The Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA
Updated version (19 September 2023)

1. Background

The Roadmap for the Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) represents a concerted effort between UN system organizations and other international and regional organizations members of the Inter–Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on LLDCs to advance progress towards the achievement of the VPoA and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adopted during the 19th LLDC Ministerial Meeting in September 2020, the Roadmap seeks to leverage capacities of IACG members and build synergies between participating organizations for a renewed push towards the achievement of the VPoA by 2024.

Accordingly, the Roadmap includes a series of guiding principles, and a call to action, as shown in the initial, published version of the Roadmap, available here. It also includes a mapping of activities and deliverables by the IACG towards accelerated implementation of the VPoA, structured according to the following key action areas**:**
- Transit, trade and infrastructure development (*priority 1 of the VPoA on fundamental transit policy issues, priority 2 on infrastructure development and maintenance, and priority 3 on international trade and trade facilitation*);
- Energy and ICT (*priority 2 of the VPoA on infrastructure development and maintenance*);
- Structural economic transformation (*priority 5 of the VPoA on structural economic transformation*);
- Cooperation between LLDCs and transit countries (*priority 4 of the VPoA on regional integration and cooperation*);
- Means of implementation and international support (*priority 6 of the VPoA on means of implementation*); and
- Other areas of importance for the LLDCs, notably: climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation; strengthening the International Think Tank for LLDCs; the impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs; gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; and coordination.

These activities and deliverables, which are consolidated into a reporting matrix, have been annually updated since 2020.

The matrix included in this document (see **Annex**) therefore provides an updated overview of activities and deliverables from IACG members, as of **18 September 2023**. The following members contributed to

this call: ADB; AfDB; AIIB; CFC; DESA; ECA; ECLAC; ESCAP; FAO; GCF; IDLO; ITTLLDC; IRENA; IRU; ISA; ITC; ITU; Office of the Secretary–General's Envoy on Technology; OSCE; the Technology Bank for the LDCs; UNCTAD; UNDP; UNDRR; UNECE; UNEP; UNFCCC; UNIDO; UNOPS; UNOSSC; UNWTO; WCO; WIPO; and WTO.

2. Key highlights from the activities reported in the Roadmap's matrix

The more than 430 initiatives[1] (and their deliverables) reported in the Roadmap's matrix provide evidence of significant efforts taken by the UN and other international and regional organizations to support the 32 LLDCs on the six priority areas of the VPoA, and on other sustainable development issues, such as climate change, disaster risk reduction and gender equality. Many also illustrate synergies and collaborations between various organizations through joint initiatives.

*For instance, **UN–OHRLLS and various partners (including ECA, ESCAP, UNECE, ECLAC, UNCTAD, UNOPS, AfDB, ADB and the World Bank)** trained government officials from 25 LLDCs and 13 transit countries in all four LLDC regions on transport connectivity. They also issued training materials for LLDCs and transit countries on developing bankable transport infrastructure projects, and on improving transport connectivity and building resilient transport infrastructure.*

***DESA, UNDP, UNITAR and ECA** support selected LLDCs in Africa (Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia) in developing SDG–aligned financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs). In this regard, the organizations held a comprehensive regional joint training on INFF in August 2021 where government panellists from Uganda and Malawi were invited to share their experiences in implementing this approach in their own countries.*

***DESA, in collaboration with UNCDF and UNOPS,** is supporting LLDCs in Asia (Nepal and Lao PDR) by providing capacity building training for local and national government officials to unlock sustainable, equitable and inclusive infrastructure asset management in over 12 municipalities, as part of the "UN capacity development initiative on enhancing the resilience, accessibility, and sustainability of infrastructure assets in developing countries in support of the 2030 Agenda". In addition, **DESA**, with RPTC support, trained over 50 officials in Uganda on strengthening capacities for effective and sustainable asset management in 7 local governments. Effective management of public infrastructure assets promotes the achievement of over 90% of the SDGs by supporting the reliable, equitable and inclusive delivery of essential public services to all.*

As reported in the matrix, support provided to LLDCs fall under a variety of measures, that include but are not limited to:

- technical assistance, as well as trainings, courses, workshops, establishment of knowledge transfer platforms and other capacity building activities;
- knowledge–based products (reports; guidance) and tools (e.g. macroeconomic simulations);
- policy, institutional and legal support, and advisory services;
- mobilization of multi–stakeholder partnerships and organization of global fora fostering international dialogue on innovative solutions for LLDCs' needs and challenges
- funding and direct interventions for infrastructure development, digital and other development projects; and
- support to data collection, indicators' development, data analysis and data sharing (including through electronic platforms).

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[1] The number of initiatives corresponds to the number of entries under 'Deliverables and activities' in the Roadmap's matrix. Numbers are approximative and depend on the detail of reporting by organizations. Pending initiatives have not been counted.

In total, more than 100 initiatives have been newly reported this year in the Roadmap under all of the VPoA priority areas. Also, about a quarter of the activities in the Roadmap have been reported as completed, while others are ongoing. Completed activities have resulted in: strengthening LLDCs' capacities, and increasing knowledge on: transit, trade and infrastructure development; energy and ICT; structural economic transformation; cooperation between LLDCs and transit countries; means of implementation; and climate change, among so many other issues. Several initiatives also led to tangible outcomes in terms of, *inter alia*: improving connectivity and digital inclusion; enhancing custom clearance and the treatment of goods; enhancing cooperation between countries; strengthening LLDCs' resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change; and improving the health response to COVID–19 through the procurement of medical equipment and vaccines.

The following sub–sections highlight some of the efforts made by the UN and other organizations to support the LLDCs in alignment with the priority areas of the VPoA and beyond. As these sections have been kept succinct for an easy reading, it is recommended to consult the Roadmap's matrix in Annex for the full list, and for details of activities supported by IACG members.

2.1 *Transit, trade and infrastructure development*

Together with 'structural economic transformation' and 'other areas,' 'transit, trade and infrastructure development' is the area where most initiatives have been reported by organizations. A wide range of projects in LLDCs have been reported, including:
- the provision of finance, investments and/or technical and institutional support for:
  - road construction, rehabilitation and climate resilience (e.g. AIIB and ADB);
  - the construction of one–stop border posts (e.g. AfDB and ADB);
  - the development of transport and economic corridors and their management mechanisms (e.g., ADB);
  - sustainable transportation (e.g., ADB);
  - Road safety and road asset management (e.g., ADB) and
  - trade facilitation (e.g. modernizing customs equipment and infrastructure, leveraging digitalization to facilitate transit and trade facilitation, upgrading the Customs Automated Information System, supporting governments in the formulation of Aid–for–Trade proposals and diagnostic trade integration studies – DTIS, building capacities and implementing reforms to modernize sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and assisting LLDCs in better understanding and implementing the WTO trade facilitation agreement – TFA);
- training development, capacity building and knowledge sharing on, *inter alia,* road construction and transport sustainability, intermodal transport and logistics, road safety, inland transport connectivity indicators, eCMR, quality infrastructure, custom procedures, application of frontier or emerging technologies, trade facilitation and integration, trade negotiations, and international trade (including e–commerce and digital trade);
- the facilitation and expedition of the administrative process related to electronic exchange of transport and trade facilitation documents such as e–permits ePhyto certificates, e–cargo manifest, and eCMR; the digitalization of the TIR procedure and the implementation of green lanes (e.g. ADB, IRU and UNECE); and
- technical assistance for LLDCs towards addressing trade–related constraints in various sectors (textile, entrepreneurship, just to name a few); and

- technical assistance for sustained and systematic strategies, policies, and actions at the national and local government levels to ensure that infrastructure assets support inclusive, affordable, and sustainable essential public services over their entire lifespan (e.g. DESA).

New projects have been outlined by organizations, including policy advice and capacity building for sustainable transportation in LLDCs. Many projects under 'transit, trade and infrastructure development' have also been completed and led to successful outcomes.

*For instance, **ITC's** technical assistance to help Bhutan address trade related constraints resulted in more than 250 public and private sector stakeholders – including more than 50 women – trained on conducting trade negotiations and business advocacy. **UNOPS'** finalization of the Rural Access Improvement Project (RAIP) in Afghanistan (2021) led to the construction and maintenance of more than 1,000 km of roads and associated structures, with the aim to contribute to poverty reduction in rural areas, and to improve economic integration between urban and rural areas in the country.*

*The **WTO** conducted a study on the logistical constraints impacting the trade performance of the LLDCs and how trade bottlenecks could be reduced to broaden the opportunities for LLDCs to participate more fully in global value chains. Launched in December 2021, the report resulting from that study on 'Easing trade bottlenecks in LLDCs' (available [here](#)) advances a set of recommendations to help LLDCs identify adequate area of work and measures that are crucial for their integration into global trade. Those recommendations also serve as basis for the development of further projects and policy formulations targeted towards a better implementation of the VPoA. Moreover, until late 2021, the WTO–led Enhanced Integration Framework (EIF) supported 29 actions on trade facilitation for Landlocked least developed countries (LDCs). For example, In Bhutan, the EIF has established a one stop information centre for trade facilitation. In Lao PDR and Rwanda, it supported the establishment of a comprehensive cross–border trade–support infrastructure – including the construction of dedicated cross–border markets with neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, which has a disproportionate effect on women, who often comprise more than three quarters of these traders.*

*During 2021 up to early 2022, **UNCTAD** supported 21 LLDCs and 16 transit partner countries in the framework of the UNCTAD Empowerment [program](#) for National Trade Facilitation Committees and the UNCTAD Transit Coordinator training. In 2021, it also rolled out the Reform [Tracker](#) – a web–based project management and monitoring tool for trade facilitation reforms – in 12 LLDCs to facilitate the implementation of the WTO TFA, other relevant agreements and general trade facilitation reforms, including in the area of transit.*

***ECLAC** issued a "National Connectivity Report" for Paraguay in 2021 which contains 161 indicators that assess road and inland transport in the country. Government officials and private sector representatives discussed the priorities that emerged from the analysis of the indicators developed, and the executive summary of the Report was included as an annex in Paraguay's National Logistics Plan 2021.*

***UNECE** has launched its International Transport Infrastructure Observatory, a web–based platform which hosts data on a large variety of transport infrastructure networks and nodes across different modes (including road, rail, inland waterways, ports, airports, intermodal terminals, logistics centres and border crossing points). Together with **ESCAP**, it continues to provide support to the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), including by assisting SPECA countries (Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) in digitalizing multimodal data and document exchange, including through pilot projects using the UN/CEFACT semantic [standards](#) and reference data models.*

ADB is supporting numerous initiatives and pilot projects to build capacities and implementing reforms to facilitate trade and modernize trade facilitation. Under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program, ADB is supporting the establishment of pest–free areas in Azerbaijan, phytosanitary capacity evaluation in Uzbekistan, and integrating SPS functions at the border with customs control in Mongolia. Georgia and Pakistan initiated expert–level and stakeholders' consultation to join other CAREC members (PRC and Uzbekistan) in

exchanging phytosanitary certificates via the International Plant Protection Convention's ePhyto hub. Customs authorities are examining challenges to existing transit operations and discussing ways to facilitate transit through a single transit portal for information exchange. Members strengthened their skills in the design, negotiation, and implementation of free trade agreements, through several regional and national training workshops, discussion of research results, and customized guidelines. A Forum on Developing Sustainable Economic Zones (SEZs) in CAREC held in September 2022 in Mongolia provided new perspectives on SEZs' potential for contributing to more inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies.

2.2 Energy and ICT

Organizations' support to energy efficiency and access to energy – including on renewables – in LLDCs continued through initiatives such as reports and other knowledge products, policy dialogues, capacity building, clean technology innovation programmes, renewables readiness assessments, the enhancement of renewable energy ambitions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the strengthening of investment frameworks to support renewable energy projects, and SDG 7 roadmaps. Approximately $670 million were approved by ADB alone in 2020–2021 to, *inter alia*: develop energy infrastructure and connect LLDCs of the Asia–Pacific Region into regional energy markets through cross–border inter–connection; and provide technical assistance to establish regional transmission cooperation associations, foster consumer awareness for energy efficiency and increase women participation in the energy sector. Under the ADB–supported CAREC Program, members have agreed to the key features of the proposed CAREC Green Energy Alliance, an innovative financing mechanism that is envisioned to provide a menu of investment options and de–risk green energy projects. In Nepal, ADB is implementing projects to support power grid strengthening for cross–border power trade.

A large number of initiatives were reported on ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity, such as: cross–border e–commerce; the digital exchange of data between countries; the computerization of customs management; supporting infrastructure development, national cybersecurity, digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystems; building and operationalizing digital centres; accelerating the transition towards e–justice; developing digital strategies; strengthening digital capacities; and promoting technology transfer.

For instance:

*From 2018–2020, **ITU** trained officials in Lesotho, South Sudan, Malawi, SADC members including SADC Secretariat for the design of national ICT statistics and household survey tools to support measurement and monitoring in the digital economy. ITU and partners further supported the piloting of two smart villages in Niger, and the development of the blueprint for smart villages in the country, which led to the deployment of digital services in additional villages to provide connectivity and digital enabled services to local communities.*

***UNIDO** in collaboration with **UNEP**, has assisted LLDCs such as the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Lao PDR, Moldova, Paraguay, Rwanda, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe to establish National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and larger enterprises in implementing resource efficiency measures through investments in new and improved technologies. These NCPCs have joined the global network of 65 centers in 50 countries around the world. In addition, selected LLDCs received UNIDO's support to commercialise their clean–tech innovations through the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP). The organization promoted clean energy technology innovations and entrepreneurship, and assisted SMEs and start–ups in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Lesotho and Moldova. Currently, UNIDO is expanding the geographical scope of GCIP to other LLDCs, such as Mali, Uganda and Zambia.*

IRENA continues to support member countries, including LLDCs, to enhance renewable energy ambitions in the National Determined Contributions (NDCs), and to strengthen Investment Frameworks to support the realization of Renewable Energy projects. IRENA's ongoing collaboration with UNDP, SEforAll and the Green Climate Fund under the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) initiative provides a framework to accelerate investments in renewable energy with a view to contributing to the realization of the ambitious NDCs. The platform hosts more than 200 projects, which vary in size from utility scale to off–grid and are at all stages in the project cycle, and spread across the world, with a significant registration from LLDCs. IRENA with partners has launched the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform which is an inclusive, multi-stakeholder climate finance platform managed by IRENA to advance the global energy transition in developing economies.

*The **Office of the Secretary–General's Envoy on Technology** is working with **UNDP** and **ITU** to promote more coordinated support to Resident Coordinators and Country Teams on digital capacity–building, and **the Technology Bank** for the LDCs is undertaking technology needs assessments to identify technology priorities in countries such as Buthan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.*

*With capacity support from **DESA**, more than 150 local governments across the globe, including 10 municipalities in Nepal and 38 from Uganda, have designed and adopted Asset Management Action Plans (AMAPs), which are available at the UN IAM website together with other tools. Furthermore, **DESA**, in collaboration with **UNCDF** and **UNOPS**, is providing technical support for designing and implementing, monitoring, and reviewing forward–looking, risk–informed, and data–driven infrastructure asset management strategies, policies, and action plans in support of essential public services in countries including Lao PDR and Nepal.*

***ADB** is supporting efforts to explore and test frontier or emerging technologies. Launched in November 2022, the CAREC Digital Trade Forum serves as a platform for cross–learning among policy makers, regulators, private sector, development partners, and research institutions. ADB is exploring the use of blockchain technology to digitalize Mongolia's certificates of origin. ADB is helping promote SMEs' participation in cross–border e–commerce through national TAs in Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, and Pakistan and series of study tours and dialogues in 2023 to immerse Central Asian government and private sector representatives in best practices in e–commerce and digital trade.*

2.3 Structural economic transformation

'Structural economic transformation' is one of the three areas (with 'transit, trade and infrastructure development' and 'other areas') where the most initiatives have been reported by IACG members.

Supporting efforts on structural economic transformation have been dedicated to:
- developing innovative enterprises in commodity sectors;
- developing and implementing business plans and enterprises development plans;
- undertaking sustainable structural economic transformation in several sectors, for instance by identifying new sectors of potential exports;
- analyzing and leveraging/upgrading value chains, and supporting the development of SMEs linked to value chains;
- assessing countries' productive capacities and investment opportunities;
- developing agro–industries that are sustainable and increasing smallholders' productive capacities;
- developing sustainable tourism;
- supporting LLDCs in their transition to green recovery through development projects that strengthen countries' resilience and adaptive capacity;
- conducting technology needs assessments, and innovation for sustainable development reviews;
- accelerating the digitization of SMEs through programmatic action;
- promoting private–public partnerships through capacity building initiatives;

- strengthening technological capacities and innovation systems, including through STI Policy Reviews; and
- granting financial assistance to private and public organizations seeking to comply with international Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) standards to help them gain or maintain market access.

Initiatives under this priority area also aim at supporting LLDCs and their investment promotion agencies on targeting and facilitating foreign direct investment in sustainable development through capacity building, advisory services and legal assistance on investment related matters, among other means.

Ongoing and completed projects on structural economic transformation have led to tangible results.

For example:

*With the aim to develop innovative enterprise in commodity sector in LLDCs, the **CFC**'s Executive Board approved the support of an innovative investment fund, focusing on agri–SMEs operating in Africa and targeting several LLDCs, including Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. The CFC contribution of $2 million will help to mobilize a total expected $100 million for this new investment fund. From 2021 to 2025, the CFC envisages to commit around $16 million from a total of $60 million for projects to develop innovative enterprise in commodity sector in LLDCs.*

*As of August 2023, 22 countries have joined the **FAO's** Hand–in–Hand Initiative (HiH), which seeks to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development to eradicate poverty (SDG 1) and end hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2). Following analytical work to identify spatially disaggregated investment opportunities in target countries, progress is being made in countries such as Ethiopia, Mali and Zimbabwe, where these opportunities are linked to potential investors.*

***UNCTAD** assisted the Eswatini and the Uganda Investment Promotion Authorities in developing a strategy to promote and facilitate investment in the SDGs, particularly in the agriculture/agribusiness sector in Eswatini, and in the health sector in Uganda. This initiative resulted in an SDG mainstreaming strategy and action plan in both countries, and in the training of 31 Investment Promotion Authority staff and policy makers (14 of which were women) in Eswatini. Following the launch of its Productive Capacities Index (PCI) in 2021, UNCTAD also prepared a National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment (NPCGA) model to provide country–specific recommendations to foster productive capacities and structural economic transformation and target international support measures, where applicable. Within the LLDCs, Zambia was a beneficiary of this support, and the Zambia NPCGA is expected to be presented and discussed at the national level in 2022. UNCTAD plans to use this tool to develop country–specific programs to assist a number of LLDCs to build their productive capacities. Proposals for multi–year assistance programmes have been developed for several countries and are currently under consideration by donors.*

*Leading the development of a global intellectual property (IP) ecosystem to promote innovation and creativity, **WIPO** has been focusing on promoting innovation and technological capacity building, which is key for structural transformation in LLDCs. As part of its activities, WIPO provides technical assistance and support LLDCs in specific areas including: the development of national innovation systems; access and use of technical, scientific and patent information; skills and capacity building for the effective use of IP system for development and economic growth; the facilitation of transfer of appropriate technologies for development; and capacity building for universities and research institutes on establishing and functioning of Technology Transfer Offices. For example, 30 LLDCs are being included in the Access to Research for Development and Innovation [(ARDI)](#) program that seeks to increase the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries. 16 LLDCs are participating in the Access to Specialized Patent Information [(ASPI)](#) program, and 21 LLDCs currently have the networks of Technology and Innovation Support Centers ([TISCs)](#) established with the support from WIPO.*

*In collaboration with the government of Paraguay, **UNOPS** facilitated 20,000 rural families to benefit from the implementation of governmental initiatives that strengthened family farming in 2021. Of these, 15,000 families living in poverty and extreme poverty in rural settlements received support for agricultural mechanization, conservation agriculture and capacity development that allowed them to increase their productivity and improve their income (from September 2020 to September 2021). Additionally, 5,700 rural families living in poverty and extreme poverty benefited from the development of family gardens – 90 per cent of them women – with the aim of promoting food security and economic reactivation in the framework of the COVID–19 pandemic.*

__IDLO__ provided support to the Uganda Law Society (ULS) in delivering capacity development activities to over 100 private sector lawyers on the implementation of foreign direct investment (FDI) transactions in Uganda. Capacity development covered the fundamentals of international finance, cryptocurrencies, central bank digital currency, and mergers and acquisitions law, with attention paid to structuring deals and negotiating and drafting relevant contracts.

__UNIDO__'s industrial upgrading and modernization programmes were implemented in Burundi, Kazakhstan, Rwanda and Uganda. The programmes intervened in four key dimensions: 1) enabling business environment (improved institutional frameworks and financial instruments); 2) technical support infrastructure (strengthened capacities of institutions providing assistance to SMEs, promoted investments) 3) boosting industrial enterprises (supported manufacturing SMEs in priority sectors to enhance their competitiveness) and 4) promotion of technology and innovation (facilitated industrial technologies transfer and best product innovation practices).

*Under the **ADB**'s Promoting Economic Diversification Program for the Kyrgyz Republic, a $50 million subprogram is helping the country diversify its economy, boost trade, and facilitate growth of export–oriented businesses by supporting reforms that promote trade and investment competitiveness and develop the non–mineral sector and small and medium–sized enterprises. An Integrated Urban Development Project promotes tourism development through building a two–story visitor center in Khiva featuring Uzbekistan's first digital museum with a Silk Road theme.*

2.4 Cooperation between LLDCs and transit countries

Compared to other areas of the Roadmap, fewer initiatives (around 5%) were reported under this priority area.

New projects included in the current version of the matrix seek to strengthen multistakeholder dialogues and experience sharing through multistakeholder forums and knowledge exchange. Initiatives to strengthen regional integration and enhance regional cooperation (e.g. SPECA programme in Central Asia supported by UNECE and ESCAP; African Continental Free Trade Area – AfCFTA supported by ECA, the AfCFTA Secretariat, other UN agencies and the African Union Commission), as well as triangular and South–South cooperation are also continuing, with some being completed.

For instance:

__ESCAP__ finalized, in 2021, the implementation of United Development Account Project on addressing the transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific. The project, that included work in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia, strengthened capacity of countries to develop sustainable and inclusive policies and mechanisms for promoting transport, energy, and ICT transboundary infrastructure connectivity within the context of the 2030 Agenda. Within the project's four–year period, ESCAP delivered several products, including online tools and capacity–building workshops on seamless connectivity and resilience of integrated infrastructure corridors, e–resilience, and digital transformation. It also produced over 35 analytical reports at the subregional and regional levels, including three country reports for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia covering, inter alia: the co–deployment of ICT Infrastructures with energy and

transport infrastructures; resilient infrastructure and financing infrastructure; linkage of rural transport systems to regional and international transport networks; and Central Asian digital cooperation strategies and approaches.

*In February 2021, **UNIDO** released a [report](#) on the Organization's work in the area of South–South and triangular industrial cooperation featuring 16 projects and good practices that can be replicated and scaled up in the areas of: creating shared prosperity; advancing economic competitiveness; safeguarding the environment; and strengthening knowledge and institutions.*

***UNOSSC** in collaboration with WFP worked on sustainable agriculture and value chain development in Nepal in partnership with the WFP China Center of Excellence. Within the project, needs assessment and in–depth technical analysis were conducted to support small holder farmers' capacity building in horticultural and livestock production and agriculture value chain development. City to city exchanges were facilitated with Yuxi city in China on agriculture value chain and technology transfer, and trainings and online courses were provided on horticulture, organic farming, and livestock production.*

***ADB** is supporting a bilateral agreement between Mongolia and the People's Republic of China (PRC) to develop an economic cooperation zone along CAREC Corridor 4. The $30 million Developing the Economic Cooperation Zone Project for Mongolia will develop the physical infrastructure, operationalize the Zamyn–Uud free zone, and support seamless transit to and from the neighboring Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of the PRC. It will create a port of entry system which will use information technology solutions to promote trade while ensuring border security, social safety, and improved traceability to mitigate transboundary health risks.*

2.5 Means of implementation and international support

IACG members have reported progress in assisting LLDCs to mobilize resources, through strengthening capacity and providing technical support for financing sustainable development, aligning financing strategies with the SDGs, and developing and implementing Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), among other initiatives.

For example:

***ESCAP** reported the completion, in 2021–early 2022, of various capacity building projects undertaken with partners to finance sustainable development. Those include: i) a National workshop on Financing Sustainable Development and Green Recovery in Tajikistan in November 2021 to help the National Development Council prioritize financing needs and identify financial resources for the period until 2030; and ii) subregional trainings for the North and Central Asia Region that discussed capital markets and themed bonds development in the context of INFF, and SMEs' financial inclusion in countries' INFF.*

***UNDP** supports selected LLDCs in Africa in developing SDG–aligned financing strategies and INFFs. Among many other initiatives, the Organization is supporting Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia in conducting Development Finance Assessment (DFA) to produce an INFF Roadmap with recommendations towards an integrated financing strategy. In the framework of the Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme that seeks to enhance tax capacity, UNDP is also assisting Botswana, Burundi, Eswatini, Rwanda, Mali, Uganda and Zambia in drafting Country Engagement Plans for an SDG aligned Regional Tax Project.*

*Under the "Capacity Development Programme for investment promotion agencies in LDCs", **UNIDO** developed the investment project preparation and appraisal (IPPA) e –learning course, with the aim to improve the business climate and investment conditions in selected LLDCs, to attract sustainable "quality" FDI and ultimately enhance their sustainable development. Particular focus was on Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and their contribution to specific value chains and industrial sectors. The training course is a major output of UNIDO's assistance to the Executive IPA College, established in collaboration with **UNCTAD**,*

ITC–ILO, WAIPA and *UNHOLLRS. Training sessions were delivered to officials from investment institutions and government ministries in developing countries, including LLDCs such as Chad, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.*

Many initiatives seeking to strengthen statistical capacity are also ongoing, including on: industrial, agricultural, tourism and vital statistics; illicit financial flows and SDG monitoring; developing waste and water accounts; and elaborating indicators in various areas of the SDGs (including food security) in LLDCs.

For example, UNWTO has conducted workshops in several LLDCs, and is supporting them through technical cooperation in the areas of basic tourism statistics, Tourism Satellite Accounts (to measure the economic contribution of tourism) and measuring the sustainability of tourism. These initiatives should help better monitor the state of tourism, guide policy development, and support countries in their efforts to recover from the impacts of COVID–19 considering that tourism was among the sectors that were the most negatively and immediately affected by the pandemic.

2.6 Other areas of importance for the LLDCs

Several new initiatives were reported by IACG members on climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction, adding to the numerous initiatives that were already featured on this topic in the Roadmap's matrix. Initiatives undertaken by IACG members include:
- capacity building on the formulation, implementation and monitoring of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and on areas such as sustainable consumption and production;
- regional consultations on climate security with a view to strengthen climate resilience; and
- the financing and implementation of concrete projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance LLDCs' ability to respond to climate change and to recover from natural disasters.

Some of these efforts are having a considerable impact in LLDCs.

For example:

UNDRR, which helps LLDCs develop and update DRR strategies, noted that by the end of 2022, 23 LLDCs reported to the Sendai Framework Monitor[2] that they have national disaster risk reduction strategies in place. This is up from 19 countries in 2020 and indicates progress towards strengthening resilience.

With a view to assist LLDCs in formulating their NAPs, the UNFCCC – through the NAP initiative of the UNFCCC LDC Expert Group – has conducted NAP writing workshops for all LDCs (a group that includes 16 LLDCs) to enhance their capacities in developing project ideas for submission to funding windows such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).). As of 5 September 2023, the GCF had approved 155 Readiness support grants ($107.5 million) to LLDCs in order to boost their capacity to engage with the Fund, develop projects and tackle climate change challenges. The GCF has also approved (as of 5 September 2023) $2.9 billion in GCF investments into 29 LLDC countries, playing an important role in shifting and catalyzing financial flows managed by the private sector into low-emission and climate-resilient investments in developing countries. These investments have mobilized an additional $7.7 billion in co-investment from private sector sources to build a portfolio of projects with a total value $12.8 billion.

The OSCE launched a project on 'Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South–Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia' that aims to reduce climate change–related security threats by raising awareness, developing capacities and sharing knowledge within and among the regions.

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[2] The Sendai Framework Monitor is an on-line tool that enables all countries to track their progress against the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction SDGs, including those targets on economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure.

ADB is expanding its regional cooperation and integration (RCI) into non–traditional RCI sectors/areas, and there is movement into some priority areas/themes that are critical to help LLDCs meet new challenges in the region. These include: (i) increasing green energy projects; (ii) initiating water sector cooperation by developing a water sector cooperation framework and identifying pipeline projects that foster climate–resilient and productive water systems and sustainable water resources (including transboundary water resources) management in the region; (iii) promoting cooperation in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

IACG members also continued supporting responses to the impacts of COVID–19 in LLDCs by procuring medical equipment, expanding access to vaccines, and strengthening countries' healthcare systems, including through medical trainings. Among other activities, they further produced analytical studies and reports, organized capacity building initiatives (e.g. workshops, trainings), and provided technical and institutional support to help LLDCs better understand the social and economic repercussions of the pandemic and accelerate recovery.

For example:

*After the adoption of the [Resolution](#) on the Role of Customs in Facilitating the Cross–Border Movement of Situationally Critical Medicines and Vaccines by the **WCO** Council in December 2020, the WCO Secretariat developed, among other resources, a Secretariat Note on this topic, and a repository of good practices on the cross–border movement of COVID–19 vaccines that contains information submitted by 27 WCO Members. (Those documents are available [here](#)).*

*In 2021, **UN–OHRLLS, ITTLLDC and DCO** organized a meeting with economists from Resident Coordinators' Offices on the Impact of COVID–19 and Responses in LLDCs to facilitate sharing of experiences. In February of that year, UN–OHRLLS and ITTLLDC also issued a report on that topic highlighting the need for open cross–border transport networks for goods and services, expedited passage of medical supplies, and coordinated safety measures at border crossings so that LLDCs can better face future crises.*

In 2022, ADB continued to provide critical support to address the pandemic emergency while also transitioning to the promotion of long–term recovery and resilience. As of 31 December 2022, ADB's Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditures (BRACE) program provided $600 million to three LLDCs under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program—the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, to help them mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic as well as the Russian invasion of Ukraine. A $30 million project under the Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor that improves Kyrgyz Republic's laboratory diagnostic capacity and enhances the regional linkage of laboratories and hospitals in busy border zones, and helps address critical bottlenecks in regional health security, ensuring the country's compliance with international health regulations. Under ADB's COVID–19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program, Nepal availed of a total of $271.21 million for 15 projects, with the largest going into COVID–19 expenditure support ($250 million) , COVID–19 emergency response ($3 million) and the rest for trade finance, supply chain and other development support. Also under CARES, Bhutan availed of $54.02 million for 13 projects for the same period, with the bulk for promoting financial inclusion ($30 million) and COVID expenditure support ($20 million) and emergency response ($2 million). ADB provided $20 million in grants and loans in 2020 to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) to support regional health security. The financing supported the Government of the Lao PDR's National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID– 19, which aims to mitigate the impact of possible large–scale community transmission and improve pandemic preparedness. In addition, ADB is supporting Lao PDR in COVID–19 response through technical assistance projects focused on supporting COVID–19 vaccination program and strengthening Lao PDR's participation in regional health cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion and community–led and civil society responses to COVID–19.——

Finally, members of the IACG remain active in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in LLDCs. However, the number of initiatives included in the matrix is lower than for other areas.

*For example, **ISA collaborates with UN−OHRLLS** to advance the empowerment and leadership of women in marine scientific research through the joint implementation of the "Women in Deep−Sea Research (WIDSR)" that focuses on women scientists from developing States including from LLDCs. The first major deliverable under this project, a gender mapping and analysis of barriers identified has been conducted for selected countries, and the report is expected to be released at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon in June 2022.*

3. Going forward

As the Roadmap matrix illustrates, a multitude of initiatives have been, and are being, implemented by the UN system and other international and regional organizations to support the LLDCs.

Most of the initiatives focus on: i) transit, trade and infrastructure development (around 25%); ii) structural economic transformation (around 21%); and iii) energy and ICT (around 19%), which correspond to priority areas 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the VPoA. An important number of initiatives (around 21%) were also reported under other areas, mostly related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to the impacts of COVID−19 on LLDCs.

A lesser number of initiatives have been reported on cooperation between LLDCs and transit countries (about 5% – priority area 4 of the VPoA), means of implementation and international support (around 8% – priority 6 of the VPoA), and coordination (around 1%). Strengthened efforts could be dedicated to these areas to advance sustainable development progress in LLDCs.

The Roadmap's reporting matrix will be constantly updated, shared with the LLDC Group, and made available online. Considering that activities in the Roadmap are demand−driven, LLDC Member States are encouraged to put forth their key development concerns and their need for support from international development partners during their engagement with UN−OHRLLS.

As 2024 will mark the deadline for the implementation of the VPoA and the year of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs[3], IACG members are fully committed to supporting all LLDCs in overcoming their most pressing challenges and achieving their full development potential.

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[3] As decided in UN General Assembly 76/217

Annex

Roadmap matrix with IACG members'
detailed initiatives for LLDC support

(as of 18 September 2023)

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1   TRANSIT, TRADE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

1.1   Development of sustainable transport infrastructure

Development of sustainable transport infrastructure				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UN–OHRLLS, in collaboration with ECA, ESCAP, UNECE, ECLAC, UNCTAD, UNOPS, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and World Bank	Provide training to LLDC policy makers on how to develop policies to promote transport connectivity and development/maintenance of climate resilient transport infrastructure; how to respond to impact of COVID–19 on transport connectivity and how to formulate, prioritise, mobilise resources and implement viable bankable transport infrastructure projects, including through PPPs (under United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund – 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub–Fund	2020–2021		**UN–OHRLLS** and partners including ECA, ESCAP, UNECE, ECLAC, UNCTAD, UNOPS, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and World Bank conducted two virtual training workshops on "Strengthening Capacity in Developing Bankable Transport Infrastructure Projects for Enhanced Connectivity" on 6–8 April 2021 for the Africa region and on 18–20 May 2021 for the Asia region. The teams involved in the project also conducted two virtual training workshops on "Strengthening capacity to design and implement policies and identify solutions that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the SDGs" that were held on 27 and 28 September in the Africa–Latin America region, and on 30 September and 1 October 2021 in the Europe and Asia region.[4] The project comprised 2 sets of training materials with case studies from all regions on specific topics. The 2 sets of training modules included: • Developing Bankable Transport Infrastructure Projects: Case Studies, Experiences and Learning Materials for Landlocked Developing Countries and Transit Countries • Improving Transport Connectivity for LLDCs and Building of Resilient Transport Infrastructure to Support Accelerated Progress Towards the SDGs: Experiences and Learning Materials for LLDCs and Transit Countries

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[4] The full details of the training can be accessed on the following urls:

• https://www.un.org/ohrlls/events/strengthening-capacity-develop-bankable-transport-infrastructure-projects-enhanced
• https://www.un.org/ohrlls/events/strengthening-capacity-develop-bankable-transport-infrastructure-projects-enhanced-0
• https://www.un.org/ohrlls/workshop-lldcs-africa
• https://www.un.org/ohrlls/workshop-lldcs-asia

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				Outcomes/results: Overall, the project trained government officials from 25 LLDCs and 13 transit countries. A total of 81 policymakers from LLDCs and transit countries were trained in the Africa region and 27 in the Asia region under the training workshop "Strengthening Capacity in Developing Bankable Transport Infrastructure Projects for Enhanced Connectivity". Participants were equipped with knowledge and skills on preparing viable or bankable projects to expand or upgrade their transport infrastructure, how to develop supportive regulatory frameworks and enabling environments to attract more infrastructure financing, and on use of public–private–partnerships to develop transport infrastructure. More than 90 attended the Africa and Latin America region training workshop on "Strengthening capacity to design and implement policies and identify solutions that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the SDGs," while more than 30 participants attended the Europe and Asia workshop. Participants were equipped with knowledge and skills on policies needed for: improving transport connectivity in LLDCs; responding to the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on transport systems; the building of climate– and disaster–resilient transport infrastructure; the establishment of legal and regulatory frameworks to promote efficient transit transport; and collecting data for designing and monitoring policies that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the VPoA and SDGs. The training contributed to enhancing the ability of government officials from LLDCs and transit countries to apply the knowledge acquired to their day–to–day work. In the evaluations conducted, participants pledged that they had gained additional knowledge and skills on how to improve transport connectivity that they will use in their workplace.

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UN–OHRLLS, and partners (World Bank, ECA, UNECE, UNCTAD and African development Bank)	Provide technical support to Botswana to formulate and implement viable bankable transport infrastructure projects	2020–2021		At the request of the Government of Botswana, UN–OHRLLS in collaboration with partners (World Bank, ECA, UNECE, UNCTAD and African development Bank) organized a virtual training workshop on Developing successful Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) for transport infrastructure development for officials and experts in Botswana. The training took place on 11 and 12 October 2021. A set of training modules was prepared (available at: Developing successful Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) for increased transport connectivity: Case Studies, Experiences and Learning Materials and Training Workshop for Developing successful Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) for increased transport connectivity in Botswana) **Outcomes/results:** 21 government officials from Botswana participated in the training. Following the training, policymakers were equipped with knowledge and skills on how to negotiate, develop and implement effective public–private–partnerships for transport infrastructure. The trained government officers are using the skills learnt towards preparation of bankable projects in the transport sector.
UN–OHRLLS, ESCAP	Provide technical support to selected Asian LLDCs to formulate and implement viable bankable transport infrastructure projects	2020–2021		**UN–OHRLLS and ESCAP** prepared a technical report on the transport component of the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor. The report assessed the current status of the transport–related development of the China–Mongolia–Russian Federation Economic Corridor, estimated the demand in transportation of people and goods along that corridor, identified priority areas of its development and proposed a set of recommendations for consideration by the corridor countries. The report was used as background material for a joint capacity building workshop that UN–OHRLLS and ESCAP organized on strengthening connectivity along the China–Mongolia–Russia economic corridor that was held in a virtual format on 21 October 2021. Details of

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				the workshop are available at: Capacity building workshop on strengthening connectivity along the China–Mongolia–Russia economic corridor 21 October 2021 **Outcome/Results:** The technical report and the workshop provided information that is important in advancing the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor, and that can be used by Mongolia in assessing opportunities for making public infrastructure investments.
UNDRR	Mobilize LLDCs to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)	2020+	UNDRR continues to support the expansion and engagement of LLDCs into the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. As of May 2023, six LLDCs are members of CDRI: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal, South Sudan and Tajikistan.	
ESCAP	Support national policies on sustainable freight transport in selected LLDCs.	2020–2023	ESCAP is launching a multi–year XB project on supporting the operationalization of the Lao PDR– China rail link for the greater benefit of the LLDCs in Southeast and North and Central Asia. ESCAP continues to provide training and capacity building on dry ports development in Asian LLDCs, notably, Lao PDR and Uzbekistan.	The meetings of the Working Groups on the Asian Highway, Trans–Asian Railways and Dry Ports under respective legal agreements took place in June and September 2023. They benefited from the active participations by LLDCs and also showcased the progress in their transport infrastructure development. Uzbekistan was a pilot country for ESCAP's ongoing project on promoting a shift toward sustainable freight, which combines supporting relevant national strategies and reforms with pursuing a regional approach to freight sustainability. https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/second–national–consultation–workshop–sustainable–freight–transport–uzbekistan https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/national–consultation–workshop–sustainable–freight–transport
ESCAP	Provide training to strengthen capacity of policymakers in selected North and Central Asia's states to leverage digital transformation and new technologies in enhancing resilience of rail and intermodal transport.	2021–2023	Policy Brief: Freight transport and COVID–19 in North and Central Asia: Changing the connectivity paradigm has been developed and is available at: https://www.unescap.org/resources/freight–transport–and–covid–19–north–and–central–asia–changing–connectivity–paradigm	ESCAP held Two Expert Group Meetings on digital transformation of railway, in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2022, and Almaty in 2023, as well as a subregional consultation and capacity building workshops on Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport.

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			Launched a project on "New technologies and digital transformation for more resilient and competitive railway operations". The project aims to reduce inefficiencies which impede cross–border railway transport operations, assist in introduction of advanced solutions of rail and intermodal transport operations, and improve resilience of transport networks and operations. This will be achieved through improvement of electronic information exchange and streamlined documentation and customs formalities. The project will also consider ways in which rail services and rail–centered intermodal transport can support the concept of critical fast corridors (or green lane, vital route, etc.) which can continue to function in case of major transport disruptions in the subregion.	
AIIB	Support and finance infrastructure projects in LLDCs, including project preparation consulting services, focused on road transport development and maintenance and improving climate resilience of road infrastructure. (Obigarm–Nurobod Road Project in Tajikistan, National Road 13 Improvement and Maintenance Project in Lao PDR, Climate Resilience Improvement of National Road 13 South Project in Lao PDR)	Ongoing and planned	**Tajikistan – The Obigarm–Nurobod Road Project:** **Key activities undertaken:** o The Obigarm–Nurobod Road Project will construct a 72 km long road section that will bypass the Rogun HPP reservoir through mountainous terrain. The project is divided into three main sections: ▪ Section 1 (27km) by ADB; ▪ Section 2 (42.5km) by EBRD; ▪ Section 3 (760–meter bridge and 640–meter roadway approaches) by AIIB. o The design of Section 3 is financed via a grant from the AIIB Project Preparation Special Fund (USD 3.2 million). The consultancy will develop design of a 760–meter Long Bridge and approaches under Section 3 of the Project. **Reporting organization** o Borrower: Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan; o Implementing Agency: Project Implementation Unit for Road Reconstruction under the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Tajikistan.	

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			Time period of implementation ○ 2022–2025 **Any other relevant aspects to be considered** ○ AIIB Investment Committee has approved Concept Review of the Loan for the Long Bridge Project in amount of USD 55 million. The final decision to be taken after the completion of design works, which is expected to be around the third quarter of 2022.	
AIIB	Support and finance infrastructure projects in LLDCs, including project preparation consulting services, focused on road transport development and maintenance and improving climate resilience of road infrastructure. (Obigarm–Nurobod Road Project in Tajikistan, National Road 13 Improvement and Maintenance Project in Lao PDR, Climate Resilience Improvement of National Road 13 South Project in Lao PDR)	2019–2023	**Lao PDR – National Road 13 Improvement and Maintenance Project:** **Key activities undertaken:** ○ The project is to improve the road condition, safety, and climate resilience of critical sections of the National Road 13 – upgrading 19 km of the road from two lanes to four lanes, improvement of 39 km of an existing 2–lane road and providing technical assistance and supervision through an innovative 10–year Output and Performance–Based Road Contract (OPBRC) under the Design, Build, Maintain, Operate and Transfer (DBMOT) methodology. ○ The project was approved in April 2019 and contractors commenced construction in October 2019. Latest virtual joint mission among AIIB, NDF, and WB was conducted in December 2021. Progress has been made regarding the use of USD12 million savings. AIIB has cleared this as a non–material change and approved by management. The overall progress towards project development objective was rated as satisfactory. **Reporting Organization:** ○ Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) **Time period of implementation:**	

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			o June 2019 – May 2023 **Any other relevant aspects to be considered** o At present, the work progress is on track compared to the planned targets.	
AIIB	Support and finance infrastructure projects in LLDCs, including project preparation consulting services, focused on road transport development and maintenance and improving climate resilience of road infrastructure. (Obigarm–Nurobod Road Project in Tajikistan, National Road 13 Improvement and Maintenance Project in Lao PDR, Climate Resilience Improvement of National Road 13 South Project in Lao PDR)	2021–2024	**Lao PDR – Climate Resilience Improvement of National Road 13 South Project (Section 3)** **Key activities undertaken:** o The Project comprises the construction/rehabilitation of a 78–km section of the existing two–lane NS13S highway from KM190 to KM268, for achieving a higher resilience against rainfalls, which may lead to further massive flooding and trigger landslides. The project will be implemented through a 10–year Output and Performance–Based Road Contract (OPBRC) under the Design, Build, Maintain, Operate and Transfer (DBMOT) methodology. o The project was approved in October 2020, Loan Agreement was signed in February 2021. The loan became effective in September 2021 due to the pandemic adverse impacts on the furnishment of effectiveness conditions. The OPBRC contractor was signed in August, and the work commenced in September 2021. o Up to February 2022, the resettlement action plan has been completed and the compensation has been paid to all affected households. **Reporting Organization:** o Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) **Time period of implementation:** o April 2021 – April 2024	

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			Any other relevant aspects to be considered ○ Given the lasting impact of the COVID–19, the physical work progress has been delayed. AIIB organized an OPBRC training in September 2021 to strengthen the capacity of contract management for MPWT.	
ADB	ADB's support to LLDCs in the area of cross–border and regional transport connectivity is implemented through the subregional programs including Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), and South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC). ADB's investments (both loans and grants) in transport sector cover roads (including road safety and road asset management), railway, airport and logistics. These will improve LLDCs' link with outside markets, expand their international trade, and support international tourism.	2020–2024	In 2020, six investment projects for $708.5 million were approved. These projects are under various stages of implementation. They are – • KAZ (Kazakhstan): CAREC Corridor2 1 & 6 Connector Road Reconstruction Project for $167 million • TAJ (Tajikistan): Road Network Sustainability Project for $67.5 million (Asian Development Fund – ADF) • UZB (Uzbekistan): CAREC Corridor 2 Karakalpakstan Road (A380 Kungrad to Daut–Ata Section) Project for $248 million (ordinary capital resources – OCR) • UZB (Uzbekistan): Corridor 2 Karakalpakstan Road (A380 Kungrad to Daut–Ata Section) Project for $26 million (concessional OCR loan – COL) • NEP (Nepal): Civil Aviation Sector Improvement Program for $50 million (COL) • NEP (Nepal): SASEC Airport Capacity Enhancement Project for $150 million (COL) **In 2021, 2 investments for $283 million were approved –** • UZB (Uzbekistan): CAREC Corridor 2 (Pap–Namangan–Andijan) Railway Electrification Project – Additional Financing for $121 million • UZB (Uzbekistan): CAREC Corridor 2 (Bukhara–Miskin–Urgench–Khiva) Railway Electrification Project for $162 million **In 2022, 2 investments for $317 million were approved –**	

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			• TAJ (Tajikistan) Central and West Asia Road Network Sustainability Project (Additional Financing for $43.2 million • UZB (Uzbekistan) Central and West Asia National Road Development Project for $ 273.85 million. **Over the period of 2023–2024, ADB pipeline in the transport sector includes 11 projects for $1,450 million.** • Transport operations for LLDCs under the CAREC Program includes 8 projects for $1,220 million, covering Mongolia ($271 million); Kazakhstan ($350 million); Kyrgyz Republic ($ 145.19 million) Tajikistan ($110 million); and Uzbekistan ($344 million). • Transport operation in Lao PDR under the GMS Program includes 1 project for $30 million. • Transport operations in SASEC includes 1 project in Nepal for $100 million. • Transport operations in Armenia includes 1 project for $100 million. Note: ADB Operations in AFG are suspended temporarily.	
UNIDO	Strengthen skills development in the commercial transport sector via several projects (i.e. heavy equipment, road construction and infrastructure, etc.)	2020–2024	UNIDO supports LLDCs' skills development in several sectors. For example: – Within the **Zambian** Industrial Training Academy (ZAMITA) project, UNIDO supports training development in commercial transport sector and workforce development to enhance youth employability in the sector. It directly addresses the goal of creating one million jobs over the next five years in key sectors established in the Seventh National Development Plan 2017–2021 (7NDP) of Zambia. ZAMITA is a multilateral public–private development partnership (PPDP) consisting of UNIDO, the Embassy of Sweden in Zambia (SIDA), the Volvo Group and the Government of Zambia The project continues to complement Government's efforts in generating productive employment for young men and women by training 500 youths in industrial	

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			skills, a result that shall decrease the local skills shortage in the commercial transport sector. In addition, UNIDO launched a PPDP with Hitachi Construction Machineries and the Governments of Japan and Zambia to implement the "Project for Promoting Youth Employment through construction equipment operating skills training", which aims to contribute to closing the skills gap in Zambia's construction and mining industries. The project will inter alia develop a competency–based and demand–driven modern curriculum for construction equipment operators, establish a regional centre of excellence for construction equipment operator training and provide vocational training and career services to unemployed and underemployed youths, especially women. – To address the industrial skills gap in **Uganda**, UNIDO workswith the Government of Japan, the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT) of Uganda, and Komatsu Ltd. (as a technical partner), on the first dedicated training center for road construction equipment operators in the country, called METRAC (Mechanical Engineering Training and Advisory Centre – Luwero). In August 2021, the first fully digital curriculum development workshop was conducted in Uganda leading to the development and approval of the Assessment and Training Package (ATP) for road construction equipment operator trainers at level 4 of the Uganda Vocational Qualification Framework. In April 2022, the third practical training of trainers was completed at the METRAC project site.	
UNECE, ESCWA, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)	Newly established International Transport Infrastructure Observatory/ITIO (web–based GIS Environment) that serves as an innovative platform to finance transport infrastructure projects.	2020–2022		The International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO) was launched in a test phase at the 75th Anniversary Session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (Geneva, February 2022). It offers a multi–stakeholder, web–based GIS platform which hosts data on a large variety of transport infrastructure networks and nodes across different modes

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				including road, rail, inland waterways, ports, airports, intermodal terminals, logistics centres and border crossing points. Core ITIO user categories include Governments, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), Regional Cooperation Organizations (RCOs), and the broader public. ITIO operates as a virtual marketplace for financing transport infrastructure by providing an electronic interface between Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Governments. By offering an inclusive platform, ITIO is also expected to enhance cooperation among the different transport infrastructure initiatives in Europe, Asia, and Africa. It is available at: ITIO–GIS.org
UNECE	Raise awareness about the urgency to adapt transport systems to climate change, share good practice and disseminate knowledge on transport adaptation to climate change	2020–2025	Within the activities of the UNECE Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport, workshops are organised to discuss the changing conditions in which transport systems need to operate and the urgency of adaptation: Geneva, 26 March 2021, Moscow, 15–16 November 2021. Experience and good practices are shared at the regular session of the group of experts (twice yearly) on climate change impact assessment transport asset adaptation needs.	
UNOPS	Provide support to the Ministry of Public Works and Communications of Paraguay for the management of infrastructure projects	July 2019 – January 2024	UNOPS provides support to the Ministry of Public Works and Communications of Paraguay for the management of infrastructure projects with structured financing, such as pre–investment projects, Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) and turnkey projects. In this framework, in 2021 UNOPS has worked in the strengthening of capacities through permanent advice and training workshops for the structuring process of the Project "Improvement of the Paraguay River Waterway of Asunción – North Section". UNOPS also provides permanent technical assistance to the Strategic Projects Management Unit of the Ministry, in projects such as: –the dredging of the Paraguay River,	

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			–the improvement of the Paraguay River Waterway of Asunción North Section – Apa River, and –the Commuter Train development. These projects are of strategic value for Paraguay, as they will enhance navigability and circulation capacities within the country, and its connection with the region. The project is ongoing and expected to be completed by January 2024.	
UNOPS	Afghanistan: Access Improvement in the Kabul South East Area	2018–2021		In 2021, UNOPS successfully inaugurated the new Macroyan bridge and Maslakh's road in Kabul (Afghanistan). The project aimed to improve access in the south–east of the city, thereby contributing to economic and sustainable development. This initiative will improve the lives of more than 4.5 million men, women and children residing in Kabul, as well as its surrounding areas. In addition to the redevelopment of 1.7 km of Maslakh Road from Pul–e–Mahmood Khan Square to Abdul Haq Square, widening the road from two to four lanes, the initiative also included improving the Square with four new slip lanes, the installation of a new traffic management system for improved traffic flow, and the construction of a new 50m Macroyan Bridge. The project (JICA – 2018/21 – USD 11,716,250) was completed in 2021.
UNOPS	Afghanistan: Rural Access Improvement Project (RAIP)	2016–2021		In 2021, UNOPS finalized the fourth and final phase of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)–funded Rural Access Improvement Project (RAIP). Under RAIP, UNOPS constructed and maintained more than 1,000 km of roads and associated structures, provided capacity building and supported women–led businesses. The project contributed to the creation of thousands of livelihood opportunities. The project (Sida – 2016/21 – USD 40 million) was completed in 2021.

Development of sustainable transport infrastructure				
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DESA–UNCRD	Provide policy, planning and capacity building support for policymakers and planners in selected LLDCs (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal) through EST Initiative and EST Forum in Asia	2021–2030	The High–level Intergovernmental 14th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia on the theme of "Next Generation Transport Systems for Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality – for a Safer, Affordable, Accessible and Resilient Asia" was held on 18–20 October 2021 in Aichi, Japan. A total of 634, participants including policy makers, planners, national and local government representatives, non–governmental organizations (NGOs), individual experts and resource persons, scientific and research organizations, the private sector and other individual participants from 47 countries including five LLDC– Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal benefited from the Forum. The Forum was supported by MoE–Japan, ADB and UN ESCAP. Member countries adopted the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport – Making Transport in Asia Sustainable (2021–2030).	
DESA – UNCRD and BusWorld Foundation	Strengthen capacity of policymakers and planners in selected LLDCs (Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal) on "Restoring Bus in Public Transport through Collaboration between Asia Cities and the Bus Industry".	2021		UNCRD (DESA) and BusWorld Foundation co–organized the pre–event of the 14th Regional EST Forum in Asia with the theme "Restoring Bus in Public Transport through Collaboration between Asia Cities and the Bus Industry" on 5 August 2021. A total of 220 policy makers, planners, and officials from 17 countries including selected LLDCs attended. The webinar sought to assess the impacts of COVID–19 on the bus transport sector in Asia, to guide cities on how best to respond to the current unprecedented crisis and to discuss how cities and communities can collaborate with the bus industry in restoring bus as a main public transport after COVID–19 pandemic.
DESA – UNCRD and BusWorld Foundation	Provided policy consultation and capacity building support to selected LLDCs (Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal) on "Next Generation Priority Areas for Road Transport to Drive Recovery– Decarbonization and	2021		On 5 October 2021, UNCRD (DESA) and BusWorld Foundation co–organized the pre–event workshop of the 14th Regional EST Forum in Asia with the theme of "Next Generation Priority Areas for Road Transport to Drive Recovery— Decarbonization and Digitalization for moving towards SDGs and Carbon Neutrality". A total of 100 policy makers, planners, government officials, and

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	Digitalization for moving towards SDGs and Carbon Neutrality".			private sector participants from South Asian countries representing, local and state governments, transport operators and other stakeholders benefited from the workshop.
DESA – UNCRD, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany, ADB, GIZ and SLOCAT	Provided policy consultation and capacity building support to selected consultation to selected LLDCs (Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal) on "Decarbonizing Asia's Transport Sector: How to Deliver on Proposed Goal 1a of the Aichi 2030 Declaration".	2021		The UNCRD(DESA), Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, ADB, GIZ and SLOCAT co–organized the pre–event workshop on "Decarbonizing Asia's Transport Sector: How to Deliver on Proposed Goal 1a of the Aichi 2030 Declaration". The workshop was attended by 60 participants from 30 countries including LLCDs –Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal.
DESA – UNCRD, International Union of Railways (UIC)	Provided policy consultation and capacity building support to five Asian LLDCs including Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal) on "Sustainable Railways in Asia–Pacific – Railways: The Backbone of Sustainable Urban Mobility and Regional Connectivity in Asia–Pacific",	2021		UNCRD (DESA) and the International Union for Railways (UIC) co–organized the international Forum on "Sustainable Railways in Asia–Pacific – Railways: The Backbone of Sustainable Urban Mobility and Regional Connectivity in Asia–Pacific" on 17 March 2021, Paris, France. Around 160 participants from 34 countries comprising of government agencies, UN and international organizations, multi–lateral donors, scientific and academic organizations, and NGOs attended the event. The event provided an opportunity to learn about the best practices in sustainable urban transport, particularly railways from the Asia–Pacific region, and to discuss the challenges regional railways face in decarbonizing while the whole world is in race to zero to achieve carbon neutrality.
DESA, in collaboration with UNCDF and UNOPS	Since 2021, DESA has been leading the implementation of the "UN capacity development initiative on enhancing the resilience, accessibility, and sustainability of infrastructure assets in developing countries in support of the 2030 Agenda". This programme aims at	2021 – 2024	The initiative has successfully delivered 2 online sensitization workshops in Lao PDR and Nepal. In addition, an on–site workshop has been implemented in Nepal, with a remaining in–person training session in Lao PDR. 12 in–country missions have been conducted in Nepal for conducting the diagnostic assessments, as well as for providing project support for the	

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	addressing the lack of sustained and systematic strategies, policies, and actions at the national and local government levels to ensure that infrastructure assets support inclusive, affordable, and sustainable essential public services over their entire lifespan. This initiative covers training of local and central government officials in beneficiary countries in designing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing forward–looking, risk–informed, and data–driven infrastructure asset management strategies, policies, and action plans in support of essential public services that leave no one behind. The project also builds capacity at the level of central governments on how to design and implement an improved national policy, regulatory and legislative framework to support infrastructure asset management at the national and local levels. In addition, DESA, together with UNCDF and with support of UNOPS, published "Managing Infrastructure Assets for Sustainable Development: A Handbook for Local and National Governments" in February 2021. The Handbook, available in 10 languages, offers detailed instructions and illustrative examples on how to apply new asset management tools and lessons learned in their application. It also takes deep dives into related topical issues like managing infrastructure asset management data, introducing crisis resilience, and creating an enabling environment.		implementation of the UN Toolkit on infrastructure asset management at the local level. 12 in–country missions are scheduled to take place in Lao PDR in 2023–2024. Further planned activities include providing project support in Lao PDR and Nepal, as well as in other non–LLDCs.	

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DESA–UNCRD, Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Regional Capacity Building support to three LLDCs – Bhutan, Lao PDR and Nepal – on Country Reporting on implementation of Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021–2030) on environmentally sustainable transport (EST).	2021–2030		DESA–UNCRD, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MOEJ), co–organized the Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop for EST Member Countries on Implementation of, and Country Reporting on Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021–2030) at Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters, Manila on 22–24 March 2023. The objective of the workshop is to guide the EST participating countries in their efforts to implement and report on the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021–2023), which was agreed at the 14th Regional EST Forum in Asia (Oct'2021). Being aligned with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change, among others, the Aichi 2030 Declaration aims to act as a catalyst for transformational change in the transport sector in Asia. This includes enabling changes to policy, institutional frameworks, financing models, data management approaches, and the application of technology. Together, they promote people–friendly and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure development in the transport sector of Asia. The training workshop, which was supported by International Union of Railways (UIC), German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB) and UN ESCAP, was attended by 63 participants from 20 countries.
DESA–UNCRD, Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Regional Capacity Building support to three LLDCs – Bhutan, Lao PDR and Nepal – on Country Reporting on implementation of Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021–2030) on environmentally sustainable transport (EST).	2021–2030		DESA–UNCRD, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MOEJ), co–organized the Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop for EST Member Countries on Implementation of, and Country Reporting on Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021–2030) at Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters, Manila on 22–24 March 2023. The objective of the workshop is to guide the EST participating countries in their efforts to implement and report on the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021–2023), which was agreed at the 14th Regional EST Forum in Asia (Oct'2021). Being aligned

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				with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change, among others, the Aichi 2030 Declaration aims to act as a catalyst for transformational change in the transport sector in Asia. This includes enabling changes to policy, institutional frameworks, financing models, data management approaches, and the application of technology. Together, they promote people–friendly and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure development in the transport sector of Asia. The training workshop, which was supported by International Union of Railways (UIC), German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB) and UN ESCAP, was attended by 63 participants from 20 countries.

