

LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACT SHEET 2020

Statistics current as of July 2020

WHAT ARE LLDCs?

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), are countries with a lack of territorial access to the sea. Remoteness and isolation from world markets, additional border crossings, cumbersome transit procedures, inefficient logistics systems, weak institutions and poor infrastructure cause LLDCs to incur substantially higher transport and other trade transaction costs when compared to coastal countries. These high costs present a tremendous trade-reducing effect that has a direct negative impact on economic growth and puts them at a disadvantage in fully harnessing their potential to support their sustainable development efforts.

VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LLDCs 2014-2024

The Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs (VPoA), was adopted at the Second UN Conference on LLDCs in 2014. This holistic document aims to contribute to the eradication of poverty stemming from their landlockedness, through the implementation of specific actions in six priority areas.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of LLDCs declined from **4.8%** in 2018 to **4.4%** in 2019, with projected contraction of at least **0.1%** in 2020.
- Average GDP per person living in an LLDC in 2019 was **\$1,625** (constant 2010 US\$), up from **\$1,560** in 2014.
- Average Human Development Index (HDI) value for the LLDCs in 2018 was **0.59**. HDI adjusted for inequality (IHDI) was **0.455**, indicating a **24%** loss in human development due to inequality, ranging from **7%** to **42%** for individual LLDCs.
- The percentage of population in LLDCs below the international poverty line of **\$1.90** per day declined from **31.1%** in 2015 to **28.7%** in 2018.
- Only **6.4%** of the unemployed in LLDCs were covered by social protection systems in 2016, compared with global average of **22%**.
- Of the **50** countries around the world experiencing food crises, **16** are LLDCs.
- In 2020, **27.3%** of seats in national parliaments in LLDCs were held by women, up from **26.5%** in 2019 and exceeding the global average of **24.9%**.
- The HIV incidence rate in LLDCs declined from **0.79** new cases per **1,000** uninfected people in 2014 to **0.63** in 2018.
- The incidence of Malaria in LLDCs increased slightly from **164.2** cases per **1,000** people in 2014 to **168.4** cases in 2018.
- LLDCs' mortality rate of children under 5 years of age declined from **67.6** deaths per **1,000** live births in 2014 to **57.5** in 2018.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) AND DEBT

- ODA to LLDCs totaled **\$28 billion** (2017 constant prices) in 2018, a real decrease of **4%** since 2017.
- Five countries accounted for almost half of the group's total ODA receipts in 2018.
- ODA as percentage of GNI of LLDCs fell from average of **3.9%** in 2017 to **3.7%** in 2018, while accounting for more than **12%** of GNI in six LLDCs.
- Aid-for-trade disbursements to LLDCs amounted to **\$7.6 billion** (constant prices) in 2018, representing an increase from **\$6.2 billion** in 2014.
- Debt servicing rose from **19.1%** of exports of goods and services in 2014 to **27.8%** in 2018.
- 13 LLDCs are already classified as Highly Indebted Poor Countries and 10 are in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress.

FACTS

Geographical Distribution

Asia	Europe
10	4
Africa	Latin America
16	2

Total Land Area
1,592,765,600 hectares
(15.9 million km²)

Average distance to a seaport
1370 km

Total Population in 2020

533 Million

Annual Average Population Growth Rate 2014-2020:
2.39%

LIST OF LLDCS

1. Afghanistan	10. Chad	18. Mongolia	26. The Kingdom of Eswatini
2. Armenia	11. Ethiopia	19. Nepal	27. Tajikistan
3. Azerbaijan	12. Kazakhstan	20. Niger	28. Turkmenistan
4. Bhutan	13. Kyrgyzstan	21. North Macedonia	29. Uganda
5. Bolivia	14. Lao People's Democratic Republic	22. Paraguay	30. Uzbekistan
6. Botswana	15. Lesotho	23. Republic of Moldova	31. Zambia
7. Burkina Faso	16. Malawi	24. Rwanda	32. Zimbabwe
8. Burundi	17. Mali	25. South Sudan	
9. Central African Republic			

