness, capturing perceptions of the quality of public services and policies	-0.90	2023	-1.03
	OT07 - Women empowerment index, providing information on women's civil liberties, civil society participation, and political participation	0.86	2023	0.61

Source: Supplementary graduation indicators (SGI) dataset (2000-2025) available on the LDC Data website.

Notes:

* As not all countries and/or indicators have complete coverage LDC averages are calculated using the latest available data for each country and indicator.

n/a denotes that no data are available.

Annex 2. Visualization of LDC criteria and SGIs

The following figures show the evolution of LDC criteria scores, LDC indicator values and SGI indicators value over the 2000 to 2025 period. The blue line shows the values for the country, abbreviated by its three-letter ISO code. The red and green lines show the simple country average value for least developed countries (LDC) and other developing countries (ODC), respectively. The shaded areas depict the interquartile range to indicate within-group heterogeneity. The group composition of LDCs and ODCs is based on the current list of LDCs and the classification of countries into developing and developed regions by the United Nations Statistics Division. Hence, all former LDCs are included in the ODC group. For details on the composition, see the 'Read-me' tab in the '*Time series estimates (LDC criteria) dataset (2002-2025)*' available on the LDC Data website.

For all details on the data, see *Time series estimates of the least developed country criteria (2002-2025)* and *Supplementary graduation indicators (SGI) dataset (2000-2025),* both available on the LDC Data website.

The figures omit several SGIs with insufficient data for a time-series consideration.

Some indicator names in the figures are shortened versions of the indicator names as contained in annex 1.

Missing data has been linearly interpolated, but not extrapolated. Hence, changes in the lines and shaded areas for LDCs and ODCs can be influenced by changes in data availability over time.

To increase visibility, the following transformation of the data have been undertaken, please refer to annex 1 for the names of the indicators:

- Three-year averages for EC01, EC03, EC04, EC05, EC06, EC07, EC08, EC010, EC011, EC012, EC013, EC018, EV04, EV05, HA06, IN01, IN02, IN03.
- Logarithmic transformation for GNI, VIC, IN01, IN02, IN03, OT01, EC17, EV08.
- Maximum value set to 1: GPIC
- All indicators have been normalized between 0 and 100 using the 'max-min' method, using 5 per cent and 95 per cent quantiles as lower and upper bounds.
- For each figure, the x axis ranges from 2000 to 2025, and the y axis ranges from 0 to 100

All data are current as of 22 January 2025.

GDP growth rate   GDP volatility   External debt   Debt servicing

Remittances   ODA received   Tourism receipts   Current account

Terms of trade volatility   Cereal import dependency   Tax revenues   Gross domestic savings

Adjusted net savings   Agricultural employment   Productive capacity index   Internet users

Renewable electricity   Access to electricity   Global Adaptation Index   Loss from disasters

Air pollution (PM 2.5)   Access to sanitation   Access to water   Freshwater withdrawal

Year   Year   Year   Year