1.2 Cross–border logistics and transit transport systems

Cross–border logistics and transit transport systems				
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UN–OHRLLS in collaboration with the Government of Turkmenistan	Support LLDCs on transport related issues through the organization of a Ministerial Transport Conference of LLDCs in August 2022. The Conference will contribute perspectives of the LLDCs to the preparations of the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs to be held in 2024.	2022	The Government of Turkmenistan, and UN–OHRLLS are organizing a Ministerial Transport Conference of LLDCs under the theme, Ashgabat Process: Financing for Better Connectivity. The Conference will take place in Ashgabat on 15–16 August 2022, and will be part of the preparatory process of Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs in 2024. It will bring together: Ministers of Transport from LLDCs; transit and donor countries; representatives of UN system entities, other international, regional and sub–regional organizations; and financial institutions, private sector representatives, non– governmental organizations, the academia and other stakeholders. Expected outcomes of the Conference include: - Policy recommendations and priorities on how to develop and further ameliorate transport connectivity in order to improve trade potential of the LLDCs in the context of COVID–19 recovery; and how to further mobilize resources to promote transport connectivity of the LLDCs. - Enhanced commitment and momentum to expand partnerships to advance COVID–19 recovery and to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. - Through the Conference's outcome document, contribute perspectives of the LLDCs to the preparations of the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs to be held in 2024.	
ESCAP	Provide training to strengthen connectivity through effective economic corridor management, with Mongolia as primary recipient (Party to the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor Programme).	2020–2021		Three workshops were held (Oct 2020, Dec 2020, Jan 2021). Resources related to these workshops (learning materials; manuals/modules; presentations; recorded lecture sessions) are available on the ESCAP online knowledge resource portal available at: https://www.unescap.org/resources/strengthening–subregional–connectivity–east–and–north–east–asia–through–effective–economic

Cross–border logistics and transit transport systems				
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				These activities contribute to build capacity to accelerate the implementation of the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor Program in line with sustainable development.
ESCAP	Promoting cross–border electronic information exchange for efficient rail transit transport (along the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor)	2022–2024	Mongolia is one of the target countries (as part of the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor Program). The project targets customs and railway officials and other stakeholders involved in rail transport and transit along the corridor. The project will deliver the following activities: i) a comprehensive readiness assessment study identifying institutional and policy gaps as well as recommendations for electronic information exchange for efficient railway transport among the target countries (on–going, 2022–2023); ii) technical coordination meetings to agree on a modality harmonizing railway–customs interface among the countries (on–going, 2023); (iii) multistakeholder meetings to draft an action plan on cross–border paperless rail transit transport (on–going, 2023–2024); and (iv) capacity building activities (planned, 2024). —	
ESCAP	Technical assistance on dry ports development in Mongolia	2022+	**Study tour on dry ports (planned, Q4 2023)** In June 2023, the Prime Minister of Mongolia ratified the order reviving the inter–agency Working Group on Dry Ports, with the Ministry of Road and Transport Development as lead ministry. Following up from the training conducted in June 2023 and providing technical support to the newly revived working group, the following activities are proposed. **Study Tour**. Officials have conducted past study tours on dry ports (e.g., Khorgos Gateway, Kazakhstan). The study tour will complement past study tours, this time, learning from Thailand's experience. The location will	**Comprehensive technical assessment study on dry ports development in Mongolia (April to October 2022) and technical consultation workshop (October 2022)** https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/sustainable–connectivity–east–and–north–east–asia–technical–consultation–workshop–dry ESCAP, in coordination with the Investment Research Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia, conducted a technical assessment of dry ports identified by Mongolia in the Agreement (i.e., Altanbulag, Sainshand, Ulaanbaatar, Zamyn–Uud and Choibalsa) as well as possible new dry ports locations (Tsagaannuur Free Economic Zone along AH4 on the western part and Bichigt Port which is the Eastern port bordering with

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			also provide a foundation in broadening corridor connections across subregions covering North–East Asia and beyond, such as, South–East Asia. **Training.** The training will deep dive into the theme of public–private partnership for dry ports, building on the productive sessions and good evaluation feedback from the training held in June 2023.	China). The dry ports were assessed in line with the guiding principles for the development and operation of dry ports: (a) Annex II to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports and (b) the ESCAP Regional Framework for the Development, Design, Planning and Operations of Dry Ports of International Importance. **Capacity building for efficient cross–border transit through dry ports development (June 2023)** *Reference:* *https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/training–dry–ports–development–mongolia* The training on dry ports development was conducted based on the assessment study recommendations and discussions during the technical consultation workshop held in 2022. Issues covered include: automation on dry port management for customs; PPP approaches on dry ports.
ESCAP [TD]	Improving LLDCs connectivity in South Asia	2023+	Policy discussions and a fact–finding mission were held to strengthen the cooperation among transit and landlocked countries in South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN)). For the first time, several LLDCs took part in the 2023 Asia–Pacific Forum on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity, highlighting their issues in connecting to the region's maritime ports. https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/2023–asia–pacific–regional–forum–sustainable–maritime–connectivity	
ECA	*Proposal:* Digitalisation of transit corridors: use of state–of–the–art technology in managing transit corridor asset (regional transport corridors)	TBC	Consultations are underway with partners for detailed planning and coordination in order to initiate the process to undertake programme activities. The project implementation was considerably impacted by COVID–19, but efforts will be deployed to revive and	

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			accelerate implementation, especially as the threats of the pandemic have become less threatening.	
ECLAC	Establish a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators regarding the inland transport corridors used by Bolivia and Paraguay and the main challenges for the international navigation of rivers	2021		**ECLAC** has developed two studies about: i) Waterways Classification proposal – Published in 2021: *"Marco para una clasificación de vías navegables interiores en América del Sur" – written by Rigo, P. Sánchez, R. and F. Weikert. (available here);* and 2) A survey on regional integration by inland waterways – written by Carlos Paz *et al., under edition, as of September 6th, 2023).* The studies include qualitative and quantitative indicators for Inland Waterway Transport and Ports. For instance, indicators evaluate aspects such as night–time navigation, signalling, marking, dredging, cargo capacity of ports, time required at ports, time required at locks and costs (if any). Both studies (classification and integration projects) are potentially applied to Bolivia and Paraguay in order to evaluate the main challenges for the international navigation of rivers.
UNCTAD	Support developing countries, including LLDCs, in enhancing sustainable transport (maritime, multimodal and corridors) and logistics systems through: (i) assessing the sustainability performance (economic, social and environmental) of freight transport and logistics sector, improving connectivity, and defining strategies to improve performance and resilience; (ii) promoting the institutional development of transport and transit corridors and enhancing their performance; (ii) enhancing access to finance for	Ongoing	**UNCTAD** has continued its activities in this field. 1) As part of its work on transport and transit corridors, UNCTAD continued its collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank, supporting the promotion and the commercialization of the Trans–Saharan Road Corridor (TSR) which comprises six countries (Algeria, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Tunisia), including three LLDCs (Chad, Mali, Niger). This initiative recognizes the growing importance of transport and trade corridors worldwide and its relevance for regional, national, and local economic development for any given country, and the overall importance of regional economic integration, especially in the case of LLDCs.	1) UNCTAD carried out a substantive analytical assessment of the Trans–Saharan Road Corridor (TSR) corridor, highlighting its performances, challenges and obstacles undermining its operations, as well as potential solutions. In its study, published in 2021 (https://clrtafrique.com/2021/1.CNUCED–Etude–corridor–RTS–Jan–18–2021.pdf) UNCTAD put forward recommendations with a view to establishing a suitable TSR corridor management mechanism as key instrument to promote TSR and its evolution towards an economic corridor. More information is available at: https://unctad.org/fr/node/31498.

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	transport infrastructure and logistics through strengthening institutional and human capacities to develop and implement Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) as well innovative finance tools.		2) As part of its work on maritime transport, UNCTAD as part of its collaboration carried out a thorough evaluation of the potential impact on countries and States including LLDCs of the proposed International Maritime Organization (IMO) short–term GHG measure. 3) UNCTAD is supporting Zambia and Burkina Faso in developing and implementing Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and innovative finance for sustainable transport. This is part of a joint–UNDA project on "Towards integrated national financing framework" (2021–2024), led by DESA. It brings together existing capacity and policy support from various UN agencies and UN commissions for SDG financing by implementing entities in an integrated offer to target countries.	2) UNCTAD carried out quantitative and qualitative assessment of the impacts on Countries and States, including LLDCs, of the proposed short–term International Maritime Organization (IMO) GHG reduction measure. The related report was published in 2021: https://unctad.org/system/files/official–document/dtltlb2021d2_en.pdf
IRU and UNECE	Under a revised 3 year MOU between IRU and UNECE, implement a first phase towards the full computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR International System) on specific transport corridors including LLDCs	2022-2024	With eTIR specifications adopted by TIR Contracting Parties, UNECE and customs authorities started eTIR interconnection projects. Existing TIR IT tools connecting transport operators and customs authorities will continue to be used to connect business to customs.	
IRU	Digitalisation of the TIR procedure in Central Asian LLDCs	Various (2020-2024)	TIR digital projects as a stepy towards preparation of the countries for full implementation of eTIRare currently implemented in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan(as from November 2020); ; Tajikistan (May 2021), Kyrgyzstan (March 2022) and Turkmenistan (June 2023), with GIZ support A digital TIR knowledge sharing session for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan customs authorities took place in April 2023 with support of GIZ. Numerous capacity building activities both for public and private sector were undertaken in the Central Asian countries.	

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IRU, in cooperation with UNECE	Implementation of Green lanes in Central Asian LLDCs	ongoing	Green Lanes have been successfully implemented between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in 2021 at Yallama-Konisbayeva border crossing point. TIR-EPD Green Lanes were implemented at 10 border-crossing points in Turkmenistan in 2023. The digital TIR transports are prioritized at the border-crossing point Fotekhobod (TJ) and Oibek (UZ). Activities supporting the establishing of new TIR-EPD Green Lanes in Central Asia, and namely at Dustlik (UZB) - Dostuk (KGZ) and Alat (TKM) - Farap (UZB) are ongoing. Green Lanes established for TIR trucks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia effective April 2021 (jointly with the AEO program) at the border crossings with the UAE and Bahrain. Kuwait and Qatar confirmed that TIR trucks will have a dedicated lane at their borders once the ongoing construction work is finalised (jointly with the AEO) expected by 3 Q 2022	
IRU, in cooperation with UNECE	Facilitate and expedite administrative process related to electronic exchange of transport documents such as e-permits and e-CMR.	Various (2020-2022)	**E-CMR** Out of 33 countries acceded to e-CMR, 6 are LLDCs (Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). 1. Many projects on bilateral and multilateral basis have been carried out involving directly IRU and/or its members associations aimed at operationalizing e-CMR. 2. They used available IT-tools and means of communications to exchange data between the private and public sector. 3. Outcomes of the pilots and comparison analysis of the available IT-solutions, including various approaches to the high-level architecture for future e-CMR, were summarized in UNECE documents ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/3 and discussed at the 116th session of SC.1 on 13-15 October 2021.	

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			4. SC.1 notably decided to establish a formal group of experts on the operationalization of the e-CMR procedure for 2 years (2022 and 2023) to discuss and if possible, agree on the requirements included in Article 5 of the Protocol including the objective/scope, the high-level architecture, the conceptual specifications and impact assessments of a future e-CMR system. All stakeholders from governments and the private sector were invited to join. The Group of Experts on the Operationalisation of e-CMR (GE.22) was set up for 2 years (2022-2023). Six sessions of GE.22 took place. The results of its work will be presented at SC.1 session on 17-19 October 2023. 5. In close collaboration with the UNECE, international organizations and development partners, national competent authorities, and businesses, IRU discussed various approaches to the operationalization of e-CMR: - in TRACECA region in October 2020 - in SCO region in March 2021 - in BSEC region in October-November 2021 - in ECO region in November 2021 - During the discussions, representatives from the private sector called for a simple solution for e-CMR, not encountering extra costs and preferably based on the existing IT tools as a part of the tried and tested digital eco-system for B2B and B2G communication, like IRU's customs portal and TIR-EPD application. **E-Permits** 1. Within BSEC, shifting from paper to digital permits was discussed, including at the transport ministerial level, as Moldova (LLDC), Turkey and Ukraine expressed interest to develop a pilot e-permit system. 2. Uzbekistan (LLDC) and Turkey launched e-permit system in a test mode for bilateral transport, following the agreements reached within the Turkic Council. 3. Within EAEU, legal and technical aspects of shifting from paper to digital permits are under discussion at the Eurasian Economic Commission.	

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			IRU and its member states are a part of all above discussions and continue to support digitalization efforts for transport and customs documents.	
ADB	Establishment of the Zamyn–Uud free zone infrastructure and facilities constructed and operational Promotion of sustainable operations and management of Zamyn–Uud free zone Establishment of Zamyn–Uud free zone port of entry system	2020–2026	ADB is supporting a bilateral agreement between Mongolia and the PRC to develop an economic cooperation zone along CAREC Corridor 4. The $30 million Developing the Economic Cooperation Zone Project for Mongolia, will develop the physical infrastructure, operationalize the Zamyn–Uud free zone, and support seamless transit to and from the neighboring Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of the PRC. It will create a port of entry system which will use information technology solutions to promote trade while ensuring border security, social safety, and improved traceability to mitigate transboundary health risks. Project implementation on track.	
AfDB	Support the development of at least 3 One Stop Border Posts involving at least one LLDC	2021–2025	**2021–present** **AfDB** has supported work in the following one–stop border posts involving LLDCs: 1. Manyovu–Mugina One Stop Border Post at the crossing between **Tanzania** and **Burundi** (to be completed in 2024) 2. Douala–Bangui–Douala–N'djamena corridor linking **Cameroon, Central Africa Republic** and **Chad.** 3. Construction of the Mwami/Mchinji One stop border post between Malawi and Zambia as part of the Nacala Road Corridor. 4. Establishment of the interconnectivity of customs systems that allows the automated transmission of customs data in order to facilitate the movement of transit cargo along trade corridors in Mali and the Gambia. 5. The setting up of a pilot tracking system for petroleum products in Niger. 6. The modernisation of Customs information technology infrastructure, through system upgrade (ASYCUDA ++ to World) and roll out to support electronic data management to enable the	

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			Customs administrations of Liberia and Sierra Leone to strengthen their internal capacities by streamlining of tax and revenue management. 7. The facilitation of the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme, which is a regional and cross border initiative on the movement of goods and services.	
WCO	Development of a compendium of best practices in Customs transit	2020 2021		The Compendium of best practices in the area of transit was endorsed by the WCO Council in December 2020 and can be accessed in English here and in French here. The Compendium seeks to support Members with practical examples of enhancing the transit regimes efficiency and effectiveness.
WCO	Development of guidance on Customs procedures in railway transportation (WCO Railway Guidance)	2020– 2023	**Six regional railway workshops:** Based on the WCO Railway Guidance, Capacity Building activities in the form of six regional workshops, will be conducted to enhance implementation of simplified and improved Customs procedures in railway transportation supported by modern Customs techniques. The first regional workshop was held from 3 to 5 May 2022 in Seoul, Korea for Members of the WCO Asia/Pacific region.	The WCO Railway Guidance was approved by the WCO Council in June 2022 and can be accessed in English here and in French here. The Railway Guidance aims to simplify and harmonize Customs regulations and procedures applicable to railway transportation, to encourage the use of advanced technologies, and to strengthen Customs to Customs and Customs to Business cooperation, among others.
UNECE Sustainable Transport Division with the participation of UNCTAD ASYCUDA / ECE Trade and Economic Cooperation Division / ESCWA, ESCAP, ECLAC and ECA	UNDA project: eTIR International System application: One of the sub projects of the UNDA project is the interconnection of the eTIR International system with national customs systems of contracting parties to the TIR Convention enabling electronic transactions between customs of origin, en route and destination while implementing the TIR Convention.	2020–2022	In the framework of the project, a lot of work has taken place regarding the finalization of the TIR international system and its different modules such as the holders portal, the mobile applications for the holders and the customs officers, etc. In parallel, interconnection projects between national customs systems and the eTIR international system have been initiated and finalized. Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tunisia and Turkey have finalized the interconnection of their national custom systems with eTIR international system hosted by UNECE pending the performance of the conformance tests, while	

Cross–border logistics and transit transport systems				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			Pakistan and Uzbekistan are about to finalize the projects. On behalf of its 27 member States, the European Commission finalized a proof of concept to interconnect the European Union's New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) with the eTIR international system. The official operations of eTIR international system, and therefore the implementation of the Convention on the electronic TIR procedure (Annex 11) are foreseen to start in autumn 2022.	
UNECE Transport / TIR Secretariat with IRU	Signing, in 2021, a new MoU which finances one P3 information technology officer position in TIR secretariat until the end of 2024 in order to finalize the development of eTIR international system and interconnection projects with interested contracting parties. The MoU replaced the existing one which was signed in 2017.	2021-2024	Several developments of eTIR international system hosted by UNECE, preparation of conformance tests, interconnection projects of eTIR international system with national customs systems. IRU and UNECE jointly with ECO and IsDB conducted a capacity building workshop on eTIR for ECO member states in April 2021	
UNECE/TIR Secretariat – OSCE	Development of a new, business–oriented web site regarding the TIR international system and its stakeholders by OSCE through funding provided by OSCE. OSCE also funded the preparation of a video that promotes the eTIR international system.	2021		A new, business–oriented web site regarding the TIR international system and its stakeholders by OSCE has been developed through funding provided by OSCE. The website can be found at the following link: www.etir.org
UNECE with support of OSCE	Operationalization of Euro–Asian Transport Links and other networks and corridors: Through offering a targeted inter–regional/inter–governmental platform, identify and support implementation of a set of practical and policy–oriented measures that could further strengthen the management of inland transport	2020–2022	Four rounds of UNECE/OSCE online/hybrid consultations have been held (November 2020; March, May and September 2021) with the aim of enhancing economic connectivity perspectives and the operationalization of Euro–Asian inland transport links. Five Governments: Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan (LLDCs), Georgia, Turkey, and Ukraine, with the support of the UNECE Secretariat continued working towards the establishment of a Corridor Operationalization Management Mechanism and a Corridor	

Cross–border logistics and transit transport systems				
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	corridor operationalization between Europe and Asia. Asses the economic value of available international transport corridors and identification of ways through which Euro–Asian inland cargo volumes can be further increased.		Operationalization Performance Review Mechanism with a focus on the Trans–Caspian Corridor. A progress report on these efforts will be presented at the forthcoming thirty–fifth session of the UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics WP.5) in September 2022. As of January 2022, UNECE is implementing a fully funded ExB project entitled "Building resilient, climate adaptive and economically viable transport infrastructure networks" in support of the above initiative.	
UNECE with support of ECO and IsDB	Promote accession to e–CMR protocol by ECO member States. In doing so ensuring that contracting parties are geographically situated next to each other, thereby forming a transport corridor. Preparing eCMR protocol conceptual specifications for implementation across all ECO member States.	2020–2021+	Two capacity building technical workshops were organized by UNECE, ECO secretariat and Islamic Development Bank in order to present to ECO member States the challenges that the implementation of eCMR brings for all stakeholders involved, and to receive their requirements, desires and opinions. The draft conceptual specifications were prepared as a result of those meetings for a future eCMR system, which is going to be used as basis of discussions at the formal group of experts organized by UNECE during 2022 – 2023 on the operationalization of eCMR	
UNECE	Creation of a Group of Experts on the operationalization of eCMR by the UNECE working party on road transport (SC.1)	2022–2023	The objective of the newly created Group of Experts is to discuss, and if possible, agree on the requirements of article 5 of the eCMR Additional Protocol, including the objective/scope, the high–level architecture, and the conceptual specifications for a future environment that would support the conclusion and exchange of electronic consignment notes in accordance with the provisions of the CMR and eCMR Additional Protocol. Such work should also include an impact assessment of possible implementation scenarios of a future eCMR environment.	
UNECE	Establish unified railway law for contract for international carriage of goods by rail	2021	The deliberations continued as to how to establish unified railway law.	

Cross–border logistics and transit transport systems				
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UNECE	Enhance sustainable development of freight transport and logistics	2020–2021		Elaboration and publication by the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) of UNECE 'Handbook for national master plans for freight transport and logistics' available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021–05/2017186_E_web.pdf The Handbook was designed to assist national authorities in charge of freight transport and logistics to showcase potential actions in accompanying the sector development to follow a sustainable path in support of national economic development WP.24 held a workshop, on 20 October 2021, on recent actions and projects in support of the sustainable development of intermodal transport and logistics.
UNECE–ESCAP	SPECA programme: Efficient transport connectivity plays a key role in addressing the economic development challenges faced by landlocked countries. Since 1998, UNECE and ESCAP assist Central Asia and South Caucasus countries to improve transport connectivity through regional cooperation in the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (WG–STTC).	2021		On 25/11/2021, representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan joined forces to strengthen cooperation on: inland transport infrastructure development; facilitation of border–crossing procedures; railway and intermodal transport development; and improvement of road safety. The 26th TWG–STTC meeting started with a session on COVID–19 pandemics influence on transport system, lessons learned and the way forward. Participants, UNECE and ESCAP reported on transport sector responses to COVID–19 and post–pandemic recovery measures aimed at improving transport connectivity in the SPECA region. Other items included improvement of regional connectivity (infrastructure development, enhancing transport operational connectivity), accession to UN transport–related legal instruments, and road safety. The SPECA Economic Forum on Sustainable Transport and Trade for Greener and Inclusive Economy after the Pandemic was held in Tashkent in November 2021.

Cross–border logistics and transit transport systems				
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				It led to the adoption the "Tashkent Declaration" to guide future implementation of the SPECA Work programme in the areas of transport, trade, connectivity, green and circular economy, sustainable tourism, etc. More than 90 participants, including nine Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Transport from Central Asia and the Caucasus, members of United Nations system, Multi Development Banks and international organizations joined the Regional Dialogue on Strengthening transport connectivity in the SPECA region and beyond in the era of COVID–19 (29/10/2020). The UNECE–led Regional Dialogue facilitated an inclusive discussion and coordinated actions and plans on harmonization of international inland transport procedures to enhance connectivity in the SPECA region. Conclusions of the Dialogue, which promoted regional transport connectivity cooperation and emphasized immediate transport measures for COVID 19 recovery, were adopted by the participating countries.
UNECE	Assist landlocked countries in Southeast Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia (SPECA) in the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange	2020–2024	Pilot projects for trade facilitation and standardized digitalization of multimodal transport and trade data, and document exchange, using the UN/CEFACT semantic standards and reference data models encompassing landlocked transition economies: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Uzbekistan.	A study on the readiness of Uzbekistan to implement the package of standards for digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange has been completed. 5 reports of pilot projects, including landlocked countries with economies in transition, have all been published on the UNTTC.ORG web site: https://unttc.org/stream/electronic–trade–and–transport–documents–and–data

Cross–border logistics and transit transport systems				
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DESA	Jointly Building the Belt and Road for the SDGs, using macroeconomic simulation tools (WEFM–e)	2017–2021		Completed June 2021. The Project assisted Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, and Mongolia to strengthening the capacities of the policymakers in the countries along the Belt and Road for assessing the potential effects of the Belt and Road for the achievement of the SDGs and formulating appropriate policies to maximize the potential benefits and manage the potential risks. Macroeconomic simulation tool (WEFM–e) has been developed and delivered various scenario based analysis for BRI investment in infrastructure, and its possible medium term impacts on macroeconomic and SDG indicators. More than 10 policy dialogues at the country, regional and global levels were organized to promote understanding of the synergies and possible trade offs of BRI and SDGs. Training of the WEFM–e simulation tool and reports of the policy dialogues continue to remain accessible to LLDCs through the project website, www.brisdgs.org

1.3   Monitoring of transit and transport indicators

Monitoring of transit and transport indicators				
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ADB	Support implementation of the CAREC corridor performance measurement and monitoring (CPMM) mechanism.	2020–2024	TA 9832–REG: KSTA approved for $0.75 million from ADB's Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund (RCIF) in 2019. A supplementary financing for $0.8 million from RCIF was approved in 2021. CPMM annual reports for 2020 and 2021 were produced (included information on the impact of COVID–19 on cross–border transport). In December 2022, a knowledge product titled Progress in Trade Facilitation: A 10–Year Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) Perspective" marked a milestone for the CPMM as a tool for informing dialogue, collaboration, and decision–making among member countries. The report discusses progress made by the CAREC Program's trade facilitation efforts from 2010 to 2020 and evaluates the efficiency of cross–border trade across six CAREC transport corridors.	
ECLAC	Develop Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators in Paraguay	2021		ECLAC developed Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators for **Paraguay.** Paraguay`s National Connectivity Report (published in 2021) contains 161 indicators that assess road and inland transport in the country. The Spanish version of the report is available **HERE** For the ECLAC is currently updating the data and a new version will be published at the end of 2023. Both Government officials and private sector representatives have agreed on the importance of measuring sustainability of the national inland transport systems and have discussed the priorities that emerged from the analysis of the indicators developed. The executive summary of the National Connectivity Report was included as an annex in Paraguay's National Logistics Plan 2021.
AfDB	Enhance monitoring of transit times and speeds along corridors including LLDCs	TBD	A number of transport corridors and one stop border posts are being constructed – with the objective of reducing transit times and costs for cross border traffic. As part of the outcomes, transit times, cost and speed are measured through mechanisms such as the CPMM.	

Monitoring of transit and transport indicators				
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WCO	Sensitize and encourage LLDCs to conduct the WCO Time Release Study (TRS) along corridors as a tool to monitor and evaluate transit and transport indicators	TBD		**12 November 2020 – 15 July 2021:** Time Release Study capacity building support was provided to **Tajikistan, Uzbekistan** and **Bangladesh.** **15 July 2021 – 31 March 2022:** The WCO continued providing TRS capacity building support to **Uzbekistan** and **Bangladesh**, and provided support to **Kyrgyzstan, Armenia** and a number of transit countries. An EAC regional TRS scoping mission was conducted in October 2021 for **Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.** **1 April 2022 – 15 September 2023:** Capacity-building support for conducting TRS was provided to Bolivia, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Moldova and Zambia. The WCO advocated for us of the TRS methodology to measure performance along transit corridors during the Workshop on Transit for Landlocked Developing and Transit WTO Members and the Dedicated Session on Transit under the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee that were held in June 2023.
UNECE, ESCWA and ECLAC	Implementation of a UNDA project entitled "Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries"	2018–2021		In the framework of the UNDA project on "Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries," UNECE with the support of ECLAC and ESCWA developed a comprehensive set of 215 Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN). As part of this project, National Policy Dialogue sessions were held in Kazakhstan and Paraguay (LLDCs), Serbia, Jordan, and Georgia, and their findings have been officially endorsed. In September 2021, on the margins of the UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and

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				Economics (WP.5), an inter–regional forum has been organized to show–case the results of the SITCIN evaluation in the five pilot countries. Also in 2021, a round of capacity building workshops was organized to remedy the policy gaps identified in the course of the SITCIN evaluation process. Designated indicators are available for the road sector as well as for the rail and inland waterways sectors. SITCIN's main objective is to provide a self–assessment tool for Governments offering a universal set of measurable criteria enabling countries to monitor their degree of inland transport connectivity, both domestically and bilaterally/sub–regionally as well as in terms of soft and hard infrastructure. Each interested Government user can evaluate and self–assess: the extent to which it implements the relevant UN legal instruments, agreements, and conventions effectively; and the degree to which its inland transport system is inter–operable with the systems within its respective (sub–)region. In doing so, SITCIN enables policymakers to assess their country's degree of external economic connectivity in terms of efficiency of inland transport, logistics, trade, customs, and border crossing facilitation processes. Governments can also use SITCIN to assess and report on their progress in implementing the transport related SDGs (i.e. 2030 Agenda) and their commitments under the VPoA. A multilingual SITCIN user platform is available at: SITCIN.org
UNOPS	Improving border security in Lao PDR	July 2020– July 2024	UNOPS has been providing support to improve border security in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). In cooperation with the Lao PDR's Customs Department (DoC) and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the U.S. the Department of State (INL), UNOPS is working to improve border security, and in so doing, to combat transnational crime	

Monitoring of transit and transport indicators				
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			along the borders of Lao PDR (approximately 3,000 miles of land and riverine borders are shared with China, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia). The total funding ($2.59 million) will support activities from July 2020 to July 2024. UNOPS provides the following support to the project: –Planning and designing a new multi–storey office building and training center for the Lao Department of Customs. –Planning and designing three contraband storage facilities, and constructing and equipping two of the facilities, one in the Vientiane Capital and one in Bokeo province.	
WTO	Mapping of transit corridors	Under consideration	The WTO publication on 'Easing trade bottlenecks in LLDCs', published in late 2021, included a set of recommendations amongst which the development of transit corridors to streamline merchandise transit in LLDCs. To better understand the functioning of this helpful means of implementation, the TFA the WTO Secretariat, in cooperation with UN agencies is proposing to carry out a mapping of existing transit corridors that include LLDCs.	

1.4 Trade facilitation

Trade facilitation				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
WCO	Support LLDCs and transit developing countries in implementing the technical measures of the WTO TFA through the WCO Mercator Programme	2020 – 2024	Further support in implementing the technical measures of the WTO TFA will be provided in the WCO financial year 2023-2024	**12 November 2020 – 15 July 2021:** Capacity building support to implement technical measures of the WTO TFA was provided to the following LLDCs and Transition and Developed Countries (TDCs): *LLDCs:* **Bolivia** (on advance rulings, risk management (RM), Authorized Economic Operators (AEO)), **Eswatini** (on Coordinated Border management (CBM), RM) **Kazakhstan** (on Post–Clearance Audit (PCA) **Lesotho** (on PCA) **Moldova** (on PCA) **Tajikistan** (on TRS) **Uzbekistan** (on PCA, TRS) *TDCs:* **Bangladesh** (TRS) **Peru** (border agency cooperation) **South Africa** (AEO, expedited shipments) **Turkey** (advance rulings) **15 July 2021 – 31 March 2022:** Capacity building support to implement technical measures of the WTO TFA was provided to the following LLDCs and TDCs: *LLDCs:* **Armenia** (on TRS) **Eswatini** (on RM) **Kyrgyzstan** (on TRS) **Lesotho** (on expedited shipments) **Tajikistan** (Mercator Diagnostic and Planning mission) **Uzbekistan** (on Single Window (SW), on PCA and on TRS) *TDCs:* **Bangladesh** (2 TRS follow–up missions, Mercator evaluation activity) **Peru** (on CBM) **South Africa** (on TRS, on expedited shipments, and on Advance Rulings)

Trade facilitation				
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				1 April 2022 – 15 September 2023: Capacity building support to implement technical measures of the WTO TFA was provided to the following LLDCs: **Armenia** (on Post-Clearance Audit (PCA) **Bolivia** (on Single Window, Risk Management, Authorized Economic Operators (AEO), TRS) **Botswana** (on TRS) **Burundi** (on Advance Rulings) **Eswatini** (on Advance Rulings, Risk Management, Border Agency Cooperation, TRS) **Ethiopia** (on Risk Management) **Kyrgyzstan** (on PCA) **Lao PDR** (on TFA implementation) **Lesotho** (on Border Agency Cooperation, TRS) **Malawi** (on PCA) **Moldova** (on Risk Management, TRS, Customs laboratories) **Mongolia** (on Risk Management, PCA) **Rwanda** (on Risk Management and PCA) **Turkmenistan** (on Risk Management) **Uzbekistan** (on TFA implementation, Risk Management) **Uganda** (on Advance Rulings, Risk Management, AEO) **Zambia** (on AEO, TRS) **Zimbabwe** (on Single Window) In addition to the national capacity building support, a third round of WCO regional workshops on the WTO TFA was launched in April 2021 with a workshop for the Asia/Pacific region. The second regional workshop on the WTO TFA was held in December 2021 in the East and Southern Africa (ESA) and West and Central Africa (WCA) regions. The third regional workshop on the WTO TFA was held in June 2022 for the Americas and the Caribbean (AMS) region.

Trade facilitation				
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				The fourth WCO workshop on the WTO TFA was held from 30 January to 1 February 2023 for the North of Africa, Near and Middle East (MENA) region.
UNCTAD	Support LLDCs, in close collaboration with transit partner countries, in implementing trade facilitation reforms, particularly the WTO TFA through: (i) Implementing trade facilitation reforms, including transit measures and relevant international instruments; (ii) Operationalizing and supporting National Trade Facilitation Committees to coordinate and monitor trade facilitation implementation in a Public–Private–Partnership; (iii) Facilitating the establishment of Regional Trade Facilitation Bodies and strategies to focus on common approaches to cross–border trade and transit; (iv) Developing national and Regional Trade Information Portals to boost transparency and efficiency in cross border trade procedures; (v) Preparing coordinated response guidelines for cross border trade in crisis and emergency situations such as COVID–19; and (vi) Working with LLDC groups in UN and WTO etc. to promote the special needs of LLDCs.	2020–2023	UNCTAD has continued its technical assistance and capacity building support in this field, supporting during 2022-presently around 20 LLDCs and 25 transit partner countries in the framework of the UNCTAD Empowerment program for National Trade Facilitation Committees and the UNCTAD Transit Coordinator training. In this context, UNCTAD has developed a dedicated set of transit training modules focusing on empowering national transit to fulfill their role as coordinators and promoters of transit facilitation across borders. The training is also valuable for other stakeholders involved in transit to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the complexity of transit. UNCTAD continues to roll out its IT based management and monitoring tools for National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs), the so-called Reform Tracker in 12 LLDCs and 6 transit countries in 2022 to facilitate the implementation of WTO TFA and other relevant agreements and general trade facilitation reforms, including in the area of transit. UNCTAD is collaborating with the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on the implementation of the CFTA annexes on trade facilitation and transit. UNCTAD has developed a special capacity building program focused on procedure analysis and simplification of trade facilitation procedures, which also includes a tool to map such simplifications.	In spring 2022 UNCTAD launched first edition of the online e-learning course "Empowerment Programme for National Transit Coordinators", which was delivered in Spanish to 13 selected Latin American countries. The course is designed to strengthen national trade stakeholders' knowledge on transit, the main international and regional transit regimes, the obstacles and benefits of transit facilitation, and ultimately, the importance and functioning of the role of transit coordinators to better facilitate transit in the region. The course is a combination of three online modules and a closing workshop summarizing the learning outcomes of participants of the course and reflect on the overall progress and statistics of the course. The session also provides an opportunity for participants to provide feedback and suggestions for future versions of the course. Countries: Argentina, Aruba, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay In 2021 UNCTAD also updated its Technical Notes on trade facilitation, including the following notes on transit and related issues with direct relevance for transit: - Technical Note: Freedom of Transit, -Technical Note: Bonded Customs Regimes (Customs Transit Regimes and transit guarantees), and -Technical Note: Border Agency Coordination/Cooperation.

Trade facilitation				
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UNCTAD	Support LLDCs, in close collaboration with transit partner countries, in implementing trade facilitation reforms, particularly the WTO TFA	2020–2023	UNCTAD has – during the reporting period – organized two Transit Coordinator workshops in Central Africa and Central Asia. UNCTAD is, together with the five UN Regional Commissions, participating in the UN Development Account project with the objective to implement United Nations solutions, including standards, guidelines, metrics, tools and methodologies to immediately help governments and the business community world–wide keep transport networks and borders operational to facilitate the flow of goods and services, while containing the further spread of the COVID–19 virus. In this context, UNCTAD has developed a methodology for rapid assessments of countries preparedness in the cases of crisis in the field of trade facilitation. The methodology is being tested and rolled–out in a number of countries.	
UNECE (in cooperation with ESCAP, GIZ the Partnership on Transport and Logistics in Central Asia and other partners)	Regional trade facilitation strategy of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) developed, as well as a Roadmap to its implementation, adopted and in the process of implementation.	2019–2025	The Working Group of SPECA developed, and the Governing Council of SPECA adopted, the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy and a Roadmap to its implementation on 21 November 2019 in Ashgabat, as well as an Ashgabat Initiative on the implementation of UN tools for the facilitation of trade and transport. See https://unece.org/speca/events/fourteenth–session–speca–governing–council . Ever since, UNECE, in cooperation with the SPECA participating countries, ESCAP, GIZ, the Partnership on Transport and Logistics in Central Asia and other partners has been implementing the activities planned in the Roadmap. Assistance for the implementation of the WTO TFA, establishing and functioning National Trade Facilitation Committees have taken place. The implementation of the strategy is ongoing, and the Roadmap will be updated in 2022.	In the context of the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy and its Roadmap, and of the Ashgabat Initiative on the implementation of UN tools for the facilitation of trade and transport, an online tool for information sharing on trade procedures and information was developed. Guides on the use of international standards for trade facilitation and the establishment of trade facilitation Enquiry Points, and other tools have also been developed and published. https://unece.org/speca/events/fourteenth–session–speca–governing–council .

Trade facilitation				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UNECE	Implement blockchain pilots to harness the potential of blockchain technology for due diligence and sustainability in cotton value chains in Uzbekistan, in partnership with WBG–IFC Tashkent office. These pilots are being conducted under the framework initiative "Enhancing Traceability and Transparency for Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment & Footwear sector" jointly implemented with the UN's ITC, with the support of the European Union since 2019.	Ongoing	Since July 2021, UNECE conducts pilot activities with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Tashkent office to improve traceability and transparency in cotton value chains in Uzbekistan. The pilot aims to trace forward the production of T–shirts from field to shelf in a blockchain environment, involving the cotton cluster Indorama, and also explores the use of DNA physical markers. It is expected to be completed and reported in a Proof–of–Concept developed in consultation with partners and pilot companies in 2022. The textiles sector is significant for the country's economy and the exports' potential of high value–added products is increasing.	
UNECE	Strengthen collaboration and build capacity about policy recommendations, guidelines and traceability standards to promote sustainable and circular value chains in the garment and footwear industry of Uzbekistan and in Central Asia.	Ongoing	On 24–25 March 2022, UNECE organized jointly with the Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan an international conference "Decent work – the basis of a stable society of employers" and "The sustainable garment and footwear industry of the future – innovation for inclusive and circular value chains" in conjunction with Tashkent first International Investment Forum (24–26 March 2022). The conference developed an understanding of what traceability is what it means, why we have traceability and how it works. It also created a common understanding of the topic among key industry actors in the Central Asia region. The meeting's page and materials are accessible at: https://unece.org/trade/events/joint–event–international–conference–confederation–employers–uzbekistan–and–unece This occasion saw the exchange of letters between UNECE, the Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan and Uzbekistan Textile and Garment Industry Association "Uztextileprom" in the context of UNECE Call to Action for Traceability, Transparency, Sustainability and Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector, about the development	

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			of a strategy for ESG traceability and transparency in the textile industry until the end of 2024 in Uzbekistan in partnership with UNECE and GIZ. The pledge will be published on The Sustainability Pledge website: http://thesustainabilitypledge.org/index.html.	
UNECE	Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules–based trading system	2018–2021		This project has been completed in June 2021. The Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan, countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), are among the last in the world to accede to the international rules–based trading system (WTO). Trade policy and capacity–building events, as well as Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) readiness assessments in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, have shown demand for trade facilitation support. The objective of this project is to strengthen national capacities of the beneficiary countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules–based trading system. As part of this project, the following activities have been completed: –The four target countries have established a National Trade Facilitation Committee in 2021. –Training materials in English and Russian have been developed and adapted on provisions related to Articles 10.1 on formalities and documentary requirements in the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). This has been partially financed under UNDA 11th Tranche. Training materials on the establishment and maintenance of National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFCs) (art. 23.2 of the WTO TFA has been drafted in 2020 in English. –A seminar was organized in Nur–Sultan in May 2019 for Trade Facilitation capacity building.

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				–A Seminar on Trade Facilitation in times of COVID–19 was organized virtually on 06–07 July 2020. –A training material on formalities and documentary requirements of the WTO TFA agreement has been published and translated in Russian in 2021. Two itineraries namely WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and SMEs and Trade Facilitation have been developed and included in to the UNECE Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG). In addition, Single Window itinerary have been modified. The webpages of these itineraries have been designed and content have been incorporated.
UNECE	Project "Strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyzstan National Trade Facilitation Council to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement"	2019 – 2022		This project will be fully completed in April 2022. So far, the following activities have been completed: –Establishment of two BPAs to support the streamlining of export and import procedures from Kyrgyzstan: BPA on export of textile and BPA on import of pharmaceutical products. The information has been translated and uploaded to the Trade Information Portal (TIP). ITC is supporting the development of the TIP; UNECE is coordinating this activity with ITC. – completed in May 2021. –Development of the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2021 –2025 in English and Russian – launched in June 2021. –Support of the NTFC to develop a webpage – completed in June 2021. –Support Kyrgyz Economic University named after M. Ryskulbekov (KEU) to build capacity of the Kyrgyz stakeholders in trade facilitation. i) development of training courses on trade facilitation; ii) three training seminars presented (participants from the Kyrgyz Republic, transition economies in Central Asia, and the Russian Federation) – September 2021, December 2021 and April 2022; roundtable on TF in digital economy conducted– April 2022. –Establishment of the TF Centre of Competence on the base of University.

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UNIDO	Strengthen LLDCs' economic competitiveness and trade capacities through improved quality infrastructure (including standardization, metrology, conformity assessment and accreditation), via multiple projects.	2020–2024	UNIDO supports LLDCs via national and regional projects focusing on enhancing national quality infrastructure (NQI) and increasing competitiveness in LLDCs' priority sectors. UNIDO provided standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology (SQAM) support to **Armenia**, **Burundi**, **Chad**, **Malawi** and **Zambia**. In Burundi, 1,000 actors from different value chains were trained, including 800 in the coffee sector; and supporting 100 companies in targeted sectors, and five laboratories in different technical fields. Three export consortia were set up. The Government of Malawi and UNIDO embarked on an ambitious upgrading of the NQI. UNIDO provided trainings on the usage of quality monitoring equipment and basic laboratory techniques and procured necessary equipment for the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi. It also organized visits to selected national standards and metrology institutes in the region to share knowledge and good practices. The project in Armenia is more recent and will assist the country in the implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) for trade benefits by strengthening the metrology system, concluded with the (EU) in December 2021.

In **Ethiopia**, UNIDO and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) support the honey value chain development for market access. The project signed in June 2021, and it is part of the framework agreement of the Global Market Access Programme (GMAP) aiming at strengthening conformity capacity of value chains and enhancing National Quality Infrastructures in order to support market access of selected value chains in developing countries. | Through the UNIDO Training Academy, several online training courses on themes such as "Good Governance in Quality infrastructure" and "Quality Infrastructure and Trade" have been offered to stakeholders and practitioners from all over the world, including LLDCs.

More information on this initiative is available at: https://hub.unido.org/training–modules

Together with the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO), UNIDO has created an Internet–based portal for laboratory development called LABNET to enhance quality infrastructure of LLDCs and other countries. LABNET contains a guide for the accreditation process, technical requirements for laboratory development, references to relevant organizations and on–line documents, information about training programmes, job opportunities and a discussion forum. |
| WTO | Provide materials and training programs to help Members have a better understanding of the Trade | Upon request | Activities are currently being planned for implementation. | |

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	Facilitation Agreement. Assist Members to complete the required notifications. Help Members find the support they need to implement the TFA.			
WTO	Support LLDCs in increasing their participation in WTO bodies and in flagging their interests regarding trade facilitation, specifically transit issues, within WTO's Trade Facilitation Committee.	2022–2024	The first dedicated session took place in April 2022 during which the WTO Secretariat presented the key findings of the WTO's 2021 report on LLDCs and trade bottlenecks. The session also included presentations by the World Customs Organization (WCO), UNCTAD and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as well as best practices and experiences sharing by LLDC Members such as Kazakhstan, Bolivia and Malawi.	Following the LLDC Ministerial held on 4 November 2021, in which trade ministers across 32 LLDCs met and adopted a declaration on trade related priorities for MC12, a paragraph on LLDC issue was included in the latest MC12 outcome document (WT/MIN(22)/24): "We instruct the Trade Facilitation Committee to hold a dedicated dession on transit issues annually until the next review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is completed. These dedicated sessions will highlight the importance of transit and reserve time for the Committee to discuss best practices, as well as the constraints and challenges faced by all landlocked WTO Members, including landlocked developing countries and LDCs as outlined in G/TFA/W/53 ."
WTO	Support Landlocked LDCs in improving trade facilitation and implementing the TFA by way of project investment and strengthening institutions, through WTO led Enhanced Integration Framework (EIF).	2020–2021		Up until late 2021, the EIF supported 29 on trade facilitation for Landlocked LDCs. Examples of these actions from 2020 to 2021 include: – In Bhutan, the EIF established a one stop information centre for trade facilitation. – In Lao People's Democratic Republic, the EIF provided increased transparency with respect to procedures and facilitating public–private dialogue around trade facilitation; – In Rwanda, a comprehensive cross–border trade– support infrastructure – including the construction of a dedicated cross–border markets with neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda – was established. This support has a disproportionate effect on women, who often comprise more than three quarters of these traders. – In Zambia, the EIF is supporting the implementation of advanced ruling and notifications by facilitating consultative meetings with stakeholders and other

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				partners around the development and enactment of the Boarder Management Act. It is also supporting the development of a one–stop border post in Kipushi.
WTO	Assist LLDC Members through a range of activities – such as workshops and national events – to identify their needs and to prepare their notifications through the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF). Members seeking technical assistance and donor organizations able to provide the required assistance are brought together by the TFAF. The TFAF also provides project preparation and implementation grants.	Ongoing	–In 2021, Mongolia has been awarded a project preparation grant for four TFA provisions – namely on Art. 3 on Advance Rulings, Art. 8 on Border Agency Cooperation, Art. 10.4 on Single Window and Art. 10.3 on the Use of International Standards; – In 2022, Kyrgyzstan has been awarded a grant for project preparation on two TFA provisions – Art. 5.3 on Test Procedures and Art. 10.1 on Formalities and Documentation Requirements. An exhaustive list of the grants can be found here.	
WTO	Conduct a survey in cooperation with partner organizations on cross–border trade restrictions resulting from COVID–19.	2021		The survey, conducted by the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) in cooperation with partners, highlights the need for LLDCs to strengthen their infrastructure and connectivity with the world, in order to reduce logistics and transport costs. It also highlights the need to achieve greater commercial and economic activity for the benefit of the most vulnerable and affected sectors, such as women entrepreneurs, young people, micro, small and medium–sized enterprises (MSMEs) and agriculture. The TFAF survey allowed LLDCs to identify import/export documentary requirements and border agency co–operation as the main areas where implementation of trade facilitation measures could have the most impact. These responses provide priority action areas for national interventions, priority areas for TFA implementation as well as possible direction for Aid for Trade funded projects. The results of the survey can be found here.

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AfDB	Provide capacity building and technical assistance on trade facilitation and transport for 8 LLDCs in Africa	Ongoing	A training for Customs Administrations from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, et Tchad will take place before the end of 2022.	**February 2020:** AfDB provided training to 50 **Ethiopian** customs officers on One–Stop–Border–Posts concept, practice, methodologies, and techniques to facilitate cross–border trade with neighbouring countries. **March 2020:** AfDB provided training to 52 Customs officers from **Malawi** on tariff, rules of origin and valuation, but training postponed because of travel restrictions due to COVID–19
AfDB	Implement the Trade and Transport Facilitation Due Diligence Tool on all AfDB funded transport projects	2020+	All transport projects funded by the Bank have soft infrastructure aspects incorporated using the Trade and Transport Due Diligence Tool.	
ESCAP	Support LLDCs that are parties to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross–Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific to fully and digitally implement the WTO TFA.	2020+	Reports developed for individual beneficiary countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Uzbekistan (LLDCs), and Cambodia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Georgia, Philippines, Timor–Leste, Tonga, Viet Nam, https://www.unescap.org/resources/readiness–assessments–cross–border–paperless–trade Second session of the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross–border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, 19 to 21 June 2023 https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/second–session–standing–committee–framework–agreement–facilitation–cross–border Second session of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross–border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, 22 to 23 June 2023 Second session of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross–border	

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			Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific | ESCAP (unescap.org) Unleashing Kazakhstan's export potential: a study of the country's export process and procedures https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/unleashing–kazakhstans–export–potential–study–countrys–export–process–and–procedures Readiness assessment for cross–border paperless trade: Turkmenistan https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/readiness–assessment–cross–border–paperless–trade–turkmenistan# Readiness assessment for cross–border paperless trade: Tajikistan https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/readiness–assessment–cross–border–paperless–trade–tajikistan	
ADB	Investment projects in trade facilitation: • ADB–funded loan for Mongolia's Regional Improvement of Border Services Project further supports implementation of specific WTO TFA activities, by rehabilitating facilities and providing modern customs equipment to three major border–crossing points, upgrading the Customs Automated Information System (CAIS), and conducting preparatory work for the establishment of a single–window system for trade–related regulatory requirements.	2020+	RIBS Under implementation Loan 3810 MON: Regional Improvement of Border Services Project (Additional Financing) approved on 30 August 2019 ($27million) CAIS system upgrade has been completed. Time of compliance to customs declaration has been reduced by around 15%. The supply of the first and second phase of the CAIS equipment are completed in 2019 and 2021, respectively.	

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ADB	Investment projects in trade facilitation: • ADB loan for MON (Mongolia): Developing Economic Cooperation Zone Project approved in 2020 for $30 million to develop the border economic zone in Zamyn–UUd in coordination with development of Erenhot border economic zone in the PRC.	2020–2026	ADB is supporting a bilateral agreement between Mongolia and the PRC to develop an economic cooperation zone along CAREC Corridor 4. The $30 million Developing the Economic Cooperation Zone Project for Mongolia, will develop the physical infrastructure, operationalize the Zamyn–Uud free zone, and support seamless transit to and from the neighboring Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of the PRC. It will create a port of entry system which will use information technology solutions to promote trade while ensuring border security, social safety, and improved traceability to mitigate transboundary health risks. Project implementation on track.	
ADB	Investment projects in trade facilitation: • MON (Mongolia): Resilient and Integrated Border Services for Safe and Fast Trade for $100 million (committed for 2023)	2023	Under process for approval in 2023.	
ADB	Investment projects in trade facilitation: • NEP (Nepal): SASEC Customs and Logistics Reforms Program (Subprogramme 2) for $25 million for approval in 2023	2023	Under process for approval in 2023.	
ADB	Regional technical assistance projects: • Strengthening International Food Safety Standards in Agricultural Value Chains in CAREC countries, to improve public health and facilitation of trade in agro–food products.	2020+	–	Project was completed in 2022. The TA has four outputs: (i) regulations for meeting international food safety standards developed; (ii) laboratory rationalization and infrastructure requirements for applying international food safety standards identified; (iii) capacity of value chain actors to implement food safety to international standards strengthened; and (iv) CAREC Food Safety Network developed. The TA delivered most of its planned

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				activities, except the establishment of and operationalization of the CAREC Food Safety Network under Output 4.
ADB	Regional technical assistance projects: • Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor: Preparing the Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project, to contribute to the diversification of exports and connection to regional markets for the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic.	2020+	TA 9677–REG: TRTA approved for $2 million ($1 million TASF and $1 million RCIF) in 2018. Supplementary financing of $0.5 million from RCIF was approved in 2021. TA 9677 generated 5 investment project concepts in Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan along the Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC). Three projects are already included in ADB's lending program for KGZ: (i) ABEC: Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project for $81 million in 2022; (ii) ABEC: Kyrgyz border crossing points improvement project for $18 million in 2022; and (iii) ABEC: Issyk–Kul Lake Environmental Management for Sustainable Tourism Development for $40 million in 2023. The other 2 investment project concepts are being further processed for inclusion in ADB's lending program, including (i) an alternative road between Almaty and Issyk–Kul as public–private partnership project; and (ii) a regional medical reference laboratory system in line with the requirements of the Eurasian Economic Union. On 28 October 2022, the Second Joint Meeting of the Kazakh–Kyrgyz Transport and Infrastructure Development Working Group outlined the next steps for the proposed alternative Almaty–Issyk Kul road Public–Private Partnership (PPP) project; discussed plans for enhancing regular bus services between Almaty and Bishkek, including the incorporation of electric buses; explored initiatives for modernizing joint border crossing points and the associated control procedures; and introduced the upcoming study focused on the Alatau Industrial Trade and Logistics Center to the participants.	

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ADB	Regional technical assistance projects: • Better Customs for Better Client Services in CAREC, to assist countries to enhance implementation of the WTO TFA and promote intraregional and inter–subregional capacity building and knowledge sharing on TFA–related customs and trade facilitation areas.	2020+	Approved TA amount of $1,600,000 in Feb 2019. Supplementary financing of $800,000 from ADB's Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund was approved in 2021. Milestones: (i) secretariat support for the CAREC Regional Trade Group – the coordinating and consultative body for the CAREC trade sector, mandated to update annually the 3–year Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030; (ii) technical support for WTO accession of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan; and (iii) policy advisory and capacity building for e–commerce and digital trade initiatives, and economic diversification through services sector development. —— In 2022, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan joined Azerbaijan and the PRC as parties to the UN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross–Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (of which Azerbaijan and the PRC are members) Turkmenistan joined the FA in August 2022. Implementation of commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement is on track for CAREC members, with the PRC and Georgia, and Kazakhstan achieving 100% implementation rate, while the remaining CAREC countries reaching an average of 85%.	
ADB	Regional technical assistance projects: • Strengthening Knowledge and Capacities for the Design, Negotiation, Implementation, and Monitoring of Free Trade Agreements involving CAREC countries is under preparation for approval by Q3/Q4 2020 (total amount of $1.2 million) with implementation period in 2020–2023.	2020+	The TA has produced an FTA Report and its synthesis. There are three reports altogether: one dealing with theory, one with evidence, and a Synthesis Report that summarizes the key findings and places them in context. A regional dissemination workshop on the FTA Report was conducted virtually on 19 August 2022. Over 50 senior– and mid–level government officials responsible for trade negotiations from 10 CAREC countries, along with development partners and trade experts, participated at this regional workshop.	

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			The CAREC Capacity Building Workshop "PRC's experience in negotiating and implementing of FTAs" was conducted on 28 November 2022 in virtual format. One of the main activities under capacity building is the Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) course, which covers all topics identified as priorities during the capacity needs assessment. Over 30 trade officials from 10 CAREC countries attended this two–phases Training of Trainers course on how to design, negotiate and implement FTAs in CAREC region. 12 online training modules were pre–recorded and posted in the CAREC Institute's E–learning platform online and in–person Training of Trainers course was conducted in Tbilisi, Georgia on 26–28 January 2023. The FTA Guidelines were finalized by the FTA Capacity building team and shared with CAREC countries in February 2023 for their comments and feedback. These guidelines drew upon the FTA report and case studies prepared under the TA, capacity needs assessment (CNA) and consultations conducted virtually with CAREC country officials, ADB staff and various stakeholders. A series of the National workshops on potential CAREC–wide FTA were held for GEO (Jan 2023, hybrid), PAK (March 2023, hybrid), UZB (May 2023, hybrid), TKM (May 2023, online) and AZE (May 2023, online). Introductory training sessions on preparing to negotiate a potential CAREC–wide FTA were held in Islamabad, Pakistan in March 2023 and Tashkent, Uzbekistan in May 2023. An FTA targeted national capacity building activity for KAZ, KGZ, and TAJ was held in Almaty on 4–5 May 2023. This training activity was being organized at the	

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			request of the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.	
ADB	Regional technical assistance projects: • TA 9712–REG: Implementing the Integrated Trade Agenda in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (Additional Financing) approved in 2021 for $800,000. The TA project aims to enhance the trade performance of CAREC countries by providing knowledge support on increasing market access; producing and disseminating policy research on economic diversification; and strengthening trade institutions' capacity in policy coordination, analysis, and negotiations.	2020+	Under the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 and its strategic action plan for 2022–2024, there is continued momentum in keeping trade open, promoting food security, implementing international agreements, and aligning with international standards through collaborative projects and knowledge exchanges. A key milestone is Turkmenistan becoming an acceding member to the World Trade Organization (WTO), with support from ADB in preparing its Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime. Numerous CAREC initiatives and pilot projects contributed to building capacities and implementing reforms to modernize sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, thereby facilitating safe trade. These include establishing pest–free areas in Azerbaijan, phytosanitary capacity evaluation in Uzbekistan, and integrating SPS functions at the border with customs control in Mongolia. Georgia and Pakistan initiated expert–level and stakeholders' consultation to join other CAREC members (PRC and Uzbekistan) in exchanging phytosanitary certificates via the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)'s ePhyto hub. Customs authorities are examining challenges to existing transit operations and discussing ways to facilitate transit through a single transit portal for information exchange.	Key knowledge work with policy recommendations published in 2021 are: (i) a policy brief on Expanding Agri–Trade in Central Asia through the Use of Electronic Certificates; (ii) E–Commerce in CAREC Countries: Laws and Policies; (iii) Developing the Services Sector for Economic Diversification in CAREC Countries. The E–Commerce in CAREC Countries: Infrastructure Development was also published in March 2022.
OSCE	Support National Trade Facilitation Committees in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan. Tajikistan, Kazakhstan) in (i) implementing their tasks on domestic coordination and implementation of the TFA's provisions (ii) coordinating their work and share best practices among CA countries; (iii) development of an e–platform for sharing of best	2020–2021		Exploratory assessment of the needs of NTFCs of three Central Asian Countries (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan) was finalized in October 2020. Main results: (i) increased need for digitalization of transport and transit documents, in the wake of the COVID–19 health crisis (ii) increased need for coordinated and harmonized implementation of the TFA in

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	practices and experiences among CA– NTFCs.			the region and further interaction/ cooperation within the region

Shared with different international organizations (such as GIZ and UNECE). The results were discussed also during coordination meetings as well as regional events such as a trade facilitation workshop jointly organized (in December 2020) with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and the ITC Secretariat. Representatives from ITC, OSCE, WTO, WCO, EAEU Member States and beyond discussed opportunities for a coordinated and harmonized implementation of the TFA in the region. |
| OLA | Provide policy and legal advice on laws applicable to the legal framework for international trade and investment and complementary capacity–building, such as direct legal assistance in the drafting of elements of the commercial law framework (laws and supporting regulations), training on implementation and use of the legal framework, and developing institutional structures. | Ongoing | Since July 2020, OLA through its International Trade Law Division has provided assistance and capacity– building in various areas of the commercial law framework to the following LLDCs, including: Ad hoc activities in Afghanistan (e–commerce); Armenia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan and Zimbabwe (commercial and investor– state dispute resolution); Mongolia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Uzbekistan (e–commerce, international contracts for the sale of goods and commercial dispute resolution); Moldova and Uzbekistan (public procurement) and the commercial law framework (Turkmenistan and Zimbabwe). OLA has also provided technical input as a non– resident agency to the Lao PDR UN Partnership Framework 2017–2021. | |
| FAO | Assist LLDCs in strengthening their capacities related to international trade agreements and the promotion of export opportunities through: i) the development of evidence– based analyses; ii) knowledge sharing and; iii) national capacity development on key issues related to food and | Completed | Supported the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA) Secretariat and many of its member states on the assessment and management of various plant/animal health and food safety risks. FAO's engagement in the COMESA Trade Facilitation Programme has benefited 11 African LLDCs (the project will be completed in May 2022). The technical report is completed and a regional workshop is planned for 2022. The project is aimed at | Substantial work was conducted remotely by FAO and the COMESA Secretariat, including on food safety: extensive consultation with national task forces (NTFs) designated by COMESA Member States and using three COMESA official languages (English, French and Arabic) on matters pertaining to harmonization of regulations of key contaminants, and imported food control procedures. |

Trade facilitation				
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	agricultural trade, including regional and multilateral trade negotiations.		improving inter–regional trade in agricultural and food products and food security.	Regional training courses were delivered on chemical and microbiological risk assessment, supporting a regulatory science–based decision–making process. Two other regional training courses on risk based imported food control were designed and delivered, complemented by national situation analysis and leading to validated national action plans. Support was also provided to the implementation of key elements of these action plans in selected countries, as well as the preparation of a regional document supporting the exchange of information on imported/exported foods in support of regional food trade. Through the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, FAO prepared several e–learning courses and delivered regional trainings on specific actions supporting plant health control and certification, as well as on specific topical issues affecting plant health regionally and globally. In addition, a legal study was conducted regarding the possibility to include e–phyto in the legislation of Member States. In the Asia and the Pacific region, FAO supported **Lao People's Democratic Republic** to identify priority interventions required to lower trade barriers within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their trade partners. **This activity was completed in 2021**. The technical report provided guidance on how to develop supportive interventions to improve regional trade for food and agricultural trade. Similar support was provided to **Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepa**l, which are part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). FAO facilitated two e–learning courses for the benefit of trade and related policy practitioners in different regional contexts. More specifically, a course on

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				"Agrifood Export Promotion Policy and Practical Tools" was organized for 12 Central Asian and Eastern European countries (including **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenista**n) in September 2021, and another one on "Agriculture in International Trade Agreements" for Latin America and the Caribbean **(Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay**) in June 2021. Seventy–three officers were trained and are now able to better understand the international regulatory frameworks governing trade and its implementation mechanism to improve food and agricultural trade and enhance food security. FAO developed indicators and analyses at country level to measure agricultural and trade policies and assess their implications for producers and consumers. In particular, price incentives indicators have been developed for six LLDCs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**) (2021). FAO also supported **Kyrgyzstan** in developing measures to improve access to new markets, diversify agrifood exports and comply with WTO commitments, including capacity development for preparing WTO notifications of domestic support to agriculture (2000–2021).
FAO (WTO STDF)	Promotion of Codex Alimentarius standards and codes of practice, particularly in the smoked fish sector, and documentation of potential positive effects on health safety in other sectors in **Mali;**	2021-2024	- Capacity development training for SME on good hygienic practices (GHP), good manufacturing practices (GMP); - Development of training material on the operation and maintenance of smoking ovens; - Training on market access for SMEs operating in smoked fish value chain; - Sampling and testing of smoked fish for aromatic hydrocarbons and pesticides	- Laboratory capacity development for testing for maximum residues limits for aromatic hydrocarbons and pesticides; - Design and construction of improved smoking oven to reducing the level of ACH.
FAO (AfDB)	Strengthening Food Safety Standards for Improved Competitiveness of SMEs in the Sahel (**Burkina Faso, Niger**)	2022-2024	- Develop and implement capacity development training on GMPs, GHPs, HACCP for SMEs;	- Identification and prioritization, and selection of most traded food commodities;

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			- Assessment of national food control system undertaken in the beneficiary countries using the FAO/WHO food control system assessment tool; - Sustainable and affordable cold system established in the communities to improve the safety of foods products and reduce losses due to alteration.	- Identification of SMEs operating in the areas of the selected food commodities
FAO (AfDB)	Regional Strengthening of Food Safety Standards for Trade and Public Health Promotion in **Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda**	2023-2024	- Implement regional capacity development training on harmonization of international food standards for East African Community (EAC) member states; - Technical Assistance for Agribusiness, MSMEs and other actors in the value chain.	
FAO/WHO (Codex Trust Fund) -	Improving participation of the member state capacity to participate in the process of international standard development (**Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe**)	2018-2024	- Assessment and improvement of Codex Alimentarius structures and functioning; - Capacity development training food standard development processes.	
FAO EU	COMESA Trade Facilitation Programme **(Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe)**	2019-2024		- Identification of priority (most traded) food commodities in the COMESA region and associated food safety and trade issues; - Stakeholder consultation undertaken on harmonization of regulatory and non-regulatory control among COMESA member states.
FAO	Improvement of animal slaughtering and meat inspection system to facilitate market access (**Burkina Faso, Mali**)	2019-2023	Development of generic model for quality control in the abattoir to facilitate compliance with international market requirements.	Development of guideline for risk-based meat inspection
DESA, with WTO and ITC	Trade promotion through the alert system (ePing) on the Sanitary and Phyto–sanitary (STS) and Technical barriers to trade (TBT) regulations	Ongoing	DESA, together with WTO and ITC, established the alert system (ePing) for stakeholders to quickly obtain information on the changes in the STS and TBT regulations. It aims to minimize the disruption of trade arising from the lack of effective information flow from the destination markets to exporters in the originating countries. Since 2016, DESA assisted countries, including LLDCs, through training workshops and online tutorials on www.epingalert.org	ePIng training to be conducted in Zambia in the fall of 2023.