INFRASTRUCTURE

- As of 2018, LLDCs' share in global freight transported by road, air and rail was **1.15%**, **1.05%** and **2.09%**, respectively.
- Total rail lines in LLDCs increased by **9.4%** from 2014 to 2017.
- Proportion of population with access to electricity in LLDCs rose from **56.3%** in 2017 to **58.7%** in 2018, lagging behind world average of **89.6%**.
- Access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking has remained constant at **27%** from 2016 through 2018.
- Mobile cellular subscriptions have grown from an average of 67 subscriptions per 100 people in 2014 and 78 in 2018.
- Percentage of individuals in LLDCs using the internet increased from **17.4%** in 2014 to **26.6%** in 2017, but remains below the world average of **49%**.

STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

- Value addition of the following sectors in GDP for the LLDCs in 2019 was:

AGRICULTURE



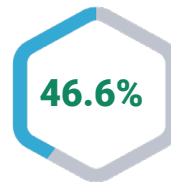
marking an increase from 15.3% in 2014

MANUFACTURING



increasing from 9.6% in 2014.

SERVICES



increasing from 46.3% in 2014.

- The share of manufactured goods exports from LLDCs increased from **13.4%** in 2014 to **16.4%** in 2018, but remains way below the world average of **68.6%**.
- Value of domestic credit provided to the private sector in LLDCs increased from **28.6%** of GDP in 2017 to **32.6%** in 2019, but is low compared to the global average of over **130%**.
- R&D expenditure was only **0.21%** of GDP in LLDCs in 2017, compared to the world average of **1.72%**.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- LLDCs' share in global exports fell from **0.99%** in 2018 to **1.01%** in 2019.
- Total merchandise exports from LLDCs decreased from **\$191 billion** in 2018 to **\$190 billion** in 2019. Merchandise imports to LLDCs increased between 2018 and 2019, from **\$214 billion** to **\$225 billion**.
- Although the trade deficit of LLDCs decreased from **7.2%** of GDP in 2014 to **4.3%** in 2018, it remains high and is at further risk of widening in light of the impacts of COVID-19.
- LLDC exports are about four times more concentrated than world exports, making

- them vulnerable to external shocks.
- As of July 2020, all 26 LLDCs that are WTO members had ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- The implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement by LLDCs is estimated at **34.7%** of the notifiable commitments, compared to **64.9%** for developing countries and **100%** for developed countries.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

- LLDCs are on average party to four regional trade agreements, ranging from one to **11**.
- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) entered into force in May 2019. As of July 2020, all LLDCs have signed the AfCFTA, although only **9** have ratified it.

ENVIRONMENT

- In LLDCs, land covered by forests declined from **17.2%** in 2015 to **16.8%** in 2020.
- An estimated **54%** of LLDCs' land is classified as drylands, disproportionately affected by issues such as desertification, land degradation and drought.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

- The increase in cases of COVID-19 has resulted in increased and urgent demand for health care, yet the health systems in the LLDCs are among the weakest in the world.
- LLDCs are also critically dependent on imported medicine, medical equipment and pharmaceutical products.
- LLDCs are highly dependent on transit countries to access international markets and are vulnerable to cross-border restrictions and closures imposed by neighboring countries.
- World trade volume is forecast to fall **9.2%** in 2020, with losses in export earnings further exacerbated by a **37%** decline in commodity prices. This will further marginalize LLDCs – who rely heavily on commodity exports - from global trade as well as global value chains.
- The fiscal outlook of commodity exporting LLDCs is bleak, with those LLDCs with high levels of external debt particularly at risk.
- Global remittances flows are projected to fall by more than **20%**, representing a loss of a crucial financing lifeline for many vulnerable households. LLDCs with high percentage of remittances to GDP are particularly vulnerable.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is increasing the risks of a balance of payment crisis, a food crisis and a debt crisis in the LLDCs.