1.5 Trade integration

Trade integration				
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UN–OHRLLS and partners	Support LLDCs' integration in global and regional value chains for sustainable development	2021–2022	UN–OHRLLS is finalizing a report that highlights tangible policy options for LLDCs to integrate in GVCs under four dimensions: increasing foreign direct investment; preparing for emerging GVC patterns; building productive capacities; and overcoming transportation related disadvantages. The report also provides comprehensive data on LLDCs' current participation in GVCs and their main GVC trading partners. It presents case studies of two GVC related industries (food and agriculture as well as textile and clothing). The report further highlights the role of the international community, including the UN system, on how LLDCs can be supported to increase their participation in global value chains in a way that aids structural economic change and sustainable development.	UN–OHRLLS, together with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations (former Chair of the LLDC Group) organized an online event on leveraging the potential of the private sector for integration of LLDCs into global and regional value chains. The event took place on 17 November 2021 and was attended by more than 30 participants including Government Representatives from LLDCs and participants from UN and other international organizations. The meeting highlighted that: –a long–term and inclusive economic recovery in LLDCs will be dependent on structural economic transformation for which leveraging the role of the private sector will be critical; – LLDCs' integration in global and regional value chains is extremely important in order to transition from passive suppliers of commodities to key players in manufacturing industries of the future. For this to come to fruition, proactive planning will be necessary; –the development of productive capacities with a special focus on human capital and the alignment of investment, trade and industrial policies are two key strategies that can drive LLDCs' enhanced participation in GVCs and provide impetus to efforts for long–term structural economic transformation. The meeting summary report provides more details on discussions that took place during the meeting, and is available **HERE.** More information on the event, including its concept note and programme are available **HERE.**
ESCAP	Develop and improve Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA) to support LLDCs in negotiating trade agreements for regional integration, as well as to support landlocked LDCs in	2018+	Carried out TINA trainings to Nepal on LDC graduation: https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/back–back–subregional–workshop–sustainable–graduation–category–least–developed–country	The Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA) tool aims to assist ESCAP member States in the negotiation of trade agreements, with the ultimate objective of enhancing trade in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Trade integration				
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	estimating the impact of LDC graduation on trade. Assist CAREC in using TINA for trade negotiations, preference loss scenario; and assist Bhutan on "Review of Trade Performance, LDC Graduation, WTO accession and Implementation mechanisms for Trade Development" for its Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS).		In collaboration with ADB, training on trade negotiations to CAREC members (Tbilisi, Georgia): https://www.carecprogram.org/?event=training–of–trainers–on–how–to–design–negotiate–and–implement–ftas–in–carec–region–second–physical–hybrid–phase Carried out National Workshop on Trade Agreement Negotiations 10 to 13 October 2022, Mongolia: https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/national–workshop–trade–agreement–negotiations Follow–up Workshop on Trade Agreement Negotiations for Mongolia 16 to 18 November 2022 https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/follow–workshop–trade–agreement–negotiations–mongolia [Planned] Training on digital provisions in trade agreements for Mongolia (Nov 2023)	Development and improvement of TINA to support LLDCs in negotiating trade agreements for regional integration, and to support landlocked LDCs in estimating the impact of LDC graduation on trade was completed in 2019. A module on assessing the impact of LDC graduation and loss of preferential treatment was integrated. https://tina.trade/ In addition, on 7–8 July 2021, ESCAP and the CAREC Institute jointly conducted a two–day webinar on "Using Online Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor for Trade Negotiations (TINA)." https://www.carecinstitute.org/events/using–escaps–online–trade–intelligence–and–negotiation–advisor–tina–for–trade–negotiations/ The webinar was addressed, *inter alia*, to CAREC Institute's staff, involved in trade–related research and capacity building activities; and government officials/experts from relevant ministries or agencies of CAREC member countries, who promote FTA in the CAREC region.
ESCAP	Enhance analytical capacities of trade policymakers (including those in Asia's LLDCs) to channel trade into sustainable development.	2020+	The following online training materials and courses have been rolled out. Participants and graduates include those from LLDCs. • Negotiation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements • Negotiating RTAs for trade in times of crisis and pandemic • Non–Tariff Measures and Sustainable Development • Trade and Sustainable Development Goals • ESCAP Online Training on Using R for Trade Analysis • Machine Learning and Text Mining for Trade • Policy Analysis with R • Sustainable Development Provisions in Free Trade Agreements	

Trade integration				
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	• Analysing Value Chains and Trade Flows • Climate–smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development • E–learning course on using UNESCAP's Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA) –			
UNECE	Five areas of deliverables of the SPECA Working Group on Trade: (1) cooperation among the SPECA countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) in the WTO process; (2) trade facilitation – implementation of the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy; (3) implementing the SPECA Principles of Sustainable Trade; (4) analysis and recommendations on removing non–tariff barriers to trade; and (5) assistance for the use of standards in digitalizing multimodal data and document exchange. See www.unece.org/speca	Ongoing	In cooperation with ESCAP and other partners, work is ongoing constantly in support of the five areas of work. Regular policy and expert meetings on the subject take place, and more than 12 working papers and pilot project reports on issues of practical interest have been prepared in 2019–2021. Those are available at: https://unece.org/speca–working–group–trade	
UNECE	Technical assistance in the process of accession of Turkmenistan to WTO.	2022 – ongoing	A seminar on the organization of the WTO accession negotiations was carried out in March 2022, and an assessment of the readiness of Turkmenistan to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement is planned.	
UNECE	Conduct a Needs Assessment Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to trade in the Republic of Uzbekistan.	2021–2022	The forthcoming study will cover the following areas: –Trade as means for achieving sustainable development in Uzbekistan –Traders' profile, with a focus on micro, small and medium enterprises (based on survey) –Trade facilitation –Systems of technical regulations and standardization –Conformity assessment system –Systems of metrology	

Trade integration				
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			The study will also provide three business process analysis in the following sectors: Handicrafts; Textiles and electronics; and Dried fruits and dried vegetables The study builds on policy recommendations developed within the SPECA Sustainable Trade project. In 2020–2021, the UNECE conducted a study on "Promoting sustainable trade and circular economy in SPECA countries: State of play and way forward", which looked at the state of play of the SPECA sub–region, including Uzbekistan vis–à–vis its implementation of the SPECA Sustainable Trade Principles. Key findings and recommendations of the study will be submitted to the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards at the beginning of June 2022 and are expected to be discussed at the seventh session of the Committee, which will take place on 27–28 (am) June 2022. The final version of the study will be published at the UNECE webpage (https://unece.org/trade/studies–regulatory–and–procedural–barriers–trade) after the Steering Committee session in English and Russian.	
UNIDO	Supporting regional trade integration	2017–2023		In 2023, UNIDO completed the "West Africa Competitiveness and Quality Infrastructure Project" (WACQIP), formulated under the "Quality" and "Business Environment and Competitiveness" components of the broader West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) funded by the EU and implemented in cooperation with ECOWAS. The project aims to enhance the countries' integration into the regional and international trading system. LLDCs such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger are among the programme's beneficiary countries. WACQIP has provided technical assistance to the National Certification Bodies (NCBs) of these three countries. Project accomplishments include: 122 capacity building activities provided, more than 400 people trained in 46 regional workshops, 94 ECOSTAND standards adopted,

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				and several quality community committees, councils, and agencies established.
ITC	Provide technical assistance for LLDCs towards addressing trade–related constraints by providing tailor–made solutions through the delivery of country–specific and regional programmes (Uganda)	2021		**Uganda: Handicraft and Souvenir Development Project:** In March 2021, ITC conducted two trainings on governance for the cooperatives. They learnt about cooperative principles, and how to efficiently govern and manage their organizations. Then, in April and May 2021, two workshops on craft entrepreneurship and marketing were organized. Through interactive trainings, managers from 20 craft businesses were able to address market access and visibility challenges, which represent big obstacles to the growth of the Ugandan craft sector.
ITC	Provide technical assistance for LLDCs towards addressing trade–related constraints by providing tailor–made solutions through the delivery of country–specific and regional programmes (Central African Republic)	Ongoing,	**Central African Republic: Programme d'appui à la promotion de l'entreprenariat en milieu rural :** The project has constituted 22 cooperatives for corn agriculture and one for Poultry farming in 2021. Its members have been sensibilized on governance of the cooperatives and corn cultivation. 5 warehouses are constructed for the cooperatives for seed storage. In addition, agricultural machinery has been purchased and will arrive in the country for the next harvesting of corn.	
ITC	Provide technical assistance for LLDCs towards addressing trade–related constraints by providing tailor–made solutions through the delivery of country–specific and regional programmes (Zimbabwe)	Ongoing,	**Zimbabwe: United Kingdom Trade Partnerships (UKTP) Project:** The UKTP Zimbabwe project, whose implementation started in 2020, is working with 5 lead farmers and close to 300 small holder farmers to produce and export horticulture crops to the United Kingdom, the EU, and the rest of the world. The project, being implemented within the Alliances for Action Framework, has managed to create viable and sustainable relationships between the lead firms and the smallholder farmers. Despite the COVID–19 induced restrictions and the frost which hit Zimbabwe in July 2021, more than 25 smallholder farmers managed to export snap peas and mangetout to the region and Europe. The project will see close to 100 smallholder farmers exporting chillies, creating	

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			approximately 300 casual jobs, during the harvesting season. ITC has embedded the Trade Map of the market intelligence tools, in the ZimTrade website. **Zimbabwe:** A new project "How to Export with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was delivered in Zimbabwe in partnership with ZimTrade, in addition to 11 more countries. This follows completion of the pilot phase ITC implements in partnership with the African Import and Export Bank (Afreximbank). This training programme targets current and prospective African exporters and trains them on the fundamentals of intra–African trade. It also explores the opportunities resulting from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It combines an online curriculum hosted on the Afreximbank Academy and a national workshop, which involves practical exercises and case studies and is tailored to each local context.	
ITC	Provide technical assistance for LLDCs towards addressing trade–related constraints by providing tailor–made solutions through the delivery of country–specific and regional programmes (Tajikistan)	Ongoing,	**Tajikistan: Textile and clothing (T&C sector)** The project involves three local trade and investment support institutions (TISIs) including the Union of Private Sector Development of Tajikistan (UPSDT) and two universities in its implementation. The capacities of TISIs local project partner have increased, leading to the independent delivery of some services to the beneficiary companies. In particular, local TISIs organized a series of roundtables, workshops, online B2B meetings, a sectoral forum, as well as prepared companies for and accompanied them during two trade fairs. The Garment Training Center (GTC), established jointly by the GTEX and the Technological University of Tajikistan (TUT) in 2019, has started offering fee–based courses on design and sewing for the university students and other interested people.	

Trade integration				
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			In 2021 the project achieved the following main results: – Three partner business services online (BSOs) reported improved service delivery & improved operational & managerial performance. – 19 (79%) of the targeted companies used services provided by supported BSOs. – The number of UPSDT T&C member companies increased from 12 in 2018 and 53 in 2021. The amount of collected membership fees increased from 1,800 TJS in 2018 to 29,050 TJS in 2021. – The number of employees in 24 beneficiary companies increased from 2,057 in 2020 to 2,168 (78.6% female) covering 15% of the sector's employment. – Beneficiary companies reported a total export of USD 7.53 million during 2021 (30.2 million since 2018).	
ITC	Provide technical assistance for LLDCs towards addressing trade–related constraints by providing tailor–made solutions through the delivery of country–specific and regional programmes (Kyrgyzstan)	Ongoing	**Kyrgyzstan: T&C sector** The project provided advisory support for partner trade and investment support institutions (TISIs) to improve their operational and managerial capacity. The coordination among partner TISIs have also improved. More than 30 beneficiary companies used services provided by the partner TISIs in various fields. In 2021 and so far, 14 TISIs improved knowledge and capacities in supporting: working place 5S; project management; development of project proposals; development of business plans; quality management systems based on ISO 9001; development of new product in accordance with fashion trends; new technologies of processing sewing products; and marketing and fashion. On 24 March 2021, the project organized a round table on strengthening partnership between local TISIs and educational organizations and a job fair to establish links between graduates of the educational institutions and T&C companies.	

Trade integration				
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			In addition, the following results were registered: – 6 business services online (BSOs) reported improved service delivery and improved operational and managerial performance. – 33 beneficiary companies used services provided by partner BSOs. – Membership increased for Legprom (+37%), Daairy (+12%) and FDA. – 34 beneficiary companies (30 women–led) signed contracts with buyers and received new orders amounting to US$ 1,683,973. – 39 beneficiary companies retained 1333 jobs in 2021 (83,7 % female) and 28 of them created 326 new jobs. – 39 beneficiary companies (34 women–led) reported an overall total export of USD 15 million in 2021.	
ITC	Provide technical assistance for LLDCs towards addressing trade–related constraints by providing tailor–made solutions (Buthan)	2018–2022		**Bhutan trade support** In 2021, – 1,100+ public and private sector stakeholders, farmers and producers trained – 37 MSMEs directly and 1,200+ producers/artisans indirectly linked to export markets – Nu. 10.8 million worth of new export sales to 11 countries – 2 online tools AMIS and Bhutan Trade Information Portal – 30+ practical guides, roadmaps, courses and learning materials export kits for handicraft artisans, education materials for horticulture producers, guides on International Trade Dispute Settlement, Trade Negotiation toolkit, E–commerce implementation plan, investment sector profiles, regulation/strategy studies, international trade policy and investment courses More than 250 public and private sector stakeholders – including more than 50 women – were trained on conducting trade negotiations, business advocacy,

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				public–private dialogue, investment regulations and reconciling trade and industrial policy formulation with Bhutan's Gross National Happiness values as well as on trade facilitation, market access, business advocacy, developing policy positions, dispute settlement in international trade, research, roles and functions for the chambers.

The Bhutanese business community benefited from a game–changing tool, the Bhutan Trade Information Portal, which serves as a repository of information for local and foreign entrepreneurs seeking products and companies from Bhutan. It facilitates the flow of information, boost domestic and international trade and empower decision makers in taking appropriate policy decisions.

More than 689 farmers improved their capacities on post–harvest practices and organic production as a result of ITC's targeted capacity building activities. 5 master trainers and 50 extension officers were trained on ginger/turmeric and mushroom post–harvest and organic production. 718 horticulture value chain stakeholders trained and in reporting improved export skills.

An online platform for agricultural producers was launched in June 2020. The Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) benefits 677 small and medium businesses and farmers in Bhutan by providing them with real–time price information on agricultural commodities, empowering them to get better prices and improve their incomes.

203 textile handicraft producers, companies, civil society organization (CSO) representatives and officials from government organizations improved their capacities on market requirements, product development, pricing and costing thanks to support from the project and dedicated capacity building activities. |

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ITC	Through the READY4Trade project, support the development of intra–regional and international trade in five Central Asian LLDCs, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, by enhancing the transparency of cross–border requirements, removing regulatory and procedural barriers, strengthening business capability to comply with trade formalities and standards, and by improving cross–border e–commerce. The project targets selected sectors and value chains in each country based on the export potential and accounting for participation of women in the labour force in the sector.	2020–2023	The READY4Trade project, support the development of intra–regional and international trade in five Central Asian LLDCs (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). In 2021, the project achieved the following main results: – Launch of the Kyrgyzstan Info Trade Portal on 11 November 2021. – Significant progress in the implementation of Trade Facilitation Portals in all countries. – Support in the implementation of the EU – REX system in Tajikistan through dedicated capacity building events. – Adoption by Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan of ITC recommendations to focus on three main obstacles hampering regional trade: complexity of trade formalities; non–recognition of quality certificates; and long delays at border crossings. – Development of the new regulation on risk management operations in Tajikistan and acceptance by the Customs Service. – Increased capacity of 212 local SMEs (in all five countries), which reported changes to their business and export operations, under the Export Management Coaching Initiative (EMCI). – Development of strong partnerships with Customs services and relevant government agencies of all five countries under the gender component, and successful delivery of trainings on "Gender–Responsive Trade Facilitation" and "Gender–Disaggregated Data for Trade Policy–making" for officials from customs committees and relevant ministries.	

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			– Development of three draft strategies on E–commerce (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) – which are in different stages of government approval/validation process. – Increased capacity of 127 SMEs (including 83 women–led) from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which have made changes to business operations to sell through online channels.	
ITC	Provide a wide range of stakeholders of trade, particularly MSMEs, business support organizations and policymakers in Eastern Partnership countries (including three LLDCs, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova), with an interactive online platform that offers access to trade information that are necessary to do business in the region and with the European Union and training. (EaP Helpdesk project)	2019–2024	In Q1 2021, a beta version of the EaP Trade Helpdesk was developed and the first module (market Information) was presented at EaP Stakeholder meeting in Georgia (virtual). In the following quarter, the market Information module of the platform was presented at (virtual) stakeholders' meetings in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Two other modules (regional opportunities and help centre) have been designed. Also in Q2 2021, assessment reports on international trade in services statistics were prepared for, and shared with stakeholders in Moldova and Ukraine.	
ITC	Gather evidence from the ground about unnecessary trade cost that regulations imply and accompany stakeholders in identifying how to reduce such trade cost without undermining legitimate objectives that trade regulations serve (Niger)	2020+	**In 2020 and 2021, ITC's Non Tariff Measures (NTM) Programme achieved the following:** **Niger:** Following business survey on obstacles to trade that gathered the experience of 580 businesses, ITC and local stakeholders established, through 5 validations workshops, 123 concrete actions to tackle obstacles experienced by Nigerien traders in their export/import operations for trade in goods, trade in services in transport, tourism, and ICT sectors. The roadmap is validated by local institutions, among them 4 Ministries and +20 concrete actions are already inscribed to the budget of local institutions, and are being implemented for example: –The Government of Niger implements 10 of the actions in the leather and skins sector through the national	

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			component of the EU–funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP). These actions focus on strengthening the verification system for product compliance with standards, and on enhancing the capacity of companies to comply with market requirements. –The Nigerien Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is financing 12 actions over the next two years, specifically in support of two priority value chains of Kilichi and Blue Oignon of Galmi. –The National Agency for Metrology, Standardization and Certification started to coach individual companies throughout their certification process for 40 products through the PECEA.	
ITC	Gather evidence from the ground about unnecessary trade cost that regulations imply and accompany stakeholders in identifying how to reduce such trade cost without undermining legitimate objectives that trade regulations serve. (Zimbabwe)	2022+	**Zimbabwe: SME Competitiveness Survey** ITC is collaborating with the National Competitiveness Commission in Zimbabwe to conduct an SME Competitiveness Survey. By showing how to improve the performance of small businesses, the competitiveness surveys will assist the government, business support organizations and investors to become stewards of sustainable development.	
ITC	Facilitate the identification and elimination of trade obstacles on a continuous basis through a mechanism of trade obstacles alerts.	Ongoing	**In 2020 and 2021, ITC's NTM Programme (Trade Obstacles Alerts Mechanism Pillar) achieved the following:** **Niger:** Through the Trade Obstacles Alerts Mechanism TOAM, businesses are given the possibility to report obstacles faced in their operations of export/import. Among others and following resolution of relevant institutions, TOAM allowed: –Clarification of the procedure and fees linked to the export of leather goods and skins for Nigerien exporters –Concrete action taken to tackle the unexpected payments related to import of medical products at the Customs	

Trade integration				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			–Streamlining of the procedure of import of tires to Niger –Optimisation of the regulation on import of air conditioner to Niger to adapt to warm season in Niger –Clarification of importing taxes and fees at the Customs and related communication to traders **Burkina Faso, Mali**: The Trade Obstacles Alerts Mechanism is operational and local institutions are equipped with a solution to hold public–private dialogue aimed at tackle obstacles faced by traders in their trans–border operations.	
ITC	Provide transparent market information to LLDCs by notifying on destination market regulations update on a regular basis	Ongoing	ITC participates to the online alert system for notifications submitted by WTO Members under the Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) ePing with WTO and UN. The system allows to facilitate targeted data collection and delivers vital trade information to traders, particularly important in LLDCs. The initiative is free for beneficiaries.	
ITC	Under the South Sudan Jobs Creation and Trade Development project, ITC is providing support to South Sudan to enhance trade and generate employment for its population through improving value chains and increasing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs). This involves the attainment of four main deliverables: a) designing a strategy and roadmap for the development of the horticulture sector; b) improving productive capacities and compliance to standards for MSMEs engaged in the fruit and vegetable value chains;	2020–2024	Implementation of activities is ongoing. Presently, the following have been accomplished: –372 fruits and vegetable producers have been trained (youth representing 56% while women account for 45%); –18 fruit and vegetable producer cooperatives, consisting of 743 members have been established, and these members have been trained on cooperative governance and management; –26 South Sudanese have bene coached as trainers of food safety and quality system while 93 MSMEs (66 female and 27 male producers and traders of fruits and vegetables) have bene trained on food safety and good hygienic practices; –a National Quality Policy for South Sudan has been reviewed and validated;	

Trade integration				
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	c) increasing market linkages for MSMEs; and d) improving employability and entrepreneurship capacity for South Sudanese labour force, focussing on youth and women.		–a roadmap for the development of the fruits and vegetables subsector has been designed, and an entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping and network analysis conducted.	
UNEP	Support LLDCs amongst other countries, through the Environment and Trade Hub, through research, capacity–building and policy advisory services across four areas: i) trade in environmentally sound technologies; ii) governance at trade and environment nexus; iii) green markets and global value chains; iv) reducing the footprint of trade.	2020		**Completed, 2020:** UNEP's Environment and Trade Hub helped accelerate countries' pursuit and adoption of sustainable approaches to trade and actively engaged in dialogues and knowledge exchanges with the wider trade and environment community. The Environment and Trade Hub's work focused on generating interest and leveraging action on trade to solve issues related to climate resilience building, biodiversity, resources trade, circularity and greening trade agreements. As a result of long–standing efforts, a high level of engagement and leadership on sustainability issues at the WTO was witnessed, culminating in a draft trade ministerial declaration on the environment that the Hub supported. Setbacks and disruptions caused by COVID 19 were addressed by analyzing trade and environment implications and formulating a support offer to governments. (2020) In 2021, the UNEP Environment and Trade Team focused on supporting countries with science–based advice in their efforts to align their trade policy to solve the three planetary crises of climate change, nature loss, and pollution. The developments at the international trade and environment nexus during the past twelve months include the following. ● Environmental initiatives at the WTO have received broad support and gained momentum,

Trade integration				
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				• High–level trade and economic fora (e.g. the G7 and G20) saw an increasing recognition of their linkages and impacts on the environment, and Several trade relevant commitments and pledges were made in high–level environmental fora, such as UNFCCC's COP 26 in Glasgow and within the draft for post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
UNDP through cooperation with the EIF	Support institutional strengthening and trade policy development in selected LLDCs	2020–2021	UNDP continues to provide technical and institutional support to LLDCs under the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs. In **Bhutan**, UNDP is working alongside the Government and partners to formulate Aid for Trade project proposals to mobilise resources for the implementation of key priorities identified in the DTIS update action matrix. In **South Sudan**, UNDP in close cooperation with the national government and other stakeholders launched a consultative process for the formulation of the DTIS update. Partners agreed on a focus on economic diversification, inclusive growth and resilience. Collaboration continues on institutional strengthening, including on regional integration, and strengthening the legislative framework, among others. In **Lesotho**, UNDP's institutional support has contributed to enhancing capacity on trade negotiations and participation in the AfCFTA, as well as training and outreach activities among greenhouse farmers to strengthen their ability to access markets, among others. In addition to these countries, a new programme have started in **Central African Republic** to undertake trade–related analytical work to inform policy making. In partnership with the EIF, UNDP in **South Sudan** worked alongside the government and a large group of stakeholders, to formulate an update Diagnostic trade study focused among others, on the challenges and opportunities that regional integration in the EAC and the AfCFTA provides to the country. In addition, institutional strengthening activities to government and other key stakeholders in	

Trade integration				
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			public and private sector continued. In **Lesotho**, efforts were undertaken to enhance trade negotiation capacity and awareness raising concerning the continental free trade area. Activities involved stakeholders across government entities, private sector, civil society and journalists.	
ADB	Accession to WTO and IPPC	2020–2023	ADB, under the CAREC program and in close coordination with the WTO Secretariat, is supporting accession to WTO of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (TA 9712). A key milestone is Turkmenistan becoming an acceding member to the WTO, with support from ADB in preparing its Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime. ADB also provided technical assistance for accession of Uzbekistan in the IPPC and its consideration to join the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).	
DESA, with WTO, UNCTAD and ITC	UN joint study on "The Textile and Clothing Sector in Asian Graduating Least Developed Countries: Challenges and Ways Forward	2021–22	The textile and clothing sector in five Asian developing countries makes heavy use of trade preferences for LDCs and is one of the main sectors likely to be impacted by graduation from the category. With two LLDCs – Lao PDR and Nepal – set to leave the LDC category in 2026, the textile and clothing sector in these countries needs to prepare for a smooth transition.	This inter–agency report study by DESA, WTO, UNCTAD and ITC has been produced. It reviews different aspects of LDC graduation and the textile and clothing sector in Asian graduating LDCs, including two LLDCs. The research is available at https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/2022/un–joint–study–on–the–textile–and–clothing–sector–in–asian–graduating–least–developed–countries–challenges–and–ways–forward/
WTO	Conduct a study on the logistical constraints impacting the trade performance of the LLDCs and how trade bottlenecks could be reduced to broaden the opportunities for LLDCs to participate more fully in global value chains. The report titled "Easing trade bottlenecks in LLDCs" can be found here.	2021		The report was launched in December 2021 and confirms that LLDCs face 1.4 times higher trade cost of what is faced by coastal countries and is largely a result of transport costs and non–tariff measures. It also demonstrates the vital role the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement and other WTO agreements play in facilitating trade. The report advanced a set of recommendations that helps LLDCs' to target adequate

Trade integration				
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				area of work and measures that are crucial for their integration into global trade. Those recommendations also serve as a basis for the development of further projects and policy formulations targeted towards a better implementation of the VPoA.
WTO	Support Landlocked Least Developed Countries (LDC) through in–depth analytical assessment of their trade environment. The WTO led Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)'s Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) provides country specific comprehensive information and analysis to establish national priorities for a stronger trade integration of Landlocked LDCs.	Until 2022	The EIF coordinates periodic country–specific trade analysis in the form of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and Action Matrices. DTIS are updated every 5 years and have been conducted in Landlocked LDCs such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central Republic, Chad, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.	Completed DTISs can be accessed here.

1.6 Accession, ratification and implementation of legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation, including those related to oceans

	Accession, ratification and implementation of legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation, including those related to oceans			
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
IRU, in cooperation with UNECE	Support accession to the TIR Convention and its practical implementation (Bolivia, Paraguay, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nepal)	ongoing	TIR expansion activities with interested countries are ongoing IRU conducted a dedicated briefing for LLDCs' ambassadors on TIR and CMR Conventions in Geneva in June 2021, IRU briefed African countries on TIR and CMR Conventions in a hybrid event which was jointly hosted by the Republic of Botswana, the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme, and the Cross-Border Road Transport Regulators Forum in October 2022 IRU and UNECE jointly with IsDB, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), run a training workshop on eTIR and eCMR for Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Sub-Saharan Africa countries in June 2022 in Casablanca	
OLA	Assist LLDCs in their endeavours (i) to accede to and ratify in a timely fashion relevant international conventions related to oceans, including transit transport and trade facilitation, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and legal instruments of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; and (ii) to ensure effective implementation thereto.	Ongoing	In July 2021, OLA, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and Treaty Section, held a briefing for delegates of a permanent mission of an LLDC to raise awareness of the main features of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, benefits to land–locked States arising from becoming party to it, and issues associated with its ratification, with a view to facilitating the consideration of ratifying the Convention by that LLDC	
ADB	GMS–Support to accession and implementation of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Cross Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (CBTA)	Ongoing	Implementation of GMS CBTA is ongoing after its ratification by all countries of its Annexes and Protocols in late 2015. The GMS Transport Ministers first agreed to "carve out" provisions that could be more easily implemented with simplification of procedures and launched it in August 2018 as the 'Early Harvest' (EH) CBTA implementation package. The EH includes simplified procedures, such as, standardized Temporary Admission Documents for vehicles, waiver of guarantees for vehicles and containers, and waiver of TADs for containers, all on a pilot basis and subject to annual review. Therefore, all GMS countries have issued transport permits under EH CBTA by 2019 and movement of vehicle using the permits has started, although still limited. Furthermore, to revise the large number of outdated CBTA provisions, the ministers also agreed in 2019 to commence deliberation on CBTA 2.0 and target	

Accession, ratification and implementation of legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation, including those related to oceans				
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			completion by 2022, so that it can also take into account the lessons learnt from the EH CBTA implementation. However, the implementation of EH CBTA has been slow, particularly since the COVID–19 pandemic. Planned meetings were limited or cancelled; early harvest MOUs, permits, and transport admission documents expired; the signing of the Protocol 1 extension of the MOU between PRC and Lao PDR was delayed; and trade data submissions were discontinued. At the 25th Meeting of the GMS Subregional Transport Forum (STF–25) held on 14 June 2022 in Siem Reap, GMS countries affirmed the need to resume dialogue and initiatives under GMS CBTA.	
ADB	Support development and piloting of the CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and its supporting information common exchange (ICE) IT system. Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Kazakhstan are participating in the pilot phase of CATS.	Ongoing	Under implementation.

In–country consultations to implement the CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and Information Common Exchange (ICE) were conducted in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in December 2022–January 2023. CATS/ICE is designed as a regional harmonized electronic system for the control of movement of goods in transit through CAREC member states. Signing of the CATS/ICE Memorandum of Understanding by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will signify strong comment to trade and transit facilitation and encourage other CAREC member countries to join. | |
| UNECE | Technical assistance in the process of accession of Uzbekistan to WTO. | 2020–2022 | Assessment of the readiness of Uzbekistan to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and follow up. Implementation activities include: –the development of a National Trade Facilitation Roadmap (strategy); and –the establishment of a TF enquiry point, national trade facilitation committee, etc. –four capacity–building seminars have been organized. As part of the technical assistance provided in the process of accession of Uzbekistan to WTO, a report on the assessment of the readiness of Uzbekistan to implement the WTO trade facilitation Agreement has been prepared. | |
| WCO | Accessions to the International Convention on the simplification and | 2020–2022 | | The following LLDCs became Contracting Parties to the Revised Kyoto Convention: |

Accession, ratification and implementation of legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation, including those related to oceans				
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	harmonization of Customs procedures, as amended known as the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)			–Tajikistan (May 2020) –Turkmenistan (February 2021) –Uzbekistan (February 2021) –Kyrgyzstan (November 2021) bringing the number of LLDCs that are RKC Contracting Parties to 23 (72% of the LLDCs).

2 ENERGY AND ICT

2.1 Energy efficiency and access to energy, including renewables

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
IRENA and UN–OHRLLS	Joint substantive report on scaling up renewable energy in LLDCs	2021–2022	IRENA and UN–OHRLLS jointly developed and launched the report on *Scaling up Renewables in LLDCs*. The report provides an overview of deployment trends, drivers, barriers and opportunities for energy transition in LLDCs, while focusing on the challenges they face in attracting renewables investment towards achieving universal access and net zero targets. The report offers recommendations for LLDCs to accelerate deployment in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.	This report contributes to the substantive preparatory process on the thematic area of renewable energy for the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs in 2024, which aims to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support. https://www.irena.org/publications/2022/Sep/Scaling-up-renewables-in-landlocked-developing-countries
UNEP	Promote sustainable, low–emission transport and reduce the transport sector's contribution to air pollution and climate change. – Lao People's Democratic Republic	Ongoing	Through the United for Efficiency Partnership, UNEP supports the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) policymakers and regulators to advance policies, strategies and actions for the phase–out of inefficient lighting and refrigeration appliances. Emphasis is on an integrated policy approach so that a transition can be sustained by the domestic market without continued external support or resources. Through a Global Climate Fund Readiness project titled 'Development of Action Plan for Designing and Implementing Standards and Labelling", UNEP also works with the Lao PDR Ministry of Energy and Mines to strengthen institutional capacity in designing and implementing Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and labelling. The readiness support will: develop an implementation plan for MEPS and labelling programme for energy efficient lighting and appliances; and establish an enabling environment for transformation of the Energy Efficient lighting and appliance market. This will include an investment plan for introducing Energy Efficient appliances and supporting implementation of MEPS and labelling in the long term.	
UNEP	Promote sustainable, low–emission transport and reduce	Ongoing	The United for Efficiency Partnership supports Rwanda's transition to sustainable cooling solutions in the built	**The Africa Centre Of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES)** was officially launched in 2020

	Energy efficiency and access to energy, including renewables			
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
	the transport sector's contribution to air pollution and climate change. – Rwanda		environment. A holistic approach has been underway since 2018, and ranges from ambitious policies to financial mechanisms, communications campaigns, recycling of old products, and capacity building to ensure that impacts are sustained well into the future. **Rwanda Cooling Initiative (R–COOL) and Rwanda Cooling Finance Initiative (R–COOL FI)** R–COOL aims to transition the market to environmentally friendly and energy efficient cooling technologies. Rwanda Cooling Finance Initiative (R–COOL FI) supports the development of an on–bill financial mechanism for customers of the national electricity company to repay a loan for energy efficient cooling products via their electricity bill. R–COOL and R–COOL FI is made possible by funding from the Clean Cooling Collaborative (formerly K–CEP) and the Government of Rwanda. Main Components of the Initiatives include: –Conduct a market assessment –Draft a National Cooling Strategy and facilitate minimum energy performance standards and labels adoption –Develop financial mechanisms – Coolease (commercial) and R–COOL GO (residential) –Develop and implement communication campaign –Create a toolkit on Rwanda's approach and provide capacity building in EAC	by the Governments of Rwanda and the United Kingdom (Defra), the United Nations Environment Programme's United for Efficiency initiative, the Centre for Sustainable Cooling, and a range of academic institutions. It is hosted by the University of Rwanda (UR) at its Rubirizi Campus in Kigali. The Centre aims to develop and accelerate uptake of sustainable cold chain solutions in the agriculture and health sectors throughout Africa.
ECA, AUDA, IDEP	Policy dialogues and country compacts with LLDCs on energy and investment planning for enhanced access	Ongoing	**ECA:** Policy dialogues and country compacts with LLDCs on energy and investment planning currently ongoing. Progress in implementation has been slower than expected, but it remains a priority project for IDEP/ECA and AUDA–NEPAD. Efforts will be redoubled for effective implementation of the project.	
ECA	*Proposal:* Accelerate private sector investments in clean energy for access and climate action in LLDCs in Africa.	TBC (pending)	Preparations to implement this activity are still ongoing.	

Energy efficiency and access to energy, including renewables				
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ECLAC	Provide support to Bolivia to develop its energy efficiency baseline and to support the country in adjusting its energy balances.	2021–2022 (first quarter)	Support has been provided to Bolivia to develop its energy efficiency baseline and to support the country in adjusting its energy balances. A study on this matter is in the process of editing and printing.	
ECLAC	Launch database and indicators of the Regional Sustainable Energy Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. The site is hosted by ECLAC–STAT and includes energy poverty indicators that seek to quantify and deepen on the challenges of access to energy.	2021		The database and indicators of the Regional Sustainable Energy Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean was launched. The site is hosted by ECLAC–STAT and includes energy poverty indicators that seek to quantify and deepen on the challenges of access to energy. The data and indicators are available here: https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/perfil–regional.html?theme=4&lang=es
ECLAC	Provide support to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to advance in the understanding and quantification of energy poverty.	2021		Support was provided to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to advance in the understanding and quantification of energy poverty. To this end, a methodology and indicators for quantifying energy poverty were proposed to the region. The methodology was then discussed at the regional level and a study was launched. Finally, the methodology was applied in pilot countries (Argentina, Panama and Uruguay), where reports are being edited and printed. The proposed methodological report on energy poverty is available at: https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/46408–seguridad–hidrica–energetica–america–latina–caribe–definicion–aproximacion The regional energy poverty indicators report is available at: https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/47216–

Energy efficiency and access to energy, including renewables				
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				desarrollo–indicadores–pobreza–energetica–america–latina–caribe Information related to the report's launch is available at: https://www.cepal.org/es/eventos/finaliza–reunion–regional–rose–lanzamiento–perfil–energetico–regional–reporte–pobreza
ESCAP	Develop the National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP) to support countries in developing national roadmaps to achieve SDG7 and the Paris Agreement and implement it in at least two LLDCs.	2020+	SDG 7 road maps for Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan, are currently being finalized.	SDG 7 road maps were developed in Tajikistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, and Nepal https://nexstepenergy.org/landing The NEXSTEP tool enables policymakers to make informed policy decisions to support the achievement of the SDG 7 targets as well as emission reduction targets (NDCs). **Outcome/Results:** The road maps play a crucial role in identifying and creating recommendations for technological interventions and policy measures. Such measures are aimed at helping countries to achieve their SDG7 targets by 2030. At the same time, the road maps contain ambitious scenarios that go beyond 2030. As a result of the road maps, countries have been encouraged to explore opportunities for reaching net–zero carbon emissions by or around mid–century. The implementation of the road maps has been accompanied by capacity–building to ensure the long–term sustainability of the initiative. Following the completion of each road map, capacity– building sessions have been delivered to energy planners in the respective member State on how to undertake long–term integrated energy planning in support of SDG7 targets. The road maps have also catalysed additional requests for ESCAP to assist in launching projects in support of SDG7 targets. For example, in Bhutan, a clean cooking project is being carried out with the objective of achieving universal access to clean cooking by 2030 by combining electric cooking technology with the country's hydropower–based electricity. The project includes an exploration of the use of

Energy efficiency and access to energy, including renewables				
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				digitally enabled clean cooking technologies to enable climate finance to be channelled to clean cooking projects, with a view to replicating the approach used in other countries. –
ESCAP	Support implementation, follow–up and review of SDG 7 in LLDCs by promoting policy dialogue and knowledge–sharing, compiling and disseminating relevant energy information and data, and helping to link the national and global levels of implementation.	2021+	Regional Energy Trends Report 2023 is being finalized.	The following knowledge products were published in 2022–2023, and the data updates for the Asia Pacific Energy Portal were completed in March 2023.

– Regional Energy Trends Report 2022: Toward sustainable energy connectivity in Asia and the Pacific – Status, trends and opportunities;
– Policy Brief: Asia and the Pacific's Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7;
– The Asia Pacific Energy Portal—updated on the Portal in March 2023. The Portal's goal is to facilitate research, analysis, and informed decision–making within the Asia–Pacific region's energy sector. It serves as an open–access information platform, providing data visualizations for an extensive set of energy statistics, full–text policies, and interactive infrastructure maps.

Outcome/Results: The analysis provided through the reports, and data made available through the Portal supported policymakers and other energy stakeholders on regional follow up on SDG 7.
———— |
| ESCAP | Provide capacity building on the evidence–based policy for improving energy access and related socio–economic benefits on the national level, focused on clean cooking, an issue that primarily impacts women and girls. | 2020 | | ESCAP organized a Policy Dialogue on Clean Cooking, Fuels and Technologies addressed to stakeholders from across the Asia–Pacific Region on 17 December 2020 (virtually).

Outcome/Results: The dialogue and information shared at the policy dialogue equipped participating policymakers and stakeholders with better understanding of the challenges and solutions for clean cooking. |
| ESCAP | Promoting climate–friendly and energy–efficient cooling | 2022–2023 | | ESCAP is supporting LLDCs in assessing their cooling sectors and developing comprehensive national cooling action plans to meet the growing need for climate– |

Energy efficiency and access to energy, including renewables				
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				friendly and energy–efficient cooling technologies and systems across subsectors. In collaboration with UNEP, the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy and a working group of development partners, the national cooling action plan methodology has been developed. The methodology serves as a tool enabling countries to identify actionable pathways to reduce cooling demand through passive strategies, improve energy efficiency and transition to refrigerants with low global warming potential. **Outcome/Results:** ESCAP is supporting the development of a national cooling action in a few ASEAN countries to deliver a comprehensive national green cooling programme integrating both passive and active cooling solutions.
ESCAP	Evaluate the potential for enhanced power grid connectivity and cross–border electricity trade in selected LLDCs in the Asia–Pacific region. Connecting power grids of adjoining LLDCs can capitalize on complementarities between countries in terms of energy demand and energy resource availability, particularly wind, solar and hydropower potential.	2020–2023		Several meetings of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity – established by ESCAP 73rd Commission session – took place in 2020–2023(e.g. 4 December 2020, 4 May 2021, 30 June 2021, , 28 September 2021, 24 November 2021, 28 April 2022, 6–7 December 2022, and 11 May 2023). A regional road map on power system connectivity was endorsed by ESCAP member States at the 77th Commission Session of ESCAP in May 2021. The road map contains a set of strategies and associated milestones aimed at increasing sustainable power system connectivity in the region. Meetings of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity organised after endorsement of the roadmap have focused on implementation of these strategies. The 'Regional Power Grid Connectivity for Sustainable Development in North–East Asia' Report – that examines the opportunity to enhance cross–border power grid connectivity in North–East Asia – was also issued in December 2020. The 2022 Regional Trends Report "Toward Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific: Status,

Energy efficiency and access to energy, including renewables				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
				Trends and Opportunities" was published on 30 September 2022.
				Trainings on issues relevant to cross–border power system connectivity were organized for regulators in Southeast Asia (2021), North–east Asia (2022) and South Asia (2023) and for power utilities in Southeast Asia (2021 and 2022).
				ESCAP published a policy brief on unlocking private finance for grids.
ESCAP	Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels	2021+	The 8th session of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels with focus discussions on energy efficiency in residential sector is scheduled for 18 October 2023.	The Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels provides a platform for experts from LLDCs to share experiences in the implementation of initiatives related to the achievement of SDG 7. Five meetings of the Expert Working Group have been held since 2021.
ESCAP	Support development of sustainable and clean energy systems in North and Central Asia LLDCs through: an analysis on the interlinkages of SDG 7 and other SDGs; and meetings to facilitate knowledge sharing	2021		ESCAP published a working paper on 'Sustainable and clean energy in North and Central Asia' in 2021. The paper examines the current energy landscape in North and Central Asia, and proposes clean energy as a driver to achieve the 2030 Agenda. It maps out the interlinkages between clean energy and other SDGs, and elaborates on five policy considerations for sustainable and clean energy in North and Central Asia. https://unescap.org/kp/2021/sustainable–and–clean–energy–north–and–central–asia
UNECE	Enhance capacity of the UNECE member States, including LLDCs, to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings, with a focus on residential buildings.	2021–2022		Through this project, which ended in March 2022, UNECE conducted a regional analysis and detailed country–specific analyses for Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova, comparing existing energy efficiency building standards against performance objectives set forth in the Framework Guidelines for energy efficiency Standards in Buildings. It organized

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				workshops to discuss the findings and recommendations, and organized national training seminars on high–performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova. The project: i) improved knowledge of advanced energy efficiency standards in buildings; and enhanced an up–to–date network of experts from public and private sectors on energy efficiency in buildings. The project also strengthened capacity of national authorities, building sector professionals, homeowner associations and other relevant stakeholders to: develop and implement advanced energy efficiency standards in buildings; and introduce energy efficiency technologies at the national and sub–national levels.
UNECE	Regional Advisory Programme on Energy: Advice and technical assistance, of an operational nature, to countries with economies in transition	2021–2022		Between 2021 and early 2022, UNECE SED conducted a number of studies, where LLDCs were among the beneficiary countries. Those include: –Renewable Energy Financing and Investment in Kazakhstan (LLDC), Albania, Georgia, and Serbia; –Geologic CO2 storage in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia – An initial analysis of potential and policy (all UNECE LLDCs); –Energy Transition and the Post–Covid–19 Socioeconomic Recovery: Role of Women and Impact on Them (Uzbekistan); and –Potential for improving energy efficiency in the refrigeration and air–conditioning sector of Uzbekistan.
UNECE	Global Initiative towards post–Covid–19 resurgence of the MSME sector: Strengthening the capacity and resilience of micro–, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries and economies in transition to mitigate the economic and social	2020–2022		Through this project, which ends in June 2022, UNECE SED developed Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs to assure resiliency and progress towards a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply chain solutions. It also developed Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment. The regional reports were used to develop online training courses and later

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	impact of the global COVID–19 crisis.			to customize findings for several pilot countries in the UNECE region, including the following LLDCs: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, and Republic of Moldova (energy efficiency and renewable energy) and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan (circular economy in sustainable resource management).
UNECE	Sustainable resource management to support the low–carbon energy transition	2018–2025	United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) are used to support sustainable resource management. (i) UNDA Project (2022–2025) will look into Food–Water–Energy Nexus management in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The project is led by UNECE with participation from ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA, UNEP, WHO/Europe and UNU. The project will have a component that will look into CRMs and circular economy issues, primarily resources as a service to support the energy transitions. Kazakhstan will be a beneficiary country.	(ii) UNDA Project "Integrated Energy & Water management in Eastern Europe, South–Eastern Europe and Central Asia". United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) application for integrated water and energy management has been tested and best practice documents developed. Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan were beneficiary countries. (iii) UNDA Project "Global Initiative towards the post–Covid–19 resurgence of the MSMEs sector" (2019–2022). Application of UNFC and UNRMS for assuring resiliency and progress towards a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw materials supply chain solutions has been promoted. Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan were beneficiary countries.
FAO	FAO promotes Energy-Smart Agrifood Systems with the aim to achieve three main objectives: 1) Spread the use of renewable energy in agrifood systems; 2) Enhance energy and resource efficiency in agrifood systems; and 3) Promote the production and use of sustainable bioenergy.	Ongoing	Through specific projects, FAO has been contributing to assessing impacts of energy-related activities and derive policy recommendations to enhance the adoption of sustainable energy in agriculture in all regions. FAO also supports countries in the implementation of their climate and renewable energy policies through the identification of renewable energy interventions in agrifood supply chains. This FAO work includes high level initiatives such as the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), whose Secretariat is hosted at FAO and has a membership of more than 80 members between governments and international organizations.	The GBEP initiative has supported many countries, including LLDCs (e.g., Paraguay) with the development of alternative energy policy instruments, including the ECOWAS Regional Bioenergy Strategy Framework that was officially adopted by countries in West Africa. The BEFS assessment has been applied in different international settings, such as in Rwanda and in Zambia as part of their energy and bioenergy strategies development.

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			FAO developed and implemented the Bioenergy and Food Security (BEFS) Approach, to support countries and governments in developing bioenergy policy and establishment of sustainable bioenergy markets.	
UNIDO	Provide integrated and sustainable solutions and policy advice to LLDCs on promoting energy efficiency and delivering renewable energy technologies systems to promote productive activities **(GCIP)**	2020–2024	**2020 to present:** Through the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP), UNIDO has supported local entrepreneurs in developing countries to commercialize their cleantech innovations. GCIP comprises a wide network of more than 15 countries including LLDCs such as **Kazakhstan**, **Mongolia**, and **Lesotho**. The total programme budget amounts to more than USD 27 million. By 2025, GCIP is expected to expand further to at least 25 participating countries. UNIDO is spearheading two major programs targeting the improvement of industrial energy efficiency, namely the Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator and the Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI), which are open for LLDCs. Through these programs, UNIDO supports the mainstreaming of energy management standards and solutions in industrial processes.—— In 2023, UNIDO and the Government of the United Kingdom (UK), launched the Accelerate–to–Demonstrate (A2D) Facility, a £65 million programme that will accelerate the commercialization of innovative clean energy technologies in low– and middle–income countries, incl. LLDCs, focusing on innovative solutions in critical minerals, clean hydrogen and cross–cutting thematic areas (clean transport, smart energy, energy efficiency, energy storage, industrial decarbonization and sustainable cooling). The programme will help countries to mitigate climate change and meet the SDGs.	
UNIDO	Provide integrated and sustainable solutions and policy advice to LLDCs on promoting energy efficiency and delivering renewable energy technologies	2020–2024	UNIDO also continued the implementation of projects and programmes on renewable energy and energy efficiency such as: i) promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in **Afghanistan;**	In 2023, UNIDO completed the project "Development of an innovation ecosystem and support infrastructure, including a Digital Education and Innovation Centre" in **Azerbaijan**. The project improved the country's innovation ecosystem and created awareness on Industry 4.0 opportunities.

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	systems to promote productive activities **(various projects and programmes)**		ii) promoting clean technology innovations and entrepreneurship in SMEs and start–ups through the development of a low–carbon cleantech ecosystem generating green jobs and industries in **Moldova**; iii) promoting Small Hydro Power (SHP) for productive use and energy services in **Burundi**; iv) several projects to boost LLDCs' economies through renewable energy mini–grids and off–grid, as well as through access to clean and modern cooking energy.	
IRENA	Produce country focused Renewables Readiness Assessment for select LLDCs to identify key conditions for renewable energy deployment and identify actions for overcoming the challenges for renewable energy investments.	2020+	IRENA continues to support countries assess conditions needed to accelerate renewable energy deployment through the Renewable Readiness Assessment (RRA) tool. With this regard, and in coordination with respective governments, RRA implementation process completed for Kyrgyzstan, while the Burkina Faso RRA will be released in Q4 2023. A RRA process is ongoing in Chad and should be completed in 2024.	This renewables readiness assessment (RRA), developed by the Ministry by Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of IRENA, aims to support the country towards the sustainable development of the energy sector through increased deployment of reliable and cost-effective renewable energy solutions. The report calls for more ambitious and coherent renewable energy targets, combined with a long-term vision for development of the sector. Implementation of well-designed auctions suitable for local conditions is highlighted as a necessity for well-planned and cost-efficient renewable energy deployment, as well as for attracting new investments while reducing perceived market risk. Further improvement of financial and de-risking instruments is also recommended, as are actions for harnessing renewable energy potential in heating. https://www.irena.org/Publications/2022/Dec/RRA-Kyrgyz-Republic
IRENA	Provide regional capacity building trainings and assessments for select LLDCs on long–term planning, policy, regulation, finance and technology related aspects of renewable energy.	2020+	Across the globe, IRENA has created a strong structure for building technical knowledge and capacities. The Agency continues to offer tailored capacity building trainings on long term energy planning, data and statistics and climate innovation technologies and enhancement on investment frameworks. IRENA and CAPP (Central Africa Power Pool) launched a regional training programme on energy model analysis and planning for Central African countries. The training programme was based on the Regional Renewable Energy	IRENA undertook a project to support Mongolia to decarbonise its heating systems through the increased deployment of renewable energy. IRENA's support entailed capacity building and development of a techno-economic assessment that leads to a cost-effective mix of technologies and renewable energy solutions that Mongolia can implement in its heating systems to significantly reduce carbon emissions and air pollution. (i) IRENA carried out two capacity building exercises with Mongolian stakeholders in May & June 2022 to

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			Roadmap of ECCAS, which aims to identify key activities to address energy transformation in the region. It included an e-learning course, two remote workshops, and tutoring support on long-term planning with renewables and the IRENA SPLAT-MESSAGE modelling framework. About 50 technical experts from seven CAPP member states participated in the training. The workshop's second phase began in September 2022 and ended in July 2023. The release of the final report is scheduled for Q4 of 2023. IRENA, in partnership with GIZ, is supporting the Senegal Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MPE) with a capacity-building training programme to enhance the capacity of public institutions within Senegal's energy sector for long-term energy planning. This programme aligns with the Continental Power System Masterplan (CMP) under development by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), where IRENA is contributing as a modelling partner. IRENA is scaling up the SolarCity simulator to the city of Tashkent (Uzbekistan) in collaboration with UNDP and to Bamako city (Mali) The simulator is a web application developed to support countries in planning the installation of rooftop PV systems in the cities. It assesses the technical and financial potential for rooftop solar PV installations by testing different policy instruments, incentive schemes, and installation scenarios that could lead to potential economic savings and social-environmental benefits. The project is advancing and the launch of simulator is scheduled for the 2nd half of 2023.	increase the knowledge of policy makers on the tools and options for integrating renewable energy solutions in district heating systems. The capacity building targeted policy makers from: government ministries, the municipalities, academia, district heating industry associations, private sector, heating supply companies, and international organizations. (ii) Through the assessment focused mainly on Ulaanbaatar, IRENA launched a report "Renewable Energy Solutions for Heating Systems in Mongolia – Developing a strategic heating plan" in collaboration with Ministry of Energy of Mongolia on 29 August 2023. The launch included a workshop to discuss the findings of the assessment with the Mongolian stakeholders. The assessment comprised a detailed mapping of the heat demand of buildings and an energy system analysis of district heat supply. Energy efficiency improvement in existing and new buildings, efficient and modern heat supply networks, and the integration of renewable heat and electricity were highlighted in the proposed plan, which demonstrated that a renewable energy-based heating supply is more technologically and socio-economically feasible than the current fossil-fuel based system. https://www.irena.org/Publications/2023/Aug/Renewable-Energy-Solutions-for-Heating-Systems-in-Mongolia
IRENA	Provide technical support to select LLDCs to promote decentralized renewable energy solutions to address multiple SDG targets in connection with provision of essential services	2020+	IRENA continues to provide technical support to promote decentralized renewable energy solutions to address multiple SDG targets. In connection to the energy– health nexus, the Agency in partnership with the government of Burkina Faso is conducting an assessment for electrification of rural health facilities to facilitate electricity access to unelectrified primary rural health centres particularly in relation to the COVID–19 response as applicable. Ongoing discussions to	

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			scope additional countries (including LLDCs) to be provided with similar support. IRENA is assisting the Mali government by assessing the use of decentralized renewable energy (DRE) solutions for powering healthcare facilities in Mali. The primary goals are to identify opportunities for DRE interventions in the health sector, which can be supported by proper delivery mechanisms and partnerships. IRENA conducted an assessment to identify viable decentralised solar PV solutions to power key food value chains that are common across all eight countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. The report assessed the viability of solar PV solutions to meet energy needs at different nodal points in four selected food value chains of economic importance across the high-altitude areas of these countries, namely buckwheat, yak milk, potato and other vegetables. The report was published in 2022. https://www.irena.org/publications/2022/Sep/Decentralised-solar-electricity-for-agri-food-value-chains-in-the-Hindu-Kush-Himalaya-region	
IRENA	Support select LLDCs in enhancement of renewable energy ambition in National Determined Contributions (NDCs).	2020+	IRENA continues to support member countries, including LLDCs, to enhance renewable energy ambitions in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Significant progress has been made, and substantive inputs are provided to: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Eswatini, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Rwanda, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Specifically–: • IRENA has already provided substantive input to the enhancement of the energy component of the NDCs in Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Nepal, and Zimbabwe. • In the other countries such as Mali, Niger, Paraguay, Uganda and Zambia activities are nearing completion or have made a significant level of progress. • In Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, we are at an advanced stage of finalising work plans, while scoping discussions	

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			are taking place with another 5 countries, that is, Afghanistan, Chad, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Rwanda.	
IRENA	Regional and sub–regional Investment Forum within the framework of the Climate Investment Platform to support bankable project development and facilitate access to sustainable finance.	2021+	**IRENA** continues to support countries in strengthening Investment Frameworks to support the realization of Renewable Energy projects. IRENA's ongoing collaboration with UNDP, SEforAll, the Green Climate Fund under the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) initiative provides a broader framework for the Agency's project facilitation support services that aims at accelerating investments in renewable energy with a view to contributing to the realization of the ambitious NDCs. In this effort, the platform now hosts more than 200 projects; which vary in size from utility scale to off–grid and are at all stages in the project cycle, spread across the world, with a significant registration from LLDCs. From 2022, the implementation of the Platform will be further supported through the Investment Forums to be organized in 14 geographic clusters, offering an effective forum for enhanced government–investor dialogue, dedicated project matchmaking and associated capacity building activities.	
AfDB	Support at least 2 Regional Power Pools to facilitate power trade	2020–2022	The West Africa North backbone project is helping to meet the electricity needs of economies and people in the West African countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria (Burkina Faso and Niger being landlocked). With the ongoing construction of a 330 kV double–circuit line over 842 km with transformer substations, the project is supporting power exchange among the four countries and their neighbours. It is also supplying electricity to localities along the powerline. By meeting the demand for greater access to electricity and lower energy costs, the project will create jobs and stimulate business. In 2021 the AfDB approved $5.5 million technical assistance grant to roll out a Desert to Power initiative in the Eastern Sahel region of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan. The result of this project will be technical studies for regional solar parks and relevant battery storage as well as electricity connection systems of neighbouring countries.	

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UNDP with ECA, DEA and AUDA	Proposal: Enhance policy coherence and investment opportunities for the SDGs through integrated climate, land, energy and water systems approach in LLDCs in Africa		UNDP is supporting the Africa region with $144 million in active energy projects in over 26 countries mobilizing a co-financing amount of $ 1,45 billion.	
UNOSSC, UNESCAP, UNDP, GGGI, ISA, WGEO	Support and provide on–demand capacity building to the relevant national authorities of the LLDCs to scale up sustainable energy use on the path of advancing green economy transition.	2022 (TBC)	Following the adoption by the ISA Assembly of its decision ISBA/26/A/18 in December 2020, current efforts are being deployed to develop a dedicated capacity development strategy which will address the needs identified by LLDCs. The draft strategy has been issued for public consultation in April 2022 and is expected to be presented, in a revised format, to the ISA Assembly in August 2022 for adoption. Specific elements of the strategy recognize the need to develop and implement dedicated measures, initiatives and programmes to address the needs of LLDCs. Further, in line with the decision ISBA/26/A/18 of the ISA Assembly, the ISA Secretariat has issued a call for Members to nominate National Focal Points on matters of capacity development (NAFOP). As of today, 50 nominations have been received including from 5 LLDCS (Botswana, Eswatini, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal). In addition, through the partnership with World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), UNOSSC collaborated with UNDP and regional commissions to organize knowledge conferences on green economy for countries in Asia and ECIS regions including LLDC's active engagement. Italy-UNDP Energy partnership – USD $11 million. Focus on energy investment and capacity building. The targeted countries are – Algeria, Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Rwanda, Comoros, Mozambique and Eswatini. Through the Climate Aggregation Platform, launched the first ever Financial Innovation Challenge to crowdsource Innovative Financial	

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			Aggregation Structures and Models for small scale, low-carbon energy assets in developing countries. Target countries include Uganda and Rwanda	
ADB	Work to develop energy infrastructure and connect LLDCs into regional energy markets through cross–border inter–connection. ADB's support to LLDCs in the energy sector is implemented through the subregional programs including CAREC, GMS, and SASEC.	2020–2024	In 2020, six projects (in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Nepal) for $607.4 million were approved. Projects are in different stage of implementation. • AFG (Afghanistan): Energy Supply Improvement Investment Program Tranche 6 for $110 million under CAREC • AFG (Afghanistan): Energy Supply Improvement Investment Program Tranche 7 for $36.4 million under CAREC • TAJ (Tajikistan): Power Sector Development Program for $80 million (policy–based loan) under CAREC • TAJ (Tajikistan): Power Sector Development Program for $20 million (project loan) under CAREC • NEP (Nepal): SASEC Power Transmission and Distribution System Strengthening Project for $200 million • NEP (Nepal): Electricity Grid Modernization Project for $156 million under SASEC In 2021, one project for Nepal was approved. –NEP: Electricity Grid Modernization Project (Additional Financing) for $60 million Over the period of 2023–2024, 4 projects for $677 million are planned for the LLDCs in the energy sector, covering Nepal (2 projects for $507 million) and Bhutan (2 projects for $170 million). Note: ADB Operations in AFG are suspended temporarily.	
ADB	Under CAREC Energy Strategy 2030, a knowledge and support technical assistance will support:	Ongoing	KSTA 6540–REG: Fostering Expanded Regional Electricity Interconnection and Trade Under the CAREC Energy Strategy 2030. The initial TA budget was $2.5 million but a retro–	

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	(i) production of preparatory works for the establishment of a new regional transmission cooperation association, (ii) strengthening government capacity to carry out market reforms and attract investors, (iii) establishing a financing vehicle for green energy projects and foster consumer awareness for energy efficiency; and (iv) establishing a women–in–energy program to increase women participation in the energy sector. Two flagship Energy Investment Forums and a Women in Energy Summit are also planned under the technical assistance.		active cancelation of $1,336,443 leaves the TA with only $1,163,557 from the UK Asia Regional Trade and Connectivity Fund (ARTCF). To partially compensate for the loss, $400,000 from the ADB technical assistance special fund has been allocated. – All TA outputs are on track: Output 1: Draft Concept for the establishment of a Central Asia Transmission Cooperation Association (CATCA) completed. Output 2: CAREC Energy Reform Atlas completed. CAREC Energy Outlook approved and published in December 2022. The CAREC Energy Investment Forum was successfully held; the second forum is scheduled for 28–29 November 2023 in Georgia. Output 3: Concept for regional green financing vehicle (CAREC Green Energy Alliance) completed. Radio/TV spot and consumer leaflets on energy efficient behavior completed. Output 4: Draft Concept for Women in Energy Program completed. Organization of the 1st Women in Energy Summit completed. ——	
ADB	Provide technical assistance under 'Harmonizing the Greater Mekong Subregion Power Systems to Facilitate Regional Power Trade' project to GMS Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC), which Lao PDR is a member of.	Closed	TA–REG 8830 amount: $3.0 million; Approved in 2014	GMS performance standards, grid codes, and regulatory framework development completed.
UNOSSC	Promotion of Small Hydro Power in Nepal and Southern Asian Countries in partnership with the International Centre on Small Hydro Power	2019–2021+	–A Joint Research Center for Small Hydropower Technology is established as the platform to promote the research and application in SHP and international standard of small hydropower; –Provide technical assistance for Nepal and other Asian countries to improve and strengthen capacity building on scientific research, technological innovation and project development for SHP;	

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			–Promote technology transfer on SHP as well as clean renewable energy through technical demonstration in Nepal.	
DESA – UNOSD	Fossil–Fuel to Renewable Energy (FFRE) transition capacity building programme	Ongoing	UNOSD's FFRE transition capacity building programme, which is in place since 2014, is currently under review. In the new FFRE programming, UNOSD (DESA) will strengthen the priority given to LLDCs together with LDCs and SIDS, as reiterated in the recommendations of the external evaluation on its programmes and activities that was conducted in 2020.	

2.2 ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity

ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity				
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UNIDO	Promote and support adoption of advanced digital production (ADP) technological breakthroughs in industrial production and manufacturing sectors in LLDCs	2020–2024	**2020 to present:** UNIDO supports LLDCs' resource efficient, cleaner production and circular economy practices that enhance the competitiveness of enterprises through cost–savings, while creating environmental and social benefits. Application of these practices and transfer of environmentally sound technologies (TEST) also trigger innovations and investments at the firm level. UNIDO in collaboration with UNEP, has assisted LLDCs such as: **Bolivia, Lao PDR, Moldova, Paraguay, Rwanda, Uganda, Uzbekistan,** and **Zimbabwe** to establish National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) to support SMEs and larger enterprises to implement resource efficiency measures through investments in new and improved technologies. These NCPCs have joined the global network of 65 centers in 50 countries around the world. The TEST is currently implemented in **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali** and **Niger**, in industrial pollution hotspots where SMEs enhance their competitiveness, comply with national environmental regulations and contribute to the health and well–being of employees and the communities they are located in.	In 2022, through an inter–regional initiative, **Armenia, Azerbaijan** and the **Republic of Moldova** participated in the Regional Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) demonstration programme. The initiative promoted widespread adaptation and adoption of RECP methods, practices and techniques while focusing on agro–food, chemicals and construction material sectors. Specific outputs pertained to capacity building for RECP service delivery, implementation at the enterprise level and fostering of technology innovation.
WCO	Enhance capacity of Customs administrations of LLDCs through efficient implementation of relevant WCO tools (e.g. WCO Data Model, Framework of Standard on Cross–border E–Commerce, Immediate Release Guidelines)	2021–2024	The WCO is conducting the second four-year periodic review of the E–Commerce Package. The outcome of the review process will be presented to the WCO Policy Commission and Council for endorsement in June 2026. The WCO continues delivering capacity-building support for the implementation of the WCO E-Commerce Framework of Standards.	**In December 2020** the WCO Council endorsed the last outstanding documents forming part of the WCO E–Commerce Package. As of **September 2023** the WCO completed the following regular reviews of the E-Commerce Package: - the first four-year periodic review of the E-Commerce Package resulting in the 2022 versions of the E-Commerce Framework of Standards and the Technical Specifications to the Framework; - the 2022-2023 annual review resulting in the 2023 version of the Technical Specifications to the Framework. The objective of the regular reviews is to keep the E-Commerce Package up-to-date and relevant to the needs of Members and stakeholders.

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				The WCO compiles annual editions of the Compendium of Case Studies on E-Commerce. As of September 2023 the latest edition is the 4th edition of the Compendium, which can be accessed in English here and in French here. In addition, to support the implementation of the WCO E–Commerce Package, the Secretariat developed two topic–specific Secretariat Notes – on expanding the concept of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) to cross–border e–commerce, and on effective and efficient revenue collection in cross–border e–commerce. The full E-Commerce Package can be accessed in English here and in French here. **Capacity building in the area of cross-border e-commerce:** **January, April and May 2021:** The WCO held regional workshops on cross–border e–commerce for four of the WCO regions. **28–29 June 2021:** The WCO held its Second Global Conference on Cross–Border E–Commerce. **September 2021 and January 2022:** The WCO held regional workshops on cross–border e–commerce for the remaining two WCO regions. **1 April 2022 – 15 September 2023:** The WCO delivered two sub-regional and four national workshops on cross-border e-commerce. Moldova and Azerbaijan were among the beneficiaries of national capacity-building support.
ECLAC	Promote commitments to encourage the deployment of broadband connections and resilient high capacity	2020–2022	**2020 to present:** ECLAC promoted the adoption of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean by 2022 (eLAC2022). This agenda defines specific objectives in terms of infrastructure and	

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	networks, through the adoption of policy priorities at regional level (Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean eLAC2022)		connectivity. For example, goal #2 states "Promote broadband access and connectivity that is meaningfully affordable and of sufficient quality in remote, rural and semi–urban areas…". Bolivia and Paraguay are active members of the eLAC2022 and in this framework, technical support services are provided.	
ECLAC	Promote the design of infrastructure and connectivity policies by providing analytical reports and statistics on broadband Internet adoption and affordability.	2020–2022	**Ongoing:** ECLAC has a regional broadband observatory (ORBA) that generates indicators on the level of broadband adoption, the quality of the connection and its affordability (in terms of income). These reports and statistics serve to compare the state of broadband connectivity between countries. Bolivia and Paraguay participate in these studies and reports. The latest reports highlighted that Bolivia is one of the countries with the highest broadband connectivity costs in the region.	
ESCAP	Advance the implementation of the Asia–Pacific Information Superhighway in LLDCs by promoting e–resilience, connectivity, broadband for all and internet traffic management.	2020–2022	This initiative is on–going under the Asia–Pacific Information Superhighway (AP–IS) Action Plan 2022–2026. Working Group 1 is chaired by Armenia, USA and co–chaired by Kazakhstan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The outcome report of the 5th Steering Committee on AP–IS is available at: https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/fifth–session–asia–pacific–information–superhighway–ap–steering–committee Pillar 1 on "Connectivity for All" in the AP–IS Action Plan (2022–2026) focuses mainly on enhancing the regional broadband backbone networks and infrastructure for the promotion of universal access to affordable and reliable Internet. This is an essential precondition for the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of things that accelerate digital transformation and cooperation. The vision of the AP–IS can be realized by first connecting people, organizations, and things anywhere and all the time. The key themes under this pillar include bridging the digital divide, broadband ICT infrastructure, universal, reliable, and affordable access to broadband Internet, e–resilience of ICT infrastructure, and enabling policy and regional cooperation. ESCAP Secretariat is finalising data analytics and tracking the e–resilience readiness in 2022 in pilot LLDC countries of the	The Action Plan for Implementation of the Asia–Pacific Information Superhighway (AP–IS) Action Plan 2022–2026 has been issued in 2022. The Action Plan serves as a blueprint to facilitate cooperative actions among member States for transformation to digital economies and sustainable development in the region. It includes four key principles: (1) an action–focused plan for the future; (2) ownership by member States; (3) partnerships and regional cooperation; and (4) linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines. https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event–documents/AP–IS%20Action%20Plan%202022–2026_Final.pdf ESCAP Secretariat facilitated delivery of the connectivity tools as reported to the three SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development

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			region, as outcome of the EGM of 23 August 2023 ref at: https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/expert–group–meeting–tracking–e–resilience	
ESCAP	Promote regional dimensions of digital economy and digital transactions, as well as ICT for Development through IoT.	2021+	ESCAP supported the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of **Kazakhstan** to build a subregional Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development, tentatively in Almaty. The Centre should help Central Asian countries advance digital connectivity and digital transformation towards building an inclusive digital society and economy and aimed to facilitate implementation of the ESCAP Resolution 79/10 on "Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia–Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026", which was adopted by the Commission at its seventy–ninth session in May 2023. ESCAP Commission Resolution 79/10 also decided to convene a ministerial conference in 2024 on digital inclusion and transformation to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and regional technology initiatives, including the Asia–Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, in line with the provisions of the conference structure of ESCAP. The resolution further welcomed the offer of the Government of Kazakhstan to host a ministerial conference in 2024.	
ESCAP	Support legal and technical readiness assessment for cross–border paperless trade (online and/or on–demand).	2020+	Pending	
ESCAP	Support the development of FDI strategies to boost investment in the digital economy	2023	In progress	ESCAP is providing technical assistance to Bhutan to develop an FDI strategy to boost investment in digital infrastructure, adoption, and business in the next 2–5 years. Project to be completed in 2023. ESCAP will provide support to Bhutan in implementing the strategy in 2024.
UNECE	Assist landlocked countries in Southeast Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia (SPECA)	2020–2024	Pilot projects for trade facilitation and standardized digitalization of multimodal transport and trade data and document exchange, using the UN/CEFACT semantic standards	A study on the readiness of Uzbekistan to implement the package of standards for digitalization of

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	in the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange		and reference data models encompassing landlocked transition economies: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Uzbekistan.	multimodal data and document exchange has been completed. Five reports of pilot projects, including landlocked countries with economies in transition, have all been published on the UNTTC.ORG web site: https://unttc.org/stream/electronic–trade–and–transport–documents–and–data
FAO	Support LLDCs to access, manage and use – through case–study analysis – spatial data for environment, agriculture and land use, using Collect Earth (Involved countries: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Niger, Rwanda and Zambia).	Ongoing	Through the AgrInvest initiative, FAO continued supporting countries to develop instrument–based agriculture investment plans and institutionalized value chain planning and coordination. FAO supported value chain–based Sector Development Plan Agreements (SDPAs) to help coordinate public and private sector investments' integration of nutrition considerations in countries such as **Eswatini** and **Zimbabwe**. Specific value chains include: Carrots, Horticulture Baby Vegetables, Litchis, Mango, Macadamia, Onion, Papaya, Potatoes, Soya and Wheat.	
FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs to apply block–supply chain designs, promote SDG–compliant applications of blockchain and other digital agriculture technologies in the food system to strengthen and expand linkages along value chains	Ongoing.	FAO is strengthening the resilience of pastoralists and agro–pastoralists in **Burkina Faso, Chad**, and **Mali** by equipping governments and pastoralist organizations with innovative tools to assess their feed resources (also in **Niger**) and generate data on the contribution of pastoralism to national economies and various dimensions of sustainability. FAO is supporting the integration of nutrition considerations in the design of block chain with a focus on the consumers' side. The project "Blockchain and related digital technologies for sustainable agrifood value chain development" is being developed in **Uganda.**	
FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs to design and implement digital technologies to make agrifood systems more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable	2022	-Global network of Global Digital Agriculture Innovation Hubs in **Ethiopia**; -Support to agricultural services and digital inclusion in **Rwanda**; -Livestock information management system in **Zimbabwe.**	
FAO	Supporting rural digital transformation through the Digital Villages Initiative (DVI) in countries such as Malawi, Niger and Zimbabwe. Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)	2021 – ongoing	These activities are implemented as part of the FAO corporate programme '1,000 Digital Villages Initiative' (DVI) of which goal is to convert globally at least 1,000 rural localities into digital village hubs in which a variety of ICT-based services are offered.	

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	potentials for advisory services are being explored. The DVI is an integrated development vision that enshrines digitalization at the core of rural transformation, providing farm (advisory services, market access, etc.) and off-farm support.		Pilot DVI activities are launched in countries such as **Malawi, Niger** and **Zimbabwe**. Scoping assessment reports on the local landscapes and on the conditions for successfully implementation have been developed. In the three countries, 15 locations -where digital village services will be deployed- have been identified and characterized. In **Malaw**i, in 2023, digital capacity building and the donation of digital equipment will be provided to farmers' cooperatives in locations where the DVI is being experimented. Awareness creation is planned on the potentials of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT for advisory services, to support the Department for Advisory and Extension Services (DAES). The potential development or experiment of a GPT-based AI Chatbot by the DAES is being explored. Partnerships are planned with ITU and UNFPA in **Niger** and other countries. An investment plan for a large-scale deployment of the DVI in the three countries are planned.	
FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs for the development and implementation of agriculture strategies (Niger**, Rwanda**)	2021 - 2023	**Niger** and **Rwanda** were among African countries that have been supported for the development or revision of their digital agriculture strategies between 2021 and 2023.	
IDLO	Support the transition of the justice sector towards e–justice in targeted LLDCs	2020–2023		**Kyrgyzstan (completed December 2021)**: IDLO successfully completed a project that accelerated the transition of the justice sector in Kyrgyzstan towards e–justice, through the provision of capacity development support and technical assistance for digital case management and administration components.

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				Following IDLO's intervention, all courts in Kyrgyzstan now have internet access and publish judicial decisions online. By the end of 2021, more than 80% of all judicial acts were posted online, using a de–personification system that anonymizes sensitive personal data. This not only makes judicial decision–making more transparent and easily accessible, but also allows legal professionals, academics, journalists, and participants in court proceedings to analyze judicial practice, produce data–driven materials and develop a common understanding of how legal proceedings are handled. **Moldova (completed)**: In cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), IDLO is providing support to the Government of Moldova to promote and facilitate the use of commercial mediation on a national scale. To achieve this objective, in collaboration with the Mediation Council, the Mediation Center and other local counterparts, IDLO developed legal instruments to strengthen the existing legal framework for mediation and developed the capacity of judicial actors on commercial mediation and advocacy skills. Furthermore, in the field of arbitration, the project is improving access to arbitration and judges' skills, with the overall goal of making the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods a business norm in Moldova.
ADB	ADB Loan 3936: Mongolia Developing the Economic Cooperation Zone Project ($30 million) will develop a port of entry system that will enable interoperability and data sharing of varying systems of customs, inspection and immigration paving the way for single–window development.	2020–2024	Loan 3936 MON (Mongolia) approved in 2020 for $30 million. Project implementation on track; project completion expected in 2025. The draft master plan for the Zamyn–Uud free zone was considered by the Ministerial Council of Ministry of Construction and Urban Development on 22 February 2022 and submitted to the Cabinet for approval. However, the approval of the master plan was put on hold pending ongoing discussions under the bilateral agreement on economic	

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			cooperation zone between Mongolia and the People's Republic of China. On 29 March 2022, a public consultation was held with representatives of 81 business organizations. During the meeting, free–zone operation, project activity, ADB safeguards, and gender policy and action plans were introduced and discussed. It was attended by 51 participants. Further consultation meetings were held with a total of 173 people. An ADB special loan review mission was conducted in August 2022 to assess the impact of Mongolia's New Recovery Policy; Amendment of the Law on Free Zones for Mongolia; and the ratification of the bilateral economic cooperation zone agreement between Mongolia and the PRC with project implementation.	
ADB	Working with CAREC members on the development of the CAREC Digital Strategy in partnership with ESCAP. This aims to create a common digital space for the CAREC region to accelerate economic growth and digital transformation.	2021+	CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 was endorsed by CAREC Ministerial Conference in 2021. ADB is supporting implementation of the strategy under the CAREC program.	
ADB	Technical Assistance (TA) on Preparing and Improving Capacities for Sustainable Cross Border Operations and Regional Public Goods will undertake needs assessment and support development of digital trade, e–commerce and single window initiative for government services.	2020–2025	The TA was approved in 2021. Financing of $1.5 million from ADB and $800,000 from cofinancing. One of the outputs is establishment of information systems and database for information–sharing among border agencies and enhanced integration of systems with regional and global partners.	
ECA/AU and others	Digital ID Project for roll out in African countries, including African LLDC	Ongoing	This project is ongoing across the continent, and efforts to disaggregate LLDC–specific interventions will be strengthened.	
ITU	Support to infrastructure development, such as increased	2020–2024	**Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan**: in cooperation with UNICEF, ICT and education ministries under the auspices of	**Uzbekistan and other LLDCs:**

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	usage of connectivity; Efficient Spectrum management; Adoption of modern ICT infrastructure. Examples in LLDCs include Assist countries in South-eastern Europe in establishment of investment opportunity mapping systems in Broadband infrastructure and services, benefitting Moldova and North Macedonia (2020-2022), Providing technical assistance for Review of Spectrum Policy for Moldova (2020).		Giga initiative, ITU is implementing pilot projects aimed at developing innovative, affordable and sustainable solutions to connect schools and to extend internet access from connected schools to the communities living in the surrounding areas. Activities include mapping all schools within a country, identifying unconnected schools (as a rule, situated in remote and rural areas) and schools where connectivity speed is insufficient. Based on mapping results the Governments are also advised on country–specific models for finance and delivery, subsidizing market creation costs and incentivizing private sector investment for further infrastructure development and bridging connectivity and usage gaps. **Armenia, Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan**: Under Connect2Recover global initiative in the coming months ITU will conduct country landscape assessment to estimate the level of infrastructure resilience, ISPs resilience and market resilience with particular focus on education. Furthermore, based on national ICT strategy analysis and identified gaps and bottlenecks set of recommendations will be made on strengthening and further developing modern broadband infrastructure for "building back better" after COVID–19 pandemic, as well as for better preparedness and readiness to future disasters and pandemics. ITU develops documents and tools to help policymakers and professionals make weighed decisions on telecommunication infrastructure development. These tools include **ITU Interactive Transmission Maps, Giga broadband calculation tool, Infrastructure Business Planning Toolkit, the Last–mile Internet Solutions Guide**. They can help to identify connectivity gaps, estimate demand, calculate connection costs, evaluate broadband infrastructure deployment plans, and select connectivity solutions.	In 2020, as part of its CIS Regional Initiative on climate, ITU developed a specialized software tool and database to help monitor glaciers in **Kyrgyzstan** and to predict how the availability of critically essential water resources will evolve in the Central Asia region. Four other LLDCs benefiting from this project, namely **Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.** Finally, from 2020 to 2021, ITU and ZTE co–funded a project on the creation of the Digital Skills Center for Women and Youth in **Uzbekistan** to increase the use of ICT services, bridge the gender gap, and enable digital entrepreneurship and industry transformation. **Moldova, North Macedonia:** –In 2021, under the Policy and Regulation thematic priority area, ITU provided technical assistance to **Moldova** by producing the Collaborative Regulation Case study for Moldova, which highlights diverse experiences and different policy and regulatory patterns to explore the challenges, innovative ideas and lessons learnt by regulators on the path towards collaborative regulation in the country. –ITU in collaboration with UNICEF, also assisted **Moldova** and delivered the joint report "Connectivity in Education: Status and recent developments in nine non–European Union countries" which provides country–level updates on connectivity in education in the country. A report on this initiative was published in 2021: https://www.itu.int/pub/D–PHCB–CONN_EDUC–2021 –In **North Macedonia**, ITU also assisted in developing a special policy paper on the national ICT infrastructure Development and Investment. ITU published fifteen research papers on best practices and recommendations for digital inclusion through resilient infrastructure under the Connect2Recover initiative (2021–2023) to reinforce digital infrastructure and digital ecosystems for universal and meaningful digital connectivity. Seven

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				of the research papers covered **Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe** and building upon the research ITU is providing technical assistance to enhance connectivity and support infrastructure resilient assessments in **Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Rwanda**. –The joint ITU–UNICEF Giga initiative has supported the mapping of school locations and provided connectivity to schools in different countries that include **Niger, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Rwanda**. –The project on Accelerating Africa's Digital Transformation through Connectivity (2021–2023) has facilitated the creation of a multistakeholder platform in **Ethiopia** on digital capacity by leveraging multiple ongoing ITU initiatives through collaborative activities with stakeholders and partners in Ethiopia's digital ecosystem. The PRIDA (Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa) project has provided technical assistance and capacity building on spectrum management and regulation to different countries (2018–2024) including LLDCs. Implemented 5G IMT (International Mobile Telecommunications) 2020 Training Program (collaboration with MSIT, Korea, and with support of GSMA) held during 2021–2022, with trainings delivered in **Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan** and planned in other LLDCs from the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) (Commonwealth of Independent States) Region. Direct assistance was provided to the National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology Regulator (ANRCETI) of **Moldova** to build solid foundations for strengthening of capabilities of broadband mapping

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				systems at the country level. The country was equipped with technical recommendations that would enable the ANRCETI to establish both a broadband mapping system and a SIP that is interoperable with the Registry of engineering infrastructure facilities (REIF). The joint ITU–UNEP–UNITAR E–Waste Project for the Western Balkans is being rolled out **in North Macedonia.** ITU has developed a methodology and software to assess last–mile infrastructure costs. – a Last Mile Connectivity and Mapping training was conducted during the Broadband week in **Kazakhstan** and a self–paced Last mile connectivity course is available at ITU Academy. ITU provided support to **Kyrgyzstan** to develop a spatial data infrastructure (SDI), a common platform to store data related to the monitoring and mapping of climate and water resources, to support policy and regulatory decision–making.
ITU	Support national cybersecurity and establishment of CERT/CIRT. Examples in LLDCs include Support Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRT) Establishment in Botswana (2018-2020), Zimbabwe (2017-2021), Malawi (2019-2021); Enhance Kyrgyzstan's capabilities to identify, manage and respond to cyber threats through establishment of a national Security Operations Centre (SOC), which will serve as a trusted and central coordination point of contact for cybersecurity (2020-2023). Assistance to Moldova	2020–2024	In 2021, the ICT Laboratory planned to develop a course on cybersecurity, expected to attract one thousand participants, and in 2022 – a course on programming. Establishment of Support Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRT) in various LLDCs CIRT Readiness Assessments are conducted for Mongolia. -ITU has provided technical assistance to Malawi and Chad to build technical capabilities and establish national Computer Incident Resident Response Teams to identify, defend, respond, and manage cyber threats (2019 – 2023).	Under a completed project that started in 2018, ITU has enhanced **Kyrgyzstan's** capabilities to: identify, manage and respond to cyber threats through dedicated training and policy advice; set up a first–ever National Cyber Drill (organized with OSCE); and establish a Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT). This project was co–funded by the ITU and the World Bank. In 2018 and 2019, regional cyberdrills were held jointly with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Work was done in parallel to create competencies in national computer incident response teams (CIRTs) and exchanges of cybersecurity experiences and information were established, providing confidence that ITS and other new technologies will not turn become easy prey for cyberattacks.

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	related to CSIRT establishment (2022-2024)		- ITU is Supporting Kyrgyzstan in establishment of CIRT which will serve as a trusted and central coordination point of contact for cybersecurity (2020-2023) - Readiness Assessment Report to Establish the National CSIRT for Moldova was provided to the country in December 2022 that led to the development of the national plan of action in 2023. - Child Online Safety Assessment for the Republic of North Macedonia was provided to the government in 2022 and led to a Memorandum of Cooperation between Ministry of Education and the Information Society. - Advisory to Moldova was provided on Child Online Protection including review of the National Assessment on Child Online Protection conducted by the Ministry of Education. Policy Analysis on Child Online Protection where in 2022 ITU developed a study of digital policies on child online protection at the regional level, with the participation of Bolivia, among others. During 2022 and with the financial support of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts of Australia (DITRDC), ITU implemented an umbrella project 'Implementing Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives 2020-21' under which it delivered technical assistance and capacity development support, including the development of a national CIRT assessment for Mongolia. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan have been using GCI as a key metric for national cybersecurity policy planning and implementation. From 2018-2022, ITU provided support and training upon requests from these Member-States. A dedicated online training was provided to Turkmenistan.	To support cybersecurity readiness, protection, and incident response capabilities and throughout the holding of cyberdrills at the national and regional level, the ITU Cyber Drill–ALERT (Applied Learning for Emergency Response Teams) for Africa was hosted by **Uganda** in late 2018. Drills have been held regularly since then. **In 2019** ITU's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Office for the CIS region held the first interregional cyberdrill, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The drill brought together over 300 participants. In the context of the review of ITU's regional presence, it is one of the most outstanding examples of successful cooperation. **Computer Incident Response Teams** (CIRTs, 2018–2020) were finalized for Botswana. The pilot edition of the Women in Cyber Mentorship Programme, organized by ITU, FIRST, and EQUALS in March 2021 was held for Africa and the Arab States and featured guided monthly mentorship circles, a series of inspirational webinars, and technical and soft skills training courses. 91% of the participants expressed that the programme enabled them to have a clearer perspective on their career goals in cybersecurity. https://www.itu.int/en/ITU–D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Women–in–Cyber/Women–in–Cyber–Mentorship–Programme.aspx The **Global Cybersecurity Index** revealed that many countries are working to improve their cyber safety despite the challenges of COVID–19. The report has been viewed over 65 000 times and has been quoted in over 1300 academic papers and reports. –ITU has provided technical assistance to **Malawi and Chad** to build technical capabilities and establish national Computer Incident Resident

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				Response Teams to identify, defend, respond, and manage cyber threats (2019 – 2023). – Readiness Assessment Report to Establish the National CSIRT for **Moldova** was provided to the country in December 2022 that led to the development of the national plan of action in 2023. – Child Online Safety Assessment for the Republic of **North Macedonia** was provided to the government in 2022 and led to a Memorandum of Cooperation between Ministry of Education and the Information Society. – Advisory to **Moldova** was provided on Child Online Protection including review of the National Assessment on Child Online Protection conducted by the Ministry of Education. Policy Analysis on Child Online Protection where in 2022 ITU developed a study of digital policies on child online protection at the regional level, with the participation of **Bolivia**, among others. During 2022 and with the financial support of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts of Australia (DITRDC), ITU implemented an umbrella project 'Implementing Asia–Pacific Regional Initiatives 2020–21' under which it delivered technical assistance and capacity development support, including the development of a national CIRT assessment for **Mongolia**. **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan** have been using GCI as a key metric for national cybersecurity policy planning and implementation. From 2018–2022, ITU provided support and training upon requests from these Member–States. A dedicated online training was provided to Turkmenistan.

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ITU	Support digital inclusion, digital skills development and digital innovation ecosystem, through Innovation Forums and Innovation Ecosystem Trainings for Skills Development; Global Ecosystem Programme for LLDCs; ITU Innovation Challenges for LLDCs; Assessment and e-strategies to understand the needs and developing strategies; Digital Innovation Profiles; Bankable ecosystem projects; Digital Skills for the economic empowerment of women; Development of products and services such as reports, toolkits, e-learnings, projects; capacity development through the ITU Academy; promoting the Digital Skills Assessments Guidebook; Implementation of the Digital Transformation Centres Initiative.	2020–2024	**Since 2012**, ITU, with support from the Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications in Bishkek, has been organizing **annual courses for teachers from rural schools in the Kyrgyz Republic** as part of ITU's "Connect a School, Connect a Community" initiative. Training teachers to improve their knowledge of ICT and therefore their use of the technology in their work contributes to improving the quality of school education in general and increasing digital literacy among pupils. The annual training is offered in several regions of the Kyrgyz Republic and typically involves trainers travelling to the region.	**Since 2012**, ITU, with support from the Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications in Bishkek, has been organizing **annual courses for teachers from rural schools in the Kyrgyz Republic** as part of ITU's "Connect a School, Connect a Community" initiative. From 2012 to 2020 **more than 800 teachers** have undergone this professional upgrading training. That means that the quality of ICT subjects has been improved in **728 schools** serving a total of **95 214 pupils**. Due to the pandemic, the training in 2020 was conducted online, which served as a powerful reminder of problems with accessibility to the communication infrastructure and Internet access in rural schools, as well as the fact that many teachers do not even possess a personal computer. New ecosystem country assessments and digital innovation profiles have been carried out to strengthen the ICT–centric national innovation ecosystem and increase its impact on the broader economy. This also ensures the availability of relevant data in ICTs on which to base policy formulation that will not only affect ICTs but all other sectors of the economy due to its cross–cutting nature. –ITU in collaboration with different Partners, through the African Girls Can Code Initiative has delivered trainings through coding camps to build capacity among girls and young women and empower them with digital skills to advance digital inclusion, (First phase 2018–2021, Second phase: 2022–2026). – The joint ITU–EIF (Enhanced Integrated Framework) project has provided opportunities around tech as a driver of women's economic opportunities in the textile and apparel sectors in **Ethiopia** and in the agricultural sector in **Burundi**

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				and empowered policy makers to mainstream a gender perspective in domestic policies and regulations and ensure women participate fully in the digital economy (2021–2023).

ITU Digital Transformation Centres operational in **DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia**, are delivering digital skills training at basic and intermediate level to underserved local communities and marginalized groups.

Capacity development has been launched in **Lesotho and Eswatini**.

Through the ITU Academy, ITU provides training related to digital development to thousands of participants each year, including many from LLDCs). Creation of smart education ecosystem, a joint project with KINEU (Kostanay Engineering and Economics University) University in Kazakhstan (the project includes a platform for organizing distance learning, video conferencing, connecting to an electronic library of universities and educational resources, network management and monitoring) (2020–2023).

Creation of Digital Skills Centre for Women and Youth in **Uzbekistan** to increase the use of ICT services, bridge the gender gap and enable digital entrepreneurship and industry transformation (2019–2021).

Creation of a digital skills training centre for children with hearing imparities, in Toshkent, **Uzbekistan** (2021).

Capacity building and awareness raising under the Child online protection program in **Armenia, Uzbekistan** in 2021–2023.

Digital Skills National Assessment for the Republic of **North Macedonia** was provided in 2022, which |

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				paved the way towards setting up a national action plan.
				ITU Centre of Excellence from **North Macedonia** provided training to several thousands of national and international expects in the field of infrastructure and broadband development.
				Digital Innovation Profile for the Republic of **North Macedonia** was provided to the Government in 2022.
				ITU together with its partner Fundación Gran Chaco (FGC) began implementing the project "Youth Digital Inclusion" to promote ICT capacity development activities to benefit youth in **Bolivia** and **Paraguay**, home to vulnerable rural and Indigenous communities, as well as to support these countries with the development of national strategies to build enabling environments for youth innovation and entrepreneurship.
				For the International Girls in ICT Day held on 28 April 2022, a regional online dialogue on "Skills development – What are we offering" and a regional roundtable took place in Toshkent, **Uzbekistan**. These sessions, aimed at bridging the digital gender divide and incentivizing girls and women to pursue STEM education and work, were organized by ITU with support from the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of **Uzbekistan**. More than seventy participants attended, including various Member States and Sector Members.
				From August to October 2022, a digital gender divide research was conducted in partnership with UNDP in **Uzbekistan**. Held both online and offline, the survey reached all regions of the country, with responses from more than 9 000 persons. The result is a body of representative data about various aspects of the digital gender divide in Uzbekistan, including the gap in ownership of Internet–capable

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				devices, the digital skills gap using ITU methodology, access to the Internet, and key barriers to more active Internet utilization. The results will be used in the analysis of the current situation in the country and in planning activities to address the issues.
				ITU helped countries obtain an accurate diagnosis of their digital innovation ecosystems' status and develop strategies to inform national policies through technical assistance. Technical assistance was provided to **Mali, Niger, and North Macedonia**, to draft digital innovation profiles, which offer an ecosystem blueprint to accelerate digital transformation to leverage entrepreneurship and innovation.
ITU	Support digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystem **(Azerbaijan)**	2020+		**In 2020** ITU jointly with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the **Republic of Azerbaijan** and in cooperation with the Ministry's ICT Laboratory (http://www.e–training.az/main) implemented a project **to develop online multimedia ICT courses aimed at enhancing digital skills and promoting women's participation in the digital economy in Azerbaijan.** As part of the project, the ICT Laboratory developed a platform for online courses (https://iktlab.edu.az/which incorporates a user profile that allows for feedback and certification, and two online courses of 16 modules each: the first is aimed at teaching digital skills; the second, digital entrepreneurship and marketing skills. Both courses are developed in Azeri, extending access to those who do not speak either English or Russian. The project implementation saw **50 women** undergo training in 2020. More people including women have now been trained in Digital skills, Marketing skills, Cybersecurity, and programming.
ITU	Support digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystem **(Armenia)**	2020+		**In 2020** ITU, with the support of the Ministry of High–Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia and the

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				Union of Operators of Armenia, jointly with the non–profit organization Cross of Armenian Unity, implemented a project aimed at supporting **the creation of an AR/VR laboratory for modelling cultural heritage sites at the organization's Innovation Ethnic Regional Centre (IERC) in Echmiadzin, Republic of Armenia**. The project gives young people practical experience with graphics, 3D–modeling, and application development. In addition, **ICT Accessibility as a key driver to implement digital inclusion and ensure that everyone – regardless of age, gender, ability, or location – is included in the digital society and economy:** This work was achieved through five interactive workshops delivered in English and French to 175 ITU members and Regional Focal Points from 43 countries, many of which were either LDCs, LLDCS or both. In addition to knowledge in ICT accessibility, the participants also learned how to self–assess and monitor their national implementation of the topic by using the ITU toolkit "Towards building inclusive digital communities" Interactive Self–Assessment in ICT Accessibility Implementation. These workshops were also in line with the ITU Strategic Goal. 2 and its target 2.9 calling "to enable accessible environments, including for persons with disabilities in all countries by 2023" to support ITU members' efforts to build inclusive digital societies in African countries and throughout the region. In the follow–up of the training received, the Focal Points delivered their first national self–assessments, which contributed to the development of a first "Regional Assessment in ICT accessibility implementation in Africa," aiming to serve as a baseline to further identify the necessary steps forward to accelerate the development of a digitally inclusive region. In Africa ITU developed an ICT Accessibility Assessment tool to assist countries assess their status on ICT Accessibility.

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ITU	Support digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystem (**Kazakhstan**)	2020+	**In 2020** ITU, in collaboration with M. Dulatov University of Engineering and Economics in Kostanay (**Kazakhstan**), an ITU Academia entity, started work on the project **"Creation of an education ecosystem in Kostanay"**. The project will make it possible to modernize the University's telecommunication network, provide educational institutions in Kostanay with high–speed Internet, create a platform for organizing distance learning, video conferencing, IP telephony, and connection to the electronic library of universities and educational resources, and perform management and monitoring functions for the network. ITU is currently purchasing equipment to build the ecosystem. Project implementation is scheduled to be completed in 2022.	
ITU	Support digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystem (**Uzbekistan**)	2020+	**In 2020** ITU, with the support of the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with Uzbekistan's Information Technology Park in Tashkent, and with the participation of ZTE Corporation, started a project to create a **training centre to improve the level of knowledge of women and youth in the field of ICT in Uzbekistan**. The project aims to improve the digital skills of women and youth in Uzbekistan and will contribute to the wider use of ICT services, overcoming gender inequality in the ICT field, developing digital entrepreneurship, and digital transformation of industry. The premises for the training centre are provided by the Information Technology Park, and ITU is purchasing equipment. In 2020, the centre has already organized trainings for the trainers of the centre. Under the project, it is planned to conduct trainings in such areas as: ICT for development; IT entrepreneurship; basic course in computer graphics, 2D graphics; basic course in website design; and introduction to programming (Python). A series of trainings will take place in April–May 2021. It is expected that at least 10 training courses will be organized during the project.	
ITU	Support digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystem (global, regional)	2021		–In 2021, the Global Innovation Forum focused on "building partnerships to mainstream entrepreneurship" and called for collaboration to help countries build up their innovation capacities – in line with one of the key goals in ITU's Connect 2030 Agenda.

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				–Also in 2021, UNOSSC and the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) partnered with ITU to run the second edition of ITU Innovation Challenges for enabling an environment to tackle challenges in the digital innovation domain. The ITU Innovation Challenges 2021 focused on building vibrant innovation communities to unlock digital transformation for the new normal. Award–wining proposals were invited to the Bootcamp, where they were provided with mentorship and training to scale up their ideas. The publications 'Regional good practices – Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital transformation' further provided a comparative analysis for all six regions using existing international rankings on ICTs, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
ITU	Support digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystem (regional)	2020+	In cooperation with the A.S. Popov National Academy of Telecommunication of Odessa in Ukraine, ITU **in 2020** worked on the updating of the online course for the safe use of Internet resources (Russian only) developed jointly with the Academy in 2015 under a WTDC–14 regional initiative. The course is designed on three levels: a basic level for preschool and the younger classes; an intermediate level for grades five to eight; and an advanced level for seniors, college students, parents and teachers. The updated course was presented at the Forum on Child Online Protection for the CIS region in **October 2020**. Several countries in the region have expressed an interest in localizing the curriculum for children in their national languages. **In early 2021**, the first project to **localize the training course into Armenian**, implemented jointly with the Union of Operators of Armenia, was completed.	
ITU	Support deployment of digital services and applications, such as Smart Villages, Digital Public Goods, Digital Economy, Mobile and Digital Health, Digital Agriculture, Digital Learning, Digital Government, e–Commerce and other digital strategies/policies. (Azerbaijan)	2020+		In 2018 and 2019, workshops on intelligent transport systems were jointly with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This made it possible to examine the implementation of IoT–based solutions directly in the context of the concrete, practical task of optimizing road traffic, thereby improving the ecological situation, reducing traffic deaths and of course shortening the time people spend in traffic.

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ITU	Support deployment of digital services and applications (Kyrgyzstan)	2020		At the request of the Administration of **the Kyrgyz Republic**, **in 2020**, a project was implemented on the monitoring of the ecological status and of the presence and rational use of natural resources in collaboration with the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications with the aim of creating a geo–portal for the (ecological) monitoring of water resources in the Kyrgyz Republic. The objective was to create an information systems to support decision–making in regard to monitoring of the ecological status, presence and rational use of natural resources, including the creation of a spatial data infrastructure as part of a national spatial data infrastructure.
ITU	Supported the establishment of the ICT regulatory authority in South Sudan and related training of staff.	2019		To support the development of the ICT market, digital economy and society in **South Sudan**, ITU in 2019 provided capacity building and training to build national expertise within the National Communications Commission (NCA) of South Sudan on market analysis, numbering plans and tariff regulations. Technical assistance was also provided to support the establishment of the ICT regulatory authority and hold the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the newly established agency. This support has been completed with the Regulatory body in South Sudan now fully set up with the Board of Commissioner inaugurated, an office space secured, and key staff employed.
ITU	Provide statistics to support evidence–based policies for digitally inclusive societies; to allow decision makers, policy makers and other stakeholders using ICT data, statistics and trends, analytical reports and visualisations in the policy process; provide WTI Database, visualizations, analytical and statistical reports.	2020+		From 12 to 14 February 2019 the ITU Joint Workshop on ICT Statistics for CIS and Arab Regions was held in collaboration with the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the city of **Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan)**. The workshop was attended by over 80 participants representing 20 countries. The objective of the workshop was to **strengthen the capacity of countries in the regions to produce**

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				national statistics and indicators on telecommunications and ICTs according to international standards, with a focus on the indicators needed for calculating the ICT Development Index (IDI). The workshop was attended by representatives of communication administrations, regulators, national statistical offices and other interested stakeholders of the countries of the CIS and Arab regions and South Korea, who are responsible for collecting and producing ICT statistics. Capacity building workshops assisted countries in their data collection and analysis. In 2021, ITU also launched a Digital Development website that catalogues the status of digital development of each country by showing key indicators to enable policy formulation based on good data: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU–D/Statistics/Dashboards/Pages/Digital–Development.aspx
ITU	Supported establishment of measurement and monitoring in the digital economy.	2018–2020		To support measurement and monitoring in the digital economy, ITU provided assistance **to Lesotho, South Sudan, Malawi, SADC members including SADC Secretariat** in the form of training sessions and support towards the design of national ICT statistics and household survey tools and instruments throughout the period 2018–2020. These countries are now better equipped to collect and respond to survey and questionnaires on the state of ICTs development at national levels.
ITU	Capacity building for conformance and interoperability of ICT, network and connectivity equipment and devices.	2018+		Conformity assessment guarantees that an ICT equipment implements a technical specification or standards and compliance helps vendors and users of the equipment to evaluate how the equipment will perform in the network where it will integrate with other network devices to provide an offered network service. In 2018 extensive capacity building and training workshops on conformance and interoperability of networks and equipment were provided for representatives from Botswana, Burkina

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				Faso, **South Sudan, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda**, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Training were completed in all these countries with expectations for focal points to organize similar trainings at national levels so the resources learnt can be shared with a larger group of national focal points in each of the listed countries. |
| ITU | Strategy and vision development with national stakeholders to support digital transformation efforts and related project development for strategy implementation (Uganda) | 2018+ | | To support digital transformation efforts in **Uganda,** ITU provided technical assistance to the country to finalize the Uganda Digital Vision document towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy and organized associated validation workshops in 2018. To harmonize Uganda's transformative policies, strategies, initiatives and other governance frameworks for the expedient realization of national development aspirations, a digital transformation project was conceptualized and funding raised. The project was initiated in 2021 and serve as a launch pad for the development of recommendations for implementing specific aspects of the Uganda Digital Vision and National Development Plan III (NDP III) 2020/21 – 2024/25.
Uganda now has a roadmap for digital transformation which the country is implementing. |
| ITU | Strategy and vision development with national stakeholders to support digital transformation efforts and related project development for strategy implementation (regional, Africa) | 2019 | | In 2019, to support the development of e-applications, ITU delivered a workshop to participants from South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya to share and exchange experiences, lessons learnt on the development of e–applications and identify methods to address the gap between ideation to market entry. https://www.itu.int/en/ITU–D/Regional–Presence/Africa/Pages/E–Application–A.A.aspx |

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ITU	Strategy and vision development with national stakeholders to support digital transformation efforts and related project development for strategy implementation. (Niger and other countries)	Ongoing	ITU's Smart Villages initiative comprises a locally led, integrated, and holistic approach to providing access to digital services to all citizens of rural communities, with the integration of digital technologies serving as a crucial enabler of equitable, qualitative and efficient delivery of SDG–related services for all. ITU supported the successful pilot of the smart villages and the development of the blueprint for smart villages in Niger (launched in 2018). The Smart Village Initiative was also planned in other countries, including Egypt, Liberia and Pakistan.	ITU's Smart Villages initiative comprises a locally led, integrated, and holistic approach to providing access to digital services to all citizens of rural communities, with the integration of digital technologies serving as a crucial enabler of equitable, qualitative and efficient delivery of SDG–related services for all. In collaboration with the National Agency for the Information Society (ANSI) of Niger and other UN Agencies, ITU supported the successful pilot of the two smart villages and the development of the blueprint for smart villages in Niger (launched in 2018). Based on the blue–print (published in 2020), the scale up of the initiative is ongoing to support the deployment of digital services in additional villages to provide connectivity and digital enabled services to the local communities. Through the Smart Villages Initiative, ten additional villages in Niger have been connected. The services are now scaled up in those villages and include: –Mobile voice–based messages for agriculture extension in local languages, –Unstructured Supplementary Services Data (USSD) service to access agriculture market prices, –Early childhood illness diagnosis tool, –Talking book (an audio device) that disseminates agriculture and health messages, –Local village microserver with a full learning management system and local content, and –Digital literacy training.
ITU	Strategy and vision development with national stakeholders to support digital transformation efforts and related project development for strategy implementation. (Ethiopia)	2021		In 2021, under the Horn of Africa Initiative ITU supported the delivery of workshops to participants in Ethiopia and Eritrea. The workshops sought to: exchange information about existing initiatives on digital government; identify approaches to facilitate the development a Whole–of–Government Digital Government Services Platform (GovStack); and deliver high–priority digital services to advance digital transformation.

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ITU	Strategy and vision development with national stakeholders to support digital transformation efforts and related project development for strategy implementation. (Africa)	2018+	The African Girls Can Code Initiative – a collaboration between ITU, UN Women and the African Union Commission – was launched in 2018 to facilitate the development of digital skills and to bridge the gender digital divide. The African Girls Can Code Initiative runs from 2018–2022 and is expected to reach more than 2,000 girls through 18 Coding Camps (2 international, 12 regional and 4 in Ethiopia). https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/10/feature–african–girls–coding–to–make–a–difference	The African Girls Can Code Initiative – a collaboration between ITU, UN Women and the African Union Commission – was launched in 2018 to facilitate the development of digital skills and to bridge the gender digital divide. As reported by ITU in April 2022, under this Initiative, 577 girls were trained in continental, regional and national coding camps. Each girl was trained on coding skills, girls empowerment gender mainstreaming and human rights. Each girl was also awarded a new laptop to continue practice of skills after the camps. As part of this initiative, ITU further supported the delivery of coding camps to young girls in Ethiopia to equip them with relevant digital skills and empower them to engage in ICT related careers.
ITU	Support for Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) test bed development.	2020+	ITU supported the establishment of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) in **Uganda** to be used as sub–regional test bed for IPv4 to IPv6 migration in East Africa. ITU supported establishment of IPv6 test bed in Zimbabwe for Southern Africa. The objective of which was to test migration from IPv4 to IPv6.	
ITU	Expertise to investigate and find solutions for communications interference issues.	2018–2020		ITU supported Ethiopia with technical expertise to investigate and find solutions to the harmful interference between the AM broadcaster and fixed line telephone network in the Harari region. The Communication Regulatory Authority of Southern Africa (CRASA), SADC Secretariat Agency members were virtually trained in **spectrum and cross–border frequency coordination.** https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu–d/md/18/rpmafr/c/D18–RPMAFR–C–0004!N2!MSW–E.docx

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ITU	Assessments and projects to explore and prototype opportunities in the digital economy.	2020+	In addition to ITU's support to the preparation of the baseline assessments to facilitate digital financial inclusion and digital government for Ethiopia (*described in the column on the right*) projects are considering the use of technologies and digital solutions as drivers of women's economic opportunity in the country and in Burundi. They are also exploring job opportunities and skilling for displaced young women in Ethiopia's Afar and Somali regions. To support the uptake of digital technologies in agriculture, ITU in collaboration with FAO has supported a study to understand the current status of digital agriculture in Africa and identify opportunities to unlock the potential for digital transformation in Agriculture for Africa.	In 2020, ITU supported the preparation of the baseline assessments to facilitate digital financial inclusion and digital government for Ethiopia. It highlighted the need for enhanced digital connectivity, capacity development and policy strengthening as a fundamental element to digital transformation in the country. Reliable and robust digital connectivity is crucial as other digital products and services are dependent on seamless and equitable access to internet for their operation.
ITU	Support countries to strengthen digital capacities of citizens, particularly in the underserved communities.	2020+	The Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative was launched in September 2019 by ITU in partnership with Cisco with the objective of supporting countries to strengthen digital skills of their citizens, mainly at basic and intermediate level and particularly in the underserved communities. Under this global initiative, four DTCs have been selected in Africa and 2 are in LLDCs (Rwanda and Zambia) with the aim to close the persistent gap in digital skills in the beneficiary countries (where the DTCs are operating), and boost the capacity of young entrepreneurs and SMEs to succeed in the digital economy. Institutions that are part of the DTC network receive: • free access to training materials developed by ITU, Cisco, HP, and other partners at the global, regional and national levels; • access to train–the–trainer programmes under the DTC Initiative; networking opportunities through DTCs worldwide; • use of ITU and Cisco branding for promotion and marketing of DTC courses; authorization to award internationally recognized certifications to local citizens; and • the chance to get access to resources that will allow them to scale their national activities. Phase 2 of the DTC initiative will begin in early 2022, with 5 new DTCs identified.	The Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative was launched in September 2019 by ITU in partnership with Cisco with the objective of supporting countries to strengthen digital skills of their citizens, mainly at basic and intermediate level and particularly in the underserved communities. DTCs are now fully operational in both Rwanda and Zambia, and additional DTCs were launched. From January 2020 to September 2021, **106 388 people** were trained in marginalized communities through the Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) initiative, 65 per cent of whom were rural women. **4138 people**, including **3265 women** were trained in basic digital skills through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) funded project launched to support DTC activities in Ghana. The project is ongoing and aims to reach 14 000 people by end December 2023. The DTC in Ghana is for the west Africa Region where there are some LLDCs **150 schoolgirls** from underprivileged communities in Zambia were trained in essential digital skills through the Girls in ICT Project, a new Airtel Zambia and SMART Zambia Institute partnership established through the DTC network.

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ITU	Support digital inclusion, digital skills development and digital innovation ecosystem, through Innovation Forums and Innovation Ecosystem Trainings for Skills Development; Global Ecosystem Programme for LLDCs; ITU Innovation Challenges for LLDCs; Assessment and e-strategies to understand the needs and developing strategies; Digital Innovation Profiles; Bankable ecosystem projects; Digital Skills for the economic empowerment of women; Development of products and services such as reports, toolkits, e-learnings, projects; capacity development through the ITU Academy; promoting the Digital Skills Assessments Guidebook; Implementation of the Digital Transformation Centres Initiative.	2020-2024		-ITU in collaboration with different Partners, through the African Girls Can Code Initiative has delivered trainings through coding camps to build capacity among girls and young women and empower them with digital skills to advance digital inclusion, (First phase 2018-2021, Second phase: 2022-2026).

- The joint ITU-EIF (Enhanced Integrated Framework) project has provided opportunities around tech as a driver of women's economic opportunities in the textile and apparel sectors in Ethiopia and in the agricultural sector in Burundi and empowered policy makers to mainstream a gender perspective in domestic policies and regulations and ensure women participate fully in the digital economy (2021-2023).

ITU Digital Transformation Centres operational in DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, are delivering digital skills training at basic and intermediate level to underserved local communities and marginalized groups.
Capacity development has been launched in Lesotho and Eswatini.
Through the ITU Academy, ITU provides training related to digital development to thousands of participants each year, including many from LLDCs).
Creation of smart education ecosystem, a joint project with KINEU (Kostanay Engineering and Economics University) University in Kazakhstan (the project includes a platform for organizing distance learning, video conferencing, connecting to an electronic library of universities and educational resources, network management and monitoring) (2020-2023).
 Creation of Digital Skills Centre for Women and Youth in Uzbekistan to increase the use of ICT services, bridge the gender gap and enable digital entrepreneurship and industry transformation (2019-2021).
Creation of a digital skills training centre for children with hearing imparities, in Toshkent, Uzbekistan (2021). |

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				Capacity building and awareness raising under the Child online protection program in Armenia, Uzbekistan in 2021-2023. Digital Skills National Assessment for the Republic of North Macedonia was provided in 2022, which paved the way towards setting up a national action plan. ITU Centre of Excellence from North Macedonia provided training to several thousands of national and international expects in the field of infrastructure and broadband development. Digital Innovation Profile for the Republic of North Macedonia was provided to the Government in 2022. ITU together with its partner Fundación Gran Chaco (FGC) began implementing the project "Youth Digital Inclusion" to promote ICT capacity development activities to benefit youth in Bolivia and Paraguay, home to vulnerable rural and Indigenous communities, as well as to support these countries with the development of national strategies to build enabling environments for youth innovation and entrepreneurship. For the International Girls in ICT Day held on 28 April 2022, a regional online dialogue on "Skills development – What are we offering" and a regional roundtable took place in Toshkent, Uzbekistan. These sessions, aimed at bridging the digital gender divide and incentivizing girls and women to pursue STEM education and work, were organized by ITU with support from the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan. More than seventy participants attended, including various Member States and Sector Members. From August to October 2022, a digital gender divide research was conducted in partnership with UNDP in Uzbekistan. Held both online and offline, the survey reached all regions of the country, with responses from more than 9 000 persons. The result is a body of representative data about various aspects of the digital gender divide in Uzbekistan, including the gap in ownership of Internet-capable devices, the digital skills

ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity				
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				gap using ITU methodology, access to the Internet, and key barriers to more active Internet utilization. The results will be used in the analysis of the current situation in the country and in planning activities to address the issues. ITU helped countries obtain an accurate diagnosis of their digital innovation ecosystems' status and develop strategies to inform national policies through technical assistance. Technical assistance was provided to Mali, Niger, and North Macedonia, to draft digital innovation profiles, which offer an ecosystem blueprint to accelerate digital transformation to leverage entrepreneurship and innovation.
ITU	Support deployment of digital services and applications, such as Smart Villages, Digital Public Goods, Digital Economy, Mobile and Digital Health, Digital Agriculture, Digital Learning, Digital Government, e-Commerce, and other digital strategies/policies. Example in LLDCs include in collaboration with WHO, using Digital Health Services to accelerate SDG in the Africa Region, benefitting Niger and Lesotho (2019-2021); in collaboration with ILO, provide capacity building towards boosting decent jobs and enhancing skills for youth in Africa's digital economy, benefitting Niger (2020-2025).	2020-2024		-ITU in partnership with ANSI and different stakeholders in Niger developed the Smart Village Blueprint piloted in Niger that provides a locally led integrated and holistic approach to provide access to digital services to all citizens in rural communities (2021-2023). The Smart Village project has been launched in Niger. -The joint publication (2022) by ITU and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) provided a holistic view on the Status of Digital Agriculture in 47 Sub-Saharan African Countries against six focal themes essential to understanding digital agriculture. It highlights the different initiatives for digital agriculture in some of the 16 African LLDCs and the need to integrate digital technologies in the agriculture sector. Under the ITU-WHO partnership (2018-2030) capacity building on digital health has been delivered to Member States including Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Uganda to build digital health skills and strengthen the use of digital technologies for enhanced health services delivery.

ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity				
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				Capacity building sessions on the ITU Digital Financial Services (DFS) security lab have been delivered to different countries in Africa including Uganda and Zimbabwe. (2021-2023)
				In-depth knowledge sharing session on Govstack to support digitalization of government services has been delivered to Lesotho in 2023.
				Training on data collection on e-waste was provided to North Macedonia in 2022.
				In coordination with UNRCO-Mongolia and as part of the work of the UN Country Team (UNCT), ITU partnered to organize the Global Digital Dialogue 2022 (GDD 2022) in Mongolia hosted by the Prime Minister of Mongolia and Ministry of Digital Development and Communications (MDDC) as main organizer.
				ITU set up a digital skills centre for women and youth in Uzbekistan (in partnership with ZTE and IT Park of Uzbekistan), which was officially launched on the International Girls in ICT Day in April 2022. As part of the project, ITU supported national partners in organizing training programmes aimed at the development and improvement of digital skills for women and girls from Khorazm Region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Over 1300 women signed up for the training and 350 successfully completed it after a rigorous selection and testing process
				In 2022, ITU in partnership with the Kostanay Engineering and Economics University (KINEU), Kazakhstan, completed a project on the creation of a smart educational ecosystem. The project is supplemented by a series of online events and trainings, organized by KINEU, with the support of

ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity

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				ITU. The project promoted science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education through a hackathon for school students and deliver trainings on online hygiene and digital skills for school students so as to equip them with the necessary skills to safely use ICTs in a post COVID-19 online environment. ITU continued to provide assistance to Kyrgyzstan on capacity development of informatics teachers from rural and remote areas. In total, between 2012 and 2022, ITU jointly with the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications (IET) of Kyrgyzstan organized sixty-three training courses. In total, over one thousand teachers attended, 78 per cent of whom were women. Considering the number of trained informatics teachers and the number of the rural schools covered, ITU estimates that some 95 000 school children enjoy more advanced ICT knowledge and skills. Between 2018 and 2022, ITU continued to support the enhancement of specialized centres for children with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan.
ITU	Support in the field of digital skills to North Macedonia	2022		The North Macedonia was provided the National Assessment on Digital Skills Development.
ITU	Support in the field of Digital Transformation to Moldova and North Macedonia	2021-2023		In 2021, Moldova was provided with the Digital Compact that served as the basis for setting the national digital transformation agenda and strategy. In 2023, North Macedonia was provided technical support to review and finalize the National ICT Strategy 2023-2027. The Strategy aims to set the framework for robust digital connectivity and ICT infrastructure, develop digital skills among citizens, develop digital Government, as well as enhanced support for the digitization of businesses, ICT enablers, and encourage digital innovation. In 2021/2022, Digital Development Country for Moldova and Digital Development Country Profile

ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity				
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				for the Republic of North Macedonia were provided to the Governments and UN Country Teams.
ITU	Support policy and regulation through Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) Best Practice Guidelines; Global ICT Regulatory Outlook Report; Digital Regulation Handbook and Platform; Global Symposium for Regulators and side-events; Collaborative regulation awareness raising.	2020-2024		Global Digital Regulation online training sessions organized in 2022 and 2023 to strengthen regulatory skills of policy makers, regulators and market players including participants from LLDCs.
ITU	Provide statistics to support evidence-based policies for digitally inclusive societies; to allow decision makers, policy makers and other stakeholders using ICT data, statistics and trends, analytical reports, and visualisations in the policy process; provide WTI Database, visualizations, analytical and statistical reports.	2020-2024		-The 2022 ITU publication with a Focus on Least Developing Countries in the Facts and Figures series provided insights on the average mobile ownership in countries that include Burundi, Central African Republic, Niger, South Sudan. The publication highlights the affordability challenges indicating the need to develop flexible approaches to bring universal and meaningful connectivity to the countries. -The Benchmarking of ICTs (Information and Communication Technology) in Central Africa (2021-2023) aims to provide technical support to countries that include Central African Republic, Chad, South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda. The project will improve the competitiveness of the countries' economies by strengthening the ICT infrastructure governance and implementation of their legal and regulatory framework. ITU supported Azerbaijan in enhancing the national ICT statistics system in 2022.
ITU	Launch of ICTs projects in LLDCs Launch of the partner2Connect initiative	2020-2024		Launch of GIGA project to connect schools in Burundi, among others.

ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity				
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Office of the Secretary–General's Envoy on Technology	Promote universal connectivity (through infrastructure, sustainable energy sources, a suitable regulatory environment and favorable market dynamics), digital public goods (access to digital solutions, support and additional investment to scale) and digital capacity building (inclusive skills development and effective training) in LLDCs, in line with the Secretary–General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.	2020+	The Office of the SG's Envoy on Technology focused on ensuring a human–centered approach to connectivity, including an ongoing multi–stakeholder consultation process on developing a baseline framework for universal, affordable and meaningful digital connectivity. In addition, it also supported broader efforts to push universal connectivity forward, including GIGA, a UNICEF–ITU initiative to connect all schools around the world to the Internet to accelerate connectivity, with activities in LLDCs including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Rwanda, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe. • The Baseline for Meaningful Digital Connectivity, called for by the Secretary–General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, is going to be launched in April 2022. • Efforts are ongoing, in collaboration with DESA and other partners, to explore partnerships and map the existing Big Tech initiatives on promoting internet and digital capacity–building projects for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. • Launch of online website for digital capacity–building effort and Joint Facility mechanism, in line with Roadmap's recommendation for scaled up coordinated global digital capacity–building efforts. • Collaboration with Digital Public Goods Alliance and other digital public goods initiatives to push forward open source and digital public goods efforts. • Establishment of Roadmap Response Team with DCO, an interagency initiative to support Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in implementing the Secretary–General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation at the national level and accompany national digitalization efforts. It is working closely with the Resident Coordinator Office in **Mongolia**, in this regard. • The Office is also working with UNDP and ITU to promote more coordinated support to Resident Coordinators and Country Teams on digital capacity–building.	Moldova is being provided technical, economic, and regulatory support in implementing an Early Warning System (EWS) via Cell Broadcast (CB) and other alert diffusion methods like radio and TV broadcasting. The deliverable will include a comprehensive report and a technical project documentation and bidding documents for the optimal EWS solution. Tajikistan and Ethiopia are some of the first countries to roll-out the Early Warnings for All initiative on a national scale, underscoring the importance of early warning systems to save lives before a disaster strikes. The Early Warning for All Action Plan for Africa has been developed that will support the roll out at national level for different priority countries in the region including LLDCs. ITU has supported a number of countries in developing a National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP), including Mongolia. ITU deployed 25 Thuraya satellite phones to Malawi following a request from their government as part of their cyclone Freddy disaster response in March 2023 As part of the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership (GESP), ITU, in cooperation with UNITAR, finalized the project on regional e-waste data harmonization in East Africa. The project provided technical assistance to the 6 Member States of the East African Communications Organisation (EACO), to support the relevant strategic actions of the EACO Regional E-waste Management Strategy in the area of data and statistics. Technical assistance provided through this project helped Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda to track progress and to harmonize the collection of data on e-waste, also termed waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), regionally. This will eventually help to sustain a central database of e-waste within the EACO

ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity				
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				secretariat. In addition, the project has piloted e-waste data collection through household and business surveys in Burundi. ITU has been actively engaged in the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership (GESP). GESP finalized its delivery of technical assistance to Malawi and Botswana in the area of e-waste statistics and data collection, through online capacity building and close support to national statistics offices and other institutions and ministries. BDT also supported countries in preparing various instruments for e-waste regulation: A draft national e-waste management policy or strategy was developed for Burundi and Botswana. ITU provided support to Uzbekistan with recommendations on how to improve its legal regime governing the management of e-waste. ITU provided further support was delivered to Rwanda for the implementation of the existing e-waste regulation.
OSCE	The OSCE project "Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region" is a multiphase project designed to support a number of OSCE participating States, including several LLDCs, to effectively employ green ports principles and innovative digital connectivity technologies. Within the framework of this project, OSCE is currently working with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to establish a common digital trade platform able to facilitate data sharing between trade and logistics stakeholders, streamlining and digitizing transit procedures, reducing trade costs and transit	2020–2023	In 2020, the OSCE launched the Second Phase of the OSCE Green Ports and Connectivity Project, thus expanding the scope of the project activities to dry ports in Central Asia and Black Sea Ports in Georgia and Romania and adding a work–package fully dedicated to increase women's economic participation in trade and logistics. Bimonthly online working groups bringing together 80+ stakeholders from all beneficiary countries have been established, allowing ports as well as regional and European logistics companies to explore technical solutions and work towards frictionless, digitalised and green trade along Caspian and Black Sea trade routes. The next working group meeting of the Green Ports project will take place on 27 July with a focus on digitalization. In this regard, the OSCE is also working together with the World Bank to test various prototypes for digital exchange of trade data across the Caspian Sea with the goal of conducting the first digital cargo handling between the Caspian Sea Ports in 2022. Furthermore, the OSCE is enabling the Ports of Aktau and Kuryk in Kazakhstan to implement the world–renowned Ecoports environmental management system. Other	–The port of Aktau successfully obtained the Ecoports certification – award ceremony July 2022. –The port of Kuryk has officially embarked on the OSCE–Ecoports's certification journey – kickoff training took place in Spring 2022 –The online component of the Women in Port training organized by the OSCE jointly with IPER tool place from 30 May until 10 June. The in–person component will be held in September in Le Havre, with representatives from all project countries. –The OSCE has finalized a study on producing green hydrogen as an alternative fuel in the Caspian Sea – May 2022

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	time, and reduce the carbon footprint of traded goods.		beneficiary ports will also receive support towards achieving the Ecoports certification in 2022. Furthermore, the OSCE is enabling all Caspian and Black Sea ports to implement the world–renowned Ecoports environmental management system. In 2022, the OSCE will launch a training for women in port management in partnership with IPER and the Port of Le Havre in France.	
UN–TBLDC	Development of Technology Transfer platform for LDCs (TBC)	2021+	The Technology Bank has been engaged in discussions relating to the creation of a technology transfer platform that will allow transfers of technology to LDCs and LLDCs. Moreover, the Technology Bank, together with the Turkish research institution (TUBITAK), will develop a technology transfer model, which will be piloted in Gambia, before being extended to other LDCs and LLDCs.	
UN–TBLDC	Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs)	2020–2024	The Technology Bank is undertaking technology needs assessments (TNA) to identify technology priorities in LDCs, which will benefit several countries including LLDCs. Status of completion is as follows: Completed: Bhutan and Uganda (2019–2020) Validated: Lesotho and Rwanda (2021) In progress: Lao PDR, Zambia, and Malawi. The outcome of the TNAs will be the development of the Technology Implementation Plan (TIP) that will unlock the digital ecosystem of the countries towards sustainable development. There are 16 TNAs planned in 2022 and several currently under finalization.	The TNAs serve as the foundation for LDCs (and for the LLDCs that are part of the LDCs) to identify their specific technological needs in priority sectors and improve national and regional policy technological coordination while mobilizing resources. **Outcomes/Results:** Between 2019–2020, the UN Technology Bank completed five TNAs, two of which were in LLDCs (Bhutan and Uganda). The TNA process results in a practical Technology Implementation Plan (TIP), which is specific to each country and serves as a basis for the country's technological development initiatives in line with its national development goals and the SDGs. The TIPs are a powerful tool to support a demand–driven approach to innovation and technology transfer.
UN–TBLDC	Promotion of Technology Transfer	June 2022–October 2023	Project on sustainable and affordable rammed earth dwellings: The project aims to provide selected LDCs with affordable, sustainable, eco–friendly and accessible sheltering by utilizing mainly locally available stabilized earthen construction materials.	
UN–TBLDC	Promotion of Technology Transfer	May 2022–November 2022	Technology transfer to address post–harvest challenges in agriculture: This project will respond to the challenges of post–harvest handling and the lack of storage facilities by	

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			transferring solar dryers, cold chain storage, food processing and preservation technologies.	
UN–TBLDC	Promotion of Technology Transfer	April 2022–August 2022	Establishment of a technology transfer office in The Gambia: The project is carried out by the UN Technology Bank, TÜBİTAK and University–Industry Cooperation Centers Platform (USIMP) and aims to develop a model for technology transfer offices suitable for LDCs (including LLDCs that are part of the LDC Group).	
UN–TBLDC in collaboration with UNDP	Building an SDG impact accelerator for LDCs	2021		The UN Technology Bank has been partnering with the Government of Turkey and UNDP on the SDG impact accelerator project, a project to support start–ups who leverage technology–based solutions to solve challenges LDCs face and further promote systemic, cross–country knowledge transfer. **Outcomes/Results:** The project provided financial and technical support to selected start–ups in the acceleration and implementation phases. A total of 1074 applications were received from 74 countries, in which 10 start–ups were chosen for the acceleration phase that included a series of mentoring activities. The acceleration phase was completed in 2021 with focus areas on digital agriculture in Uganda (LLDC) and financial inclusion in Bangladesh. Five start–ups were selected for the implementation phase. The UN Technology Bank was on the Governance Board to oversee the selection of the start–ups and provide mentoring in branding and intellectual property rights.
UN–TBLDC	Establishing Technology Makers Labs to enhance STI skills for young people in LDCs (Proposal)	Ongoing	The UN Technology Bank (UNTB) is developing a project on establishing Technology Makers Labs in LDCs (including LLDCs that are part of the LDC Group) to provide young people under 30 years of age with an opportunity to develop their STI skills. In collaboration with the programme partners, UNTB Technology Makers Labs will provide yearlong training modules	

ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity				
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			in the selected LDCs. The programme also aims to share an innovative collaborating model between LDCs, including Ministries in charge of technology development, universities and other relevant entities, and the International Technology Makers Lab shareholders. Within the Training Calendars, students will be able to join online/offline modules on essential STI skills, such as entrepreneurship, creative thinking, critical thinking, problem–solving, effective communication and teamwork, as well as technical courses such as design and production, robotics and coding, electronic programming and internet of things, aviation and space technologies, energy technologies, materials science and nanotechnology, and artificial intelligence.	
UN–TBLDC	Fostering strategic partnerships and advocacy for LDC's STI development	Ongoing	The UN Technology Bank partners with the Member States, UN system, research institutions, foundations and the private sector to mobilise the necessary resources for LDCs (which include some LLDCs) to fulfil their STI potentials and achieve sustainable development. Some of the partnerships and advocacy examples include a partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Solve (MIT Solve) and Plasma Ventures that advocates and supports LDC innovators' participation in the social entrepreneurship incubation. Similarly, through various international fora, such as the Africa STI Forum, in partnership with UNESCO and ECA, and the UNIDO's Ministerial Conference on LDCs, the Technology Bank places LDCs' STI opportunities and needs at the forefront of development programme collaboration and advocacy dialogues.	In collaboration with Thomson Reuters Foundation, the UN Technology Bank contributed to journalism training for over 40 journalists from LDCs (including LLDCs) to report development needs and opportunities from the STI lens. **Results/Outcomes:** The training, completed in December 2021, contributed to enhanced advocacy for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). https://www.un.org/ldc5/journalism–fellowship#
UNCTAD	Implementation of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) in LLDCs and transit partner countries to automate and enhance the Customs clearance and treatment of goods, including managing transit operations. ASYCUDA is implemented in 20 LLDCs. ASYCUDA is also implementing automated transit solutions at regional levels,	2020–2023	**2020 to present:** UNCTAD has continued its work in this field, focusing on upgrading and further rolling out ASYCUDA systems and tools, Single Window solutions, automated regional transit solutions etc, including in LLDCs and transit partner countries. In particular, UNCTAD has – during the reporting period – initiated work on the so–called ASYHUB solution for maritime transport. The ASYHUB solution for maritime transport, inter alia, connects the exchange of goods and shipping data between departing seaports and arrival ports, thereby facilitating pre–arrival processing and clearance procedures	In 2020, UNCTAD, in cooperation with Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire Customs, implemented the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) road transit automated solution for the corridor Abidjan–Ouagadougou. In 2021, the tool was extended to automate, manage and monitor rail transit in the same corridor. **ASYCUDA** is a computerized Customs management system that covers most foreign trade procedures. It handles manifests and Customs declarations,

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	ensuring interconnectivity and transferability of data along transit routes and corridors. UNCTAD's assistance also includes the establishment of so–called Customs–centric national Single Window systems to electronically connect all public and private stakeholders in the clearance process for import, export, and transit.			accounting procedures, transit and suspense procedures. It also generates trade data that can be used for statistical economic analysis. The **ASYCUDA** software is developed in Geneva by UNCTAD. More information is available at: https://asycuda.org/en/about/
UNOPS	Paraguay: Strengthening of accountability processes and access to public information:	April 2020 to April 2022	In support to the Comptroller General of the Republic of Paraguay, with financing from the ITAIPU Binacional, UNOPS developed and implemented a new accountability system for the National Fund for Public Investment and Development (FONACIDE) and Royalties. The system allows the process to be 100% online, providing traceability to investments valued at more than USD 600 million. It thus strengthens Paraguayan democracy by allowing greater transparency and access to public information through innovation and technology. The project is nearing completion.	
WTO	Support LLDC Members in their participation in discussing e–commerce issues in more detail, including the work under the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E–commerce, launched at WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference.	Ongoing	Launched at the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference, the initiative currently includes seven LLDCs. In the negotiations on trade and e–commerce, the group has discussed the unique challenges faced by LLDCs and the assistance they need. Increased LLDC engagement in the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and the Joint Statement Initiative enables LLDCs to voice their views and make clear their development assistance priorities to narrow the digital gap.	

3 STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

3.1 Public–private dialogue and private sector development

Public–private dialogue and private sector development				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UN–OHRLLS	Organize partnerships dialogues – as part of meetings organized by UN–OHRLLS – to mobilize international attention and resources to support development prospects of the LLDCs.	Ongoing	A session on strengthening partnerships in the area of transport session will be part of the Ministerial Transport Conference of LLDCs, organized by UN–OHRLLS and the Government of Turkmenistan on 15–16 August 2022 in Ashgabat. Various stakeholders, (including Ministers of Transport from LLDCs; transit and donor countries; representatives of UN system entities, other international, regional and sub–regional organizations; and financial institutions, private sector representatives, non– governmental organizations and the academia) are expected to participate in the Conference. This should lead to an enhanced commitment and momentum to expand partnerships to advance COVID–19 recovery and to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	
UNDRR	Mobilize and support the private sector in LLDCs to establish national chapters of the ARISE (Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies) Network	TBD	**UNDRR (May 2023)** The development of regional ARISE Networks in Africa, which includes LLDCs, began in the spring of 2020 in Southern and East Africa. CORAF CORAF (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development), is an affiliate member of the ARISE Network and has activities in Burkina Faso, Chad, Central African Republic, Mali and Niger among others. The networks in Africa convene monthly knowledge-sharing and learning sessions to discuss DRR issues to foster the resilience of agriculture SMEs in the region.	
UNIDO	Provide support to enhance PPP enablers in LLDCs, especially via capacity–building exercises, the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), and through the use of online platforms such as the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) and the Subcontracting and Partnership Exchanges (SPXs).	2020–2024	• Partnerships with the private sector are part of many UNIDO projects and programmes implemented in LLDCs, such as: The Volvo Group and the Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Ltd (–since 2020) in **Zambia**; Argor–Heraeus in **Mongolia**; illycaffè S.p.a., Fondazione Ernesto Illy and Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. in Ethiopia; and SES S.A. (–since 2020) in **Niger**. More information on UNIDO's partnerships with the private sector is available HERE.	

Public–private dialogue and private sector development				
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	• The Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) is a global network of climate and clean energy financing experts. In 2021, PFAN achieved a USD 2 billion investment milestone leveraged through its worldwide projects. In 2022, 47 PFAN–supported projects mobilised financing and leveraged over USD 865 million, reaching the milestone of USD 3 billion in investment leveraged. PFAN is bridging the gap between entrepreneurs and investors in LLDCs such as: **Mali, Nepal, Rwanda, Zimbabwe,** and **Uganda.**			
ECA in collaboration with UN–OHRLLS, AfDB and Afreximbank	Facilitate establishment of LLDCs Public and Private sector consultative meetings for exchange of ideas and best practices to advance VPoA goals	2020–2021+	Small scale funding Agreements were signed with countries (Ethiopia, Uganda) to support various activities under the policy Support Component. UNEP in partnership with ECA, hosted a virtual event at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in 2021 to discuss a common approach to building back better through a greener pathway towards COVID–19 recovery.	
ECA in collaboration with UN–OHRLLS, AfDB and Afreximbank	_Proposal:_ Convene an AfCFTA–anchored VPoA Forum on Leveraging the implementation of the AfCFTA to advance the achievement of the VPoA goals	2020–2021+	COVID restrictions, including on in person meetings, affected progress regarding implementation of this initiative. Efforts will be made to revive it.	
UNECE	Under the 13th Tranche of the UN Development Account, capacity–building activities will be undertaken in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan on the identification of PPP projects aligned with the SDGs using the UNECE evaluation methodology to score projects against five PPP desirable outcomes deriving from the SDGs.	2022–2024	As of 4 May 2022, the work was about to start and there was a strong demand from both countries and a strong desire to improve their infrastructure projects to make them more SDG compliant.	
UNEP	Through the Switch Africa Green programme, support countries in Africa (including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Uganda) to strengthen specific policies	2020–2022	The SWITCH Africa Green Networking Session in South Africa was held on 9 February 2021. The purpose of this session was to share the success stories, challenges, and opportunities, in promoting green business	In partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Switch Africa Green programme hosted a virtual event at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to discuss a common

Public–private dialogue and private sector development				
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	on green business, as well as enhance awareness of green business and Sustainable Consumption and Production practices in the region.		development within the second phase of SWITCH Africa Green and share information on Green Financing. Small Scale funding Agreements were signed with five countries including Ethiopia and Uganda to support activities related to policy support (technical support to review policies, regulations and standards). (2021) Work on development of a Sustainable Public Procurement Action plan (SPPAP) in Uganda is ongoing.	approach to building back better through a greener pathway towards COVID–19 recovery. (2021) Examples of guidelines, strategies and standards developed include (2020): –In Uganda: Guidelines for operationalizing a greened Tourism Bill in the country; the development of a greened Tourism Bill for Uganda and the review of its regulations; and the development of Green Manufacturing Strategy for MSMEs in the country. –In Burkina Faso: Development of a National Action Plan for Integrated Waste Management, and a National Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the country.
UNEP	Support country projects, including in some LLDCs (Lao PDR, Malawi, Nepal and Rwanda) to deepen and broaden poverty–environment mainstreaming and align finance and investment with poverty, environment and climate objectives through the UNEP–UNDP joint project for Poverty–Environment Action (PEA) for Sustainable Development Goals	2020+	The Poverty Environment Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (PEA) is a joint global project which provides an avenue for the poverty environment mainstreaming process. It is a four–year project (2018–2022) jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP with Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GC–RED) as the Managing Agent. Funding is provided through a pooled fund, financed by the European Union (EU), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Norway and Sweden through UNEP, as well as core resources from the UN agencies. The PEA aims to support eight country projects, including some LLDCs (Lao PDR, Malawi, Nepal and Rwanda) to deepen and broaden poverty–environment mainstreaming and align finance and investment with poverty, environment and climate objectives.	As part of the UNEP–UNDP joint project for Poverty–Environment Action (PEA) for Sustainable Development Goals, **Rwanda's** Ministry of Finance was supported to develop proposals which was funded at a level of $1.62 million and mobilized additional $200,000 to revise the NDCs as part of overall national mainstreaming efforts. A project proposal for a green national recovery plan was also supported by the PEA under UN's Rapid Finance Facility with $1.5 million approved. To date, five green projects were recognized for bringing green solutions to the environment as well as creating jobs and generating income for socioeconomic development. In **Lao PDR,** UNEP supported the Investment Promotion Department in the Ministry of Planning and Investment to develop **CSR guidelines** for the tourism Sector. CSR as a development issue is now included in the Ministry of Planning Investment's external Investment Promotion website. (2021). Also in Lao PDR, an investment procedure and compliance handbook and an investment database have been developed. The requirement to conduct an environment and social impact assessment, an environmental management and monitoring plan is included as part of this initiative.

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				In Malawi, a Policy Alignment Workshop was held in Blantyre (**Malawi**), in **September 2021** to assess the alignment of Malawi's sectoral policies to the nation's current development frameworks i.e. the Malawi Vision 2863 (MW2063) and the Malawi 10–year Implementation Plan (2021–2030) currently under developed. The workshop sought to orient Ministries, Departments and Agencies on foresight and sense–making techniques that will aid design of evidence–based development policies and programs interventions. Also in **Malawi**, a database to track funding related to poverty–environment programs and investments was developed and integrated into the Ministry of Economy for further centralized use of data from all government departments. This will help ensure that programs and projects in all sectors incorporate poverty– environment objectives.
UNEP	Support Eastern European, Caucasus, and Central Asian countries transitioning to a Green Economy (GE) through the development and implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production policies and practices by: helping countries to develop and implement green, socially–inclusive policies; procuring more sustainable goods and services; establishing educational campaigns for professionals, youth and the public; promoting eco–innovation among SMEs and industries; and setting up platforms to share experiences and scale up achievements.	2021–Ongoing	The "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) – a programme funded by the European Union and implemented by five partner organizations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank – aims to help LLDCs (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Moldova) preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well–being by supporting environment–related action, demonstrating, and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.	So far, through the "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) programme: –**Government representatives** from the Eastern Partnership countries shared ongoing work on supporting green SMEs, including new plans and policies, and examples of projects supported by the EU4Environment programme. –**Representatives from the manufacturing sector** and business support organizations of the EaP region provided insights into issues of efficient use of resources in manufacturing processes and business perspectives of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with regards to the reflection of Circular Economy, Paris Agreement and Green Deal–related initiatives in national support programs, initiatives and business practices. –**SMEs from the EaP region and from EU member states** shared experiences, lessons learned and best practices in reviewing their value chains and business strategies with the aim of improving their socio–environmental performance and overall competitiveness. Government stakeholders also

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				discussed the challenges and opportunities for promoting eco–innovation among SMEs in their respective countries, as well as how these can inform/guide the activities of the EU4Environment programme.

–UNEP, one of the implementing agencies of the EU–funded EU4Environment programme, together with UNITAR launched an e–learning course "Introduction to the Green Economy" in Armenia and Azerbaijan. (2021) The course includes basic concepts, policy instruments and international frameworks that promote inclusive green economies at all levels. The course consists of five modules with interactive exercises that reinforce the readers learning. Opened to policy–makers, businesses, and the general public, the course seeks to strengthen participants' ability to:
–Describe the rationale and core concepts for moving away from business–as–usual practices and towards an inclusive green economy;
–Identify enabling conditions for greening national economies;
–Outline principal opportunities and challenges to greening key sectors of the economy;
–Provide examples of enabling national and sectoral strategies and planning;
–Distinguish international frameworks and initiatives in support of an inclusive green economy.

EU4Environment also developed a platform that provides small and medium enterprises in Azerbaijan with clear information on how they can improve their resource efficiency and environmental performance, increasing their competitiveness by reducing their costs. By completing the online questionnaire, businesses are provided with customized recommendations based on the characteristics of their enterprise. (2021). |

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ESCAP	Support countries in developing and strengthening competitiveness of their MSMEs and enhance their integration into regional and global value chains through regional network of SME policymakers and experts.	2020–2024	Inclusive Business Enabling Environment for Cambodia Strategy (launched) https://artnet.unescap.org/sti/events/launch–landscape–study–inclusive–business–cambodia Hosting 5th ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit in 2022.	
FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs to elaborate their agrifood systems' related development plans in collaboration with the private sector for maximum sustainability impact, focusing on prioritized territories, market systems and/or value chains; establish system–based programmes based on policy alignment and coordinated public private sector investment, such as Agrinvest and the Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA)programmes, that are in place to fast track this process (Uganda, Rwanda)	Ongoing	FAO supported youth centred value chain analysis for selected value chains and upgrading strategies with a focus on boosting jobs and agripreneurship for youth. Youth centred value chain analyses were completed for **Rwanda** (selected horticulture crops) and **Uganda** (coffee – publication forthcoming in 2022) and related value chain upgrading strategies were developed. Following the assessments, youth centred value chain development work has been initiated in 2021 and will continue in 2022 (with specific value chains prioritized in **Rwanda** and around 500 young agripreneurs or youth cooperatives supported). Based on the country analyses conducted, related guidelines were published in 2022. Dissemination activities around the Guidelines will also continue in 2022.	FAO supported youth centred value chain analysis for selected value chains and upgrading strategies with a focus on boosting jobs and agripreneurship for youth. Youth centred value chain analyses were completed for **Rwanda** (selected horticulture crops) and **Uganda** (coffee – publication forthcoming in 2022) and related value chain upgrading strategies were developed. This work was completed in 2021 and carried out under the Integrated Country Approach programme– jointly lead by the Decent Rural Employment (DRE) Team within the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP) and the Sustainable Markets, Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Team within the Agrifood Economics Division (ESA). FAO supported the development of the Comprehensive Agricultural Transformation Support Programme (CATSP) in **Zambia.** This multistakeholder process was completed in August 2023. The CATSP is the strategy for achieving the Government's vision of a viable commercial agricultural development undertaking that will end hunger and improve nutrition, while accelerating economic growth, and making the nation food secure and a food basket of the region. The CATSP will accelerate, and contribute to, Zambia's achievement of SDG 1, SDG 2 ,SDG 8 and further provide opportunities for implementing the Food Systems Pathways developed and agreed upon as part of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

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FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs to elaborate their agrifood systems' related development plans in collaboration with the private sector for maximum sustainability impact, focusing on prioritized territories, market systems and/or value chains; establish system–based programmes based on policy alignment and coordinated public private sector investment, such as as the Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) Programme, that are in place to fast track this process (Zambia).	Ongoing	The development of an upgrading strategy and development plan for the soybean value chain in **Zambia** under the ASTA program (formerly 3ADI+, Accelerator for Agriculture and Agro–industry Development and Innovation Plus) is nearing its completion. The development of the value chain upgrading strategy is driven by the various stakeholders, both private firms and (centrally) a range of ministries. A planning workshop for a concrete development plan and its funding based on a World Bank loan to the government was completed in September 2023 completed in April 2022. The broader context is that of a new World Bank loan programme that includes support to agrifood system transformation and for which the FAO–UNIDO work on the soybean value chain represents a good example of how the upgrading process could be implemented.	
FAO	Support to improved policy coherence and coordination across policy frameworks and initiatives governing sustainable agrifood systems transformation(**Burundi, Rwanda South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe).**	2022-2024	- Government of the Republic of **Zambia** supported on the design of its 2nd generation National Investment Plan finalized in July 2023 and its convergence with its Food Systems Transformational Pathway. Agri-PPP platform also designed alongside; - Government of **Rwanda** supported the integration of a 'system approach' into the design of its Strategic Agriculture Development Programme (PSTA5) launched in May 2023; -Government of **South Sudan** supported on the review of its Food Security and Nutrition Policy and its convergence with the Food Systems Pathway. - Support to the institutional capacity building of **Uganda'**s National Food Systems Steering Committee. - In **Burund**i, support provided to the National Convener of the food Systems Pathway to support multistakeholder engagement for its implementation.	
FAO	Provide a framework for identifying investment opportunities to boost economic growth, ensure social	2023	**Rwanda**: the framework has been piloted in Rwanda and includes a prioritization of value chains based on an analysis of the most competitive agrifood systems.	

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	inclusion, increase food security and build resilience to shocks. The framework is based on an overall assessment of competitiveness and inclusiveness of value chains. an assessment of priority areas of intervention for facilitating private sustainable investments; variations and priorities on investment pathways for inclusive rural transformation in Africa drawing from country case studies.		Four key pathways were identified, for a more inclusive and resilient rural transformation: 1. Concerted efforts to scale-up inclusive business models; 2. Facilitate increased access to financial services; 3. Increase awareness and spread knowledge of existing policies and funding opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change; 4. Logistics: facilitate adoption of practices that have been experimented with digital technologies.	
	Strengthening the resilience of micro, small and medium agro-enterprises	2022	In June 2022, FAO in collaboration with the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) held a Private Sector Round Table on "Strengthening Resilience of Agrifood Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) During and Post COVID-19 in East Africa". FAO's Hand in Hand Initiative provides a framework for identifying investments in the agrifood sector. As of August 2023, the Initiative supports 22 LLDCs.	
UNOSSC with UNCDF	Through the India–UN Development Partnership Fund, launch two projects on private sector development in selected LLDCs: **–Strengthen inclusive digital economies in Malawi, by supporting digital innovations and their roll–out across relevant economic sectors;** –Strengthen the pro–poor reach of the financial sector, by supporting digital financial inclusion in Zambia.	2020 – 2022	The Government of India through the India–UN Development Partnership Fund, UNOSSC and UNCDF are advancing two projects on private sector development: –Strengthen inclusive digital economies in Malawi, by supporting digital innovations and their roll–out across relevant economic sectors. – Strengthen the pro–poor reach of the financial sector, by supporting digital financial inclusion in Zambia.	
CFC	Commit around $16 million from the total of $60 million for projects to the development of innovative enterprise in commodity sector in LLDCs.	2021–2025	In 2021-23 to-date, CFC's Executive Board approved 9 projects operating in LLDCs, committing about **USD 11.45 million**, out of the total value of the projects of USD 43.4 million. The countries that benefited from	

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			these projects are Mali, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda. In addition, the Executive Board approved the support of an innovative investment fund, focusing on agri-SMEs operating in Africa. Among the target countries are several LLDCs, including Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. The CFC contribution is USD 2 million, which would help to mobilize a total expected USD 100 million for this new investment fund. Furthermore, following the recommendation from CFC's Consultative Committee, 3 new projects operating in LLDCs will be presented for approval in the next Meeting of the Executive Board, to be held in October 2023. If approved, the CFC will commit USD 3 million, out of the total value of the projects of USD 15.6 million.	
CFC	Enhance CFC's commitment to support USD60mln of public-private investment in commodity value chains by operationalizing **Agricultural Commodity Transformation Fund (ACT Fund)** which will leverage the resources provided by the CFC, USD20mln in first loss capital, with up to five times this amount from private impact financiers and a TA facility to support the investees.	2021–2035	In March 2023 the CFC rolled out a new US$100m public-private impact fund (the ACT Fund) that will put SMEs in developing countries at the nexus of smallholder livelihoods, biodiversity, and climate action. Unlocking the potential of agri-SMEs to create income and climate resilience at scale while preserving natural capital. ACT's combined offering of short-term liquidity, long term investment capital and technical assistance unlocks the potential of agri-SMEs to be the backbone of rural economies and ultimate drivers of agricultural value chains.	
ADB	Provide technical assistance to CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations (CFCFA): (i) develop private sector opportunities for wider–based involvement in trade facilitation;	2020–2024	TA 9832–REG: Partnership with the Private Sector for Sustainable Trade Facilitation Results in the CAREC Project was approved for $0.75 million from Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund (RCIF) in 2019; supplementary financing of $0.8 million from RCIF approved in 2021.	

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	(ii) strengthen Institutional capacity of CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations; (iii) expand corridor performance measurement and monitoring (CPMM) mechanism and package it for pilot replication.		Output 1: The TA supported (i) the conduct of a gap analysis study on national and/or regional acceptance and adoption of industry–initiated standards; and (ii) the facilitation of CFCFA Annual Meeting, Executive Board Meetings, and Technical Working Group Meetings held virtually. Given the virtual meeting format, CFCFA conducted meetings among its board members at least once a month, resulting in expedited decision–making and active participation among private–sector associations. Output 2: The TA supported (i) the drafting of a CFCFA manual on trade logistics practices in CAREC countries in collaboration with CFCFA members, and (ii) implementing the proposed business model for CFCFA's self–sustainability. On 26–28 October 2021, CFCFA led the organization of its First Informative and Networking Workshop for Transport and Logistic Companies in the CAREC Region, attended by 40–50 private sector participants. Following management decision in consultation with CFCFA, the TA concluded its financial assistance to CFCFA organizational and administration activities on 31 October 2021. Output 3: The TA supported the continuous implementation of CPMM and the production of its knowledge products. Output 4: The TA supported preparations toward a call for research proposals in February–March 2022, in partnership with EAOD, to promote the use of CPMM among academics, policymakers, and international organizations. On 17 August 2022, the TA supported the conduct of a conference to share the findings of the flagship study. It will also present selected studies that employ CPMM data and demonstrate how the data can be used for policy formulation and deepen academic research. These studies are being prepared for publication.	

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			Output 5: The TA supported studies examining the different aspects of CPMM methodology identified in the joint ADB–CI CPMM familiarization and capacity–building workshop. On 17 March 2022, a consultation workshop deliberated the CPMM mandate, scope, and methodology enhancements. The consultants are evaluating the comments and will draft a report resulting in an improved data collection and reporting mechanism by 2023.	
ADB	Supporting institutional capacity strengthening of the CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations (CFCFA) by: (i) conducting a training needs assessment and designing training models to help CFCFA members provide assistance to other CFCFA associations and future logistics and freight forwarding practitioners, and (ii) developing a business model and action plan for self–sustainability of the CFCFA, and also facilitate annual consultation between the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee and the CFCFA to promote public–private dialogue on transport and logistics priorities on the CAREC region.	2020–2024	See above.	
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Possible organization of Public–Private Sector Forums on Tourism for LLDCs and at the same time ensure LLDCs will be actively engaged in UNWTO competitions, courses and start–ups training.	2023	In the framework of LDC 5 in 2023 (TBC) – Doha, Qatar	
UNWTO	Possible organization of Public–Private Sector Forums on Tourism for LLDCs and	2022+	Among five priorities presented in the United Nations Secretary–General's Policy Brief on restarting tourism	

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	at the same time ensure LLDCs will be actively engaged in UNWTO competitions, courses and start–ups training.		amidst COVID–19 were innovation solutions and with a human–centered focus, equitable digital transformation has the potential to transform tourism on a system–wide level. Bridging data gaps and expanding a country's monitoring capacity is crucial to improving the sustainable planning and management of tourism. Supporting the digitalization of the tourism ecosystem can build competitiveness and resilience, targeting support towards start–ups and MSMEs can build more inclusive value–chains. The UNWTO Digital Futures for SMEs Programme will be launched on 17 May 2022 aimed at accelerating digitization of 1 million SMEs on connectivity, business growth, e–commerce, Big Data and analytics, and payments and security. More information at https://www.unwto.org/events/launching–event–of–the–unwto–digital–futures–programme The UNWTO Awake Tourism Challenge and the 3rd Global Gastronomy Tourism Startup Competition are open for applications. More information at: https://www.unwto.org/unwto–startup–competition Furthermore, online education courses in tourism, hospitality and innovation have been offered through the UNWTO Tourism Online Academy: (https://www.unwto–tourismacademy.ie.edu), specially supported by the allocation of scholarships for LDCs and SIDS.	
UNOSSC	Tourism to Promote Poverty Reduction, Employment and Women's Development in Uzbekistan through small grant project funded by the Global South–South Development Center project in partnership with Government of China	2020 – 2021+	–Policy advice provided for the formulation and evaluation of tourism policies and contribute to the goal of poverty reduction; –Bilateral exchanges and outreach expanded at local level; –Conduct capacity training for Uzbekistan tourism practitioners for income generation, gender equality and poverty reduction;	

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DESA	Strengthened inclusive economic governance structure in the **Lao PDR** by supporting the Ministry of Industry and Commerce formulating the National Micro–, Small and Medium–sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Plan 2021–2025	2021		The National Micro–, Small and Medium–sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Plan 2021–2025 was completed and endorsed by the Lao PDR Government in December 2021. Micro enterprises led by women, youth and groups in vulnerable situations are included in this national policy that strengthened inclusive economic structural transformations of the **Lao PDR** in the recovery from the Covid–19 pandemic.
DESA	Providing capacity building support to optimize enabling policy environment and elevate Micro–, Small and Medium–sized Enterprises (MSMEs) resilience for building back better in the **Lao PDR** and **Zimbabwe**	2022–2024	Together with public and private sector partners, the project 'enhancing MSME resilience for building back better' will deliver policy mechanisms and strengthen capacities of policymakers, women and youth MSME entrepreneurs in the **Lao PDR** and **Zimbabwe.** It facilitates public–private dialogue, coordinates an evidence–based policymaking process and delivers inclusive business development services that elevate MSME resilience and their contributions to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by expanding access to high–value market opportunities and strengthening MSME entrepreneurial skills.	
ESCAP	Support countries in developing and strengthening competitiveness of their MSMEs and enhance their integration into regional and global value chains through regional network of SME policymakers and experts.	202–2024	Hosting 5th ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit in 2022.	
ESCAP	ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) Roundtable: Building smart, low–carbon, climate–resilient infrastructure in developing countries, including LLDCs.	Q4 2023	1–day roundtable planned for 1 November 2023: https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/building–smart–low–carbon–climate–resilient–infrastructure–in–developing–countries	

3.2   Attracting and facilitating investment

Attracting and facilitating investment				
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UN–OHRLLS	Support LLDCs in attracting higher levels of foreign direct investment in productive industries and international project finance in infrastructure	2022–2023	UN–OHRLLS is currently preparing a report on Enhancing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in LLDCs for Sustainable Development. The report will present comprehensive policy proposals for LLDCs to increase FDI flows in manufacturing and services industries to aid structural economic transformation. In addition, it will also highlight how international project finance – another form of cross–border financial flows – can be leverages to facilitate infrastructure development in LLDCs. The report will further present data on FDI trends in LLDCs in the last few years. In addition, it will highlight reasons for low as well as a largely natural resource orientation of FDI in LLDCs. The draft report will be completed by the end of Quarter 2, 2022 and its findings will be validated in an Expert Group Meeting in Quarter 3 or 4 of the same year. The finalized report will then be used for various technical cooperation and capacity building events leading up to the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.	
UNIDO, UNCTAD, UN– OHRLLS, ITC– ILO, EIF and WAIPA	Capacity development programme for investment promotion agencies of least developed countries	2021–2023	The overall objective of the programme is to improve the business climate and investment conditions in LDCs, to attract sustainable "quality" FDI and ultimately enhance sustainable development. The program is beneficial to LLDCs that are also LDCs, notably Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia. It focuses on what investment promotion agencies (IPAs) can do in particular fields to support the strategic orientation of individual countries and what role they can play in contributing to the growth and accumulation of sustainable FDI. It also seeks to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration across IPAs from beneficiary countries and their development partners. Collaboration and know–how transfer in various areas is expected to help improve the investment climate and foster more inclusive economic growth.	

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UNCTAD, in collaboration with UN–OHRLLS and WAIPA	Support LLDCs and their investment promotion agencies in: (i) enhancing their beneficial participation and engagement in the UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2021; (ii) targeting and facilitating foreign direct investment in sustainable development; (iii) responding to COVID–19 and adjusting to the post–COVID–19 environment, including a paper on FDI Trends and Key Issues in LLDCs (2022).	2018–2021		The UNCTAD Development Account (DA) umbrella project covers three regions, the Caribbean, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC). It aims to facilitate investment in SDG projects and to strengthen interregional sustainable development partnerships through workshops, regional seminars and an interregional seminar during the World Investment Forum (WIF) 2021. LLDCs from EAC and SADC that benefitted from capacity–building activities and the exchange of best practices in facilitating investment in Sustainable Development Goal projects include **Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.** Officials of LLDC investment promotion agencies and other investment stakeholders also participated in the World Investment Forum 2021. Completed in October 2021. More information on the activities can be found on: https://sustainablefdi.org/index.php/news–on–sustainable–fdi/past–events
UNCTAD	Advisory services and capacity–building on strategies for investment promotion agencies in **Eswatini** and **Uganda** to target investment in selected SDG sectors.	2021–2022	The **Eswatini's** Investment Promotion Authority (EIPA) and the **Uganda** Investment Promotion Authority received technical assistance from UNCTAD in the framework of an Interregional Development Account project on Facilitating Investment in SDGs Projects. For both agencies, the assistance included the development of a strategy for the agencies to promote and facilitate investment in SDG sectors. Eswatini had agriculture/agribusiness as a target sector, and Uganda had health as a target sector. A presentation of the Strategy to Promote and Facilitate Investment in the Uganda Health Sector to UIA staff, policy makers and other investment stakeholders in Uganda is scheduled for March 2022.	The **Eswatini's** Investment Promotion Authority (EIPA) and the **Uganda** Investment Promotion Authority received technical assistance from UNCTAD in the framework of an Interregional Development Account project on Facilitating Investment in SDGs Projects. For both agencies the assistance included the development of a strategy for the agencies to promote and facilitate investment in SDG sectors. Eswatini had agriculture/agribusiness as a target sector, and Uganda had health as a target sector. The assistance for **Eswatini** comprised of an advisory report with a Strategy to Promote and Facilitate Investment in SDG Projects, particularly in the agriculture/agribusiness sector (related to several SDGs, including 2 and 8). It also included a series of training sessions for EIPA staff, policy makers and other

Attracting and facilitating investment

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
				stakeholders in Eswatini on mainstreaming the SDGs in its work programme. Completed in January 2022 in Eswatini and in February 2022 in Uganda. **Outcomes/Results**: In Eswatini, this initiative resulted in an SDG mainstreaming strategy and action plan. In addition EIPA staff and policy makers (31 of whom 14 women) were trained. In Uganda, the **Uganda** Investment Authority (UIA) received assistance in developing a strategy and related action plan for the facilitation of private investment in the health sector (SDG 3), including through cross–border projects in the East African Community (EAC). The initiative also resulted **into a s**trategy to Promote and Facilitate Investment in the Uganda Health Sector.
ESCAP in partnership with UNCTAD and WAIPA	Organize comprehensive national and regional level training for investment policymakers and IPA official on promotion, attraction and facilitation of FDI for sustainable development. Capacity building exercises will be on demand and through national workshops and the Asia–Pacific FDI Policy Network.	2020–2024	Capacity building workshop on the future of FDI: Reaping the benefits of FDI 4.0: for Mongolia on 26–27 Aug. 2021; for Bhutan on 27–28 Sep. 2021 https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/future–fdi–reaping–benefits–fdi–40–mongolia	
ESCAP	Provide analytical policy–oriented knowledge products to support sustainable transformation in several economic sectors in North and Central Asian countries, including agricultural transformation.	2020+	An Expert group meeting on 'Sustainable Economic Transformation for SDG attainment in North and Central Asia' was organized in September 2020 to discuss knowledge product on this topic. www.unescap.org/events/expert–group–meeting–sustainable–economic–transformation–sdg–attainment–north–and–central	

Attracting and facilitating investment				
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ESCAP	Capacity building workshops and meetings on promoting and facilitating FDI for sustainable development.	2023–2024		Bhutan and Mongolia participated in a capacity building workshop in February 2023 and September 2023 both focused on investment promotion for FDI for sustainable development and FDI for the digital economy.
AfDB	Assist 3 LLDCs in developing bankable infrastructure projects to be presented at the annual Africa Investment Forum.	2021+	Pending	
IDLO	Through ISP/LDCs, provide on–demand *ad hoc* direct legal assistance and capacity building to LLDC governments and SMEs on investment–related matters, including preparation and implementation of PPPs and/or related legislation, international investment law and dispute settlement, investment contract negotiation, and other foreign investment–related laws and regulations.	2020–2023		Under the Investment Support Programme for Least Developed Countries (ISP/LDCs), IDLO has provided assistance to the following LLDCs:

(i) **Ethiopia** (**October 2021**): IDLO supported the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) with the implementation of targeted capacity development activities focusing on international investment law and sustainable development. The training sessions covered the fundamentals of international investment law and arbitration and dedicated specific attention to developing trends in the reform of the international investment law systems, the preparation of Model Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT), and the negotiation of BITs with foreign investors. Participants highlighted how the support received was fundamental to provide them with the skills and knowledge needed to ensure that national investment laws and policies be fully aligned with Ethiopia's development objectives and implemented in such a way as to achieve sustainable development.

(ii) **Malawi** (**December 2021**): IDLO provided legal assistance to a State–Owned Enterprise (SOE) in Malawi on the preparation of a joint venture agreement (JVA) template to be used in the negotiation of agricultural investment projects with foreign investors. The preparation of the template JVA was an essential step to facilitate the SOE's engagement with investors interested in doing business in the agricultural sector. The template can be used to help the beneficiary in the identification of their priorities and in designing a strategy to guide future negotiation efforts with potential foreign investors. |

Attracting and facilitating investment				
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				(iii) **Uganda** (**October 2021**): IDLO provided support to the Uganda Law Society (ULS) in delivering capacity development activities to over 100 private sector lawyers on the implementation of FDI transactions in Uganda. A first training was then focused on project finance, covering both the fundamentals of international finance and the international financial system as well as hot topics of cryptocurrencies and central bank digital currency. A second training provided an overview of fundamentals of mergers and acquisitions law, with specific attention paid to the structuring of the deal and the negotiation and drafting of relevant contracts.
				(iv) **Uganda (October 2022)**: IDLO provided support to various institutions from the Government of Uganda, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Justice, in understanding and negotiating international investment agreements and double taxation treaties. The capacity building initiative significantly strengthened Uganda's ability to negotiate such international treaties in a position of parity with their counterparts, thus ensuring increased alignment with national development objectives.
				(v) **Rwanda (January 2023)**: IDLO provided support to the Ministry of Trade of Rwanda (MINICOM) through: (a) the provision of technical support in the preparation of an assessment study on the relationship between Rwanda's investment framework and broader regional and continental approaches; and (b) capacity development on the negotiation of international investment agreements (IIAs) and Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). These activities strengthened government officials' understanding and ability to manage the legal framework

Attracting and facilitating investment				
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				applicable to foreign direct investment, with a view to better aligning it with national sustainable development objectives. (vi) Rwanda (July 2023): IDLO provided support to the Judiciary of Rwanda through the implementation of capacity building activities focused on: (a) understanding and interpreting complex commercial and investment contracts; and (b) understanding the implications of international commercial arbitration and mediation on national judicial systems. By doing so, IDLO contributed to strengthening the ability of the Rwandan Judiciary to solve complex investment disputes, ultimately lowering transaction costs for foreign investors.
IDLO	Support the judicial sector through the development of commercial mediation to facilitate dispute resolution for business and judicial capacity–building in the enforcement of decisions in commercial cases.	(ongoing) 2020+	**Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan (Ongoing):** IDLO is supporting judicial institutions and private sector entities in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan through technical assistance and complementary capacity building seeking to strengthen the use of ADR and mediation to resolve commercial disputes. In cooperation with regional governments, IDLO is supporting a functional analysis of the mediation system in beneficiary countries. With respect to the private sector, IDLO is supporting Small and Medium–Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the use of online mediation as a preferred method of dispute resolution, both during and after the COVID–19 pandemic period. IDLO is also providing relevant capacity building to judicial and private sector entities, highlighting the role that ADR mechanism can play in supporting efforts to "building back better" from the pandemic. IDLO is also providing significant assistance to local stakeholders in keeping and updating the national registries of licensed mediators in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan as well as providing capacity building to judicial and private sector entities, highlighting the role that ADR mechanisms can play in supporting efforts to "building back better" from the pandemic."	(i) **Armenia (May 2021):** In cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), IDLO provided technical assistance to the Supreme Judicial Council of Armenia on the operational structure and processes of the specialized insolvency court, as well as complementary capacity development support to insolvency judges, with a view to strengthening the quality and uniformity of the administration of justice and the predictability of court decisions in the insolvency sector.

Attracting and facilitating investment				
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CFC	Require and support projects to use CFC's Social and Environmental Management System (SEMS), an impact monitoring and management practice, designed in collaboration with ILO, to support a systematic and clear approach for different stakeholders to measure and report on the impact investment across different sectors and industries. The SEMS comprises procedures that enable staff to identify, assess, manage, and report Environmental, Social and Governance risks and impacts of financial transactions and define the decision–making process, likely resulting in higher investments.	ongoing	The CFC continues to use its SEMS to assess the project proposals and require that they follow Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) parameters in line with international good practices. The 3 projects operating in LLDCs approved by CFC's Executive Board in its last Meeting, held in October 2021, are being assessed using CFC's SEMS to make sure that the ESG aspects are being properly considered. This will help to minimize eventual ESG risks and potentialize the positive impact.	
CFC and UNIDO	Impact investment opportunities map for LLDCs and LDCs in global commodity value chains.	2023-ongoing	Since 2021 CFC and UNIDO are working to develop an innovative approach taking advantage of UNIDO's analytical tools and CFC's practical experience in commodity value chains to identify highest impact investment niche opportunities for impact investors. The programme intends to take a selsction of LDCs and LLDCs and apply a rigorous framework to demonstrate impact investment potential of high value commodity value chains in the target countries.	

3.3 Diversification and value–addition

Diversification and value–addition				
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UNIDO	Support structural economic transformation through multistakeholder partnerships	2020–2024	During 2021, through the Programme for Country Partnerships implemented in LLDCs (Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda, and Zambia), UNIDO continued supporting countries through multi–stakeholder, large–scale flagship programmes targeting the structural transformation of beneficiary countries.. _____	Since 2021, some of the main achievements include: – Several partnership agreements signed within the Integrated Agro–Industrial Parks (IAIPs) in Ethiopia. – The inauguration of the first Creative Hub in Ethiopia, supporting entrepreneurship and creative industries while offering the possibility to access digital instruments – The inauguration of the first Coffee Training Center (CTC) in Ethiopia to enable a wide range of services, supplying professionals with international standard knowledge and skillsets. – The signing of the PCP agreement between Zambia and UNIDO, marking the start of the implementation phase of the PCP. – Cooperation with COMESA and other partners for a feasibility study for a joint Zambia–Zimbabwe integrated agro–industrial park (IAIP). – The development and validation of an industrial diagnostic study in Rwanda which has identified: adequate skills for industry 4.0, circular economy, sustainable energy, governance and integrated value chains as selected thematic areas of interventions.
UNIDO	Provide technical cooperation services leveraging national/regional/global value chains for industrial competitiveness development in key sectors, and job creation especially in suburban and rural areas of LLDCs (South Sudan, Mongolia)	2020–2024	UNIDO continued supporting LLDCs in leveraging national/regional/global value chains for industrial competitiveness development. Some examples include: – **Mongolia**, where UNIDO and the World Bank Group, started implementing a new project (2020–2024) to support Mongolian small and medium–size enterprises (SMEs) in the non–mining sectors. The project seeks to strengthen SMEs' export capabilities and expand access to export markets through the enhancement of a Mongolian pool of local experts engaged in international certification–related services (training, coaching, mentoring and auditing) on selected export products and SME certification (e.g. HACCP, Halal, ISO, FSSC, LWG, TWM, SFA, OEKO–TEX). More information is	In **South Sudan**, UNIDO supported over one thousand people in the fisheries sector to reduce post–harvest losses and add value to fisheries products. Accomplishments so far include: –the establishment of new fisheries landing sites; and –fish markets and improved collection and processing facilities, helping to set the foundation for the export of fisheries products. The project ended in 2021. More information is available at: https://open.unido.org/projects/SS/projects/120447

Diversification and value–addition				
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			available at: https://open.unido.org/projects/MN/projects/200021	UNIDO and FAO implemented a joint initiative to "Support Employment Creation in **Mongolia** (SECIM)", which focuses on agricultural value chains and rural development. Agricultural value chains and rural development are two key sectors in Mongolia, offering sustainable development and economic diversification opportunities. Taking into account that many people working in agriculture are members of poor households, the relationship between job creation, employment, poverty alleviation, private sector development and trade is pivotal for the diversification of Mongolia's economy. The project contributed to Mongolia's inclusive economic growth and supports alleviation of income inequality by strengthening specific value chains, focusing on value addition and employment in key agricultural sub–sectors in suburban and rural areas of the country. The project ended in 2021. More information is available at: https://open.unido.org/projects/MN/projects/140197
UNIDO	Provide technical cooperation services leveraging national/regional/global value chains for industrial competitiveness development in key sectors, and job creation especially in suburban and rural areas of LLDCs (various LLDCs)	2020–2024	Under an inter–regional programme funded by the OACPS and the EU, UNIDO in cooperation with the WB and ITC, supports business–friendly and inclusive national and regional policies, while strengthening productive capabilities and value chains in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, including LLDCs. –At macro–level, the aim is to enhance ACP's investment climate through improved policies, strategies, and regulations. –At meso–level, intermediary organizations and business membership networks are leveraged to strengthen investment promotion capabilities; business support programs; marketing, monitoring; and partnerships. UNIDO supports the meso–level actions in eight countries, including two LLDCs: **Ethiopia** and **Zambia**. –At micro–level, productive and commercial value chains alliances are facilitated and firm–level support to formal and informal businesses is provided through	

Diversification and value–addition				
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			capacity building and training in order to strengthen and diversify productive and value addition capabilities.	
UNCTAD, in collaboration with CFC	Identify new sectors of potential exports to accelerate structural economic transformation (Exploratory work focuses on nutraceuticals as potential areas for export diversification and kick–start structural transformation in selected LLDCs.)	2022–2023		**2022** UNCTAD published a comprehensive study entitled "Harnessing the potential of nutraceutical products for export diversification and development in landlocked developing countries: Assessment of comparative advantages and binding constraints." Nutraceuticals have or are alleged to have health-enhancing properties beyond their nutritional value. The global nutraceutical market, which was estimated at US$382.5 billion in 2019, is rapidly increasing in many regions including the United States of America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Middle East, with the market estimated to reach US$600 billion in 2030. The report identifies and examines nutraceuticals in six countries: Bhutan, Nepal, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Bolivia and Azerbaijan and analyses the relevant international market access constraints. The report's provisions have since been used in the process of formulation of sectoral policy recommendations concerning value addition, diversification and linkages within the agricultural sector of developing economies, most notably in the Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programmes for Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia.
UNCTAD	Support LLDCs in fostering productive capacities and structural transformation through: (i) developing productive capacities index (PCI) and building institutional and human resources capacities to use the PCI in policymaking ; (ii) preparing policy tool (manual) on how to develop new productive capacities while maintaining and utilizing existing ones for structural economic transformation; (iii) preparing a National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment (NPCGA) model tool, to be used to help provide	2020–2023	The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and ECOSOC have decided to use the Productive Capacities Index (PCI) as part of the assessment of countries for graduation from the LDC category, and for the vulnerability profiles of graduating countries. The CDP further requested UNCTAD to carry out Productive Capacities Gap Analyses for all countries meeting the graduation criteria for the first time in 2021. UNCTAD uses PCI to prepare National Productive Capacities Gap Assessments and subsequently develop country-specific programmes to assist a number of LLDCs to build their productive capacities. At the moment a Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programme for Zambia is being formulated, whereas	**2021 and 2023:** After several years in development, on 9 February 2021, the new Productive Capacities Index (PCI) was launched to the press by the Secretary–General of UNCTAD. The index provides a snapshot of the state of productive capacities in each country based on 46 indicators, assessing eight components: natural capital, human capital, energy, structural transformation, ICT, private sector and institutions. The PCI provided data for 193 economies for the period from 2000 to 2018, thus allowing the analysis of global and regional trends as well as the impact of individual policies. Subsequently, the PCI has been updated and revised to reflect changes in global trends and their impact, and the new version was published in Jun 2023 (it

Diversification and value–addition				
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	focused analyses on the productive capacities of target countries. The objective of NPCGAs is to provide country–specific recommendations to foster productive capacities and structural economic transformation as well as target international support measures where applicable. The NPCGA uses the UNCTAD PCI and explores micro and macroeconomic fundamentals of a country, together with its socioeconomic challenges, opportunities, and prospects; (iv) formulating and implementing coherent industrial, trade and other sectoral policies for fostering productive capacities (Burkina Faso and Rwanda are pilot countries to benefit from the activity); and (v) facilitating their participation in the 15th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD–XV) to be held in the first quarter of 2021.		assessment missions as part of the NPCGA preparations are planned for Malawi and Zimbabwe.	includes 194 countries and territories and is based on 42 indicators). The PCI allows countries to benchmark their performance over time, or across countries, and to monitor the effectiveness of policies. The PCI is publicly available and has been included in UNCTAD's statistical platform (UNCTADStat). **2023** In June 2023 TDB held a session on Productive Capacities Index for evidence-based policymaking. Member States, including many LLDCs, called upon UNCTAD to continue supporting developing countries in identifying gaps and limitations in their productive capacities, as well as the key comparative advantages with the view to developing holistic technical assistance programmes. These will build on the ongoing operational activities such as the National Productive Capacities Gap Assessments (NPCGAs) and the carefully sequenced Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programmes (HPCDP). **2022-2023** As of 2023, NPCGAs have been completed for Ethiopia and Zambia, among LLDCs. A Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programme has been formulated for Ethiopia. The work on the PCI supported by a UNDA project has had a significant impact on development thinking in the beneficiary countries and beyond: Beyond the initial beneficiary countries of **Botswana, Lao PDR** and **Rwanda**, the work on developing the PCI has fed into the UNCTAD Least Developed Countries' Report 2020: Productive Capacities for a New Decade, and supported the deliberations at the 70th executive session of the Trade and Development Board. As part of a UN Development Account project, UNCTAD supported Burkina Faso and Rwanda in formulating and implementing holistic and coherent strategies and policies to build, utilize and maintain productive capacities for structural economic transformation and achieving the SDGs. UNCTAD

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				organized national workshops to build the capacities of national policymakers in Rwanda (May 2021) and Burkina Faso (June 2022). The discussions drew on the analytical framework developed in the policy-manual entitled "Building and Utilizing Productive Capacities in Africa and the LDCs: A Holistic and Practical Guide" published in 2020. The project further resulted in two publications containing coherent and operational strategies for enhancing productive capacities in Rwanda and Burkina Faso, as well as a thematic study on "Harnessing gender potential for productive capacity development", comparing the experiences of Rwanda and Tanzania. The project also included the organization of a Regional Workshop on Coherent Strategies for Productive Capacities Development in African Least Developed Countries, held in Tanzania in October 2022, where policymakers from several LLDCS and LDCs exchanged views and experiences on the opportunities and challenges of developing coherent strategies for productive capacities development. The participants included representatives from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In May 2023, UNCTAD organized a study tour for policymakers from Burkina Faso and Mali to a Special Economic Zone in Meknes, Morocco, to allow them to study best practices and draw lessons to better harness Special Economic Zones for the development of productive capacities.
ECLAC	Provide technical assistance for building capabilities of policy makers in the areas of structural change	2021–2023	ECLAC and the Ministry of Development Planning of the Plurinational State of Bolivia agreed on a workplan in 2021. ECLAC delivered five products (outlined in the column on the right) and is waiting for the definitions of the counterpart to move towards the second part of the technical assistance.	The following products have been delivered: –An analysis of regional experiences on recent plans for productive development with import substitution. Five workshops were designed and delivered to identify and discuss the key aspects for the design and implementation of these policies, with the Ministry of Development Planning, the Ministry of Productive Development and Economy Plural and the National Institute of Statistics. –A diagnosis of potential spaces for import substitution where 46 products and 6 production chains were identified, which, according to the applied methodology, have a high or medium potential for import substitution.

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				–Review of analysis and policy proposals formulated by the current government administration, carried out by the office of the Resident Coordinator in Bolivia, under the coordination of ECLAC –Methodology for identifying the imported components of the goods produced in the country and the potential for import substitution, carried out by the Division of International Trade and Integration of ECLAC. –Transversal work to consolidate the available statistical information systems, in charge of the Statistics Division of ECLAC.
ESCAP	Provide analytical policy–oriented knowledge products to support sustainable transformation in several economic sectors in North and Central Asian countries, including agricultural transformation.	2020 – 2021		An Expert group meeting on 'Sustainable Economic Transformation for SDG attainment in North and Central Asia' was organized in September 2020 to discuss knowledge product on this topic. www.unescap.org/events/expert–group–meeting– sustainable–economic–transformation–sdg–attainment– north–and–central
AfDB	Support regional value chains development in 3 LLDCs	2020–2024	The AfDB is supporting **Rwanda** with the development of the honey (CAD 544,559) and meat value chain (CAD 1,440,000) to improve processing, quality standards and market access. It is also supporting COMESA Member States, including **Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Rwanda** and **Uganda** with the development of pharmaceutical value chains.	
FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs to promote SDG–compliant investment in upgraded value chains that create more value–added and increase resilience to shocks (through processing, product development, input and outputs market diversification, adaptive business models, improved enabling environments, etc). The AgrInvest and Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) programmes, led by FAO in collaboration	Ongoing	Under AgrInvest FAO supported **Zimbabwe** to review the country's agricultural policy and regulatory environment based on the World Bank's Enabling Business of Agriculture (EBA) framework. Proposals for policy reforms have been submitted to the Ministry of Lands Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlements. These proposals have informed the prioritization of value chains and identification of investment opportunities, including in agro-processing in **Zimbabwe** Similar support has been provided in **Eswatini.**	

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	with other organizations, are designed to initiate and scale up such investments. (Zambia, Zimbabwe)		Under ASTA, FAO and UNIDO, supported the Ministry of Agriculture and a wider range of stakeholders in the development of an upgrading strategy for the soybean value chain, which will provide a template for the development of other strategically important value chains.	
FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs to promote SDG–compliant investment in upgraded value chains that create more value–added and increase resilience to shocks (through processing, product development, input and outputs market diversification, adaptive business models, improved enabling environments, etc). The Agrinvest and Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) programmes, led by FAO in collaboration with other organizations, are designed to initiate and scale up such investments. (Various LLDCs)	2021–2023	FAO provides capacity building and technical backstopping to **Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho** and **Tajikistan** for estimating GHG emissions from livestock through the IFAD Livestock and Development Programme. Similar support will start soon in **Ethiopia**. Kyrgyzstan, assessment results are also being used to inform the update of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The low–emission strategies are being developed using GLEAM–i. This tool estimates livestock GHG emissions following a life cycle assessment approach. It uses the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Tier 2 methodology and generates baseline and improved scenarios of herd management (including reproduction and health), feeding and manure management systems. In Lesotho, TAPE will be used in addition to GLEAM–i to establish a baseline of agricultural sustainability for the IFAD–funded ROLL project. TAPE is an analytical framework that uses agroecology to assess the overall sustainability of productive systems and measure their performance across the different dimensions of sustainability.	
FAO	FAO, including the International Plant protection Convention staff, is leading a project to support 11 LLDCs in Strengthening of Capacities and Governance in Food and Phytosanitary Control.	2022 - 2024	FAO is working closely with the food control and phytosanitary regulatory authorities in COMESA region to support implementation of facilitated assessments: - 8 countries are supported through the implementation of a facilitated assessment of the national food control system, using the FAO/WHO food control system assessment	

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	The project provides technical support and work with Competent Authorities and other leading institutions in 11 Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Member Countries.

The project is designed to build up capabilities, strengthen governance and improve strategic planning around two main components: food safety and plant health.

Key expected deliverables include development and endorsement of budgeted strategic action plans stemming from these assessments toward further strengthened and continuously improved and aligned food control and phytosanitary systems in Africa and hence increased access to trade opportunities and protection of public health and biodiversity. | | tool. LLDCS include: **Eswatini, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.**
- 9 countries supported to undertake phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) of their phytosanitary system, using the PCE Tool of the IPPC. LLDCs include: Eswatini, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Concluding activities are scheduled to take place throughout the coming months as the assessments reach their final stages across the participating countries.

FAO support is aimed at enhancing the established Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), specifically working on the SPS measures that affect trade between AU Member States. | |
| ADB | Provide assistance to LLDCs in areas including trade and industry, tourism and urban development, public sector management, and finance with a view to supporting their economic diversification. | 2020–2024 | Ongoing projects:
• Mongolia Sustainable Tourism Development Project (Phase 2) for $ 800,000 was approved in 2020. The project will help transform two national parks in Khuvsgul and Khentii aimags (provinces) as models for economically inclusive tourism and conservation in the protected area network, by improving park infrastructure, sanitation, and capacity to manage tourism growth sustainably. The designs emphasize tourism benefits for communities, protection of natural capital, and climate–resilient facilities; and scale up from previous grant projects in each park. The project includes the construction of the Chinggis Khaan Tourism Complex (CKTC), and KLNP headquarters and visitor center. Construction supervision of CKTC Visitor center package, the detailed engineering design of the transmission line | |

Diversification and value–addition				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			will be completed in Q3 2022 and construction work will be completed in 2023. Conceptual design drawing for KLNP headquarters and visitor center is being prepared. • ABEC: Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project will improve food safety and food security and increase food trade within and outside the CAREC region. Modern infrastructure will facilitate certification for exports, traceability systems, transparent market access, and storage of fresh produce. • Mongolia Developing the Economic Cooperation Zone Project ($30 million) approved in 2020 to develop Mongolia's Zamyn–Uud free zone. Project under implementation. • Mongolia Sustainable Tourism Development Project (Phase 2) for $32 million was approved in 2021. • KGZ: Promoting Economic Diversification Programme approved in 2021 for $80 million. Project under implementation. • Lao PDR: GMS Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth ($40 million). The project includes updating roads to provide better access and local market linkages in four provinces – Champasak, Khammouane, Luang Prabang, and Oudomxay. It will improve tourist and environmental services and help develop tourism–related businesses. This project has been completed. • Lao PDR: Second GMS Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth ($47 million grant, $30 million loan). The project will help transform secondary GMS central and southern corridor towns into economically inclusive, competitive tourism destinations by improving transport infrastructure, urban environmental services, and capacity to sustainably manage tourism growth. It will boost trade in services and deepen regional cooperation and integration in the GMS and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). About 97,000 residents are expected to directly benefit from	

Diversification and value–addition				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			climate–resilient infrastructure development and increased access to economic opportunities. Project investments are prioritized in the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2015–2025, GMS Tourism Sector Strategy 2016–2025, and national tourism strategies. Progress of loan: As of 30 April 2023, physical progress is estimated at 79.7% compared to the elapsed implementation period of 80% since approval. Progress of grant: As of 30 June 2023, physical progress is estimated at 72% against the time elapsed of 70% since effectiveness	
			Lao PDR: Second Greater Mekong Subregion Corridor Towns Development Project is ongoing, with funding of $33 million from ADB. The project will result in improved urban services in the two towns through solid waste management improvement, urban roads and drainage upgrades, riverbank protection, river port upgrades, urban renewal, and urban recreation provision Major change in scope to remove Sihanoukville from project's scope has been approved. Loan has been extended until 31 Dec 2023.	
			As of 31 December 2022, ADB, through its Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditures Program (BRACE) program, provided $600 million to three CAREC LLDCs—the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, to help them mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.	
			2022 Commitments also included the following:	
			• NEP: South Asia Nuts and Fruits in Hilly Areas Project • MON: East Asia Sustainable Tourism Development Project (Phase 2) •	
			Over the period of 2023–2024, the following projects to support diversification and value addition are planned:	

Diversification and value–addition				
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			• LAO: Southeast Asia Greater Mekong Subregion Cross–Border Livestock Health and Value Chains Improvement Project ($49.5 million) • BHU: South Asia Pathways for Innovation and Technical Education Project (TVET) ($30 million) • TAJ: Central and West Asia Resilient Livelihoods, Agriculture Value Chain, and Security for Rural Women in Khatlon ($20.36 million) • KGZ: Central and West Asia Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor: Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project ($120 million) TAJ: Central and West Asia Business Environment Improvement through e–Governance Program, Subprogram I, PBL ($60 million)————————	
UNDP	Support and provide on–demand capacity building to LLDCs governments in the transfer of tools to support the development of SMEs linked to value chains.	2021+	• Tool to support SMEs' adaptation and digital transformation developed and ready to be rolled out to LLDCs with demand for this tool • SMEs in 2 LLDCs (Kyrgyzstan, Malawi) supported to strengthen value chain for local production of personal protective equipment • Programme to support value chain development in agriculture – provision of agricultural equipment (DRC and Niger) – and artisanal mining & strengthening of SME development through access to finance (DRC) such as credit & MFIs • Tool to identify and map promising income–generating activities (Congo) • Support (educational and technical) for the development of SMEs in (Burkina Faso, Congo, and DRC) • Supplier Development Programme to develop productive capacity of SMEs, improve their competitiveness and connect suppliers to larger markets (locally as well as abroad), and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem over 5 years (Botswana)	• Tool to assess impacts of shocks on SMEs developed and rolled out in 6 LLDCs (Armenia, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Nepal, Zambia)

Diversification and value–addition				
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			• Support to host first ESG conference to integrate environmental, social and governance standards by enterprises and build more sustainable value chains (Moldova) • Analysis to identify access to finance needs of MSMEs and required institutional and regulatory reforms conducted with private sector partners (Moldova) • Financing and capacity building to women-led SMEs and women's business associations through ABADEI programme in Afghanistan. Organization of women-only market days as safe spaces for women entrepreneurs to sell their products and connect to supply chains.(Afghanistan)	
UNDP	Support LLDC governments to explore and transition to green recovery to protect nature–based jobs and livelihoods, including rural entrepreneurship in crisis and post crisis situations. (Various LLDCs)	2018–2022	UNDP's 'Aid for Trade in Central Asia (Phase IV)' project funded by the Government of Finland supports Central Asian countries (**Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**) in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth patterns in rural areas and within green productive sectors. The project supports building productive capacities that are forward looking (future proof) and that address rapidly changing global market demands, may this be from changing consumption patterns, technological change (automatization, AI, fourth industrial revolution) or climate change. The strategy is to provide support to governments and private sector in building productive capacities for 'green' niche products and value chains, identified in the agricultural, agro–industrial, and also in other employment–rich sectors, to contribute to more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable growth patterns. The emphasis is on green marketable products, the production of which can lead to an increase in decent employment (particularly for young people and women in rural areas) and competitiveness, with a shift from vertically specialized value chains towards green value chains with greater added value via measures to raise productivity and resource efficiency, while simultaneously improving export market access and	

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Diversification and value–addition				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			reducing trading costs. (Implementation began in June 2018 and will continue through 2022).	
UNDP	Support LLDC governments to explore and transition to green recovery to protect nature–based jobs and livelihoods, including rural entrepreneurship in crisis and post crisis situations.(Uzbekistan)	2021+	As part of a component focused on green urban development in Tashkent, **Uzbekistan** within the GEF–financed initiative 'Accelerating Investments in Low Emission Vehicles,' support will be provided to the tendering process to procure a pilot fleet of 10 electric buses and 2 charging stations within the Tashkent City Municipality. The tenders that include plans for implementing local manufacture of e–buses would be viewed favorably, notably in the context of job creation amidst the COVID–19 pandemic and green recovery efforts. (Implementation is expected to begin in January 2022 and continue through 2028.) • UNDP's 'Aid for Trade in Central Asia (Phase-V)' project funded by the Government of Finland focuses on supporting Central Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth through promoting green value chains and increasing competitiveness with strong emphasis on building more resilient, secure and gender-responsive economic structures through economic diversification and adapting to the impact of the Covid-19 and other external shocks. The overall emphasis is on building 'forward-looking' productive capacities, enhancing efficiency and competitiveness of target 'green' value chains and niche products, identified in the agricultural, agro-industrial, but also in other employment-rich sectors, contributing to inclusive and sustainable human development through increased number of decent green jobs and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities, and with the emphasis on enhancing their resilience to domestic economic inefficiencies and external shocks. The strategy is to support businesses and producers to become more resilient to emerging post-Covid-19	**Policy brief for priority green actions developed**, as well donor coordination mechanism established for **update of National Green Economy Strategy** in **Uzbekistan**.

Diversification and value–addition				
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			context and promote inclusive and sustainable growth by building smart and 'forward-looking' (future-proof) productive capacities and green value chains, which produce high value-added and competitive products, create decent jobs and promote sustainable and circular production patterns. (Implementation began in October 2022 and will continue through 2025). To maximize the contribution of MSME competitiveness to inclusion and sustainability, the project focuses on five impact areas: • Green and resilient value chains • Inclusive and Sustainable Trade • Trade and market intelligence/Megatrends • E-commerce • Regional economic cooperation and cross-border collaboration	
UNDP	Support LLDC governments to explore and transition to green recovery to protect nature–based jobs and livelihoods, including rural entrepreneurship in crisis and post crisis situations. (Various LLDCs)	2020+	The 'Support Programme on Scaling up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA)' financed by the Government of Germany is designed to support transformative climate action in the land use and agriculture sectors to reduce GHG emissions and/or enhance removals, as well as strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in participant countries. Among the participating countries are several LLDCs (**Ethiopia, Mongolia, Nepal** and **Uganda**). This initiative will promote sustainability through the focus on country ownership and participation of local actors. It will work closely with local and national actors to establish community led and nature–based solutions, for eventual scale up. SCALA recognizes the evolving and increasing	

Diversification and value–addition				
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			extent of the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic's disruption to social and economic systems across the world, and emphasizes the interconnected role of the food, agriculture and land use sectors to the fostering of greener and more resilient recovery in partner countries. (Implementation began in 2020 and will continue through 2025).	
UNDP	Support LLDC governments to explore and transition to green recovery to protect nature–based jobs and livelihoods, including rural entrepreneurship in crisis and post crisis situations. (Ethiopia)	2021+	The GEF–financed initiative, 'Preventing Forest loss, Promoting Restoration and Integrating Sustainability into **Ethiopia**'s Coffee Value Chains and Food Systems' aims to support transformation towards deforestation–free coffee value chains and food systems in Oromia, SNNP and Sidama. As part of efforts to promote sustainable food production practices and responsible value chains across coffee zones in these regions, multi–stakeholder coffee platforms will be operationalized at national and regional levels, maximizing the role of the private sector to drive inclusive national economic growth and job creation, while the government provides the appropriate enabling environment. There will be an emphasis on livelihood opportunities for women and youth, supporting the establishment of cooperative businesses supplying farming and agroforestry inputs and biomass–based briquettes for fuel–efficient cookstoves, whilst households losing income temporarily by stumping coffee bushes will be able to access diversification support micro–grants to start new home–business lines. (The prodoc is awaiting endorsement by the GEF. Implementation is expected to begin in 2022.)	
UNDP	Support LLDC governments to explore and transition to green recovery to protect nature–based jobs and livelihoods, including rural entrepreneurship in crisis and post crisis situations. (Bhutan)	2021+	The GEF–financed initiative 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into the Tourism Sector in **Bhutan**' seeks to mainstream biodiversity conservation into tourism development in Bhutan as a long–term strategy for mitigation of threats to biodiversity and generate sustainable conservation financing and livelihoods. This initiative aims to create 170+ operational local nature/wildlife–based economic enterprises and	

Diversification and value–addition				
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			generate 2,000+ jobs, including for over 1,000 women. Competitive small grants will be used to facilitate innovative post–COVID enterprises built around ecotourism/nature–based value chains, aiming for resilient, diversified livelihood options. (Implementation began in 2021 and will continue through 2026)	
ISA	• Provide assistance and support to increase awareness of potential benefits for LLDCs to ratify and implement the United National Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and participate in activities in the international seabed area (deep sea exploration, exploitation, marine scientific research). • Increase awareness on benefits of the Blue Economy for LLDCs, including through establishment of benefit sharing mechanism for economic and non–financial benefits derived from activities undertaken in the international seabed area.	Ongoing, with some projects finalized		With a view to raising awareness of potential benefits to LLDCs of ratification United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and participate in activities in the international seabed area (deep sea exploration, exploitation, marine scientific research), ISA issued a dedicated publication aimed at informing LLDCS of the potential benefits offered to them. This publication, entitled "Landlocked developing countries and the law of the sea: an ocean of opportunity", along with sister publications aimed at LDCs and SIDS, has been released in November 2021 through a high–level event conveying senior government officials from Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Uganda and Botswana. The publication together with dedicated communications products including the recording of the event are accessible at: https://www.isa.org.jm/event/report–launch–law–sea–ocean–opportunity–ldcs–lldcs–and–sids. In February 2022, the ISA Secretariat organized a webinar on equitable sharing and financial and other economic benefits from deep–seabed mining following the release of a technical study and a policy brief on this matter. The event was attended by more than 200 participants including many representatives of LLDCs. Further information can be accessed at: https://www.isa.org.jm/event/webinar–equitable–benefit–sharing
DESA	Kyrgyzstan – Promoting Value Chains in the context of Belt and Road Initiative	2021		Completed in 2021.

Diversification and value–addition				
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				The research was to analyze selected value–chains with large export capacity in Kyrgyzstan and developing recommendations and actions to trigger its development. Value Chain Analysis (VCA) is the primary method used to assess the relationships between all actors within a value chain and to understand the economic and social benefits and costs of particular relationships. VCA determines where the most value addition is occurring and the relative importance of different actors. It includes an examination of the supporting institutional framework, an understanding of the impact of the existing policy framework, and an evaluation of value chain governance. When one link in the value chain does not work the whole system stops. This report is a complementary study on value chains in Kyrgyz Republic in the context of the BRI. Based on the primary data analysis and interviews, the report identifies possible value chains that can be promoted by the BRI investment. The research is available at https://www.brisdgs.org/kyrgyzstan–promoting–value–chains–context–bri
WTO	Support Landlocked LDCs to understand and operationalize on the opportunities that digital connectivity and sustainability offer for economic and export diversification under the theme "Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade", through the WTO led Aid–for–Trade initiative Work Programme for 2020–2022.	Ongoing	The Aid for Trade Global Review will be held from 27 to 29 July 2022 in hybrid format. The 2022 Review is the 8th edition of this event. In the lead up to the event, a joint report by the WTO and OECD, "Aid for Trade at a Glance", has been launched in May 2022. The report examines the conclusions emerging from the 96 responses received to the AfT monitoring and evaluation exercise from Members and IOs, including 12 LLDCs (Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali, Moldova, Nepal, Niger, Paraguay, Uganda and Zambia). The full report can be found here.	
WTO	Support Landlocked LDCs, through the EIF, to face the challenges related	Ongoing	In 2021, through EIF support, landlocked LDCs have concluded over 120 new international market	

Diversification and value–addition				
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	to their remoteness by helping develop their trade capacity, increase and diversify their exports, and access international markets. Currently the EIF has 40 ongoing projects in the LLDC amounting USD 27 million.		transactions, such as: honey exports from Burundi to the United Arab Emirates; gum Arabic from Chad to Switzerland; and shea butter from Mali to the United States of America. Project interventions help to overcome bottlenecks to trade in LLDCs, such as supporting conformity with environmental protection standards through a leather project in Niger.	

3.4   Sustainable agriculture sector development

Sustainable agriculture sector development				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UNIDO	Support the development of agro–industries in urban and rural areas and promote food safety in the processing of agro–food commodities and its regulatory environment (South Sudan, Afghanistan, regional)	2020–2024	UNIDO continued supporting LLDCs in the agri–business sector. Some examples include: – In **South Sudan**, UNIDO and UNDP are implementing a project called "Integrated Watershed Approaches for climate resilience in agro–pastoral landscapes". The project's objective is to promote climate resilience and adaptation capacity building amongst agricultural and pastoral communities of South Sudan. It addresses the LDCF/GEF strategy objective and outcome indicator on 'technologies and innovative solutions are adapted and deployed to enhance resilience'. – In 2021, UNIDO started implementing of a project in **Afghanistan** to provide emergency assistance for improving livelihoods through skills training for returnees, internally displaced people and host communities in Herat. Since agricultural value chain offers the best opportunity for entrepreneurial activities in the region, technical skills related to agribusiness and agro–processing will be promoted as per the needs of the target beneficiaries. – The second package of the WB–**Bangladesh**–UNIDO agreement amounting to USD 1.24 million was signed in 2021. The activities aim to improve productivity, market access, and resilience of small–holder farmers and agro–entrepreneurs. As of 2022, UNIDO intensified its engagement with the African Union, African Union Commission, regional economic communities, the AfCFTA Secretariat and other relevant stakeholder to support the flagship initiative Common African Agro–Parks (CAAPs) under the AU Agenda 2063. A few African LLDCs would benefit from the organization's contribution, particularly technical expertise for (pre–)feasibility studies and mobilization of partnerships, funds and investment into these large–scale projects.	

Sustainable agriculture sector development				
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UNIDO, FAO	Support the development of agro–industries in urban and rural areas and promote food safety in the processing of agro–food commodities and its regulatory environment (Zambia, regional, global)	2020–2024	The UNIDO– FAO joint programme on "Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA): Accelerating job creation in agriculture and agribusiness" started its implementation." It is piloted in 6 developing countries, among which **Zambia** (LLDC). The project seeks to strengthen the competitiveness of targeted agricultural value chains and agri–food systems. It is under implementation until 2025 and seeks ways to expand towards other African LLDCs. In March 2023, at the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs, FAO and UNIDO jointly launched the Agri–food Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA), a global programme designed to help beneficiary countries make their food systems more inclusive, sustainable and resilient by fostering partnerships and generating private–sector investments. Since 2018, the ASTA approach has been piloted in 15 countries around the world and is expected to expand further, including in LLDCs.	
UNOSSC	To Develop a Market–driving Green Bamboo Concrete Board Industry in Rwanda, through small grant funded by the Global South–South Development Center project in partnership with the Government of China.	2020–2022		• Systematically summarized the experience and lessons of China Aid Rwanda Bamboo Planting, Processing and Utilization Project in the past 10 years; • Training on bamboo production and BCB conducted to transfer skills and technology; • Local bamboo supply chain enhanced; • Feasibility study conducted on BCB development in EAC Countries; • Demonstration and exhibition conducted on BCB development in Rwanda.
UNOSSC– WFP	Sustainable Agriculture and Value Chain Development– SSTC Cities Project Pilot initiative in Nepal in partnership with WFP China Center of Excellence; Khajura Rural Municipality	2019–2022		• Needs assessment conducted and in–depth technical analysis conducted to support small holder farmers capacity building in horticultural and livestock production and agriculture value chain development. • City to city exchanges facilitated with Yu–xi city, China on agriculture value chain and technology transfer • Capacity development training and online courses on horticulture, organic farming, and livestock production facilitated.

Sustainable agriculture sector development				
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UNOSSC, UNDP	Capacity Development Trainings on Transforming cities by developing business and enhancing the service sector in Uzbekistan	2020		Mayors and deputy mayors of 35 mid–sized cities in Uzbekistan completed a one–week training on transforming cities by developing business and enhancing the service sector and focused on innovative solutions in the areas of digitalization, e–commerce, public–private partnership (PPP), and entrepreneurship, in partnership with Uzbekistan Republican Graduate School of Business and Management (GSBE) under Ministry of the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.
UNOSSC–Youth4South Fellowship	Support fellowship opportunities for youth from developing countries including LLDCs	2020–2021		Youth4South supported placement of young professional from Uganda at the Masters' programme with China Agriculture University, on full scholarship under the China–Africa cooperation programme with major in rural development and management.
UNOSSC with IFAD	Increase livelihoods in Zambia by building a soya bean processing plant and supporting farmers on best practices and access to markets.	2020–2022	Under IBSA Fund, livelihoods are being increased in Zambia by building a soya bean processing plant and supporting farmers on best practices and access to markets.	
UNOSSC with WFP	Under the India–UN fund, support building resilience of smallholder farms in the Hwange and Chiredzi regions of Zimbabwe by increasing small grains production and productivity, and market access.	2020–2022	Under the India–UN fund, the resilience of smallholder farms is being strengthened in the Hwange and Chiredzi regions of Zimbabwe by increasing small grains production and productivity, and market access.	
UNOSSC with International Solar Alliance and UNDP	Under IBSA Fund, through a recently approved project, communities in Mali, Niger, South Sudan, Uganda, and other countries (Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sudan, Togo) will be supported to improve agricultural production through the utilization of solar water pumps.	2021 – 2023	Project document formulated through a participatory multistakeholder approach and approved by the Board. It has recently commenced activities.	

	Sustainable agriculture sector development			
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UNOSSC and UNDP	Supported by India–UN Fund, the construction of one dam (with a capacity of 580,000 m3) in the Niangdo village, Commune of Poa in **Burkina Faso**, will recover 5,000 hectares of degraded land, and restore and irrigate 10 hectares for agricultural purposes.	2020–2022	The population of Burkina Faso will increase its livelihood through improved agricultural production. Socio–economic and environmental impact assessments have been advanced, grievance mechanisms established, relocation plans consulted and accepted by stakeholders, and construction of the small dam is well advanced.	
UNOSSC with UNDP, and other donors	LLDCs countries such as Paraguay and Afghanistan benefit from cooperation with other developing countries, supported by Pérez–Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), among other donors.	2020 – 2022	PGTF supported projects: –Paraguay is supported in its cooperating with other developing countries to benefit better agricultural products through the introduction of tolerant to abiotic stress plants. –Afghanistan is supported in its cooperating with other developing countries to benefit better diagnostic capacities, control, biosafety and biosecurity of anthrax.	
ESCAP	Provide assistance to enhance the capacity of member States in Central Asia subregion to use geospatial data for agricultural drought monitoring.	2019–2020+	Pending	
ESCAP (as part of a consortium, led by CIRAD and GRET and including FAO)	Provide, support in selected ASEAN countries, including Lao PDR, for an AFD/ EU DEVCO–funded project on "Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions (ASSET)", which provides scientific evidence policy, networking and capacity building support to countries to promote sustainable and resilient agrological systems, as well as food safety.	2020–2024	Ongoing support for ASEAN dialogue and cooperation on agroecology. Current activities include support to the development of policy guidelines on agroecology transition.	
ESCAP	Implemented a 3–country regional initiative (including a pilot project in Nepal) during Mar 2021 – Feb 2023 to promote use of agricultural machinery–based solutions to address burning of crop straw residue and related air	2021–2023		In Nepal, field trials of happy seeder and drum seeder were completed and documented. Adaptation details for the Total Densified Mixed Ration (DTMR) block making machine were also documented. The drum seeder demonstrated earlier maturity of the crop as the seeds are sowed directly in the soil instead of first being

Sustainable agriculture sector development				
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	pollution. Elements included establishment of pilot site, field trials of machinery, field demonstration and awareness building sessions for the local communities, and regional knowledge exchange through workshops and study tours.			cultivated in a nursery, thus allowing more time later for natural decomposition of the straw residue (as opposed to burning) before the next planting cycle. Moreover, the improvements made to the DTMR block making machine resulted in more efficient performance and labour saving in the process of preparing livestock feed from the straw. Around 200 members of the local farming community were also reached through the awareness and demonstration sessions. A related pilot brief is available at https://www.un–csam.org/publications/reducing–need–burn–how–applying–sustainable–agricultural–mechanization–nepal–can
ESCAP	Provide capacity building, networking and advisory support to selected LLDCs and transit developing countries for sustainable agricultural mechanization, with particular focus on sectoral strategy formulation, policy dialogue, harmonization of testing standards, private sector engagement, and promotion of sustainable and climate–smart mechanization technologies.	Annual, 2020+	Support provided to Armenia, Bhutan and Nepal for the development of agricultural machinery testing facilities and upgrade of testing capacity skills through their involvement in the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) and its Technical Working Groups; seminars and trainings. https://www.un–csam.org/News–ANTAM Support provided to the private sector engagement in agricultural machinery dissemination to Nepal and Mongolia through their involvement in the Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations (ReCAMA) and its Member Meetings and Study Tours https://www.un–csam.org/News–ReCAMA	Online Training Workshop on Climate Smart Mechanization for Dryland Agriculture in Central Asian Countries was convened virtually on 30th September 2020. The training shared mechanization solutions for dryland agriculture that can build resilience of the sector. It concluded that water efficient irrigation technologies as well as mechanization solutions for conservation agriculture have enormous potential to support Central Asian countries increase productivity and incomes in the agricultural sector. https://www.unescap.org/events/virtual–expert–group–meeting–safe–and–seamless–transport–connectivity–along–asian–highway An Online Workshop on Climate–Smart Mechanization for Sustainable Food Systems Transformation in Central Asia was convened on 21 September 2021, to provide a platform for research institutes, universities, ministries, private sector as well as international organizations to deliberate on how climate–smart mechanization can promote improved livelihoods of local communities, in particular vulnerable groups and smallholder farmers, in support of food systems transformation in the Central Asian context. https://www.un–csam.org/news/escap–and–partners–strive–promote–climate–smart–mechanization–sustainable–food–systems

Sustainable agriculture sector development				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
				A Workshop on Climate Smart Mechanization for Transforming Agriculture in Arid and Semi–Arid Areas was convened online on 28 September2022. The event enabled an active exchange on how innovative agricultural machinery and related technologies including digital and intelligent solutions can build resilience and support transformative change in the agricultural sector in arid and semi–arid areas such as Central Asia. https://www.un–csam.org/news/escap–and–partners–build–capacities–climate–smart–agricultural–mechanization–arid–and–semi
ESCAP	1.Enhance and expand a crop monitoring system and supporting data, information, and applications that combine ground–based information with satellite data to calibrate the system to national conditions in Cambodia and Lao PDR. 2. Build the awareness and capacity of the experts in Cambodia and Lao PDR to utilize the crop monitoring system and to further access and utilize space applications for agricultural and other purposes.	2021–2023	Pending	
UNECE	Agricultural quality standards and food loss and waste reduction in fresh produce value chains (online trainings and guidance materials).	Ongoing	UNECE is developing a set of online self–paced (free, video–based) training modules on agricultural quality standards and food loss reduction in fresh produce value chains, aimed at small and medium–sized producers and traders. The modules will be launched in mid–2022, and will be available on the ECE website (under Agricultural Quality Standards). UNECE has also developed the following guidance and tools for reducing food losses in fresh produce value chains: –UNECE Code of Good Practice for reducing food loss and ensuring optimum handling of fresh fruit and vegetables along the value chain, and related practical guidance;	

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			–UNECE Food Loss and Waste Measuring Methodology for Fresh Produce Supply Chains.	
FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs under the Hand–in–Hand Initiative, aimed to prioritise FAO interventions in vulnerable countries that need the most help in achieving SDGs 1 and 2. (Examples include: Importance of commodity exports and services; Diversification to meet demand for changing diets; Production opportunities with high value products; Strengthening agri–food system actors and networks; and Support SME and food system actors, including strengthening engagement of private sector in agri–food systems.)	Ongoing	As of August 2023, 22 of the 66 countries that have joined the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiH) are LLDCs.

In **Bhutan, Lao PDR and Nepal**, FAO is identifying the most vulnerable sub–national areas with high potential for investment through the HiH geospatial platform. By generating remote sensing based spatial indicators of biophysical and climatic parameters and developing semantic geodatabase through Geographic Information System (GIS), FAO is also specifically supporting **Bhutan** to map farming systems and identify potential areas suitable for integrating neglected and underutilized species that are nutrient–dense, climate–resilient, locally available or adaptable and economically viable for sustainable agrifood system transformation.
In 2022, FAO will support the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) in publishing anonymized survey/census microdata, which will enable researchers to geo–map farmers, by specific characteristics, and conduct spatial analysis on policy issues, such as how distance from infrastructure and market affect income and productivity.

The Hand–in–Hand Initiative is being rolled out in several LLDCs in Africa, including **Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**. Analytical work is ongoing to identify spatially disaggregated investment opportunities in target countries. There has been good progress in terms of match–making and building partnerships in countries such as Burkina Faso, **Ethiopia, Mali, Niger** and **Zimbabwe,** linking such opportunities to potential investors.
FAO supports the HiH with the aim to better integrate considerations on dietary quality and nutrition building on the work around agri–businesses, linkages to | FAO supported **Bhutan** through baseline studies to identify vulnerable households and potential issues and solutions using recent data. It further produced geomaps of vulnerable agricultural households using microdata from the 2019 agricultural census (Renewable Natural Resources Census 2019).

FAO also supported Bhutan in using tablets and GPS devices to collect GIS–based data on apple orchards and its related ground truth data to enable use of satellite imagery to produce agricultural statistics.

FAO invited twenty countries to present their investment plans at the HiH Investment Forum in FAO Headquarters in Rome in October 2022 and facilitated matchmaking with potential investors.

FAO organized HiH National Investment Forums in some countries, including **Mali and Zimbabwe**, in addition to the HiH Regional Investment Forum for the Africa region in preparation for the HiH Global Investment Forum in October in FAO Headquarters, Rome in October 2023. |

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			markets and value chains, consumers' education, enabling policy and programming environment and dietary assessments.	
FAO	• Enhance access to adequate, affordable, nutritious and healthy food for everyone in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Nepal. • Development of selected value chains and relevant markets, as well as typology of micro–regions along the corridor in Lao PDR and nearby countries. • Promotion of mountain agriculture in Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal.	2020–2024	In **Mongolia**, FAO is providing assistance to: (i) improve information and public awareness on food security and nutrition (food balance sheets, SDG monitoring, etc.), and (ii) strengthen food security, safety and quality policies and governance. FAO is supporting a Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) project in **Bhutan** to enhance access to adequate, affordable, nutritious and healthy food working both on the supply and demand side. In **Lao PDR,** FAO works on better data use and links to the Hand–in– Hand Initiative to address food security and improved nutrition. **Afghanistan** is included in a joint UN initiative aiming at preventing child wasting and other forms of malnutrition through a multi–systemic approach that places agrifood systems at the core.	FAO supported the GAFSP mid–term review in 2020 by providing recommendations on how to improve the Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) component and the link to school meals. This resulted in the development of the BCC strategy and one training of trainers (ToT) manual during 2021. Dietary data from the 2016–2017 national survey undertaken in **Lao PDR** has been shared through the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool Platform since December 2017. To support the use of this data, FAO has conducted training, presentations and workshops. Between September and December 2021 two presentations took place in which the FAO/WHO GIFT platform was presented to high–level policymakers as a tool facilitating access to the dietary data from the survey, and one workshop was conducted engaging policymakers from various sectors, including Health, Agriculture and Education, in the discussion about dietary data as an information source for their work, focusing on entry points and ways it can inform policymaking processes. Moreover, FAO provided a three–week on–the–job training in July 2021 to data managers in five institutions in Lao PDR (Ministry of Health Cabinet, the Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute (Lao–TPHI), Nutrition Center, Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, and the University of Health Sciences) on data management, analysis and use. FAO has supported the development of a costed operational roadmap for **Afghanistan** as part of the joint UN initiative for the prevention of child wasting (also known as Global Action Plan – GAP – on Child Wasting).

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FAO	Increase resilience of fisher communities, through improvement of value chains and development of businesses in fisher communities **in South Sudan**	December 2024	Improved smoking ovens that lower environmental and health impacts developed and adjusted to local conditions. Boat builders trained in application of new techniques, allowing them to earn more per canoe (see https://youtu.be/mpF2r8GTaPY)	
FAO/AfDB	**Zambia** Aquaculture Enterprise Development Project (ZAEDP)	December 2024	A holistic approach to aquaculture development includes supporting institutional and legal frameworks, supporting infrastructure on health and biosecurity for aquaculture products, and building capacity for young farmers and communities. Also focused on improving seed and feed quality and participation of women, which is leading to a significant increase in production and employment from aquaculture.	
FAO, in collaboration with International Financial Institutions	Development of a national e–Agriculture strategy, and pilot selected ICT solutions for enhanced monitoring and management of agrifood systems, in Mongolia.	2020–2022	The Mongolia National e–Agriculture strategy has been approved. FAO is currently providing assistance on operationalizing the Mongolia e–Agriculture strategy and on strengthening technical capacities.	
FAO, in collaboration with International Financial Institutions	Provide support to LLDCs in prioritization, preparation and implementation of investment strategies and projects to promote sustainable agricultural development and food security.	2020–2021+	LLDCs targeted for capacity development activities to promote sustainable agrifood systems, food security and improved nutrition. FAO is supporting the World Bank in delivering capacity development activities to promote sustainable agrifood systems, food security and improved nutrition, which could be replicated in other countries.	
FAO, in collaboration with International Financial Institutions	Increase smallholders' productive capacities with a focus on climate change adaptation and improved nutrition, including through strengthened partnerships and alliances, promotion of innovative approaches and improved knowledge exchange to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Support states to assess status of land degradation, soil pollution and water	Ongoing	A multi–disciplinary working group has been established within FAO to strengthen the nexus between climate change adaptation and mitigation, reduction of biodiversity and improved nutrition. Follow–up activities to the working paper on the Nexus between climate change, biodiversity and nutrition include the development of a podcast series for an in–depth exploration on the identified entry points for policies and actions across agrifood systems. FAO is also working to strengthen the collaboration between the Global Alliance for Climate Smart	FAO and partners organized two side events for the pre–COP 26: one with the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and the SUN Movement targeting policy makers and advisers, and the other one with Slow Food Youth network targeting young activists involved in fighting the concurrent challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and malnutrition. A working paper on the Nexus between climate change, biodiversity and nutrition was published in December 2021. A working paper was also finalized to highlight the

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	management with a view to adjust national policies and strategies for spurring investment in infrastructure, irrigation facilities and related innovations.		Agriculture (GACSA) and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement to promote innovative approaches and improved knowledge exchange. In this regard, joint proposals were submitted to participate in side events related to COP 26. FAO is working to link data from individual level dietary surveys (e.g. from Lao PDR) to datasets on greenhouse gas emissions, water use, and land use. The aim is to present visualizations on the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT) that could indicate the environmental impact of diets based on individual level data. This will enable an understanding of the environmental impact of diets and facilitate the identification of sustainable food consumption patterns among populations and sub–populations.	entry points for policies and actions across the agrifood systems.

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FAO	Identify best practices and innovative solutions to support value chain development of priority products	Ongoing	Under the One Country, One Priority Product (OCOP) Initiative, FAO established effective partnerships with CGIAR – formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research – and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), EU, GrowAsia, among others, to support **Bhutan and Lao PDR** on Special Agro–product value chain development. FAO is identifying technical packages and best practices on innovative approaches (e.g. innovative technology, financing, agribusiness, promotion tools and instruments) to promote special agro–product production, processing and marketing and consumption. In **Nepal**, the government has expressed interest to be part of this OCOP FAO initiative. Discussions are underway with the Government to identify the priority commodity, which will be formally communicated. In **Mongolia**, with financial support from EU, FAO is supporting development of Agro–ecological value chains and youth employment creation through public–private partnerships value addition in food and agriculture products.	

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FAO	Facilitate agri-SME development by supporting Enterprise Support Organizations (ESOs) such as incubators, accelerators, and aggregators. **(Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe)**	2022-2023	Consultative workshops organized to identify challenge and upgrade ESOs' business model to become more sustainable and offer higher quality cost-effective services to agri-SMEs. Countries were supported in developing scorecards and related national action plans. Analyses carried out looking at the impact of incubators on post-harvest loss reduction.	

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ADB	Provide support to LLDCs in the area of (i) agriculture infrastructure development (such as irrigation and rural access facilities), (ii) forest management, (iii) mitigation of climate–related disaster (such as floods and drought), (iv) promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, and (v) agricultural trade and food safety.	2021–2024	Processing of the originally planned agriculture sector projects was delayed due to the need to help developing member countries respond to the COVID–19 pandemic. The agriculture sector lending pipeline has been reprogrammed. In 2020, one agriculture project (Mongolia Gender Inclusive Dairy Value Chain Project) was approved for $7.5 million. In 2021, two projects were approved, including • Avrora COVID–19 Staple Food Supply Chain Support Project for $6 million • Korzinka COVID–19 Supply Chain Support Project for $12 million In 2022, one project was approved —the NEP: Nuts and Fruits in Hilly Areas Project with total ADB financing of $70 million. Over the period of 2023–2024, three agriculture projects are planned: • LAO: Southeast Asia Greater Mekong Subregion Cross–Border Livestock Health and Value Chains Improvement Project for $ 49.5 million. • UZB: Preparing Climate Resilient Livestock Development Project for $800,000 • REG: Enhancing Food Safety Standards in Central and West Asian Countries (KGZ, PAK, TAJ, UZB for $.350 million each), AZE, KAZ, TKM for $.320 million each) Note: ADB's operations in AFG (Afghanistan)are suspended temporarily.	
UNDP	Support provided to LLDC governments to improve agricultural productivity through (agric) Supplier Development Programming to facilitate the	2021+	Until 2020, UNDP has provided field support in the development and implementation of the Supplier Development Programs in 3 LDCs (DRC, Angola and	

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	development of businesses with growth potential in the sector.		Rwanda) which involved building linkages between lead off taker firms, smallholder farmers and cooperatives. UNDP together with AGRA are supporting an additional 8 LDCs (Niger, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Burundi and Malawi) to implement a "Greening Food Value Chains Project" that is provides training to value chain greening promoters and smallholder farmers. The Global Environment Facility Integrated Approaches Pilot (GEF IAP) also known as the Resilient Food Systems (RFS) program promotes multi–stakeholder platforms at national and regional levels. Through the green food value chain concept, the GEF IAP serves as a framework for coordinating and investing in the interlinked food value chain activities to make them sustainable, viable, and efficient in utilising natural resources available to smallholder agriculture. The green food value chain concept is an approach that generates and recaptures value at each level or link of the food value chain, proactively reducing the usage of the natural environment, (natural resources, ecosystem services, and biodiversity), so as to diminish or mitigate adverse environmental impacts, and/or even have positive impacts, while considering disposal and recycling patterns of generated waste. This initiative aims at building sustainable and resilient value chains where climate change effects, biodiversity loss and land degradation are curtailed through adoption of integrated approaches and practices such as climate smart agriculture, conservation farming and integrated natural resource and landscape management with the aim to achieve greater productivity, value addition and market sustainability for income generation.	
UNOPS	Supporting the Development of Family Farming in Paraguay:	2020–2021		Over 20,000 rural families benefited from the implementation of governmental initiatives that strengthened family farming in 2021 in alliance with UNOPS.

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				Of them, 15,000 families living in poverty and extreme poverty in rural settlements received support for agricultural mechanization, conservation agriculture and capacity development that allowed them to increase their productivity and improve their income (from September 2020 to September 2021). Additionally, 5,700 rural families living in poverty and extreme poverty benefited from the development of family gardens – 90% of them women, mostly family leaders – with the aim of promoting food security and economic reactivation in the framework of the COVID–19 pandemic (from September 2020 to December 2021).
UNOPS	Improvement of educational infrastructure in Agricultural Schools in Paraguay	October 2018 – December 2022	UNOPS is working on the improvement of the infrastructure of two Agricultural Schools in Paraguay, with the support of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. The project will allow 152 young people – boys and girls – in rural areas to have access to education and benefit from better conditions during their formative stage. Importantly, this project allowed the inclusion of young women in the educational system, who previously could not participate due to lack of adequate conditions. It is expected to reach 524 more young people, in a total of 6 schools.	
DESA	Conduct national, regional, and international workshops for policymakers and local agricultural researchers in the project countries, including **Central African Republic, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Nepal, Rwanda,** and **Zimbabwe**. Establish partnerships/links between the Juncao experts of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University of China and universities/research centers in **Nepal** and **Zimbabwe** to build local	2022–2024	The Juncao technology supports small–scale farmers and farming communities to develop a low–cost, commercial–scale mushroom cultivation industry that can provide sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, the Juncao technology can also be used for producing cattle feed. Activities have enhanced the capacities of policymakers in relevant ministries in LLDCs to adopt and implement the Juncao technology through South–South cooperation (including through exchanging experiences, best practices and expertise), and to formulate specific policy changes, including extension systems that provide quality services to smallholder farmers.	

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	institutional capacity to conduct research on localizing Juncao technology and to provide extension and advisory services to local farmers.			
DESA	Enhanced knowledge and capacities of smallholder farmers and agricultural researchers to adopt Juncao technology in LLDCs, including their ability to leverage entrepreneurial opportunities along agri–food value chains in the products and use of Juncao technology.	2022–2024	Prepare, maintain and continuously provide content for the online Juncao knowledge platform for all Juncao beneficiaries from **Burkina Faso, Chad, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Nigeria,** and **Zimbabwe**. Conduct advocacy and outreach activities – promotion of the Juncao Technology at the global level to raise the awareness and build the capacities of small–scale farmers and equip them with the knowledge and understanding of Juncao technology that will enable them to increase agricultural productivity of edible mushrooms and fungi and expand the amount of arable land by addressing soil erosion and desertification related challenges.	
WTO	Support LLDCs through the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). The STDF grew out of the partnership between the WTO, the FAO, the World Organization for Animal Health, the World Bank Group and the WHO. Under the STDF, grant financing is available for private and public organizations in developing countries and LLDCs seeking to comply with international SPS standards and hence gain or maintain market access. WTO LLDC Members may apply for such funding, and projects are typically between US$ 250,000 and US$ 1 million, with beneficiaries required to meet part of the cost.	2020–2022	–In Zambia, an ongoing STDF project aims to strengthen Zambia's institutional and operational phytosanitary capacity, and thus facilitate trade in plants and plant products. Project activities have contributed to market access negotiations with China and South Africa for products such as stevia, a sugar substitute, blueberries and avocado. In early 2021, Zambia began exporting blueberries to China, which will result in the creation of employment opportunities for around 2,000 people in this sector.	The STDF has supported 28 LLDCs to develop or implement SPS–related projects through its grant mechanism: – In Ethiopia, an STDF project supported the revision and finalization of Ethiopia's legislation on animal health and welfare and veterinary public health. This legislation will enable official veterinary services to meet relevant international standards in order to maintain existing markets and to enter new ones. Promulgation of this legislation is expected to occur in late 2021. The project also supports the revision of standard operating procedures and guidelines for producers, processors, traders and transporters in order to participate in export trade. – In Azerbaijan, an STDF project that ended in 2018 helped to simplify procedures for phytosanitary inspections at border points, with customs officials trained alongside plant health inspectors in how to carry out controls effectively. In parallel, the project strengthened pest diagnostic services and improved pre–border inspection and export certification. The project

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				created the technical expertise needed for phytosanitary import and export controls and helped to build stronger inter–agency dialogue and cooperation. It also rolled out a computerized system for import permits to regulate the entry of plants and plant products, supporting the move towards electronic certificates. –An STDF project that ended in 2020 helped develop a central server (referred to as the "Hub", see below) to facilitate the exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos) between countries. The project also developed the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS), which is a simple web application for the production, submission and receipt of ePhytos. GeNS provides a cost–effective system for countries with limited capacities. Around 60 countries currently exchange ePhytos through the hub, including LLDCs such as Nepal, Paraguay, Uganda and Uzbekistan. Uganda is also one of the 12 countries currently using the GeNS system. Early research shows how moving towards digital procedures can help to increase exports of agrifood products and ease trade bottlenecks.
WTO	Support Landlocked LDCs' trade capacity to help them enhance their agricultural productivity as well as diversify their exports, through the EIF.	2020–2021		– In Burkina Faso, the EIF has supported over US$ 3.2 million worth of shea exports to global markets, such as France, Niger and the United States of America. Project activities focus on the training of women in particular, in the processing of shea butter and the valorization of consumable products. – In Lao People's Democratic Republic, drawing on both stronger dialogue between the private sector and the government, EIF support is helping to unlock business constraints and to unleash export potential. Initial trials show increases in the productivity of key agricultural export crops, such as rice and maize, of up to 80 per cent. – In Malawi, over 6,000 smallholder farmers have been trained to apply good agricultural practices through innovative techniques. Farmers have seen yields increase by 140 per cent for soya beans and 160 per cent for

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				groundnuts. Farmers' incomes are up by 240 per cent for soya farmers, reducing incidents of poverty.
				– The EIF has facilitated over US$ 2 million in exports in Mali. With EIF support, Mali has achieved remarkable success in increasing its volume of shea exports to markets such as Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Germany, Senegal, Tunisia and the United States of America – exporting 311 tonnes of shea in 2020, up 17 per cent year–on year. The EIF has supported the training of women in cooperative management, shea processing and further value addition.
				– In Nepal, working with more than 4,700 small producers, the EIF has helped to grow the export potential of medicinal and aromatic plants. The project invested in improved production and storage techniques, facilitated expanded international market linkages, improved branding and trademark security. Beneficiaries' incomes are estimated to have increased by more than 20 per cent.
				– In Zambia, with support from the SNV Netherlands Development Organization, the EIF and the government have worked to increase the quality and quantity of Zambian honey exported to international markets. Linking better equipped beekeeping groups with leading private sector firms has increased honey exports: over 6,000 beekeepers have been trained; and more than 200 tons of honey have been exported through the facilitated connections. Small farmers have substantially increased both the quality and the volume produced, with one community increasing yields from 30 kg to 216 kg and another from 100 kg to over 700 kg.

3.5   Science, technology and innovation and research

Science, technology and innovation and research				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
WIPO	Facilitate the development of national innovation systems in LLDCs	2020–2024	Support for the Development of National innovation Systems in LLDCs, includes among others, WIPO's assistance in formulating and implementing national intellectual property (IP) strategies and building national innovation systems. An increasing number of LLDCs have received assistance from WIPO in developing and implementing national intellectual property (IP) strategies. Since 2020, WIPO provided advisory assistance on national IP policy and strategy to Ethiopia, Armenia, Lesotho, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Currently, out of 32 LLDCs, 24 have adopted and implementing national IP strategies. (Ongoing) In 2023, a Project on Enhancing IP Commercialization Capacity of Techno-Parks in the Region of EAPO Member States will be launched for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Many LLDCs are benefiting from the ongoing support for digital transformation of IP offices, including support for digitization of IP records, establishment of digital IP registries, support for examination and registration processes, and support for online IP office services. Training and knowledge transfer are provided to ensure the sustainability of the services. These services are provided as part of WIPO's program of Business Solutions for IP Offices to a number of LLDCs, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Eswatini, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, North Macedonia and Paraguay. The LLDCs Members of the African IP Organization (OAPI), Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Niger, are benefiting from the WIPO technical assistance provided to the OAPI IP office.	Since 2020, WIPO provided advisory assistance on national IP policy and strategy to Ethiopia, Armenia, Lesotho, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Currently, out of 32 LLDCs, 24 have adopted and implementing national IP strategies. In 2020-2022, WIPO has provided legislative advice to 7 LLDCs on the preparation of draft laws on IP, Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) and Genetic Resources (GRs). In 2021, WIPO supported the opening of the Innovation Center in Kyrgyzstan and continued the national Project on Development of the Innovative and Startup Ecosystem. In 2022 and 2023, WIPO held webinars on improvement of the innovation ecosystems for Tajikistan and Armenia.

Science, technology and innovation and research				
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WIPO	Provide capacity building to enable the effective use of intellectual property (IP) system for development and economic growth	2020–2024	This deliverable includes technical assistance projects in LLDCs to assist a range of stakeholders, such as women entrepreneurs, SMEs, youth, artists, local and indigenous communities, in using intellectual property (IP) rights for branding, innovation, research and development, commerce, business and creative industries. (Ongoing)

Under the project commenced in March 2023, participants from North Macedonia and Moldova are benefiting from the ongoing CEBS (Central European and Baltic States) Regional Edition of the Global WIPO Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs with focus on local women communities in traditional textiles.

Project on IP Assets Creation by the Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for Laos and Nepal in 2022-2023.

Project on the "Registration of the Collective Marks of Local Enterprises as a Cross-Cutting Economic Development Issue" in Bolivia in 2022-2023.

In 2022, WIPO commenced the implementation of the WIPO Green Project on Deploying Green Urban Technologies in Turkmenistan.

Support to Local Communities in the Alcholi Sub-Region to Utilize Geographical Indications as a Tool to Improve Market Access and Competitiveness of Shea Butter in Uganda (2022-2023).

Support for the Certification and Implementation of New Geographical Indications for Mongolian pine tree nut (2022-2023). | In 2021, Projects for Women Entrepreneurs on the Use of Intellectual Property for Branding and Product Development were implemented in Liberia, Tanzania and Uganda.

In 2020-2022, WIPO also organized mentoring and matchmaking program on IP for indigenous and local community women entrepreneurs in a number of LLDCs, including Tajikistan, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Burkina Faso and Kyrgyzstan.

In 2020-2023, capacity-building activities on branding were carried out under the Enabling Innovation Environment Project (EIE) to Increase the competitiveness of business through branding and design in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao, Nepal and Mongolia.

In 2020-2022, WIPO has provided trainings on protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications to strengthen business competitiveness of origin-based quality products for Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

A National Training Program on Intellectual Property for Young Innovators was held in 2022 in Zambia.

In 2021-2023, a pilot Project on IP for Traditional Medicinal Practitioners (TMPs) has been implemented in Ethiopia. It provided mentorship on using the IP tools (trademark) for branding, product development and commercialization to 84 identified TMPs from 9 regions.

In 2020-2023, capacity building and awareness raising activities have been organized on Copyrights and Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) in Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan, Mali, Niger, Tajikistan and ARIPO Members, including Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. |

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			Project on Promoting and Commercializing Geographical Indications for Tajikistan's Dried Apricot Ashtak (2022-2023). Program Supporting Tradition-Based Community Entrepreneurship in Andean Countries (Bolivia). Projects on IP Clubs for Innovation amongst Africa's Youthful Population (Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe) Branding Project Initiative for Water Industry in Bhutan. Empowering Small Businesses through IP: Developing Strategies for Supporting Geographical Indications or Collective Marks in the post-registration period (Uganda) Project on IP for Women Entrepreneurs in Botswana in 2023. Videogame developers from North Macedonia and Republic of Moldova are benefiting from WIPO Project Videogame Development: A Quest for IP, and benefit from free IP information clinics, which started in March 2023. New Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on IP and Traditional Medical Knowledge in Africa will include the LLDC beneficiary countries, such as Eswatini, Mali, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda in 2023-2024. WIPO Project-Based Training and Mentoring Program on IP for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Since 2023, WIPO-IFRRO (International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations) Project on the collective management for the RROs (reprographic rights organizations) is being implemented in Botswana, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.	

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			Since 2021, capacity building and mentorship programs on the use of copyright and related rights for development of creative start-ups and SMEs in audiovisual industry, video game creations, supporting cultural promotion institutions, for tourism industry development are being implemented in Bhutan, Mongolia, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Paraguay. Project on the development of the Music Sector and new economic Models of Music in 8 West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) countries, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, is being implemented until 2025. "WIPO Connect", an IT solution developed by WIPO to facilitate the collective management of copyright and related rights has been deployed in 13 LLDCs. From 2023, a one-year Coaching Program for Professionals and Managers of SMEs in the Music Sector will be conducted for Bhutan and Mongolia. Project on Branding Using Intellectual Property (IP) for "Chobe Baskets" in Botswana.	
WIPO	Assist LLDCs with the access and use of technical, scientific and patent information for technological capacity building	2020–2024	WIPO continues its support to LLDCs on access and use of technical, scientific and patent information for innovation, technological capacity building, as well as research and development. (Ongoing) As of 2023, 30 LLDCs are included into the WIPO-coordinated programme on Access to Research and Development Information (ARDI) with the number of registered institutions reaching 3220. 10 LLDCs are benefiting from Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) Programs, which is program is a public-private partnership administered by WIPO,	Since 2020, WIPO has provided technical assistance and training at the regional and national level on the effective use of the local Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) to LLDCs, namely Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. WIPO Sub-Regional Meeting for the Development of Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) Networks in Central Asia was held in 2021.

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			whereby eligible patent offices and academic and research institutions in developing countries can receive free or low-cost access to sophisticated tools and services for retrieving and analysing patent data. Moreover, currently 21 LLDCs have the networks of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) established with support from WIPO.	
WIPO	Provide capacity building on transfer of appropriate technologies for development of selected beneficiary countries (Uganda)	2020–2024	The Project on capacity building for the transfer of appropriate technologies for development has been completed in Uganda in 2023. (Completed). WIPO Pilot Project on Facilitating Transfer of Appropriate Technology for Community through Universities and Research Institutes have been launched in Malawi and Bhutan in 2023 (Ongoing).	The Project on capacity building for the transfer of appropriate technologies for development has been completed in Uganda in 2023. The project has resulted in the identification of appropriate technologies for rainwater harvesting and alternative to brick firing, for which business plans have been prepared to facilitate their deployment in the beneficiary communities.
WIPO	Provide capacity building for universities and research institutes on establishing and functioning of Technology Transfer Offices (TTO) (Bhutan)	2020–2024	WIPO continued support for the Royal University of Bhutan in building capacity, create an institutional policy framework, structure and support services for effective management and commercialization of the outputs resulting from research and innovation activities (Ongoing). WIPO Academy is partnering with the Midland State University in Zimbabwe offering its General Course on Intellectual Property and Advanced course on Patents. Under WIPO-University Consortiums, WIPO Academy is continuing support for universities in Member States, including LLDCs, by customizing and offering WIPO courses for credits, and assist their eLearning and tech-based education initiatives.	In 2022, Regional Webinar on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) for Students of Universities from CACEEC was organized for Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
ISA	Promote the development and establishment of specific mechanisms and tools to develop the necessary	Ongoing	In September 2021, the Secretariat of ISA hosted the first webinar of a new series, entitled "ISA Marine Scientific Research Information Series for Africa", which	

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	capacities of LLDCs in marine scientific research, and organize and facilitate technology transfer, in line with Part XI of UNCLOS		was created specifically for the African member States of the Authority and other stakeholders in the region with a view to strengthening their capacity to conduct research in the Area. The new webinar series complements and builds upon the Africa Deep Seabed Resources project and recognizes the specific needs of LLDCs. See: https://www.isa.org.jm/index.php/events/workshops The second webinar of this series is scheduled to take place in May 2022.	
ESCAP	Provide support to Afghanistan and Bhutan in establishing national think–tanks for supporting governments in accelerating SDGs.	2019–2021+	Pending	
UNECE	Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews. These national reviews of innovation policy contain tailored policy recommendations to boost sustainable development. Follow up capacity building activities are provided to support implementation of policy recommendations, in agreement with national authorities and subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources.	2020–2023	UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of Moldova (2021) and Uzbekistan (2022) have been completed, with support to implementation of policy recommendations planned. A UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Armenia is currently underway and will be followed by capacity building support.	
UNECE	Support to implementation of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development	2020–2023	There is an ongoing UNDA project 2023N "Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (1 January 2020–30 June 2023). The project follows a request made by the SPECA Governing Council at its 12th session in December 2017 to develop a SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development. It was developed under the auspices of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development and was approved at the 14th session of the SPECA Governing Council in November 2019, with an Action Plan for implementation approved by the 16th session of the	

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			SPECA Governing Council in November 2021. Further information is available at: https://unece.org/governing–council https://unece.org/wg–on–itsd	
UN–TBLDC	Establish and strengthen national academies of science in the landlocked least developed countries: Central African Republic, Lesotho, Niger (total of 10 countries annually, TBC for 2021 – 2024)	2020–2024	Pending	
UN–TBLDC	Conduct Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs)	2020 – 2024	The Technology Bank is undertaking technology needs assessments (TNA) to identify technology priorities in LDCs, which will benefit several countries including LLDCs. Status of completion is as follows: Completed: Bhutan and Uganda (2019–2020) Validated: Lesotho and Rwanda (2021) In progress: Lao PDR, Zambia, and Malawi. The outcome of the TNAs will be the development of the Technology Implementation Plan (TIP) that will unlock the digital ecosystem of the countries towards sustainable development. There are 16 TNAs planned in 2022 and several currently under finalization.	**Outcomes/Results:** The TNAs serve as the foundation for LDCs (and for the LLDCs that are part of the LDCs) to identify their specific technological needs in priority sectors and improve national and regional policy technological coordination while mobilizing resources. **Outcomes/Results:** Between 2019–2020, the UN Technology Bank completed five TNAs, two of which were in LLDCs (Bhutan and Uganda). The TNA process results in a practical Technology Implementation Plan (TIP), which is specific to each country and serves as a basis for the country's technological development initiatives in line with its national development goals and the SDGs. The TIPs are a powerful tool to support a demand–driven approach to innovation and technology transfer.
UN–TBLDC	Provide IP Training and Technical Assistance for landlocked LDCs to access and use technical, scientific and patent information for technological capacity building.	2021	Pending	
UN–TBLDC and UNDP	Enhance innovation capacity by financing the implementation of the Impact Accelerator project	2021		The UN Technology Bank has been partnering with the Government of Turkey and UNDP on the SDG impact accelerator project, a project to support start–ups who leverage technology–based solutions to solve challenges LDCs face and further promote systemic, cross–country knowledge transfer.

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				Outcomes/Results: The project provided financial and technical support to selected start–ups in the acceleration and implementation phases. A total of 1074 applications were received from 74 countries, in which 10 start–ups were chosen for the acceleration phase that included a series of mentoring activities. The acceleration phase was completed in 2021 with focus areas on digital agriculture in Uganda (LLDC) and financial inclusion in Bangladesh. Five start–ups were selected for the implementation phase. The UN Technology Bank was on the Governance Board to oversee the selection of the start–ups and provide mentoring in branding and intellectual property rights.
UN–TBLDC, ECA and ESCAP	Capacity building in STI Policy in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Lao PDR, Nepal, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia (LLDCs) and Malawi.	2021 – 2022	–Roadmap to implement Cambodia's National STI Strategy, adopted by Prime Minister; –Formulation of Cambodia's National Research Agenda (on going); https://artnet.unescap.org/sti/policy/inclusive–technology–innovation/advisory–services/Cambodia	
UN–TBLDC, FAO and ITOCA	Enhance science, technology and innovation capacity in landlocked LDCs though Capacity–building in research and data management in collaboration with Research4Life	2021	FAO is providing support to strengthen the capacity of agricultural innovation systems, including agricultural research institutions, through assessment of gaps and weaknesses in **Burkina Faso, Lao PDR, Malawi** and **Rwanda**. Activities have included the development of training resources and conducting of national level training events for various stakeholders, including agricultural research institutions.	**Outcomes/Results**: In 2021, the UN–TBLDC in collaboration with the Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA) developed the French Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on accessing digital research for researchers, librarians for all Francophone LDCs (that include LLDCs). The MOOC contributes to enhance access to LDC (and LLDC) participants to recent scientific knowledge, and to give the opportunity to participate fully in the global scientific community. https://www.un.org/technologybank/news/registration–french–research4life–mooc–accessing–professional–resources–health–agriculture
UN–TBLDC	Building capacity on industrial design for LDCs	Ongoing	In partnership with the World Eco–Design Conference (WEDC) and the International School of Design at Zhejiang University in Ningbo, China, the UN Technology Bank is supporting LDCs to enhance their industrial	**Outcomes/Results**: In 2021, 36 students from LDCs were awarded scholarships to pursue industrial design engineering studies. Students were from Ethiopia,

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			design capacity. The project will also organize dedicated training and workshops to foster technical exchanges between eco–design experts. The 2022 scholarship selection process is ongoing. The UN Technology Bank will also co–host WEDC Summit.	Lesotho Rwanda, Nepal, Uganda, Zambia (LLDCs) and Guinea.
UN–TBLDC	Providing technology solutions for hearing loss in Bhutan	2021–2024	The UN Technology Bank partnered with the Kingdom of Bhutan and Medtronic Labs on strengthening the ear and hearing care for all Bhutanese children. This three–year project from 2021 to 2024 aligns with Bhutan national policies and is centered around the needs of children aged 0–14, by supporting the interventions required to address hearing loss and preventive ear disorders across the whole continuum of care. The UN Technology Bank is leading the project coordination and management, as well as the technical activities related to technology, knowledge transfer and technical training.	
UN–TBLDC	Providing fellowships on biotechnology for scientists from LDCs	Ongoing	The UN Technology Bank partnered with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) to set up a Programme of Collaborations with LDCs (including some LLDCs), known as PACTs. The programme aims to strengthen biotech capacity in the LDCs and to promote networking among researchers and research institutions. The biotechnology programme awards fellowships to early–career scientists from the LDCs, consisting of exchange visits at the ICGEB laboratories in Italy, India and South Africa, where scientists can pursue their research on biomedicine, biotechnology and agriculture. The programme also strengthens biotechnology policies and regulatory capacities of LDCs through a series of workshops on biotechnology policy and regulatory science that will be implemented, primarily in sub–Saharan Africa.	In 2021, 13 fellowships were awarded to scientists from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda and Zambia

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UNCTAD	Capacity building in STI Policy making and implementation in Uganda and Zambia	2019–2021		STI policy review for Uganda was completed in 2020 and Uganda developed a national STI policy. STI policy review for Zambia was completed in 2021 and Zambia updated its national STI policy. UNCTAD STI Policy Reviews (STIP Reviews) are an analytical and policy learning process for a STI stakeholders to reach a clearer understanding of the key strengths and weaknesses of their innovation systems and identify strategic priorities for its development. The result of this process is documented in the STIP Review document and considered at the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development. More information on STIP Reviews is available here.
UNCTAD	Technical assistance and capacity building for Zambia to undertake technology assessment in energy or agriculture sector.	2021–2024	UNCTAD is implementing a development account project in Zambia to help the country conduct technology assessment in energy or agriculture sector.	
FAO	Assistance to LLDCs (**Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malawi, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Uganda and Uzbekistan**) in the areas of research, extension and agricultural innovation systems.	Ongoing	Six multi–stakeholder commodity–based innovation platforms are being piloted and facilitated in **Azerbaijan**, and eight multi–stakeholder innovation projects, including on digital extension piloted in two focus regions. In Lao PDR, FAO is working to strengthen national agricultural innovation systems at the organizational and policy levels. At the organizational level, four capacity development plans are being implemented together with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), the Lao Farmers Network (LFN), the Department of Agricultural Extension Centers (DEAC) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAFF), and the Lao Chamber of Commerce. The capacity development interventions at organizational level also include the establishment of national innovation platforms, trainings, reflections and coaching, and multi–stakeholder meetings.	A series of Integrated Pest Management Farmer Field Schools (IPM–FFSs) on Fall Armyworm control has been implemented in Malawi and 11 other countries, and capacities to innovate have been strengthened in all these 12 target countries in 2021. One training of the Multi–actors Agricultural Innovation Platform (MAIP) facilitators' course was conducted in **Azerbaijan** in 2021. Technical support was provided through global projects and programmes, including the Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) and Tropical Agriculture Platform – Agricultural Innovation Systems (TAP–AIS) projects, regional and country projects and regular programme activities. Comprehensive country assessment reports with recommendations on different aspects of countries' agricultural innovation systems (AIS), extension and advisory systems (EAS), research, extension and farmers

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			At the policy level, FAO collaborates closely with the Department of Planning and Policy (DOPP) at MAFF to provide training to influence policy, organize multi–stakeholder policy dialogues and develop policy briefs.	linkages and agricultural research for development have been conducted in all countries.
				Policies and strategic implementation plans have been developed or strengthened in **Azerbaijan, Eswatini, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**.
				Local innovation processes, including multi–stakeholder innovation platforms, and institutions and structures have been strengthened in **Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Malawi**, among other countries.
				Holistic country–specific reform and operational models for the national extension and advisory system (EAS) in Azerbaijan with specific mechanisms (governance, funding, capacity development, quality assurance, knowledge sharing and innovation support) have been strengthened. This includes structures and functions at local, regional and national levels.
				High–level plans for digital online platform to serve public, private and non–governmental sector advisors were delivered in **Azerbaijan**.
				One training of Multi–actors Agricultural Innovation Platform (MAIP) facilitators' course has been carried out in Malawi.
				A hybrid model of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Farm Business School (FBS) have been promoted in Azerbaijan and Malawi to better link production and marketing.
				A food system assessment in **Mongolia** was carried out in 2021, in collaboration with FAO, CIRAD and EU. Country profile, summarizing the findings from the assessment is available here.
				FAO has also issued the following relevant publications, including:
				–"Reforming and Strengthening Public Agricultural Extension and Advisory Service Systems in Smallholder Farming" policy brief.

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				–"Empowering smallholder farmers to access digital AEAS" policy brief. –"Guide for training of facilitators of Multi–actor Agricultural Innovation Platform". –"Guidelines for Master Trainers of Multi–actors Agricultural Innovation Platform (March 2022). https://www.fao.org/3/cb9080en/cb9080en.pdf.
UNIDO	Strengthening innovation ecosystems	2020 – 2023		UNIDO strengthened **Azerbaijan's** innovation ecosystem to unlock the country's potential for digital transformation. A range of capacity building activities, including study tours exposed ecosystem actors on best practices providing insights into a wide range of topics related to innovation management with opportunities to gain valuable insights from leading international experts and institutions. More information available here.

4   COOPERATION BETWEEN LLDCs AND TRANSIT COUNTRIES

4.1   Multi–stakeholder dialogues and experience sharing

Multi–stakeholder dialogues and experience sharing				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
ECLAC	Implement a national policy dialogue meeting in Paraguay to validate the findings of the national connectivity reports with national and subregional stakeholders. The policy dialogue will be combined with a capacity building workshop to provide substantive support in integration of recommendations into national policies.	2021		**June 2021:** ECLAC Implemented a national policy dialogue meeting in **Paraguay** to validate the findings of the national connectivity reports with national and subregional stakeholders. In total 56 people joined the national dialogue; 58% percent were national stakeholders from the public and private sector and 42% from international organizations (including the UN–system). Capacity building workshops and an inter–regional forum among pilot countries were organized in the second semester of 2021 in order to finalize the pilot project.
ESCAP	Enhance participation of LLDCs in the annual Asia–Pacific Business Forum (APBF) and multi–stakeholder forums on promoting responsible business conduct.	2020–2024	Ongoing	
ESCAP	North and Central Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals	Annual		Event held on 6–7 October 2022: https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/sixth–north–and–central–asian–multistakeholder–forum–implementation–sustainable Event held on 4–6 September 2020: https://unescap.org/events/2020NCA_SDG Event held on 5–7 October, 2021: https://unescap.org/events/2021/fifth–north–and–central–asian–multi–stakeholder–forum–implementation–sustainable
ADB and CAREC Institute	Facilitate sharing of knowledge, undertaking joint workshops and seminars, organizing staff exchanges, and co–financing research and capacity development to CAREC LLDCs on: (i) CAREC Regional Integration Index	Ongoing	Specifically, in support to the CAREC Institute (CI), a new knowledge technical assistance project [*KSTA 6694–REG: Supporting Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute*] in the amount of $2 million was approved in December 2020. Implementation has been ongoing since April 2021 which supports the following:	3 knowledge products on e–commerce and SPS completed in 2021.

Multi–stakeholder dialogues and experience sharing				
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	(CRII); (ii) e–commerce; (iii) sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations; and (iv) the CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM).		(i) Financial Management Assessment of the CAREC Institute, (ii) Resource Mobilization work to support the financial sustainability of CI, and (iii) Support for Research and Capacity Building activities such as: CI Visiting Fellows Program, Workshops on Improving Road Safety Engineering in CAREC Countries, Development of a capacity building framework for CI, upgrading of the existing CI eLearning platform, and support for other knowledge work in the CAREC region. **Two knowledge–sharing modules** on trade jointly developed with ADB on Regional Improvement of Border Services and National Single Window and electronic SPS certification.	
UNOSSC and UNDP	The South–South Global Thinkers initiative provides an enabling environment to fill the knowledge gap that can strengthen the scaling–up of South–South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation and its impact, and provide a bridge to link with the SDGs and their implementation. This initiative pools together over 250 think tanks from all different regions, providing them with a platform to: get funding for research; promote their research at global and regional for a; engage in online and offline dialogues and discussions with other think tanks and member states to share ideas knowledge; and potentially engage on joint research initiatives. Over 15 think tanks who are members of the initiative are from LLDCs (Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Paraguay, Rwanda, and Uganda).	Ongoing	The South–South Global Thinkers continues to expand its network including in the LLDCs. The coalition is in process of partnering with regional think tanks such as CAREC Institute to serve as a regional hub to represent think tanks and universities that are members of the CAREC think tank network (CTTN) with over 50 leading think tanks and universities. These institutes are drawn from its 11 member countries, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It will enable to bring forth regional perspectives and bridge the knowledge gap through evidence–based research and policy advocacy for issue related to LLDCs.	

4.2 Opportunities of regional initiatives and integration

Opportunities of regional initiatives and integration				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
ITC and African Union Commission	Establish the African Trade Observatory, an online portal that provides key up–to–date trade data and statistics for policymakers across the continent to monitor the progress of economic integration in the AfCFTA area.	2020		A beta version of the African Trade Observatory came onstream in 2020.
ITC in collaboration with IOM	Implement COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative project, to increase formal small–scale cross–border trade flows in the COMESA region through institutional capacity building and better data collection and monitoring.	2020–2022		In 2021, ITC delivered five rounds of training of trainers for the COMESA trade facilitation training programme. An assessment of the small–scale cross border trade situation at the Moyale border post in Kenya was conducted and a report on the same was completed.
ITC	Support the implementation of AfCFTA by providing capacity building and advisory services	2020+	This activity is ongoing. In 2021, ITC announced the launch of the One Trade Africa programme. It will empower, enhance and enable MSMEs to access business opportunities placing a particular focus on ensuring women and youth are part of the continental market equation. Through its technical assistance and advisory services, ITC will support women and youth led enterprises to engage in green technology through the production of goods as well as service sectors.	
ECA in collaboration with UN–OHRLLS, AfDB and Afreximbank	Facilitate the establishment of one or two regional single windows	2021–2022	This initiative (that includes the LAMU Port Transit and the Northern Corridor Project) is ongoing as part of AfCFTA implementing platforms.	
AfDB	Convene a Trade and Transport Facilitation Forum involving Africa's LLDCs.	2021+	Pending	
ESCAP	Address Transboundary Dimensions of Agenda 2030 through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration	2018–2021		ESCAP implemented the United Nations Development Account (11th Tranche) project (UN–DA Project) entitled "Addressing the transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through regional economic cooperation and

Opportunities of regional initiatives and integration				
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	(Development Account 11th tranche on RECI).			integration (RECI) in Asia and the Pacific," from 2018 to 2021. The project aims to strengthen capacity of selected countries to develop sustainable and inclusive policies and mechanisms for promoting transport, energy, and ICT transboundary infrastructure connectivity within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project included work in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia as the main beneficiary countries. The COVID–19 pandemic also put more importance to objectives of the project such as recovery and resilience of infrastructure. Through its four–year project cycle of cross–sectoral cooperation, divisions of the ESCAP secretariat have delivered several analytical knowledge products, including online tools and capacity–building workshops on seamless connectivity and resilience of integrated infrastructure corridors, e–resilience, and digital transformation. These knowledge products consist of over 35 analytical reports at the subregional and regional levels, including three country reports for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia on: –co–deployment of ICT Infrastructures with energy and transport infrastructures; –resilient infrastructure; –financing infrastructure; –linkage of rural transport systems to regional and international transport networks; –methodological notes and assessment of the e–resilience framework, and Central Asian digital cooperation strategies and approaches. The key findings were shared at the Regional Dialogue on Linking Past and Future of Regional Cooperation and Partnerships on 26 January 2022. Project's materials are available at: https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/regional–dialogue–linking–past–and–future–regional–cooperation–and–partnerships.

Opportunities of regional initiatives and integration				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
ESCAP in partnership with UNECE	Enhance regional cooperation in economic areas relevant to member countries (all are LLDCs) and partners through the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The SPECA countries are: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (SPECA Economic Forum)	Annual	The SPECA Economic Forum 2021 on "Sustainable transport and trade for a green and inclusive economy after the pandemic" was held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on 17 to 18 November 2021. The SPECA countries expressed their ongoing commitment to advance sustainable development, connectivity, trade and cooperation in theregion. https://unece.org/speca/events/2021–speca–economic–forum	Cohosted the Seventeenth session of the SPECA Governing Council with the Government of Kazakhstan on 18 November 2022. The Governing Council adopted the "Almaty Declaration" on promoting sustainable and resilient economic transformation, sustainable and balanced energy transition, digital transformation, and gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.
UNECE in partnership with ESCAP	Enhance regional cooperation in economic areas relevant to SPECA member countries (all are LLDCs) and partners through the SPECA Governing Council and its subsidiary working groups. The SPECA countries are: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. (SPECA Governing Council)	Annual	The 16th session of the SPECA Governing Council was held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on 19 November 2021. The Governing Council adopted the "Tashkent Statement" on promoting sustainable transport and trade, using UN legal norms, standards, best practice recommendations and other tools, in support of sustainable development and a circular economy in the region. The Council also approved an Action Plan for the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development, and decided to establish a SPECA Working Group on Investments and Financial Technical Cooperation. https://unece.org/info/SPECA/events/359263	
UNECE	Conduct a study on "Promoting sustainable trade and circular economy in SPECA countries: State of play and way forward".	2020–2021		Following the adoption of the SPECA Principles of Sustainable Trade in 2019, the study on "Promoting sustainable trade and circular economy in SPECA countries: State of play and way forward" provides a brief overview of the state of play in terms of strategies and policies, examples of specific steps and projects implemented in SPECA countries (including in Uzbekistan), and the overall potential in the sub–region to foster and benefit from sustainable trade and regional integration. The study was presented at the Sixteenth session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade in 2021. It is available HERE.
UNIDO	Provide integrated and sustainable solutions and policy advice to LLDCs on	2020–2024	To address the missing link of regional clean energy cooperation in developing countries, UNIDO in	

Opportunities of regional initiatives and integration				
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	promoting energy efficiency and delivering renewable energy technologies systems to promote productive activities **(GN–SEC)**		partnership with various regional organizations and communities, launched the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN–SEC) Programme in 2010. Under a joint platform, UNIDO assists regional economic communities (RECs) in the creation and operation of sustainable energy centres, which drive and accelerate the energy transition "from the region for the region". The GN–SEC is an innovative south–south and triangular multi–stakeholder partnership. Today, the GN–SEC network comprises eight operating centres in the Arab and African region (ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, Arab League), Asia and Pacific (SPC, ICIMOD), as well as Latin America (CARICOM, SICA). Currently, the network is expanding to Central Africa (ECCAS) and Central Asia (ECO). In total, **26 LLDCs** benefit from GN–SEC. This includes Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan in Central Asia; Bhutan, Nepal for the Hindukush–Himalaya region; Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Rwanda in Central Africa; Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe in Southern Africa; South Sudan and Uganda in Eastern Africa, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger in Western Africa and Bolivia, Paraguay in Latin America. The global GN–SEC platform, hosted by UNIDO in Vienna, Austria, facilitates joint coordination, learning, programs, events and initiatives between the centres and various regions. It provides a "virtual" maker–space for south–south and triangular cooperation activities and joint project proposals.	

4.3   Enhancing South–South Cooperation

		Enhancing South–South Cooperation		
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UNIDO	Expand "Belt and Road" infrastructure development projects in LLDCs, including facilitating technology transfer in LLDCs through UNIDO Centres for South–South Industrial Cooperation.	2020–2024	**2020 to present:** SSTC projects implemented by UNIDO in 2020 in LLDCs such as: o LAC: **Bolivia (1), Paraguay (1)** o AFR: **Ethiopia (4), South Sudan (2)** o ASP: **Bhutan (1), Lao PDR (1), Nepal (1)** o EUR: **Tajikistan (1)**	In February 2021, UNIDO released a publication on the Organization's work in the area of South–South and triangular industrial cooperation (SSTIC). The publication features 16 projects and good practices that can be replicated and scaled up, and provides a representative cross–section of UNIDO's SSTIC activities within the four priority areas of inclusive and sustainable industrial development: –creating shared prosperity; –advancing economic competitiveness; –safeguarding the environment; and –strengthening knowledge and institutions. The report is available HERE. At the 21st session of the High–level Committee on South–South Cooperation, in May 2023, UNIDO presented its newly published 11 impact stories about SSTIC to the UNOSSC. The publications highlight just some of the 145 current UNIDO projects embracing the SSTIC approach. These stories shed light on specific UNIDO initiatives, illustrating the effective implementation of SSTIC at the heart of their design. In doing so, they provide incentives to Member States and other stakeholders to replicate successful initiatives.
UNOSSC	South–South Galaxy is a digital platform for knowledge sharing and partnership brokering to address transnational challenges among the Global South, including LLDCs. It acts as a needs broker and aims to facilitate connectedness between countries and regions for knowledge sharing, capacity development and creating partnership and entrepreneurship opportunities. For example, the governments of Azerbaijan, Nepal and Paraguay have	2019+	The South–South Galaxy is increasingly being used for sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices, successfully showcasing innovative and good practices related to Landlock countries from a wide variety of partner. It also presents the opportunity for potential partnerships and collaboration. Examples include: – China– Rwanda cooperation on green bamboo agro–industry for poverty alleviation and ecological protection; –Islamic Development Bank supported Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) Technical Assistance	

Enhancing South–South Cooperation				
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	shared SSC solutions and projects on the Galaxy in order to facilitate knowledge exchanges and partnerships among countries and institutions in the South.		Programme: Study for the Commercialization of the Regional Railway Corridor between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Iran; – ILO–supported Partnership for Action on Green Economy between Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia; –United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) for building sub–regional cooperation among the landlocked countries of Central Asia to respond to the challenges of sustainable development.	
UNOSSC	Favor cooperation with LLDCs within the activities of the SSC trust funds managed by UNOSSC, responding to priority initiatives articulated by these governments.	2020–2021+	There is a number of newly approved projects for LLDCs through the UN–India Development Partnership Fund, IBSA Funds, and Peres Guerrero Trust Fund of G77.	
UNOSSC	Implement four small grant projects offering technology transfer and capacity development support to Nepal, Uzbekistan (and other countries–Senegal), and to countries of Southeast Asia and countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative	2021		The Global South–South Development Centre (GSSDC) project, under UNOSSC, completed four small grant projects offering technology transfer and capacity development support to Nepal, Uzbekistan and Senegal, to the countries of Southeast Asia, and to countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative. Support was provided on small hydropower development, waste management, tourism development and building construction materials.
UNOSSC	Provide USD $999,350 to support a project "Addressing Water, Health and Poverty Nexus through WASH initiatives for COVID–19 and Climate Change responses in Eswatini" through the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), managed by UNOSSC. The project was submitted by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office of the Kingdom of Eswatini.	2021	Ongoing	

Enhancing South–South Cooperation				
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UNOSSC	Scaling up of South–South Network for Public Service Innovation matching and capacity building in partnership with national institutions, especially in LLDCs, e.g. Bhutan.	Ongoing, continuous	The network is fully operational. It conducted match–making exercises and benefits developing countries including LLDCs	
UNOSSC	Lao PDR candidates to be focus countries under Phase 3 of the RoK–UNOSSC project on Science, technology and innovation.	2021+	The ROK–UNOSSC facility on science, technology and innovation Phase III have been approved with Lao PDR as one of the programme countries. It is working with neighboring countries in lower Mekong Basin to enhance food, energy and water nexus for improved livelihood.	
FAO	Set up a thematic group on LLDCs on FAO's South–South and Triangular cooperation (SSTC Gateway) to promote e–dialogues and discussion forums, sharing of good practices and networking among the LLDCs on issues relating to agrifood sector development and trade.	Ongoing	FAO is undertaking an initiative to support and strengthen collaboration among 16 LLDCs in Africa, and their transit neighbours, for formulation of policy priorities and public–private investments to enhance food security and trade. The initiative aims to support dialogue and networking on these themes.	
ESCAP in partnership with UNOSSC	*Proposal:* Organise the sub–regional meeting on South–South Cooperation in North and Central Asia.	TBC	Pending	
UNDP	Support African LLDCs in institutional capacity building to strengthen the national South–South Cooperation architecture in implementation of the BAPA+40	2020–2021		Together with UNOSSC, UNDP compiled good practices, developed and published the report Good Practices in South–South and Triangular Cooperation: Scaling up Made–in–Africa Solutions at the UN Day for South–South Cooperation. The report serves to promote the leading role of African countries as sharing South–South countries. It codifies nearly 40 UNDP–supported African South–South development solutions and innovative African solutions with South–South potential. including from LLDC, covering key SDG–related issues. These solutions are also featured on UNOSSC's South–South Galaxy platform for wider promotion of African good practices with the global South. The report is available HERE.

Enhancing South–South Cooperation				
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				The launch event attracted 260 registered participants from 68 countries globally. Launched the Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa | United Nations Development Programme report on the sidelines of the Global South-South Development Expo. The discussion evolved around the challenges and opportunities related to South-South and triangular cooperation solutions to address current crises and advance Africa's sustainable development. Representatives from OECD, GIZ, Cameroon, Rwanda Cooperation Initiative, JCCOCC and SACETA (China) attended the event.

5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

5.1 Resource mobilization

Resource mobilization				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UN–OHRLLS, in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Kazakhstan (former Chair of the LLDC Group) and Turkmenistan to the United Nations	Bring together public and private sector from LLDCs, transit countries, and development partners to exchange best practices and recommendations in forging partnerships and mobilize financial resources.	2021		An event on 'Leaving No one Behind: Financing Sustainable Recovery from COVID–19 in LLDCs' took place in April 2021. Organized by UN–OHRLLS in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations (former Chair of the LLDC Group) and the Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan to the United Nations, the event included discussions on trends and how to enhance mobilization of financing from: domestic resources; official development assistance; public and private sectors partnerships; South–South and Triangular cooperation and dedicated special windows for the LLDCs in multi–lateral resources; and innovative sources of funding. Featuring remarks from high level representatives from LLDCs and from the UN and other development partners, the event highlighted valuable national and regional experiences. It resulted in a summary highlighting: –the need for equitable access to COVID–19 vaccines in LLDCs and to support them in procuring and distributing the vaccines; – the need to enhance ODA flows to support sustainable recovery in LLDCs; – the role of the IMF, Multilateral Development Banks and other financial institutions in the recovery efforts; –the importance of South–South cooperation in recovery process and the need to strengthen it; and –the crucial role of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations in supporting the recovery efforts of LLDCs as well as achieving sustainable development. More information on this event is available **HERE** and the summary of the event is available **HERE.**
OECD	Provide specific capacity development efforts so that LLDCs may fully leverage the OECD's Transition Finance Toolkit which seeks to support countries in assessing and benchmarking their development finance mix to maximize	2021+	**August 2020 to present:** As part of its work on transition finance, the OECD helps developing countries anticipate and prepare the evolution of their financing mix at each stage of their development.	

Resource mobilization				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
	the use of different resources. The Toolkit includes Transition finance factsheets – key information on transition stages; ABC methodology paper – operational guidance to conduct transition finance studies; Transition finance dashboard – Interactive online data visualisation tool; Horizontal publications – e.g., the transition finance compendium; Country pilots – hosting the existing and future country case studies (i.e. Zambia). Extending the transition finance dashboard to include LLDCs as a group and deploying country diagnostics in further LLDCs is envisioned.		Transition finance shows that countries suffering from structural vulnerabilities, such as Land–locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), require particular attention from development partners. These countries remain highly dependent on Official Development Assistance (ODA) throughout their journey towards sustainable development, and they struggle to mobilise other financing sources, such as domestic revenue and private investment. In 2020, the OECD upgraded its Transition Finance Toolkit to allow for tailored analyses on LLDCs and other groups of vulnerable countries (e.g. SIDS, LDCs). The Transition Finance Dashboard, an interactive data tool, was extended to include LLDCs as a specific group, allowing users to explore the specific financing challenges faced by these countries, and to easily benchmark them against their peers. In addition, the OECD recently produced: (i) a methodological paper with operational guidance to help governments of developing countries and their development partners conduct transition finance analyses in different country contexts; and (ii) a compendium presenting the main conclusions and policy recommendations of its transition finance country diagnostics, including those conducted in LLDCs (**Zambia** and **Uganda**).	
ESCAP in partnership with RCO Tajikistan and ESCAP SONCA	Provide training and build capacities in resource mobilization among policymakers in Tajikistan (Development Account, 11th Tranche Project: Supporting the Countries with Special Needs in Asia–Pacific in meeting the challenge of resource mobilization for achieving the 2030 Agenda).	2020+		ESCAP, in collaboration with the UN in Tajikistan and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, organized a National workshop on Financing Sustainable Development and Green Recovery in Tajikistan in November 2021: https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/workshop–financing–sustainable–development–and–green–recovery–tajikistan

Resource mobilization				
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				The outcomes of the workshop sought to help the Financing NDS/SDG Working Group of the National Development Council under the President of Tajikistan to prioritize financing needs and identify financial resources for the period until 2030. The workshop's summary, that includes recommendations, is available here.
ESCAP	Organize Sub–regional Virtual Training for Countries in North and Central Asia on Financing for Development (including introduction to Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), financial inclusion and MSMEs, and green finance) – from sustainable recovery from the COVID–19 crisis to achieving the 2030 Agenda.	2020–2022		In 2021–2022, two subregional trainings were conducted on Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) for the North and Central Asia Region. In January 2021, the training focused on exploring capital markets and themed bonds development in the context of INFF as an innovative financial instruments for sustainable development finance : https://unescap.org/events/2021/session–6–north–and–central–asia–subregional–training–integrated–national–financial In February 2022, a training seminar focused on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) financial inclusion in countries' INFF. It aimed to build capacity and share knowledge among North and Central Asian countries' governments and other stakeholders on mobilizing and aligning SME financing within a wider national financing strategy to implementing development priorities. https://unescap.org/events/2022/subregional–training–seminar–small–and–medium–enterprises–sme–financial–inclusion
ESCAP in partnership with UN Country Teams (UNCTs)	Undertake a capacity building project that aims to further integrate sustainable development into macroeconomic modelling. The main outputs are: (a) a macroeconomic model that is based on the region–wide ESCAP macroeconomic model, but tailored to Mongolia and Nepal's country contexts; (b) national studies that examine the socio–economic and environmental	2021–2022		National macroeconomic models and technical manuals were issued for Mongolia and Nepal. A National workshop on 'Building forward better : Securing inclusive, resilient and green development in Mongolia' took place on 21–22 February 2022 in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia). https://unescap.org/events/2022/national–workshop–mongolia–building–forward–better

Resource mobilization				
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	implications of selected policy scenarios; and (c) national workshops to discuss the models and studies.			A National workshop on "Building forward better: Securing inclusive, resilient and green development in Nepal" took place on 9–10 March 2022, https://unescap.org/events/2022/national–workshop–nepal–building–forward–better Both workshops sought to discuss ideas on public policy options that help Mongolia and Nepal build forward better; and strengthen the technical capacity of government officials in conducting macroeconomic analysis that duly considers the social and environmental aspects of development.
ESCAP with UNESCO and the Economic Research Institute of Kazakhstan	Supporting Kazakhstan on the development of rigorous and data–driven SDG costing modelling to measure accurately pre–education needs and contribute to more informed decision and budgeting in the field of pre–education. The activity was implemented through the Joint SDG Fund project 'Aligning policy and financing with SDGs towards an Integrated National Financing Framework'.			Developed the SDG costing model and analytical study based on UNESCO methodology to identify and measure key needs and financial requirements of pre–education in Kazakhstan. Organized a workshop on 23 November 2022 to present results of the SDG costing modelling and discuss opportunities for Kazakhstan stakeholders to apply the model and identify necessary funding required to ensure quality pre–education in the country.
DESA, UNDP UNITAR and ECA	Support selected LLDCs in Africa in developing SDG–aligned financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs): Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia (Development Finance Assessment (DFA))	2020–2022	UNDP has been supporting the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) agenda for these selected African LLDCs: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia. UNDP is supporting the countries in conducting Development Finance Assessment (DFA) with the aim to analyze the public and private financing landscape, financing policies and institutional structures and produce an INFF Roadmap with recommendations towards an integrated financing strategy. So far, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda completed their DFAs. Burundi, Burkina Faso, and Zambia are in the drafting	UNDP co–organized with DESA, UNITAR and ECA the regional joint training on INFF in August 2021. The event provided comprehensive training on the detailed methodologies of the 4 INFF Building Blocks: (1) assessment and diagnostics; (2) financing Strategy; (3) monitoring and review; and (4) governance and coordination for African countries, **including these selected LLDCs**. In particular, government panellists from **Uganda and Malawi** were invited to share their experiences and approaches in implementing INFFs in their own countries.

Resource mobilization				
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			process, while Mali has initiated the DFA consultants' recruitment procedure. Building on the DFAs, Uganda is already developing their integrated financing strategies, while Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda and South–Sudan are initiating the process. Technical support is also provided for the establishment of INFF Oversight Committees in Botswana, Rwanda, Malawi, Burundi, Lesotho, and Mali to drive the related reforms and ensure the government ownership in the implementation of INFFs.	
			UNDP is providing technical support to 13 LLDCs in Africa in implementing Integrated Financing Frameworks (INFFs).	
			UNDP is supporting countries in conducting Development Finance Assessments (DFA) to analyze their public and private financing systems, policies, and institutions. The goal is to create an INFF Roadmap that provides recommendations for an integrated financing strategy. So far, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia have completed their DFAs, while Chad has initiated the process. Building on the DFAs, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda are currently developing their integrated financing strategies, while Burundi, Eswatini and South-Sudan are initiating the process. Technical support is also provided for the establishment of INFF Oversight Committees in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia to drive the related reforms and ensure the government ownership in the implementation of INFFs.	
			Together with GIZ, UNDP has completed the feasibility study for establishing an Integrated Financing Dashboard in Rwanda aiming to consolidate and monitor data from existing tracking systems on key financial flows (public, private, international and domestic), from mobilization to spending, in order to	

Resource mobilization				
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			improve transparency, synergy and coordination for decision making on financing policies and measures. Within the UNICEF-UNDP flagship, advancing SDG Budgeting in Botswana, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Uganda and Zambia, including mainstreaming gender equality into the budgeting process and promoting fiscal decentralisation. Country level work has been initiated with Funding support from UNDP-UNICEF Joint Flagship initiative (USD 50k/country) in Malawi and Zambia. SDG Investor Mapping has been completed in Eswatini, Rwanda and Uganda, ongoing in Lesotho and Malawi, and is to be initiated in Ethiopia and Zambia to identify and promote investment opportunity areas for attracting domestic and international private sector investment. The plan is to ensure the investment intelligence out of the investors mapping will be integrated within the upcoming integrated financing strategies. Collaborating with IOM in Malawi and Lesotho on promoting diaspora engagement and mobilizing remittances for domestic investment. Support of Tax Inspection Without Borders initiative and regional taxation project in 3 LLDC: Botswana (diamond audit work), Eswatini (Audit in Telecommunications, Mining, Manufacturing, Financial Services) and Rwanda (transfer pricing audits in international tax issues-BEPS, Exchange of information, DTAs, PE). Supported over 10 countries through the Tax for SDGs/DRM in Africa initiative to develop Country Engagement Plans in Eswatini and Rwanda, with Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe on the pipeline, covering key areas of Digitalization of Tax Administrations, Green Taxation and Progressive/Pro-Equal Taxation. Country Engagement Plans (CEPs) are created in collaboration with Ministries of Finance and National Tax Authorities (NTAs) and describe how TIWB	

Resource mobilization				
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			and other UNDP programming can best generate synergies while maximizing the impact of the TIWB Initiative beyond revenues and aligning with the Governments' national plans, as well as INFF recommendations on taxation and other SDG areas to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

Facilitated knowledge and technical exchanges involving LLDC countries:
• South-South exchange on INFF related-reforms and implementation between Burkina Faso and Cabo Verde, Gabon; between Rwanda and Cameroon through the official channels of the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative; between Chad and Benin, Cameroon.
• Organized the "Integrated National Financing Frameworks & Open Budgets for Sustainable Development in Africa" workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, in collaboration with UNDESA, ECA, UNICEF and IBP. The 4-day event brought together over 300 participants - the African INFF community, senior decision makers and civil society from 52 African countries to share INFF experiences and learn about the advantages and challenges in setting up SDG-aligned integrated financing strategies, with a particular focus on SDG financing dialogues and open budget reforms. An outcome of this meeting is 20 government-endorsed action plans on INFF-related reforms, SDG-budgeting and PFM. The key achievements featured by LLDCs (Botswana, Burkina, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe) . | |
| UNDP, in collaboration with UNCDF | Support selected LLDCs in Africa in developing SDG–aligned financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs): Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia | 2020–2022 | In collaboration with UNCDF, UNDP is conducting Digital Finance Ecosystem Assessments within the INFF process in **Uganda** and **Burkina Faso** to assess the level of development and inclusiveness of the digital finance ecosystem; make recommendations to enable digital finance for national SDG priorities; and form a roadmap towards a Digital Financing Strategy embedded in INFF Financing Strategy. | |

Resource mobilization				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
	(Digital Finance Ecosystem Assessments)			
UNDP, in collaboration with GIZ	Support selected LLDCs in Africa in developing SDG–aligned financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs): Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia (Integrated Financing Dashboard)	2020–2022	Together with GIZ, UNDP initiated the feasibility study for establishing an Integrated Financing Dashboard in **Rwanda**, aiming to consolidate and monitor data from existing data tracking systems on key financial flows (public, private, international and domestic), from mobilization to spending, in order to improve transparency, synergy and coordination for decision making on financing policies and measures.	
UNDP, and UNDP with IOM	Support selected LLDCs in Africa in developing SDG–aligned financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs): Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia (SDG budgeting)	2020–2022	UNDP is advancing SDG Budgeting in Botswana, South Sudan and Uganda, including mainstreaming gender equality into the budgeting process and promoting fiscal decentralisation. SDG Investor Mapping has been completed in Rwanda and Uganda, ongoing in Eswatini and Malawi, and is to be initiated in Botswana, Lesotho, and Zambia to identify and promote investment opportunity areas for attracting domestic and international private sector investment. The plan is to ensure the investment intelligence out of the investors mapping will be integrated within the upcoming integrated financing strategies. Uganda and Malawi have initiated the process of conducting a Digital Finance Ecosystem Assessment (DFEA). UNDP is also collaborating with IOM in Lesotho on promoting diaspora engagement and mobilizing remittances for domestic investment.	
UNDP, in collaboration with UN organizations relevant to the selected African LLDCs	Support selected LLDCs in Africa in developing SDG–aligned financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs): Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia (TIWB programme)	2020–2022	UNDP is supporting ongoing Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programmes within the INFF agenda to enhance tax audit capacity for domestic revenue mobilization and drafting Country Engagement Plans for the upcoming SDG aligned Regional Tax Project in **Botswana**, Burundi, **Eswatini**, Rwanda, **Mali**, **Uganda**, and **Zambia**. An SDG Taxation Framework seminar was conducted with the **Eswatini** Government in 2021 and discussions with the RNA were undertaken in the	

Resource mobilization				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			context of the development of the MTRF in Rwanda. In Botswana a general evidence research paper on fiscal decentralization was undertaken.	
UNDP, in collaboration with UN organizations relevant to the selected African LLDCs	Support selected LLDCs in Africa in developing SDG–aligned financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs): Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia (INFF knowledge sharing)	2020–2022	UNDP facilitates knowledge and technical exchanges involving LLDC countries: • Promoted INFF South–South peer exchanges through targeted webinars on INFF governance, DFA, thematic bonds, remittances, SDG budgeting and investor mapping involving **Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda** and **Zambia** sharing their experience to all RBA countries. • Co–organized with DESA, UNITAR, ECA the regional joint training on INFF in August 2021 (more detailed above). • Developed communication materials to promote good practices in terms on INFF and gender mainstreaming in **Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda** and **Zambia**.	

5.2   Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UNIDO	Accelerate industrial and manufacturing data gathering and industrial statistical capacity building in LLDCs through analytical tools such as the Industrial Analytics Platform (IAP), the UNIDO International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, and statistical databases (INDSTAT4, INDSTAT2, MINSTAT, MVA and IDSB).	2020–2024	**2020 to present:** In addition to the six SDG indicators under its custody, UNIDO continued to collect and disseminate detailed structural industrial statistics with global coverage, including for LLDCs. These statistics provide complete information on structural transformation and the roles of different sectors, including mining and manufacturing for economic development. UNIDO analyzed data from LLDCs that have contributed to the formulation of various publications and reports, including the World Manufacturing Production Reports and the Industrial Development Reports. In 2020, UNIDO launched phase II of a technical cooperation project to enhance statistical capacities in industrial statistics in countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries, with the objective of producing policy–relevant indicators of industrial performance. Among its beneficiary countries, there are eight LLDCs: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics is a flagship publication of UNIDO that provides economists, planners, policymakers and business people with worldwide statistics on current level, structure and trends in the manufacturing sector. The Yearbook is designed to facilitate international comparisons relating to manufacturing activity and industrial development and performance. It provides data that can be used to analyse patterns of growth and related long–term trends, structural change and industrial performance in individual industries.	UNIDO issued several policy briefs and statistical publications on developing countries with relevance for LLDCs: 1. "Transforming production: how developing countries can digitalize". Available HERE (May 2021) 2. "Foreign Investment: How to make it work for developing countries". Available HERE (June 2021) 3. "How developing countries can take advantage of the Fourth Industrial Revolution". Available HERE (March 2021) 4. "Capturing the 'digital dividend' in developing economies". Available HERE (November 2020) 5. "Turning health challenges into industrialization opportunities for developing countries". Available HERE (July 2020). The UNIDO International Yearbooks of Industrial Statistics containing information and data related to LLDCs data can be accessed here. The UNIDO Industrial Analytics Platform (IAP) is an innovative tool providing data on select indicators of industrial development and relevant research by leading experts in an accessible format. It includes country profiles for developed and developing countries, including LLDCs. Starting in 2022, all databases available at the UNIDO Statistics data portal distributed under an open data policy, meaning that users no longer have to pay a fee to access the databases. UNIDO strongly believes that data is crucial in guiding programming and monitoring progress. UNIDO seeks to promote an evidence–based approach to industrial policy, requiring a system of comprehensive and timely industrial indicators.

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UNIDO	Accelerate industrial and manufacturing data gathering and industrial statistical capacity building in LLDCs through analytical tools such as the Industrial Analytics Platform (IAP), the UNIDO International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, and statistical databases (INDSTAT4, INDSTAT2, MINSTAT, MVA and IDSB). **(SDG 9 Industry Tracker)**	2020–2024	In 2020, UNIDO launched a new online tool, the SDG–9 Industry Tracker – an innovative data tool that monitors performance and progress towards SDG9 targets for nearly 130 economies. The launch was a joint effort with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to showcase how a holistic approach and data tools are vital for achieving the 20130 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a post–COVID–19 world. With this Tracker, the Industrial Analytics Platform (IAP) helps countries build capacity towards evidence–based decision–making by tracking manufacturing value–added, employment, emissions, and technological progress against economies worldwide. Among the LLDCs, data for all SDG 9 industry–related indicators are available for Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, and Zambia. This reveals important data gaps in LLDCs in terms of industrial statistics.	UNIDO Statistics database and the Competitive Industrial Performance Index containing data on industrial development for LLDCs are available online (under the UNIDO Statistics Data Portal) and constantly updated. They can be accessed at: https://stat.unido.org/.
ESCAP	Support for the development of Bhutan's waste accounts	2020–2021		Bhutan's waste accounts were produced in line with recommendations of the System of Environmental–Economic Accounting (SEEA). The report on this initiative (issued in March 2021, and available at: https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/3692) was developed by the National Bureau of Statistics of Bhutan and ESCAP under the 'Strengthening statistical capacity of member states to address data availability challenges for environment–related SDGs' related to the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC). This is one of three projects that provided effective technical assistance and support enabling countries to compile water and waste accounts through shared knowledge and experience.
ESCAP	Support for the development of Mongolia's waste and water accounts	2020–2021		Mongolia's waster and water accounts produced in line with the System of Environmental–Economic Accounting (SEEA). The report on this initiative (issued in July 2021) is available here: https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/water–and–waste–accounts–reports

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
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				The report demonstrates how the SEEA framework, focusing on solid waste accounts, can be applied and implemented at a micro scale, e.g., in a company or an organization. The ESCAP Bangkok compound served as the facility for this case study.
ESCAP	Strengthen statistical capacity of member States to implement data integration approaches to produce and improve data for measuring SDG indicators	2022	Bhutan: To develop a customized data integration toolbox, which will provide tailored methods, tools and strategies to learn about and practice data integration techniques which respond to the country–specific data integration challenges, for the enhanced production of data for measuring the SDGs.	
ESCAP with UNODC and UNCTAD	Statistics and data for measuring illicit financial flows in the Asia–Pacific region	2020–2022	Support continues during 2023–2027, now with added focus on policy use and to an expanded list of countries (see entry below) –	Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan: Training was conducted on tax–related and commercial illicit financial flows (Dec 2021) and followed by desk reviews, interviews with experts and risk assessments. The resulting, groundbreaking first estimates of IFFs were presented at the Workshop on Measuring Illicit Financial Flows in the Asia–Pacific Region which was organized in Bangkok, Thailand, on 7 and 8 November 2022.
ESCAP with UNODC and UNCTAD	Illicit financial flows: Measurement and policy use	2023–2027	Training, workshops, and technical assistance on measuring illicit financial flows and using the estimates to develop evidence–based policy to curb IFFs are provided to several countries including LLDCs Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. A first training was organized for Central Asian countries in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in July 2023. Three in–country trainings will be organized later in 2023 for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, respectively.	
ESCAP	Navigating policy with data in Asia and the Pacific to leave no one behind	2021–2024	**Kyrgyzstan:** Support for the development of a national monitoring framework and indicator set (2022–2023). **Mongolia:** Support for the further implementation of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model and the development of training materials and an e–platform (2022–2023).	

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
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ESCAP	Strengthening the use of big data for official statistics in Kyrgyzstan	2023–2025	Scoping mission in 2023 followed by in–country technical assistance. Similar support may be extended to Uzbekistan; this will be determined later in 2023.	
ESCAP	Review of the National Statistical System of Mongolia	2023–2024	The review entails documentation and reporting of practices by the National Statistics Office of Mongolia through a review questionnaire (finalized August 2023), two expert review missions to Mongolia (to take place in September 2023 and early 2024), preparation and presentation of the review report which will include assessment and recommendations on strengthening the National Statistical System of Mongolia.	
ESCAP	Strengthen the capacity of Lao PDR in developing of import and export price indices.	2019–2023		The support enabled Lao PDR to regularly produce export–import price indices. The support, provided over a period of four years included training Lao Statistics Bureau staff on compilation procedures, supporting LSB access to customs data, technical assistance in data cleaning, development of a compilation manual and documentation of methods.
ESCAP	Provide capacity building to Nepal on enhancing disaster–related statistics and support on administering a climate change impacts survey.	2023–2024	The first stakeholder consultation workshop was held in April 2023 to determine the scope of disaster–related statistics (DRS) focusing on economic valuation of direct impacts from disasters and mapping vulnerabilities. A taskforce was established to coordinate between National Statistical Office (NSO), National Disaster Management Agency and other relevant stakeholders. More taskforce meetings, a second stakeholder consultation workshop and an DRS advocacy event should be held in Q3–4 2023 and Q1 2024 on the climate change impacts survey,	Two stakeholder consultation workshops held in April and Q4 of 2023 respectively. An advocacy event on disaster–related statistics for policymakers will be held in Q1 2024. A report on disaster vulnerability mapping and improved methodology on economic valuation of direct impacts from disasters will be produced by Q1 2024.
ESCAP	Support for the development of Bhutan's Vital Statistics Report 2020	2020–2021		ESCAP supported Bhutan in developing its first vital statistics report. The report, published in 2020, was the first of its kind was successfully completed and disseminated: https://www.nsb.gov.bt/vital–statistics–report/ The report seeks to leverage the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, and to fill gaps in the data available to policy and decision makers to monitor progress. This is the first report of its kind using the administrative data.

	Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems			
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
ESCAP	Support for the development of the Bhutan Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities	2020–2021		ESCAP supported Bhutan in the adaptation of the International Standard Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) (Revision 4) to the circumstances of Bhutan for use throughout the national statistical system: The associated report, published in 2020, is available at: https://www.nsb.gov.bt/wp–content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2021/06/BSIC–Report–2020.pdf The Bhutan Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC) is a standard classification of economic activities in the country. Its main purpose is to provide a set of activity categories that can be utilized for the collection and presentation of statistics by types of economic activities, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; manufacturing; transportation and storage; information and communication; and many other areas.
ESCAP	Strengthening requisite skill sets for improved quality of SDG statistics in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	2020–2022	E–learning courses were held in Russian on the System of Environmental–Economic Accounting (Nov 2020), health statistics for SDG monitoring (Feb 2021), official statistics for the SDGs (May 2021) and the System of National Accounts at the basic (Jul–Aug 2021) and intermediate (Sep 2021) levels. Webinar series were held on special topics in environmental–economic accounting (Oct 2021, https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/webinar–series–selected–topics–environmental–economic–accounting) and national accounting (Nov 2021, https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/webinar–series–selected–topics–system–national–accounts).	
ESCAP	Nurturing young official statisticians in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as catalysts for the future of official statistics	2021–2023	The inaugural project forum was held in Oct 2021 (https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/inaugural–forum–project–nurturing–young–official–statisticians–central–asia–catalysts). The forum established a network of young official statisticians, which has regularly met since. A handbook on the use of mobile phone data for official statistics (https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge–products/MPD_Handbook_RUS.pdf) and big data for population and social statistics (https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/2022–	

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
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			02/Stats_Brief_Issue29_Big_data_Apr2021_RUS.pdf) were translated into Russian.	
ESCAP	Strengthening follow–up and review for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ESCAP member States submitting Voluntary National Reviews during 2021 and 2022	2021–2022	In Kyrgyzstan, a work plan was established, a technical team was formed, national indicators were selected and national target values were set. The results are being reviewed to generate a progress assessment. In Uzbekistan, a technical team is being formed upon receiving request for assistance from the government.	
ESCAP	Integrating policy and data to leave no one behind in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific	2021–2022	**Mongolia:** In consultation with the national statistics office, the national planning agency and other relevant stakeholders, it was decided to implement the 'Every Policy Is Connected' tool in the areas of human development, social development and national competitiveness. A workplan was developed and a technical team was established. Nearly 35% of the work has been completed.	
FAO	Support LLDCs with technical assistance on Food Security and Nutrition Statistics, including SDG indicator 2.1.1 Support improving farm–level Agricultural Statistics in coordination and partnership with the World Bank, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other resource partners. (Nepal)	Ongoing	**2020 to present:** FAO supports several countries in collecting and estimating data on the population size of their livestock breeds, and entering these data in DAD–IS, the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (http://www.fao.org/dad–is/es/), in order to calculate the SDG 2.5.2 indicator related to livestock diversity, among others. This is a regular FAO activity with continuous, non– time bound support provided to countries. **Nepal** will participate in training on small area estimation methods to enable production of indicators at district level, as required by the new Nepal Constitution. FAO is in the process of establishing a Food and Diet Domain in FAOSTAT for compiling and disseminating data from	In **Nepal**, FAO supported Government officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) and the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to participate in: a regional workshop on the development of food security indicators; various trainings on other SDG indicators, such as women's access to agricultural land (5.a.1); and in methodologies and sampling strategies related to the upcoming Agricultural Census 2022, which will provide a sampling frame for the AGRIS inter–censual surveys. Capacity of MoALD, CBS, and other Government of **Nepal** agencies officials were strengthened through national level training and workshops. Various trainings were conducted to work on indicators and methodological aspects of SDG indicators.

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
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			household and individual level on statistics related to food and nutrients generated from different sources of dietary data, including: Supply Utilization Accounts (country level), Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys (household levels) and surveys and the dietary diversity indicator for women (MDD–W) (individual level).	Concerning agriculture statistics, the Agris programme– approved in January 2019– is a joint FAO–MoALD and CBS initiative to establish a national sample mechanism for the collection of agricultural data. The pilot survey was carried out in Chitwan district. FAO supported the Government of **Nepal** in developing a methodology for the National Integrated Annual Sample Survey, designing a questionnaire and introducing Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) in the Annual Sample Survey. The project also supported the design of CAPI applications, the design of new questionnaires, and data cleaning, processing and dissemination to enable the implementation of new survey programmes completed with CBS. Technical support and in-country trainings have been provided to 12 LLDCs countries since 2019 on food consumption data analysis and SDG 2.1.1
FAO	Support LLDCs with technical assistance on Food Security and Nutrition Statistics, including SDG indicator 2.1.1 Support improving farm–level Agricultural Statistics in coordination and partnership with the World Bank, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other resource partners.	2020+	FAO is establishing a Food and Diet Domain in FAOSTAT for compiling and disseminating data from household and individual level on diets.	
FAO	Through technical cooperation programmes (TCP/BDI/3901& TCP/NER/3806), FAO is building technical and operational capacity of national agriculture statistics systems of **Burundi and Niger** for implementing census of agriculture.	2022-2023	Ongoing activities include: -Support to the establishment of census governing bodies; -Facilitation of donor round table to support resource mobilisation; -User and producer workshop; -Elaboration of census methodology and instruments including recruitment of international consultants (statistics, IT/CAPI) and national consultants (gender,	Programme under completion in **Niger,** but still ongoing in **Burundi** where census pilot survey is under preparation

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
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			communication, IT, statistics) with technical coordination of FAORAF regional statistician, and contributions of RAF gender and communication experts; -Pre-test and pilot test of census instruments.	
FAO	FAO is building capacity in **Eswatini and Zambia** on collection, compilation, reporting and use of underreported SDGs (2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 5.a.1 and 12.3.1). Support at country level includes hand-on knowledge transfer on survey design and estimations of the selected SDG Indicators, disaggregation of SDG indicators using survey data for SDG indicators.	2023	Technical assistance for computation and analysis of the SDGs is planned for Mid-October 2023.	Trainings and support on improved survey instruments are completed in both countries
FAO	FAO is supporting 25 countries in Africa including LLDCs like **Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, Niger, Zambia, Zimbabwe** through the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS) to significantly increase the availability and quality of agricultural and rural statistics by developing the relevant institutional, human and financial capacities. The programme provides a framework for national and international statistical systems to produce and apply the basic data and information needed to guide policy on rural development and sustainable agricultural production.	2021-2023	Training workshops ongoing in beneficiary countries until the closure of the program in December 2023.	
FAO	FAO in collaboration with the World Bank and IFAD is implementing the 50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap which aims to empower and support fifty low and	2020-2030	Ongoing support to beneficiary countries to design and implement integrated agricultural and rural survey programs including data dissemination and data use.	

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
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	lower middle-income countries (L/LMICs) to build strong national data systems that produce and use high-quality, timely agricultural survey data. Beneficiary countries include LLDCs like **Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Uganda**			
UNOSSC and UNDP	Under the India–UN Fund, complete a National Participatory Poverty Assessment of Eswatini, and through it design of tailored policies for inclusion and poverty reduction.	2020		Under the India–UN Fund, completed a National Participatory Poverty Assessment of Eswatini, and through it design of tailored policies for inclusion and poverty reduction.
UNOSSC and UNFPA	Under the India–UN Fund, revamp the national statistical system of Republic of Moldova into an efficient, register–based and user–oriented platform, also enhanced with administrative data.	2020–2022	Under the India–UN Fund, the national statistical system of Republic of Moldova was revamped into an efficient, register–based and user–oriented platform. It was also enhanced with administrative data. Data driven decision–making was supported by the publication of the Generations and Gender Survey results.	
ADB	Provide technical assistance to pivotal entities in the national statistical Systems of Afghanistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and Lao PDR to improve the relevance, accuracy, timeliness and detail of economic statistics (encompassing all major areas of the data development process, namely: survey design; data collection; data cleaning; data management; statistical compilation; statistical analysis; and information dissemination)	Completed		Output 2 of KSTA 9624-REG Supporting Knowledge Solutions in Central and West Asian Countries provided tailored support to national statistical offices (NSO) in Central and West Asian countries, based on the identified needs and gaps for evidence-based policy making and modernizing national statistical systems. This Output was implemented jointly with ADB's Economic Research and Development Impact Department (ERDI). Technical capacity building to statistical staff covering the sources and methods related to the System of National Accounts (SNA); the compilation of Supply and Use Tables (SUTs) and Input-Output Tables (IOTs); and economic analysis using input-output (IO) methods have been completed for Afghanistan1, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Value-added tax (VAT) matrices for Armenia and Kazakhstan; 2017 constant price SUT for Kazakhstan; and social accounting matrix (SAM) for Armenia were also constructed. Support was provided to develop the institutional capacity to produce a three-year time-series of SUTs, and IOTs. Constant

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
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				price SUTs, SAMs, VAT matrices, and IO-global value chains (GVC) analysis were developed for selected DMCs. Under Output 2, the website of the state statistics committee of Uzbekistan was redeveloped to facilitate greater transparency of sources, methods, and wider dissemination of statistics. Due to the pandemic, all activities planned for 2020–2021 (and most of 2022) were shifted from in-person to virtual mode. Output 2 also developed publications to enhance evidence-based policymaking in CW countries. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, many specialized in-person and virtual training were provided over the project implementation period (2018–2022) to the participating DMCs. DMC representatives discussed the accomplishments under output 2 of the KSTA during the project closing workshop and conference on economic globalization in Istanbul, Türkiye, during 1–6 August 2022.
UNWTO	Regional capacity building programmes and workshops to support countries in their development of Systems of Tourism Statistics for a better monitoring of the state of tourism, its role in economic, social and environmental systems, and for guiding policy and the mainstreaming of tourism into broader or adjacent policy instruments.	Ongoing	UNWTO will continue its national and regional capacity building activities in the areas of: (a) basic tourism statistics, (b) Tourism Satellite Account (to measure the economic contribution of tourism) and (c) measuring the sustainability of tourism. The Regional Statistics Capacity Building Programme for Northern and Western Africa in tourism statistics (2017–ongoing), composed of a series of 3 workshops, will conclude this year with the final workshop to be held virtually in May 2022. It has so far included: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Building on this, an additional workshop in a presential setting may take place in cooperation with UEMOA and will also include Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. A regional online workshop on Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism that took place in December 2022 included Bhutan, Lao PDR, Moldova, Mongolia, and Nepal. An online workshop on Tourism Statistics for selected African countries that took place in July 2021 included Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia.	

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
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UNWTO	Technical cooperation projects to support countries in their development of Systems of Tourism Statistics for a better monitoring of the state of tourism, its role in economic, social and environmental systems, and for guiding policy and the mainstreaming of tourism into broader or adjacent policy instruments.	Ongoing	UNWTO is supporting countries through technical cooperation in the areas of: (a) basic tourism statistics ; (b) Tourism Satellite Account (to measure the economic contribution of tourism) and, more recently, in the area of (c) Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism. Projects are currently ongoing in the following LLDCs: - Malawi: development of tourism statistics system and the Tourism Satellite Account, - Mongolia : development of tourism statistics system and the tourism satellite account (start of the project pending receipt of funds) - Nepal: Tourism Satellite Account, - Tajikistan : strengthening Tajikistan's tourism statistics - Uzbekistan: facilitating tourism recovery in aftermath of Covid–19 – situation analysis focused on measuring the impacts of COVID–19 - Zambia : socio–economic impact assessment of COVID–19 in the tourism sector Zambia, and - Zimbabwe: with the launch of its Tourism Satellite Account. In addition, with the support of the World Bank, Kyrgyzstan (2020) carried out an exploratory study on the implementation of Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism.	
DESA	Support statistical capacity development in most LLDCs with a particular focus on strengthening the delivery of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) and statistics of international trade in services (SITS).	2020–2024	Strengthened national statistical systems regarding IMTS and SITS through specific interventions via e–learning and remote workshops https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/default.asp	The following courses were completed in 2020 and 2021: E–Learning Course on Statistics of International Trade in Services (un.org) Annual E–Learning Course on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (un.org) Regional Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS) (un.org)
DESA, ESCAP and ECLAC	Support Lao PDR as a beneficiary of the Development Account project "Inclusive and sustainable economic growth in a society for all ages".	2023–2026	This project will support eight developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific, including Lao PDR, to strengthen capacity to produce National Inclusion Accounts, analyze the impacts of population ageing on inclusive and sustainable development, and formulate public policies and plans to	

Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			achieve these goals. National training workshops will commence in 2024.	

5.3 Assistance towards deriving benefits from relevant conventions and other legal instruments, including UNCLOS

Assistance towards deriving benefits from relevant conventions and other legal instruments, including UNCLOS				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
ISA	Identify measures to increase the participation of LLDCs in the implementation of the regime of the international seabed area and in the work of the International Seabed Authority.	Ongoing (with some activities completed)		ISA has prepared a dedicated publication aimed at informing LLDCs of the potential benefits offered to them. This publication, entitled "Landlocked developing countries and the law of the sea: an ocean of opportunity", along with sister publications aimed at LDCs and SIDS, has been released in November 2021.
OLA	Provide needs–based technical assistance and capacity–building programmes to LLDCs to build their understanding and the implementation of relevant international, regional and sub–regional conventions and other legal instruments, including those related to transit transport and trade facilitation, as well as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, so as to reinforce their abilities to derive benefits from the oceans and blue economy strategies.	Ongoing	In the context of UNNF Programmes, a series of on–line training activities are offered by OLA, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, to the Alumni of the Fellowship Programmes, which include 7 nationals of LLDCs. Aligning with important international developments, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the launch of the second World Ocean Assessment, the training activities focus on the topic of "science for ocean sustainability".	

6 OTHER AREAS

6.1 Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UN–OHRLLS in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan, DESA and IRENA	Enhance LLDC capacity to address climate change	2021–2022	UN–OHRLLS commissioned a report that seeks to enhance LLDC capacity to address climate change during the COVID era. The report examines climate challenges faced by LLDCs, and outlines policy recommendations that can assist them in strengthening their resilience and their capacity to counter the adverse effects of climate change. With a view to build on lessons learned and past experiences, the report provides examples of climate impacts in a variety of LLDCs, and outlines approaches used by LLDCs to mitigate or adapt to these impacts. The report should be published in 2022.	On 3 November 2021, on the sidelines of UNFCCC COP 26, UN–OHRLLS, in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan, DESA and IRENA, organized an event on enhancing capacity of LLDCs to address climate change, energy and water–related challenges during COVID–19 era. The event included presentations from UN system and LLDC high–level representatives. Participants discussed the impact of climate change on LLDCs, with a focus on water security, food security, energy connectivity and infrastructure, and the interlinkages and indicate how COVID–19 has exacerbated the situation. They highlighted priority needs, solutions and areas of capacity support to ensure LLDCs can make steady and significant progress in addressing the adverse effects of climate change. More information on the event is available **HERE.**
UNFCCC	Facilitate acceleration of support for the formulation of NAPs and subsequent implementation of project and programmes in increased number of LLDCs	2020+	• The Open NAP initiative of the UNFCCC LDC Expert Group is a direct country support modality that assists the LDCs in advancing the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). • Activities undertaken thus far for Jan 2021 to March 30 2022 includes: (1) mobilizing national experts for LLDCs (Lesotho, Malawi) and other countries (Mozambique, Comoros) to assemble climate data and information to inform the formulation of the NAP; (2) conducting NAP writing workshops for all LDCs to enhance their capacities in developing project ideas for submission to funding windows such as the Green Climate Fund.	

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
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			As of 31 March 2022, there is a total of 34 submitted NAPs – 13 from LDCs and 6 from LLDCs (Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay and South Sudan).	
UNEP	Through the Global Adaptation Network, facilitate exchange of knowledge on climate change adaptation between countries including LLDCs, strengthening their resilience and reducing their vulnerability to climate shocks.	Ongoing	**In South Sudan,** a new GEF –funded project ($9 million) was launched to strengthen the capacity of government and communities to adapt to climate change. The project, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, UNEP and WMO, will be looking at solutions such as ecosystem–based adaptation and climate–smart agriculture.	
UNEP	A GEF–funded project "Technology Needs Assessment (TNA)" Phase IV, provide targeted financial and technical support to participating LLDCs (including Afghanistan, Chad, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Niger, South Sudan, Uganda) to prepare new, or updated and improved TNAs for prioritized technologies that reduce GHG emissions, support adaptation to climate change, and are consistent with Nationally Determined Contributions and national sustainable development objectives.	Ongoing Expected 2020–2023	Technology Needs Assessment (TNA): Among other countries, in October 2020, three LLDCs in Africa (namely: Ethiopia, Lesotho, South Sudan) started on their TNA process under the fourth round of the global TNA project to carry out new or improved Technology Needs Assessments, from 2020 to 2023. To support countries in starting the TNA process and developing their first reports (Technology Needs Assessment reports), countries take part in multiple online meetings with country coordinators from the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre.	
UNEP	Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short–Lived Climate Pollutants ("the Coalition") supports countries (Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Mongolia) to reduce short–lived climate pollutants delivered through eleven initiatives targeting transformational change.	2021+	With CCAC support, a number of countries including LLDCs (Bangladesh and Mongolia) have reflected SLCP's, air quality and health co–benefits in their revised NDCs.	

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
UNDRR	• Provide technical and capacity building support to LLDCs to update or develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies that are in–line with the Sendai Framework, and in coherence with the national adaptation and mitigation policies as well as national SDG policies, and support the implementation of the disaster risk reduction and resilience objectives of the VPoA. • Mobilize LLDCs to join the "Target E Coherent Approach" initiative to strengthen policy coherence by providing normative guidance and available methodology on building coherence across DRR, climate change and sustainable development at national and local levels as part of DRR strategies/NAPs. • Mobilize the National Sendai Framework focal point and the National Platform for DRR to support the LLDCs to promote a coherent linkage with climate change and sustainable development.	2020+	- As of end-2022, 23 LLDCs reported to have national disaster risk reduction strategies in place (up from 11 LLDC countries reporting in 2015), and 19 LLDCs have reported having local DDR strategies in place. Recent developments include UNDDR's support to the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan in designing national platforms for disaster risk reduction to strengthen risk governance with an all-of-government approach; and a study on the "Multiple Benefits of DRR investment" carried out in Zambia, which analysed the costs and possible economic gains of risk-informed investment in housing, productive assets, and public infrastructure. UNDRR also supported Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Nepal in developing DRR Status Reports, which showed the need to improve the localisation of the DRR agenda and increase multistakeholder engagement. UNDRR recently collaborated with all four countries to strengthen this engagement, including through consultations for the national voluntary reviews of Bhutan, Lao PDR and Mongolia as part of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework. In Ethiopia, UNDRR worked with the National Disaster Risk Management Committee to apply the "risk sensitive budget review" tool to track and promote investments that contribute to the reduction of disaster risk in public budgets. of Bhutan, Lao PDR and Mongolia as part of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework. In Ethiopia, UNDRR worked with the National Disaster Risk Management Committee to apply the "risk sensitive budget review" tool to track and promote investments that contribute to the reduction of disaster risk in public budgets. - UNDRR supports LLDCs to enhance the collection and analysis of disaster and climate risk data, including by rolling out the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) in Eswatini and South Sudan. Within the framework of the Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on climate change and resilience, UNDRR also provides support to Paraguay and Bolivia as part of the Gran Chaco, including by contributing to issue briefs and policy support on topics such as wildfires	- Between January 2020 to June 2021, 23 online training workshops drew 630 participants from 30 LLDC countries to strengthen understanding and capacities to update or develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies that are in–line with the Sendai Framework, and in coherence with the national adaptation and mitigation policies as well as national SDG policies, and support the implementation of the disaster risk reduction and resilience objectives of the VPoA. Of 23 training workshops offered, 19 targeted local action and 4 targeted national action. Topics included harnessing South–South cooperation, planning for resilient and healthy cities post COVID–19 and how to use the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities or custom Sendai Framework indicators to inform strategies, planning and implementation in country. The 30 LLDCs represented are Africa: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; Americas: Bolivia, Paraguay; Asia: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal; Central Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; Europe: Moldova, North Macedonia. - Case studies on policy coherence between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction have been produced with the participation of representatives from Niger, Malawi, Uganda. - Technical support has been provided to Lao PDR in the development of their new National DRR Strategy to ensure alignment with the Sendai Framework for DRR and is currently awaiting endorsement by government.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			and gender and women's empowerment. Finally, UNDRR continued its efforts to ensure humanitarian, development and peace-building planning and programming are all risk-informed, including by supporting countries to include and apply disaster risk reduction in the Common Country Analyses (CCA) and Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (CF). Recent inputs were provided in the CCAs/CFs of Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Lao PDR, Mongolia and South Sudan.	
UNDRR	Mobilize local authorities in LLDCs to join the successor of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign 2010–2020 in order to support local governments to assess the resilience of cities and develop and implement local DRR strategies.	2020+	The Making Cities Resilient Campaign concluded in 2020 and the new Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative was launched in October 2020. **As of May 2023:** UNDRR has supported local authorities in Chisinau (Moldova), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Entebbe, Jinja and Mukono (Uganda), and Mutare (Zimbabwe), among others, to conduct assessments of each city's disaster resilience to build capacity for risk-informed planning and inform the development of local disaster risk reduction strategies. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, a particular focus has been given to the resilience of the public health sector in urban areas. Training sessions and peer-learning for local governments and partners under the MCR2030 initiative continue, including for many LLDC countries, such as Nepal, Mongolia and Bhutan. In 2022, Mongolian provinces carried out a second MCR2030 Scorecard assessment, and a workshop was held in November 2022 with all provinces signed up to MCR2030. As the first country which applies the MCR2030 Scorecard as a monitoring tool to evaluate its resilience progress, Mongolia is well positioned to share its experience with other MCR2003 cities. In Armenia, UNDRR is supporting the MCR2030 implementation. MCR2030 provides a three–stage resilience roadmap to assessing, planning, and implementing local risk reduction strategies and resilience building initiatives. Dedicated MCR2030 events were organized to increase engagement and awareness of city membership, including a	**August 2021:** The Making Cities Resilient Campaign concluded in 2020. In Lao PDR, the joint workplan for 2022 was developed by UNDRR and UNDP Lao PDR Office to support the development of local DRR planning, in alignment with the priorities identified under the new National DRR Strategy. In Uganda, from March 2020 to June 2021, UNDRR and ICLEI–Local Governments for Sustainability–Africa Secretariat (ICLEI Africa) implemented the Making Cities Resilient: Supporting Cities in Uganda towards the development of local disaster risk reduction strategies. This project supported the cities of Jinja, Mukono and Entebbe to develop local DRR strategies.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
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			joint webinar with ICLEI Europe on Nature–Based Solutions in November 2021. In Nepal, in the second half of 2021, UNDRR began conducting training sessions for local governments and partners under the new Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative. In Uganda, UNDRR is supporting increased engagement between national and sub–national governments. The initiative prioritizes strengthening of the local resilience agenda and the link between national and sub–national authorities in terms of coordination, planning and implementation of resilience actions. To accelerate MCR2030 efforts, five webinars were organized on local DRR strategies and an urban resilience campaign that reached over 200 representatives from local and national agencies to advance recommendations and champion the revision of local strategies, aligned with the Sendai Framework. In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova, UNDRR contributed to the development of Socio–Economic Response and Recovery Plans, including Public Health System Resilience utilizing the UNDRR Scorecard assessment methodology	
UNDRR	Provide technical support and capacity building to LLDCs to establish or strengthen national disaster loss databases, using the DesInventar Sendai tool, and to report on the targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction indicators of the SDGs through the Sendai Framework Monitor. Support LLDCs to conduct disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles to guide evidence–based risk–informed policies and investments across the priority areas of the VPoA. **(Ethiopia)**	2020+		**Ethiopia:** A capacity building initiative on early warning forest fire information management and risk sensitive budget reviews was undertaken, in collaboration with national authorities from DRR, forests, and meteorology. The forest fire information management system relies on the MyDEWETRA platform—an open–source web–based system for real–time data collection, monitoring, and forecasting of natural hazards – and the forest fire forecasting model RISICO, to demonstrate the early warning system and where early action is required. The system will assist national and regional authorities in improving the social and economic resilience of communities in fire–prone areas. With the Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC) of Ethiopia, UNDRR produced a Risk Sensitive Budget Review which complements efforts for a wider

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
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				reform undertaken by development partners and the Ministry of Finance. The Risk Sensitive Budget Review of Ethiopia was carried out with the aim of supporting the DRMC in tracking and promoting investments that contribute to DRR in Ethiopia
UNDRR	Provide technical support and capacity building to LLDCs to establish or strengthen national disaster loss databases, using the DesInventar Sendai tool, and to report on the targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction indicators of the SDGs through the Sendai Framework Monitor. Support LLDCs to conduct disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles to guide evidence–based risk–informed policies and investments across the priority areas of the VPoA. **(Malawi)**	2020+		**Malawi (2021):** Authorities from national institutions have been trained on an impact–based EWS open–source tool (MyDewetra). A draft report has been developed that analyses existing legal and institutional framework and recommendations for improvements in EWS.
UNDRR	Provide technical support and capacity building to LLDCs to establish or strengthen national disaster loss databases, using the DesInventar Sendai tool, and to report on the targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction indicators of the SDGs through the Sendai Framework Monitor. Support LLDCs to conduct disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles to guide evidence–based risk–informed policies and investments across the priority areas of the VPoA. **(Eswatini)**	2020+		**Eswatini (2021):** UNDRR worked to roll–out its Global Risk Assessment Framework initiative (GRAF) with the following interventions: Increased access to, and improved quality of, existing disaster, vulnerability and exposure and climate data and analysis; Innovative research and partnerships to fill gaps in risk knowledge, and to support end–users to apply risk information in their solutions; Targeted capacity building on how to apply improved risk data and tools and to accelerate cross–country learning.
UNDRR	Provide technical support and capacity building to LLDCs to establish or strengthen national disaster loss databases, using the DesInventar	2020+	**LLDC members of IGAD:** UNDRR has been working with the African Union Commission and the International Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to support LLDCs to strengthen early warning systems. For	**LLDC members of IGAD:** In 2021, support was provided to the Climate Center of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regional economic community to enhance its flood monitoring and

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
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	Sendai tool, and to report on the targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction indicators of the SDGs through the Sendai Framework Monitor. Support LLDCs to conduct disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles to guide evidence–based risk–informed policies and investments across the priority areas of the VPoA. **(LLDCs members of IGAD)**		example, technical support to revise data on multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments was provided to Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Zimbabwe. The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) African Multi-Hazard Advisory Centre was inaugurated in October 2022 and will further enhance the continental capacity to generate regular continental hazards and disaster situation reports, continental climate trends and impacts as well as impact-based advisories and watches. With guidance and technical knowledge from UNDRR, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC)'s Disaster Operations Centre (DOC) is playing a key role in multi–hazard monitoring and issuance of early warnings for drought, flood, pests like the desert locust, extreme rainfall, and food insecurity in the IGAD region that covers 11 East African countries. It will be further connected to the Continental situation room for DRR at the African Union in Ethiopia, and the ACMAD situation room in Niger with the aim of forming a continental MHEWS for early action. Following the establishment of the DOC situation room, IGAD Member States requested IGAD to install or upgrade their own situation rooms that will be connected to the AUC–ICPAC–ACMAD rooms. UNDRR is working with IGAD–ICPAC to support this request.	forecasting capacity and information relevant for early warning and for food insecurity assessment which are services it aims to provide for IGAD Member States.
UNDRR	Provide technical support and capacity building to LLDCs to establish or strengthen national disaster loss databases, using the DesInventar Sendai tool, and to report on the targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction indicators of the SDGs through the Sendai Framework Monitor. Support LLDCs to conduct disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles to guide evidence–based risk–informed	2020+	A new four–year project funded by the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative and initiated in 2021 seeks to strengthen and address current gaps across the pillars of the early warning systems in Lao PDR: Risk Knowledge, Hazard Monitoring, Forecasting and Warning Services, Dissemination and Communication and Response Capability. Results are expected in the following areas: • Strengthened institutions, operational and governance frameworks of national meteorological and hydro–met services and disaster management organizations • Capacity to provide timely and precise warnings grounded in a solid understanding of hazards and their	In Lao PDR, UNDRR supported the harmonization of Sendai Framework Monitor indicators with national disaster risk reduction strategies and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) to ensure the achievement of Sendai Framework targets and disaster–risk related SDGs. The new UNSDCFs directly utilize SFM indicators to measure progress.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
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	policies and investments across the priority areas of the VPoA. **(Lao PDR)**		potential impacts on people and systems with differentiated exposure and vulnerability • Ability to disseminate warnings to the people and institutions that need them most, through ICTs • Enhanced preparedness and response capability for early actions that mitigate impact and build resilience • Improved integration of gender and disability inclusiveness to ensure early warnings are inclusive.	
UNDRR	Provide technical support and capacity building to LLDCs to establish or strengthen national disaster loss databases, using the DesInventar Sendai tool, and to report on the targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction indicators of the SDGs through the Sendai Framework Monitor. Support LLDCs to conduct disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles to guide evidence–based risk–informed policies and investments across the priority areas of the VPoA. **(Bolivia, Paraguay)**	2020+	Bolivia: Since 2021, UNDRR has been supporting Bolivia in areas of Sendai Framework monitoring and reporting as well as DesInventar Sendai. Bolivia is in the data collection stage and participating in DesInventar Sendai training sessions for their technical teams. Bolivia and Paraguay: national statistics offices participate in the LAC disaster–related statistics working group through ECLAC's Statistics Conference of the Americas for which UNDRR and ECLAC hold joint technical secretariat of this particular group and through which we support knowledge exchange and shared practices among other things. The WG has a total of 9 participating NSOs from the region. (2020–2021)	
UNDRR	Provide technical support and capacity building to LLDCs to establish or strengthen national disaster loss databases, using the DesInventar Sendai tool, and to report on the targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction indicators of the SDGs through the Sendai Framework Monitor. Support LLDCs to conduct disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles to guide evidence–based risk–informed policies and investments across the priority areas of the VPoA **(Armenia,**		**Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan:** UNDRR has provided active support to reinforce capacity to collect and record disaster risk and implement the Sendai DesInventar Disaster Loss Database methodology. UNDRR has also implemented the INFORM sub-national risk index model for Central Asia (covering 5 LLDCs), the Caucasus (covering 2 LLDCs), and South-Eastern Europe (covering 1 LLDC), which supports strategy development and decision-making on disaster response, preparedness, and risk reduction. Focused support, including virtual training, technical meetings and in-person workshops to enhance the availability of disaster loss data.	

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan)			
UNCCD	• Support LLDCs in setting their Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets (SDG 15.3) promoting healthy and productive lands for a sustainable and resilient future in the context of the impacts of climate change and COVID–19. • Support LLDCs upon their request in the mobilization of technical and financial support for the early stage development of LDN transformative projects and programmes to implement national LDN targets.	2020–2021		–All LLDCs in Africa, Latin America, and Central and East Europe, and all except one in Asia have been supported in making commitments to set LDN targets. –LLDCs have also been supported in receiving technical guidance and specialized expertise throughout the targe–setting process, linked to the four building blocks for LDN target setting: i) Leveraging LDN: facilitating the engagement of decision makers and stakeholders involved in land management and the LDN target–setting process; ii) Assessing LDN: strengthening countries' capacities for making informed decisions on what action to take by assessing the current state of land and the drivers of land degradation, using the best available data; iii) Setting LDN targets and associated measures: supporting countries to define country's ambitions in combating land degradation by defining LDN targets and measures, and iv) Achieving LDN: helping countries to create an enabling environment by integrating LDN into national policies and identifying investment opportunities along with transformative LDN programmes and projects.
GCF	Continue to strengthen the capacity of Least Developed and African LLDCs to identify, design and implement projects and programmes to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to respond to climate change.	2020–2023	**2020 to present:** 70 of the projects approved by GCF's Board in LLDCs are under implementation, with a total of 82 projects having been approved. In addition, as of 5 September 2023, GCF has approved 155 Readiness support grants (USD 107.5 million) to LLDCs, boosting their capacity to engage with GCF, develop projects and tackle the challenge of climate change. GCF also has a total of 47 direct access entities (DAEs) from LLDCs accredited to receive GCF financing. For more information, the GCF-1 Progress Report provides an account of our efforts, as the world's largest dedicated climate fund, to increase the speed and delivery of climate finance to drive the paradigm shift towards low emission and climate-resilient development pathways in line with	

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING: INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED: INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
			the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	
GCF	• Provide sufficient resources and technical assistance through the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, which supports country–driven initiatives by developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) towards a transformational long–term climate action agenda. • Support private sector engagement in all developing countries, including least developed LLDCs to help build markets for climate action.	2020–2023	GCF plays a pivotal role in shifting and catalyzing financial flows managed by the private sector into low–emission and climate–resilient investments in developing countries. Among the key objectives of GCF's 2020–2023 Updated Strategic Plan, the Fund is striving toward delivering a significant increased portfolio level mobilization achieved through the GCF contributions to private sector projects under the Private Sector Facility, relative to the 2015–2019 Initial Resource Mobilization period. In the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan approved by the Board in July 2023, the GCF is committed to provide broad-based seed and early-stage capital for innovative climate solutions, business models and technologies in 900 to 1500 local private sector early-stage ventures and MSMEs. As of 5 September 2023, GCF has approved USD 2.9 billion in GCF investments into 29 LLDC countries which have mobilized an additional USD 7.7 billion in co-investment from Private Sector sources, to build a portfolio of projects with a total value USD 12.8 billion.	
UNIDO	Assist LLDCs to achieve the objectives of and to comply with Multilateral Environmental Agreements; and support them to reduce the release of industrial pollutants in the environment	2020–2024	UNIDO continuously assists LLDCs to enhance action under relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements contributing to climate solutions including the Montreal Protocol, the Minamata Convention and the Stockholm Convention. Some of the LLDCs beneficiaries are: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Mongolia, Nepal, Rwanda, Turkmenistan, **Uganda and Zambia**. Financial and technical support for countries to implement the Montreal Protocol and the subsequent Kigali Amendment requirements leads to the transfer of	

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			advanced technologies related to the recovery and reclamation of refrigerants in these countries.	
UNIDO	Promote industrial resource efficiency to strengthen green industry and improve the effective use of natural resources	2020–2024	UNIDO, together with other UN agencies (UNEP, ILO, UNITAR, and UNDP), have continued to implement a tailored partnership on green economy, namely the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in LLDCs such as: **Mongolia, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan,** and **Kazakhstan**. Mongolia and Burkina Faso became graduating countries from PAGE serving as the programme's green economy champions.	
ECA	*Proposal*: Enhance nationally determined contributions to climate action in LLDCs in Africa	Pending	There is ongoing work on this initiative broadly across African countries. However, LLDC–specific interventions are yet to be disaggregated. Efforts will be made to carry out such disaggregation.	
FAO	Support LLDCs on the design, revision, implementation and monitoring of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and enhancement, monitoring and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the agriculture sector, to ensure enhanced mitigation, adaptation and resilience of smallholder farmers, and compliance with the provisions of the Paris Agreement. (Nepal).	Ongoing	Under the umbrella of the Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through nationally determined contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA) programme, a joint programme for Nepal is being developed by FAO and UNDP in close coordination and collaboration with the Governments of **Nepal** and **Mongolia**. The document is in the final stage of approval	
FAO	Support LLDCs on the design, revision, implementation and monitoring of NAPs and enhancement, monitoring and implementation of the NDCs in the agriculture sector (Bolivia and Paraguay).	Ongoing	In **Bolivia** and **Paraguay**, FAO is actively mobilizing funds for a green recovery. A Green Climate Fund (GCF) project is already under implementation in Paraguay and a proposal for **Bolivia** will be submitted shortly.	
FAO	Enhancing the Transparency in Implementation and Monitoring of NDC under the Paris Agreement	2019–2022	In **Mongolia**, FAO is providing support towards building the national capacity and mechanisms for Mongolia to be able to prepare reports to the UNFCCC under the Paris	

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			Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework with strengthened agriculture, forestry and other land use sector component.	
FAO	Support to Asian LLDCs, under the Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger, to launch the Zero Hunger Challenge and address the dual challenges of zero hunger and climate change.	2017–2022	Support to enhance access to adequate, affordable, nutritious and healthy food for all in **Afghanistan** and **Mongolia**.	FAO supported **Bhutan, Lao PDR and Nepal** to harness the potential of neglected and underutilized species. For instance, **Lao PDR** applied a four–dimensional criteria and prioritized neglected and underutilized species that are nutrient–dense, climate–resilient locally available or adaptable and economically viable as Future Smart Food. **Lao PDR** has integrated agricultural diversification in its National Agricultural Development Strategy, which guided the shift from rice–based farming systems to more diversified and sustainable agrifood systems. In **Nepal,** the National Action Plan on Zero Hunger Challenge (2016- 2025) was launched jointly by the Government of Nepal and FAO in 2016. The plan is under implementation and mainstreamed in the Government's regular programme initiatives.
FAO	Support to LLDCs in the development of early warnings systems and Anticipatory Action (AA) protocols for priority hazards at the national and sub-national level.	2022+	The protocols were developed in close coordination with partners and governments - in some countries, the process was led by OCHA in the framework of the CERF-funded AA pilots. The AA protocols and related risk monitoring and trigger mechanisms allow monitoring priority hazards and triggering anticipatory action to mitigate their expected impacts on the most vulnerable and food insecure households. Multi-stakeholder processes have been conducted to define indicators, risk thresholds, funding mechanisms, targeting criteria, suitable anticipatory actions, and standard operating procedures to link early warning to anticipatory action.	In 2022 Anticipatory Action systems were developed for LLDCs including **Afghanistan, Laos PDR, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.** In **Malawi,** FAO is closely working with the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological services (DCCMS) and supports the department to develop and disseminate down-scaled seasonal forecasts as an early warning tool to risk inform agricultural preparedness activities in targeted agriculture dependent communities. The National Anticipatory Action for Dry Spells that has been developed by FAO benefitted from extensive engagement with DCCMS. The indicators that are part of the Early Warning and Triggering System of the AA Dry Spells Model were selected and validated in collaboration with the department.

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				FAO is providing support for the strengthening of EWS in **Bolivia** and **Paraguay,** linking them to anticipatory actions and considering the specific needs of rural populations at risk. In **South Sudan**, FAO is investing in the installation of rain gauges around the country to facilitate accurate weather data collection to feed into the early warning systems. Furthermore, FAO is collaborating with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM), which is the mandated ministry regarding DRM to support the national early warning platform that provides periodic multi-hazard bulletins. It is also providing support for the application of GIS technology to help to downscale critical weather forecast information from regional climate forecasts to provide timely information to farmers and community members about hazards and preparedness through generating local level early warning information.
FAO	Support to LLDCs in disaster and climate risk-informed agrifood systems development	2020+		In **Afghanistan,** FAO distributes improved seed varieties that are adapted to local conditions (drought tolerance or early mature varieties). FAO continues to support investment in water resource management focusing on improved irrigation techniques and promotes farm-level DRR good practices across agriculture sub-sectors.
FAO	Damage and loss assessment in agriculture methodology is promoted into national data collection systems	2015+	FAO is promoting and supporting the good practice of the institutionalization of the damage and loss assessment in agriculture methodology (Sendai C2 Indicator) into national data collection systems to ensure the systematic application of the assessment to increase the availability of agricultural damage and loss data.	In **Armenia,** a web-based interactive software for recording, managing, and calculating the economic loss in agriculture was developed in accordance with FAO's disaster damage and loss assessment methodology. The software was built as an upgrade of the offline post-disaster needs assessment tool. The software has been field tested and can be used for the Sendai and SDG Monitor at aggregated level or for damage and loss assessments at the farm level for compensation and insurance purposes. The designed software will be

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				useable by all interested countries and is easily modifiable to the specificities of countries.
FAO	In **Kyrgyzstan**, FAO is a part of a joint project funded by PBF in partnership with UN Women and Roza Otunbaeva Foundation on Blossoming Aigul titled "Capacitated Women Civil Society Organizations (WCSOs) sustaining peace in Kyrgyzstan".		The project is focused on institutional capacity building of WCSOs and creating a conducive environment for their participation in strategic level decision-making as a basis for addressing climate security leading towards sustaining peace in Kyrgyzstan. The outcome of the project will be achieved through three interlinked outputs focusing on: 1) strengthening the institutional capacities of WCSOs engaged in peacebuilding especially in the South of the country, 2) supporting central and local government in creating sustainable and inclusive mechanisms and practices for partnering with WCSOs, and 3) creating opportunities to test new ways of collaboration among WCSOs and the Government towards mitigating climate-related security risks and thus contributing to sustaining peace.	
FAO	DRR Planning for the Agriculture sector as part of the implementation of Sendai Framework Target E	2015+		Provincial Agricultural Development Plan for 2023 was developed for Laos for floods and drought risk management
FAO	Under FAO's interregional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) "Catalysing investments and actions to enhance resilience against sand and dust storms (SDS) in agriculture" aimed at improving evidence-based understanding of transboundary scale of SDS and their impact on agriculture.	2020 - 2022		As part of the TCP, SDS risk, vulnerability, capacity assessments were conducted and SDS contingency planning and standard operating procedures were developed at district level in Mongolia to reduce the adverse impacts on agriculture, in particular livestock.
FAO	DRR and CCA mainstreaming in agriculture is promoted in countries' legal, policy and institutional frameworks			FAO supported the disaster risk management situation analysis in **Ethiopia's** agriculture sector, which helped to better understand the achievement to-date in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction/management and climate change adaptation and the factors affecting its integration within the agriculture sector. Part of the analysis also included potential actions to enhance the mainstreaming at the federal and decentralized levels.

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FAO	Farmer-managed on-farm trials to test and develop small-scale aquaculture and fisheries management practices that support subsistence farming families to adapt to climate change	Jan 23 – May 24	Over 80 farming families in two provinces of northern Lao PDR have developed and are now testing modified aquaculture and fisheries management practices in their rice field environments during the 2023 monsoon season – June – October). Families receiving regular support from extension officers

Informal self-help groups established in 26 villages with support from district agricultural development officers and backstopping support from the Department of Livestock and Fisheries.

Strengthened capacity of central, provincial and district level government authorities to promote a process of farmer-directed adaptation to climate change in the aquaculture and fisheries sector. | FAO/Laos Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR |
| FAO | Expansion and development of a local-level dialogue on climate adaptation for fisheries and aquaculture in Lao PDR | Jan 23 – May 24 | Climate-resilient practices shared in Oudomxay and Luang Namtha provinces of Lao PDR during April 2023 in response to rapidly changing climatology. FAO and national partners developed a novel approach to raising awareness and understanding of climate change, that encourages a "free flowing" discussion that aims to foster more effective and engaging interactions with the farming community, focusing on practical solutions and incorporating the local context into the dialogue. This approach to the promotion of climate change adaptation is now being scaled-up by the DLF to other provinces. Initiating dialogue on climate change adaptation which focuses on the aquaculture and fisheries sector, is seen by DLF as an effective entry point for strengthening awareness and understanding of the climate change agenda at the community level. | FAO/ Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR |
| UNOSSC and UNDP | Under the India-UN Fund, • Reinforce the resilience of vulnerable populations through sustainable livelihoods, in Chad; • Build 6 improved village hydraulic systems in Mali; • Build a damn and hydraulic systems for land restoration in Burkina Faso; | 2020–2023 | | All deliverables completed. Under the India–UN Fund: –Reinforce the resilience of vulnerable populations through sustainable livelihoods, in Chad; –Build 6 improved village hydraulic systems in Mali; –Dig wells to combat draught and floods in Bolivia

In Paraguay the Climate Promise initiative is strengthening ambitious climate leadership (training |

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	• Dig wells to combat draught and floods in Bolivia. 2020-2023			National climate change cabinet, incorporating national gender climate strategy). Also supported Paraguay's National Determined Contribution (NDC) update to meet Paris Agreement goals and actually the Climate Long Terms Strategy (up to 2050). Supporting the development of sectoral mitigation plans to achieve NDC goals and engaging the private sector in developing a financial strategy and financial mechanism. UNDP is also supporting Paraguay to identify opportunities to increase ambition in the energy sector; estimate the costs and mitigation and adaptation benefits of a livestock measure for inclusion in the revised NDC; identify synergies between the NDC, National Adaptation Plan, National Development Plan, and SDGs; define national and sub-national adaptation priorities for the NDC; strengthen forestry monitoring; and assess opportunities for integrating nature-based solutions in the NDC.
UNDP	Support countries in their pathway to access forest-related climate finance (REDD+ results-based payments, compliance with voluntary carbon markets standards).		UNDP is supporting the Plurinational State of Bolivia to achieve the compliance with Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) and submit a proposal to The Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition.	
ESCAP	Enhancing knowledge and capacity to build resilience to slow–onset disasters in Central Asia with a focus on Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The project aims to enhance policy makers' knowledge and awareness of the risks from complex slow–onset disasters (drought, desertification, land degradation) to agriculture, infrastructure, and water management sectors and strengthen sector capacities to manage these risks in the selected Central Asian countries.	2021–2022		At the Sixth North and Central Asian Multistakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on October 2022, enhanced knowledge of policymakers by enabling Disaster Risk Reduction aspects Session 5: SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. Organized side event: Climate change impact scenarios in the Aral Sea: Sub–regional pathways for adaptation and resilience at the Forum.
ESCAP	To strengthen the capacity of Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Situations to use	2021–2024	Pending	

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	satellite data and geospatial information for effective drought monitoring and early warning			
ESCAP in partnership with UNFCCC, UNEP and IGCE (RF)	*Proposal:* Provide training activities on developing GHG emissions and Paris Agreement reporting web platform and tools, in the following LLDCs: Armenia, Azerbaijan Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.	2020–2021+	Pending	
ESCAP in partnership with UNEP, UNDP and KOICA	*Proposal:* Strengthen climate governance, climate finance and innovative local solutions in selected ASEAN countries, including Lao PDR through the ASEAN Climate Readiness Programme.	2022–2026	Pending	
ESCAP in partnership with UN–Habitat	Integrate SDGs into local action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. The project is intended to (i) strengthen awareness and institutional capacities of project cities including the city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to implement, monitor and report on the SDGs at the local level by incorporating them into local development plans; and (ii) strengthen regional capacity to localize SDG implementation and reporting and the evaluation of progress in implementing the SDGs at the urban–level in Asia and the Pacific.	2018–2021+	Pending	
ESCAP in partnership with UN–Habitat and UN ECE	Interregional Cooperation for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The project is intended to increase policy coherence in Kazakhstan and promote improved	2020–2023	Pending	

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	capacities of institutions and other agents of change in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. Almaty city was chosen as a pilot city to implement the project at local levels.			
ESCAP	"Forecasting Sustainable Urbanization: Support for sustainable infrastructure planning in cities" project, to provide assistance to policymakers in partner cities of Almaty (Kazakhstan), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan) to better plan sustainable infrastructure and manage urban growth by developing and applying a forecasting methodology and tool that will estimate the natural resource use (including material use, waste generation, energy consumption and GHG emissions, water consumption, and land use), infrastructure, and financial needs associated with expected population and economic growth. The project will also enable participating cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which could count towards their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).	2019–2021	Pending	
ESCAP	*Proposal:* Enhancing knowledge and capacity to build resilience to slow–onset disasters in Central Asia with a focus on Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The project aims to enhance policy makers' knowledge and	2021–2022	Pending	

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	awareness of the risks from complex slow–onset disasters (drought, desertification, land degradation) to agriculture, infrastructure, and water management sectors and strengthen sector capacities to manage these risks in the selected Central Asian countries.			
ESCAP and UNFCCC	Training workshop on climate finance mobilization and access for Least Developed Countries in Asia. Provide training to representatives of Least Developed Countries in Asia in accessing and mobilizing climate finance to support their priority climate projects and programmes.	2022		In 2022, ESCAP and UNFCCC co–hosted the "Training workshop on climate finance mobilization and access for Least Developed Countries in Asia." The workshop participants consisted of expert representatives from the following LDCs: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Timor–Leste. In addition, various climate fund representatives participated including: Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund (AF), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and Green Climate Fund (GCF). The workshop supported the development of skills and knowledge for preparing and supervising the implementation of priority adaptation and mitigation needs of the Least Developed Countries in Asia.As an outcome of the training, each country put together projects to advance adaptation and mitigation activities.
ESCAP	Supporting the Bank of Mongolia (BoM) on financial sector green readiness support. The project will 1) strengthen BoM's understanding of climate risks and climate change impacts on the country's economic and monetary policies, 2) strengthen BoM's capacity to mainstream climate change into their analytical framework, 3) strengthen BoM's capacity in implementing green taxonomy and climate disclosure.	2023–2025	The project has just started, currently two studies are underway: 1. An initial inception report that reviews the main economic and financial risks of climate change, and their direct and transition impacts in Mongolia for next 3 decades; 2. Second inception report that studies the impact of climate–related risks on monetary policy transmission and operations, and review and map international best practices related to monetary and financial policy actions operations towards greening the Bank of Mongolia.	

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ESCAP	"Climate Invest: Enabling governments in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in select Asian and the Pacific countries to develop climate finance pipelines of green deals for investors in non–infrastructure sectors." With funding support from the Government of China, ESCAP will be supporting Cambodia, Mongolia and Thailand to develop climate finance pipelines of green deals for investors in non–infrastructure sectors. The project works to design policies, strategies and financing mechanisms to catalyze finance for green projects.	2023–2025	This project has just begun, currently reports on the recommendations for each country on an implementation pathway to building a climate finance pipeline on an ongoing basis. This includes policy recommendations regarding gaps and inadequacies of climate finance related regulations in the 3 countries.	
ESCAP	Bhutan's issuance of a sustainability bond	2023–2024	ESCAP is working with the Ministry of Finance to support government thematic bond training, develop the country's Sustainable Finance Framework and subsequent steps towards sustainable bond issuance.	.
UNECE	Analytical work and research on impacts of climate change on transport assets and operations and identification of most suitable adaptation measures: Work is ongoing in the framework of a UNECE–led group of experts. Under its renewed mandate, the group of experts is expanding the analysis of climate indices across the UNECE region for creating more knowledge on future impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on transport assets and operations.	2020–2025	Pending	
UNECE	Enhance capacity of the CIS countries, including LLDCs, about the sustainable hydrogen production pathways and its	2022–2023	The objective of this project is to improve capacities of UNECE member States to develop sustainable hydrogen production strategies while raising awareness and	UNECE developed a tool for awareness raising activities: the Technology Brief on Hydrogen

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	role in the development of a hydrogen ecosystem and export potential.		overcoming economic, technical, policy and investment barriers. The project is currently focusing on raising awareness on: potential of hydrogen to decarbonize energy system and attain carbon neutrality; the role of hydrogen to deliver on net–zero targets across transport, industry and buildings sectors; and social, economic and environmental impacts of a hydrogen economy. The project is actively building capacity in beneficiary countries through targeted workshops based on knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices	It delivered a technical workshop for countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including LLDCs, to harness potential of hydrogen production and trade and develop a regional hydrogen ecosystem. The technical workshop (23 March 2022): –Reviewed methods to produce sustainable hydrogen (electrolysis, pyrolysis, biomass, fossil with CCUS); –Discussed cost and technical performance of various hydrogen production pathways in CIS countries; –Identified economic, technical, policy and investment barriers to hydrogen projects; and –Reviewed latest developments in hydrogen taxonomy and their impact on CIS countries.
UNECE	Implement blockchain pilots to harness the potential of blockchain technology for due diligence and sustainability in cotton value chains in Uzbekistan, in partnership with WBG–IFC Tashkent office. These pilots are being conducted under the framework initiative "Enhancing Traceability and Transparency for Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment & Footwear sector" jointly implemented with the UN's ITC, with the support of the European Union since 2019.	Ongoing	Since July 2021, UNECE conducts pilot activities with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Tashkent office to improve traceability and transparency in cotton value chains in Uzbekistan. The pilot aims to trace forward the production of T–shirts from field to shelf in a blockchain environment, involving the cotton cluster Indorama, and also explores the use of DNA physical markers. It is expected to be completed and reported in a Proof–of–Concept developed in consultation with partners and pilot companies in 2022. The textiles sector is significant for the country's economy and the exports' potential of high value–added products is increasing.	
UNECE	Strengthen collaboration and build capacity about policy recommendations, guidelines and traceability standards to promote sustainable and circular value chains in the garment and footwear industry of Uzbekistan and in Central Asia.	Ongoing	On 24–25 March 2022, UNECE organized jointly with the Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan an international conference "Decent work – the basis of a stable society of employers" and "The sustainable garment and footwear industry of the future – innovation for inclusive and circular value chains" in conjunction with Tashkent first International Investment Forum (24–26 March 2022). The conference developed an understanding of what traceability is what it means, why we have traceability and how it works. It also created a common understanding of	

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			the topic among key industry actors in the Central Asia region. The meeting's page and materials are accessible at: https://unece.org/trade/events/joint–event–international–conference–confederation–employers–uzbekistan–and–unece
This occasion saw the exchange of letters between UNECE, the Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan and Uzbekistan Textile and Garment Industry Association "Uztextileprom" in the context of UNECE Call to Action for Traceability, Transparency, Sustainability and Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector, about the development of a strategy for ESG traceability and transparency in the textile industry until the end of 2024 in Uzbekistan in partnership with UNECE and GIZ. The pledge will be published on The Sustainability Pledge website: http://thesustainabilitypledge.org/index.html	
ADB	Provide regional technical assistance on Developing the Central Asia Regional Cooperation Water Pillar. The scoping study will initially focus on water resources management, including economic and financing aspects among the five Central Asian LLDCs (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).	2020–2024	Scoping study prepared and reported to CAREC Ministerial Conference in Nov 2021 as one of the deliverables. A broad range of virtual consultations have been organized with representatives of the five Central Asian countries, inter–governmental and international organizations, development partners and knowledge institutions. Three thematic papers were prepared on climate change impacts, the economic value of water, and a legal and policy analysis.

The TA project (Developing the CAREC Water Pillar) was approved in 2020 and additional financing was provided in 2022.

ADB has commissioned FutureWater to prepare studies under the project. Following the scoping study prepared in 2021, projects will be identified to be taken forward over the next years. FutureWater is assisting with the concept notes of priority activities.

Expanding from the initial scoping study conducted for the five Central Asian countries in 2021, FutureWater is also | |

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			conducting a climate change assessment for Georgia, which includes an assessment of climate-related impacts on water resources, identification of priorities at a national level, and preparation of a list of adaptation measures In November 2022, a Regional Workshop on Establishing the CAREC Water Pillar was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The workshop focused on identifying priority activities for the Water Pillar and defining the composition and role of a Water Pillar sector working group. Participants engaged in working sessions covering three key areas: climate-resilient and productive water systems, sustainable water resources and services, and nexus solutions and cross-sector learning. This event followed a series of virtual consultations that helped shape the CAREC Water Pillar within the CAREC 2030 Strategy.	
UNWTO	Collaboration with UNEP/others on One Planet Vision on SCP	2021–2022	One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme aims to accelerate sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in tourism policies and practices to address the challenges of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change. It supports the transition towards a circular economy as a pathway for the sustainable development of tourism. One Planet initiative is currently guided by the One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of Tourism, which calls for a recovery that is founded on sustainability, to build back better and underpin the resilience of tourism.	
OSCE	The OSCE project "Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South–Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia" aims to reduce climate change–related security threats in South–Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia by raising awareness, developing capacities and sharing	2020–2024	OSCE extra–budgetary project **"Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South–Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia"**: **South Eastern Europe**: A regional consultation process on climate change and security was conducted in 2020–2021 to assess potential security risks stemming from climate change in the region, to identify and map hotspots, and to define co–operation opportunities. The results of the	

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
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	knowledge within and among the regions, as well as through the development and implementation of climate change adaptation measures in the most vulnerable geographic areas (climate change and security hot–spots). Among the LLDCs, the project includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.		regional consultation process were compiled in a report and published in April 2021 (https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/a/a/484148.pdf) In the follow–up consultations, the Shar/Šara Mountains and Korab Massif area emerged as the priority hotspot. The OSCE has recently initiated the work to strengthen climate resilience and nature conservation in the Shar/Šara Mountains and Korab Massif area in close collaboration with local stakeholders and experts from the region. South Caucasus: In 2021, a consultation process on climate change and security was conducted in the region through two bilateral processes between Armenia and Georgia and between Azerbaijan and Georgia to discuss and prioritize transboundary co–operation opportunities. The results of the bilateral consultation processes were published in October 2021 (https://www.osce.org/oceea/499131 and https://www.osce.org/oceea/499134). During these consultations wildfire management emerged as a common priority. The OSCE has recently initiated the work to strengthen climate resilience through bilateral co–operation on wildfire management.	
UNOPS	Procurement of equipment to address continuous drought and water shortage in vulnerable communities in Paraguay	June 2018– December 2022	UNOPS supports the Paraguayan Sanitary Services Company (ESSAP) in the acquisition of two high–flow water pumps, hydraulic pipes and electrical power supply conductors. These tools will guarantee the supply for Asunción and the Metropolitan Area, due to the descent of the river that in 2021 reached a level of –0.71cm in the area of the port of Asunción. UNOPS also supports: the delivery of four tanker trucks capable of assisting remote communities in Chaco and the most endangered areas with water in the face of the severe drought; and the supply of vans and motorcycle vehicles for maintenance and assistance to vulnerable communities.	

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			These deliveries are making it possible to immediately alleviate the socio–economic and environmental impact of the droughts in Paraguay. It is anticipated that this project will benefit approximately 1,356,000 people in the Central, Alto Paraná and Paraguayan Chaco departments. The project is ongoing and is expected to be completed in December 2022.	
UNOPS	Technical support for safe, earthquake resistant infrastructure in Nepal	2018–2021		UNOPS Nepal supported 23,088 earthquake–affected homeowners in the Nuwakot district (Nepal) by providing them with the socio–technical facilitation needed for safe housing reconstruction. The households were provided with socio–technical support for earthquake–resistant construction methods, and access to Government resources for reconstruction. The project ended in December 2021.
UNOPS	Seismic Retrofitting of Unsafe Rural Housing in Nepal	2018–2021		UNOPS implemented the Seismic Retrofitting of Unsafe Rural Housing project to enable increased and speedy access to safer structures by strengthening existing homes affected by the earthquake in Nepal. The project has built a series of model houses (71) across the 19 earthquake–affected districts. It ended in March 2021.
UNOPS	Post natural disaster reconstruction in Nepal	2018–2022	UNOPS contributed to the post–disaster recovery and sustainable development of earthquake–affected populations of Nepal by reconstructing 144 new classrooms in 24 new school buildings with disabled–friendly toilet blocks across four earthquake–affected districts of Nepal. UNOPS hopes to improve the lives of children across Nepal through the ongoing Post–earthquake School Reconstruction Project. The project has handed over all the classrooms and is currently under Defects Notification Period (DNP). The project started in 2018 and will be completed in December 2022.	

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Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation				
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UNOPS	Administrative Support to the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) in Bhutan.	Ongoing	UNOPS is providing administrative support to the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) in Bhutan. The Platform is a state–led initiative to follow up on the work started by the Nansen Initiative on cross–border disaster–displacement and to implement the recommendations of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda. PDD has contacted and supported the Bhutan government on the related research to prevent or reduce disaster displacement risks in Bhutan.	
DESA – UNCRD	Through EST Initiative and Regional EST Forum in Asia, provide policy and planning advice and capacity support for policymakers and planners in selected LLDCs (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal) to align the transport sector (policy, planning, institutions, infrastructure development) with the objectives of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Policy consultations at Regional EST Forums often focus on how to enhance resilience of cities and communities through transformational changes in the transport sector.	2021–2030	On 20 October 2021, member countries including selected LLDCs such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal adopted the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport – Making Transport in Asia Sustainable (2021–2030). The adoption took place at the 14th Regional EST Forum in Asia that was supported by MoE–Japan, ADB and UN ESCAP. The Regional EST Forum in Asia together with Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021–2030) aims to bring transformational changes in the transport sector of Asia and to place Asia in the forefront of new collaboration approaches to improve reporting on progress towards the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on transport.	
DESA – UNCRD	Through Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific, provide policy advisory and capacity building support for local and local governments of in selected LLDCs (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal) to integrated 3R resource efficiency and circular economy in major development sectors with an objective to minimize environmental degradation, pollution, including GHG emissions	2013 – 2023	1. Adoption of Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013–2023) – Sustainable 3R Goals by member countries, including LLDCs countries ((Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal) at the 4th Regional 3R & Circular Forum in Asia–Pacific, 2013, Hanoi, Viet Nam; 2. Adoption of Adelaide 3R Declaration towards the promotion of circular economy in Asia at 7th 3R Forum, 2016, Adelaide, Australia; 3. Asian Mayors (including Mayors from LLDCs) signed the Indore 3R Declaration towards clean water, clean land and clean air at the 8th 3R Forum, 2018, Indore, India;	

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			4. Organization of 9th, 10th , and 11th Regional 3R & Circular Economy Forum in 2019, 2020 and 2023, which were joined by LLDCs to enhance their capacity on 3R and circular economy to deal with various waste streams including plastics.	
DESA – UNOSD	Substantive advisory services to developing countries including LLDCs to support acceleration of SDGs implementation, with a special focus on environmental sustainability	Ongoing	UNOSD aims to assist in: enhancing institutional capacities; monitoring progress on the implementation of the SDGs; identifying and prioritizing needs; and developing appropriate policies, strategies, measures and actions, especially in the area of SDG 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 15. The needs assessment completed in 2021 identified LLDCs as a priority country group along with LDCs and SIDS. Virtual consultations were conducted with four LLDCs namely Mongolia, Lesotho, Paraguay and Tajikistan.	
DESA	Research and step–by–step guide to access international climate financing and other options to enhance food security	2018–2021		Completed in 2021. DESA analysed climate vulnerability of Ethiopia and Lao PDR, reviewed the national capacity to access and utilize international climate financing sources. The project delivered a step–by–step guide and training workshops to access those financing options and suggest priority areas for possible national projects to enhance food security using the climate fund. Research outputs are available at https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/eapd–pdf–interdivisional–project.html
DESA – UNCRD	Through two flagship initiatives – Regional EST Forum in Asia and Regional 3R & Circular Economy Forum in the Asia–Pacific, subsidiary expert groups are established in areas of sustainable transport and 3R/circular economy to act as think–tanks to provide necessary technical input to	On–going: EST (2010–2030); 3R (2013–2023)	Series of high–level EST and 3R Forums in the Asia–Pacific and associated training programs have been successfully providing policy advisory and capacity building support to the member countries, including LLDCs (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Nepal), in sustainable transport and 3R/circular economy areas towards achieving the SDGs and Paris Agreement. High–level Regional EST Forum and Regional 3R & Circular Forums are organized on an annual basis with member countries hosting the Forums – 11 annual EST Forums were	

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	policy consultations with the member countries, including LLDCs		completed during 2010–2021 and 10 annual 3R Forums were completed during 2013–2023.———	

6.2   Strengthening of the International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITTLLDCs)

Strengthening of the International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITTLLDCs)				
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ITTLLDC and UN–OHRLLS	Undertake joint research, such as a joint background study or report	2021+		UN–OHRLLS and the ITTLLDC jointly prepared a report on the Impact of COVID–19 and Responses in Landlocked Developing Countries. The report was published in February 2021. The report demonstrates how LLDCs' lack of territorial access to the sea and global markets expose them in unique ways to the COVID–19 pandemic. It also calls for open cross–border transport networks for goods and services, expedited passage of medical supplies and coordinated safety measures at border crossings so that LLDCs can better face future crises. The report is available here: https://www.un.org/ohrlls/report–impact–covid19–landlocked–developing–countries https://land–locked.org/wp–content/uploads/2013/09/REVISED–COVID–19–Impacts–LLDCs–15–April–2021–1.pdf
ITTLLDC and UN–OHRLLS	Undertake joint advocacy work to highlight the special needs of LLDCs	2022	The ITTLLDC and UN–OHRLLS are undertaking joint advocacy and capacity building on LLDCs' trade related needs. Fora such as the WTO Public Forum (September 2022) and the 78th session of the ESCAP Commission (May 2022) will be used in this regard.	• On April 27, 2022, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLLDC) in cooperation with the Mongolian Business Council (BCM) and the National Road Transport Association of Mongolia (NARTAM) organized a meeting at the Shangri-La Hotel under the theme "Pressing problems and its resolution: Mongolian Trade and Transportation Logistics" During the meeting, ITTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od presented the pressing issues in the transport and logistics sector of Mongolia as a keynote speaker and moderated the panel on transport and logistics. • On May 19, 2022, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries organized a consultative meeting on Mongolia's dry port.

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				In accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, the goal was to discuss the timetable of tasks and duties of government agencies, to exchange and present information about international documents, within the framework of the requirement to ensure coordination between the government agencies related to the construction of a dry port. Representatives from the Ministry of Road and Transport Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Maritime Administration under the Ministry of Road and Transport Development, and the Investment Research Center under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia participated in the meeting and exchanged views on measures to be taken in the future. • The Expert Group Meeting on Digital potential to advance implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in North and Central Asia was virtually organized by the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia of ESCAP on 19-20 April 2022. The expert group had fruitful discussions to analyze the level of digitalization in North and Central Asia, especially in each of the action areas of the VPoA Roadmap and identify potential areas for digitalization that can support the implementation of the action areas listed in the Roadmap. At this virtual meeting, Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od delivered his statement with highlights on the importance of digitalization in landlocked developing countries and briefly shared the best cases

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				and findings of the latest studies and projects implemented by the ITTLLDC. • On the invitation of the Executive Secretary of the UN-ESCAP, the ITTLLDC participated in person in the 78th Session of the Commission of UN-ESCAP and Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od addressed the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries of the Asia and Pacific Region on May 25, 2022. On the same day, the ITTLLDC organized the Side Event titled "Connectivity for All" for the LLDCs in Asia in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN-ESCAP. • The ITTLLDC was invited to speak at the "10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum: Next Generation Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development" held in Singapore during the days of 29 August - 01 September 2022. The Forum was co-organized by ADB, UN-ESCAP, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore. Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLLDC participated in Session 5: Aid for sustainable trade facilitation – Evolving needs and available support as a speaker. He presented the challenges and issues of the trade facilitation in LLDCs and recommendations. • Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLLDC, participated in the "Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum" (APDTF) being organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Ministry

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				of Science and ICT (MSIT) of the Republic of Korea on 9 November 2022. Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od shared the ICT and connectivity issues in the landlocked developing countries and case of Mongolia, and provided key recommendations and further ways to develop ICT development and connectivity in the countries. • United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) organizes the 2022 SPECA Economic Forum on "Greener and Safer Future" on the days of 16 and 17 November 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLLDC participates in the Forum at the invitation of the SPECA. He delivers speech at the third session of the Forum on Economic security and resilience: Leaving no one behind. He highlighted the importance of transportation legal framework, trade facilitation acceleration and ICT development in LLDCs. • The 14th meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on LLDCs took place in hybrid format at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 12th of June, 2022. The IACG meeting is being organized in the context of the preparations for the Third UN Conference on LLDCs in 2024 that was mandated by the UN General Assembly in resolutions 76/217 and 77/246. ITTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun re-introduced the activities of the ITTLLDC to the IACG group and provided his recommendations for expediting the implementation process of the

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				Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs (VPoA). **Outcome:** **Introduction of ITTLLDC:** The introduction of ITTLLDC activities to the United Nations Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on LLDCs. **Recommendations:** Recommendations provided by ITTLLDC's Executive Director for expediting the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs. • On June 26 of 2023, the ITTLLDC co-organized the Private Sector Consultation: Business Voices from Landlocked Developing Countries with the International Trade Center and UNOHRLLS on the sidelines of the World Export Development Forum. It provided the platform for the representatives of private sectors and international development partners to share the common challenges, priority needs and ways forward to develop the economies of landlocked developing countries. Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLLDC, as a rapporteur of the private sector consultation, delivered a summaries of the roundtable discussions held under the themes of Infrastructure for supporting enhanced trade, Regional connectivity for improved trade coordination, Trade and development for stronger economic growth, and Inclusive trade facilitation for sustainable development facilitated by ADB, OHRLLS, EBDR and ITC respectively. **Outcome:**

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				Common Challenges and Needs: The identification of common challenges and priority needs of LLDCs' private sectors. **Ways Forward:** The discussion of strategies and ways forward for developing the economies of LLDCs. **Summary of Discussions:** The Executive Director of ITTLLDC, as a rapporteur, delivered summaries of roundtable discussions under various themes, providing insights and recommendations for action.
ITTLLDC	Undertake joint research, such as a joint background study or report	2023	1) The ITTLLDC is currently implementing a joint research project with the Young Researcher Supporting Foundation (YRSF) on developing a comprehensive development model for LLDCs based on the case of Mongolia 2) The ITTLLDC and the Mongolian Maritime Administration under the Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support and develop research and development cooperation within the country's transport and logistics sector on January 18, 2023. Within the framework of the MoU, the parties discussed and approved the Action plan for cooperation in 2023-2024. In the action plan, series of meetings, seminars, and other events aimed at determining solutions to the common problems in the fields of transit transportation, export and import goods by sea, are planned to be organized with representatives of public and private sector organizations. This plan includes a joint research project on the implementation of the intergovernmental agreement on "Dry Ports" in developing and developed countries, which includes study tours to dry ports established in Kazakhstan and Nepal.	

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			3) The ITTLLDC is currently in the process of conducting a joint research paper with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on ICT issues such as frequency interference, satellite potential, data center as a hub and emergency telecom.	
ITTLLDC	Mobilize LLDCs that have not yet done so to ratify the Multilateral Agreement on Establishment of the Think Tank Mobilize voluntary contributions to the budget of the Think Tank	Ongoing	**Ongoing**: The ITTLLDC Executive Director appeals to the LLDCs that do not ratify the Multilateral Agreement when he delivers opening remarks and speeches in international and regional meetings and workshops. The number of member countries contributing voluntary contribution to the ITTLLDC tends to increase with the help of its improved reputation as an international platform and of its quality research works for the benefits of LLDCs.	Executive Director of the ITTLLDC Mr. Dulguun called on the LLDCs who are not yet ratified the Multilateral Agreement at every international and regional meeting that he attended.
ITTLLDC	Develop a model free trade agreement specifically designed for LLDCs	2021+	The process is ongoing. The ITTLLDC is working on developing the model agreement with the technical support of international organizations and institutions.	
ITTLLDC	Implement a capacity building project for LLDC candidates interested in acquiring their PhD (in cooperation with University of Wollongong, Australia)	2021+	ITTLLDC and the Faculty of Business of the School of Accounting, Economics & Finance (SAEF) of the University of Wollongong (UOW) of Australia agreed to establish a Higher Degree Research (HDR) sponsorship program for the scholars from the landlocked developing countries. Under the agreement, UOW will sponsor successful applicants in the form of an International Postgraduate Tuition Award (IPTA), which is a tuition fee waiver, for the duration of their PhD candidature. ITTLLDC will assist successful applicants in obtaining funding in the form of a stipend tenable for the duration of their PhD candidature. But due to the COVID–19 pandemic restrictions and travel ban, the PhD program has been postponed. ITTLLDC is going to announce the scholarship again in 2022. The PhD scholarship program is currently open and accepting applications, where several candidates have successfully applied.	

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			On 4th quarter of 2023 ITTLLDC, within the framework of the MoU with United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), plans to organize the "Capacity building training workshop on trade, trade facilitation and trade negotiations for LLDC diplomats in Geneva".	
ESCAP	Help establish and build capacity of development policy think–tanks in some LLDCs in South and South–West Asia	2019+	Since 2019, the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South–West Asia has been conducting a series of training programmes for helping establish and build capacity of development policy think–tanks in two of the LLDCs of the subregion: Afghanistan and Bhutan. In collaboration with leading national think–tanks of South Asian countries, training sessions are being conducted to enhance policy research capabilities, analytical skills and knowledge sharing through networking for enabling informed policy decision making. So far the Biruni Institute of Afghanistan, the Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research, the Bhutan Centre for Media and Research and Tarayana Foundation Centre for Bhutan are some of the beneficiaries of the programme.	
ESCAP in partnership with ITTLLDC	Promote exchange and joint research and capacity building activities between ITTLLDC and other members of the Asia–Pacific Research and Training Network (ARTNet) and facilitate dissemination of ITTLLDC work.	2020+	1) On 21 November 2022, UN-ESCAP organized the Expert Group Meeting on the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2023 under the title "Strengthening regional cooperation for seamless and sustainable connectivity for Asia-Pacific countries in special situations", where the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs (CSN) Development Report assesses the development challenges for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in the region. These countries are collectively referred to as countries in special situations (CSS). The 2023 Report will	ITTLLDC successfully completed a short–term ESCAP–joint project to support the implementation process of the project entitled "Addressing the transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through regional economic cooperation and integration (RECI) in Asia and the Pacific" in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. The project aimed for the ICT co–deployment with transport and energy infrastructure by digitizing information on existing corridors and databases, and developing the awareness and the ownership of the co–deployment portal by users and the strategic hosting

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			focus on the role of transport, energy and ICT connectivity as catalysis of sustainable development in CSS and examine cooperation needs and options, especially considering the limited time left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ITTLLDC was requested to review the report and share views on transport, energy and ICT sectors. 2) ITTLLDC is conducting a baseline study "Evaluating current situation of the policy and regulatory frameworks for fostering intellectual property and copyright patents markets on digital technology, products and services in Mongolia" in cooperation with the UNESCAP. The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the current situation of the policy and regulatory frameworks for fostering intellectual property and copyright patents markets on digital technology, products and services in Mongolia. Since its start in January 2023 ITTLLDC study team has organized several key informants' meetings and interviews with the officials of the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications (MDDC), National Information technology park, software development companies, ICT sector experts, and officials of the Intellectual Property office of Mongolia (IPOM).	arrangements of the ESCAP's portal by the target countries. In collaboration with ITTLLDC, ESCAP initiated the establishment of a single information platform with automation and simulation modules for determining compatibility and economic efficiency, and for identifying infrastructure projects that lend themselves to ICT deployment for smart corridors. In collaboration with e–World Wide Group, the project built an e–resilience monitoring dashboard, and developed methodological guidance associated with the e–resilience readiness index for last mile digital foresight planning scenarios. In May 2021, three capacity building workshops were delivered in target countries on: using the centralized portal for partnership for co–deployment of ICT; Energy and Transport Infrastructure; and Simulator of Scenarios and the E–resilience Monitoring Dashboard to support pandemic management framework Policy briefs with analytics on e–resilience were developed by the ITTLLDC consultants: **Kazakhstan:** https://land–locked.org/wp–content/uploads/2021/12/Annex–1_Policy–Brief_Kazakhstan.pdf **Mongolia:** https://land–locked.org/wp–content/uploads/2021/12/Annex–3_Policy–Brief_Mongolia.pdf **Kyrgyzstan:** https://land–locked.org/wp–content/uploads/2021/12/Annex–2_Policy–Brief_Kyrgyzstan.pdf ——

Strengthening of the International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITTLLDCs)

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ESCAP in partnership with ITTLLDC	Promote exchange and joint research and capacity building activities between ITTLLDC and other members of the Asia–Pacific Research and Training Network (ARTNet) and facilitate dissemination of ITTLLDC work.	2020+	• The series of online–trainings (webinars) on "ESCAP Web–Toolkit for Integrated Planning of Infrastructure Corridors" were successfully co–organized in May 2021 in Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan involving representatives of the respective ministries, state authorities, private sectors and academics. The ITT will contribute in the development of an e–resilience dashboard and of e–learning packages for the online usage. It will ensure the data and policy verification, and the ownership of the outcomes of the work at the country level. • The research project on "Exploring Connectivity of Kazakhstan" was conducted in 2021 at the request of the Government of Kazakhstan. The research findings and final reports will be shared with ESCAP and ARTNet.	• A series of online–trainings (webinars) on "ESCAP Web–Toolkit for Integrated Planning of Infrastructure Corridors" were successfully co–organized in 17 – 21 May 2021 in Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan. The online training participants (including representatives of the respective ministries, state authorities, private sectors and academics) obtained knowledge on the use of the centralized digital portal with a methodology for ICT co–deployment in the energy and transport sector, and a simulation model for potential corridors in the target countries. **Outcomes/Results:** The main outcome of the project is the improved coordination, cooperation and transparency for infrastructure co–deployment through the centralized digital portal. • The research project on "Exploring Connectivity of Kazakhstan" was completed in 2021 by the research team of the ITTLLDC at the request of the Government of Kazakhstan. **Outcomes/Results:** The research findings were shared at an expert group meeting on enhancing trade and trade facilitation for increased diversification and the structural economic transformation of LLDCs organized by the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland on 29–30 November 2021. 1) The ITTLLDC organized the Side Event titled "Connectivity for All" for the LLDCs in Asia in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN ESCAP on 25 May 2022 at the United National Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand in hybrid form. The Side event was a platform for constructive dialogue on the current situation of the connectivity issues in the landlocked developing countries and the way forward in supporting and accelerating a smooth and

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				better recovery for landlocked developing countries. **Outcome:** Served as a catalyst for dialogue, collaboration, and action to address connectivity challenges in LLDCs in Asia, potentially leading to positive outcomes for these countries and their populations. 2) The Capacity Building Workshop on Digital Connectivity and Transformation under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026 was coorganized by the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLLDC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). The workshop aimed to enhance knowledge and capacity on digital connectivity and digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region through sharing good practices and lessons learned. **Outcome:** Played a crucial role in advancing digital development in the Asia-Pacific region by equipping participants with knowledge, fostering collaboration, and influencing policy development and implementation.

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ESCAP	Promote exchange and joint research and capacity building activities between ITTLLDC and other members of the Asia–Pacific Research and Training Network (ARTNet) and facilitate dissemination of ITTLLDC work.	2020+	•	Enabled ITTLLDC's participation at the 2022 SPECA Economic Forum "Greener and Safer Future". Enabled ITTLLDC to present in • Session 2: Digital potential to advance implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in North and Central Asia at the Expert Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in 2022; • Session 1: Progress and challenges in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action and emerging risks and priorities of the EGM in 2023, and • Session 3: "Enhancing regional cooperation to finance better connectivity for LLDCs in North and Central Asia" of the Workshop on Leveraging Public and Private Investment to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in North and Central Asia

6.3   The impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs

The impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs				
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UN–OHRLLS, ITTLLDC and DCO	Promote knowledge and experience sharing on the socio–economic impact and response in LLDCs, in particular amongst the LLDC Resident Coordinators	2021+		In 2021, UN–OHRLLS, ITTLLDC and DCO organized a meeting with economists from RCOs on the Impact of COVID–19 and Responses in LLDCs. The meeting facilitated sharing of experiences among the LLDC Resident Coordinators' Offices. The ITTLLDC, UN-OHRLLS, and Botswana (as Chair of the Group of LLDCs) jointly organized the LLDC dedicated session during the WTO Public Forum under the theme "Enhancing integration of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) into global trade for sustainable Covid-19 recovery: The role of digital technology" on September 29, 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. The objective of this session was to discuss policy options for addressing LLDCs challenges and how LLDCs can leverage digital technologies to enhance structural transformation and their integration into trade and for inclusive recovery. **Outcome:** **Policy Recommendations:** The development of policy recommendations for addressing challenges faced by LLDCs in global trade, with a focus on leveraging digital technology for recovery and integration. **Increased Awareness:** The event raised awareness among attendees about the importance of digital technology for LLDCs' sustainable recovery and integration into global trade. **Collaborative Initiatives:** It led to the initiation of collaborative projects or partnerships between LLDCs and international organizations to enhance digital infrastructure and trade capacity.

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				• The ITTLLDC was invited to speak during the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries under the theme "Ashgabat Process: Financing for Better Connectivity", organized by the Government of Turkmenistan, and the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN - OHRLLS) during the days of 15-16 August 2022 in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan. The Conference, organized under the theme Financing for Better Connectivity, is part of the preparatory process of the Third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries – to be held in 2024 - and its outcome will contribute towards the thematic area of transport. Besides the 32 landlocked developing countries transport ministers, the conference was attended by the representatives of neighboring transit countries and relevant international organizations. **Outcome:** **Policy Recommendations:** Policy recommendations to improve connectivity and transportation infrastructure in LLDCs, addressing financing and connectivity challenges. **Networking and Partnerships:** The conference facilitated networking and partnerships among LLDCs, transit countries, and international organizations. **Input for UN Conference:** Contributing valuable insights and recommendations for the 3rd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024, particularly in the transport thematic area.

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UN–OHRLLS, in collaboration with WTO, and Kazakhstan (former LLDC Chair)	Help identify solutions and recommendations to support recovery and resilience in LLDCs, especially in areas related to aid–for–trade.	2021		On 23 March 2021, UN–OHRLLS, in coordination with WTO, and Kazakhstan (in its capacity of LLDC Chair), held an event on impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs and implications for resilient recovery. The event was organized in the context of the WTO Aid for Trade Stocktaking event that took place from 23–25 March 2021. The meeting helped shed the light on the impact of COVID–19 pandemic on LLDCs. It highlighted that cross–border restrictions enacted by transit economies and ineffectual trade–facilitating apparatus have resulted in pronounced negatives on LLDCs. During the event, participants made recommendations for resilient recovery on key areas to be prioritised for Aid–for–Trade financing to support recovery and foster resilience in LLDCs. These recommendations include: enhancing connectivity through digitization of border management measures; and enhancing implementation of the TFA and targeted Aid–for–Trade support for LLDCs. More information on this event is available **HERE.** An official summary of the discussions contributed to the summary report of the Aid for Trade Stocktaking event that took place from 23–25 March 2021. This report is available **HERE.**
UN–OHRLLS	Share knowledge on the impacts of COVID–19 on LLDCs to advocate for strengthened support to enable a sustainable recovery.	2022	An update report discussing the impacts of COVID–19 on LLDCs and providing recommendations for a sustainable recovery is being finalized by UN–OHRLLS.	
UNEP	Support countries globally, including LLDCs, in efforts to incorporate the environmental dimension into their COVID–19 response efforts, which will include 4 blocks of response:	2020+	The Poverty Environment Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (PEA) is a joint global project which provides an avenue for the poverty environment mainstreaming process. It is a four–year project (2018–2022) jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP with Global Policy Centre on Resilient	

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	i) medical and humanitarian emergency phase; ii) transformational change for people and planet; iii) investing to build back better; and iv) modernizing global environmental governance.		Ecosystems and Desertification (GC–RED) as the Managing Agent. Funding is provided through a pooled fund, financed by the European Union (EU), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Norway and Sweden through UNEP, as well as core resources from the UN agencies. The PEA aims to support eight country projects, including some LLDCs (Lao PDR, Malawi, Nepal and Rwanda) to deepen and broaden poverty–environment mainstreaming and align finance and investment with poverty, environment and climate objectives. Through the joint project, in **Nepal,** the development of the Financing Requirement Framework for the 15th Plan has been finalized, along with a National Framework on Leave No One Behind. Local–level plan formulation guidelines have also been revised. PEA has been integrated into the UN framework for immediate socioeconomic response to COVID–19.	
WCO	• Prepare a repository of resources that Customs administrations of LLDCs can use to mitigate the effects of COVID–19, including WCO instruments, tools, databases, Members' best practices and leverage on partnerships with other international organizations and the private sector to support Customs administrations in the response to the pandemic. •	2020+		**In 2020,** the WCO compiled a repository of measures in response to the COVID–19 pandemic. The repository contains information submitted by 115 WCO Members, as well as instruments, tools, databases, joint statement with other international organizations and the private sector and can be accessed in English here and in French here. In December 2020, the WCO Council adopted a Resolution on the Role of Customs in Facilitating the Cross–Border Movement of Situationally Critical Medicines and Vaccines. To support the implementation of the Resolution, the WCO Secretariat developed HS Classification Reference for vaccines and related supplies and equipment and a Secretariat Note on the Role of Customs in facilitating and securing the cross–border movement of situationally critical medicines and vaccines, along with other initiatives in this area. In addition to that, in 2021, the WCO compiled a repository of good practices on the cross–border

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				movement of COVID–19 vaccines. The repository contains information submitted by 27 WCO Members and can be accessed in English here and in French here.
WCO	• Develop WCO Guidelines on disaster management and supply chain continuity. • Enhance the capacity of Customs administrations of LLDCs through efficient implementation of relevant WCO tools (Revised Kyoto Convention, Istanbul Convention, newly developed guidelines).	2020–2024 (with some activities completed)		In June 2021, the WCO Council endorsed the WCO Guidelines on Disaster Management and Supply Chain Continuity. In November 2020, December 2020, February 2021 and April 2021 and March 2023 the WCO held regional workshops on disaster management and supply chain continuity for all six WCO regions. A second regional workshop for the Asia/Pacific region was held in May 2022. A multi-regional workshop for West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa and North of Africa, Near and Middle East was held from 30 January to 1 February 2023. In October and November 2021, sub–regional workshops were delivered for the Pacific islands and for the Central American Customs Committee Members (Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador). National capacity building support was delivered for **Benin**, **Guatemala, Angola, Cameroon, Indonesia** and a number of island states.
ECLAC	Prepare a report on the impact of COVID–19 on the logistics performance of Bolivia and Paraguay as well as policy recommendations to improve the connectivity and logistics fluidity with their transit countries after the pandemic	2020		ECLAC launched the report on the 'Impact of COVID–19 on Transport and Logistics connectivity in the Landlocked Countries of South America' (written by Alejandra Rivera) in 2020. The report is available at: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/46528/S2000768_en.pdf Another study on the distribution of vaccines in South America from the perspective of logistics (Distribución de las vacunas en Sur Amperica desde la perspectiva de logística), written by Juan Pablo Matiz *et al*. is currently under edition (as of 24 April 2022).

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UNOSSC and UNDP	Under the IBSA Fund, a project recently approved will address Water, Health and Poverty Nexus in Eswatini for COVID–19 and Climate Change responses in Eswatini	2021–2023	Project document by formulated through a participatory multistakeholder approached and approved by the Board. It has recently commenced activities.	
ESCAP	Provide capacity building on financial resource mobilization, inhibited by the COVID–19 pandemic, for policymakers in Asia's LLDCs. (DA–11 on resource mobilisation in CSN, adjusted to address COVID–19 pandemic consequences).	2020–2021		A workshop took place in 2021 during the Fifth North and Central Asian Multi–Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan. The Forum discussed the status and trends in implementing the SDGs in North and Central Asia (NCA) countries. It also examined how these countries are impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic and its social and economic repercussions, as well other persistent and emerging challenges. It further discussed the role of capital markets and innovative financing instruments to finance SDG implementation in the NCA subregion. https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/fifth–north–and–central–asian–multi–stakeholder–forum–implementation–sustainable
ESCAP	Prepare a report on the impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs and the status of e–resilience against COVID–19.	2020+		A few reports and country profiles on e–resilience were delivered by ESCAP in 2021 1., Zorikto Gomboin and Aida Karazhanova. (2021). E–Resilience Monitoring Toolkit: Methodological Notes and Pilot Countries' Profiles. Asia–Pacific Information Superhighway Working Paper Series, No. 26. United Nations ESCAP, IDD, December 2021. Bangkok. https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/e–resilience–monitoring–toolkit–methodological–notes–and–pilot–countries–profiles 2. Aida Karazhanova and Elena Dyakonova (2021). Assessing E–Resilience in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia. Asia–Pacific Information Superhighway Working Paper Series, No. 03/2021. United Nations ESCAP, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, August

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				2021. Bangkok. https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/assessing–e–resilience–kazakhstan–kyrgyzstan–and–mongolia 3. Aida Karazhanova and Elena Dyakonova (2021). Procedure Manual: Enabling E–Resilience Monitoring Dashboard Frameworks. AsiaPacific Information Superhighway Working Paper Series, No. 04/2021. United Nations ESCAP, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, August 2021. Bangkok. https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/procedure–manual–enabling–e–resilience–monitoring–dashboard–frameworks 4. ESCAP (2020) Understanding E–resilience for Pandemic Recovery in Asia and the Pacific, https://www.unescap.org/resources/understanding–e–resilience–pandemic-recovery–asia–and–pacific
ESCAP in partnership with UNCTAD (leading) and ECLAC [MPFD]	Rapid assessment of COVID–19 impact on fiscal needs; fiscal policy design support and analysis of policy trade offs; and capacity building on analytical frameworks and tools used for fiscal policy analysis for Kyrgyzstan.	2021–2022	__	This project is taking place under the implementation of Development Account project on 'Response and Recovery: Mobilising financial resources for development in the time of COVID–19'. As part of this project, the report 'Policy Response of Central Asian Economies to the COVID–19 Pandemic and an Assessment of its Impact in Kyrgyzstan was issued in March 2021 https://mobilizingdevfinance.org/sites/mobilizedevresources/files/2021–07/DA_COVID_FFD_ESCAP_Kyrgyz_03.21_0.pdf A capacity building workshop on Fiscal Policy and Sustainable Recovery in Kyrgyzstan was organized along with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Kyrgyzstan on 1 February 2022. https://mobilizingdevfinance.org/activity/unescap–rco–capacity–building–workshop–fiscal–policy–and–sustainable–recovery–kyrgyzstan

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				The paper on 'Kyrgyzstan's Fiscal Path to Sustainable Recovery' was published. https://mobilizingdevfinance.org/sites/mobilizedevresources/files/2022–05/DA_COVID_ESCAP_Kyrgyzstan_19.21_final_0.pdf
ESCAP in partnership with RCO, UNDP, UNICEF Kazakhstan	Analyze aspects of current policy environment, financing landscape, and lending & investment practices of MSMEs in Kazakhstan. Develop concrete recommendations for financial inclusion as part of evolving INFF to support COVID–19 recovery & SDGs achievement under the implementation of Joint SDG Fund project 'Kazakhstan – Aligning policy and financing with SDGs towards an Integrated National Financing Framework'. —	2021–2022	Hands–on research focused on approaches for financial inclusion of: (1) smaller (& informal) MSMEs, (in–progress); (2) in sectors particularly affected by COVID–19 (in–progress); and (3) in economically depressed regions. All activities were completed in 2022.	On 23 November 2022, ESCAP organized the workshop "Improving access to finance for small and medium enterprises of Kazakhstan within the framework of INFF" to present key results of the study and explore ideas to boost SME financial inclusion through the INFF lens. The workshop contributed to identifying solutions to strengthen the policy framework on SME development and gather experts' insights and field research on the role of policy incentives, government intervention and technical assistance to support particularly rural SMEs and accelerate financial inclusion of small businesses operating in sectors particularly affected by COVID–19.
FAO	Strengthen extension advisory systems (EAS) infrastructure to respond to the impacts COVID–19.	2020–2021		In **Azerbaijan**, extension agents and farmers have been trained to perform their duties safely in the field (GCP/AZE/018/EC). Moreover, multi–stakeholder coordination committees have been set up and facilitated by the projects to cope with the COVID–19 situation. The following documents were published on "Extension and advisory services (EAS) at the frontline of the response to COVID–19 to ensure food security" https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8710en Asia: https://www.fao.org/research–extension–systems/resources/detail/en/c/1300649/ Europe and Central Asia: https://www.fao.org/research–extension–systems/resources/detail/en/c/1298291/ Africa:

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				https://www.fao.org/research–extension–systems/resources/detail/fr/c/1299014/ Africa: Extension and advisory services: at the frontline of COVID–19 response for food security in Africa A series of regional webinars on the role of EAS in COVID–19 response were conducted.
FAO	Support smallholder farmers in LLDCs to respond to COVID–19 impacts to reduce food supply chain disruptions, food shortages, and loss of employment and income continuing combating climate change impacts scaling up Climate Smart Agriculture projects.	2020–2021		The FAO Investment Centre's Asia Pacific Service (CFIB) led the preparation and analysis presented in the paper on the impact of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic on selected value chains, providing a situation analysis in **Nepa**l. Cropping and livestock were analyzed in order to identify gaps that would lead to the design of projects and programmes that would respond to emerging needs.
FAO	Resource mobilization aimed at green recovery and building back better, in line with the joint UN approach in cooperation and coordination with other UN agencies, addressing the urgent need to support the transition to healthier, climate resilient and resource efficient green and circular agriculture and food value chains as an integral part of economic recovery and stimulus packages. Key actions include: i) support national and sub–national governments in recovery planning, aimed at creating more green jobs by developing and implementing bio–economy strategies for the agrifood and land use sectors; ii) enhance standards, tools and mechanisms for monitoring, compiling data, **conducting rapid assessments and analyses** to monitor climate resilience and	2020–2021		FAO, in collaboration with UN and other partners, supported rapid assessments and provided recommendations to all countries in the Africa region. FAO–**Nepal**, in close coordination with MoALD and WFP, conducted a COVID–19 National Rapid Impact Assessment to identify the nature and extent of COVID 19 impacts on agrifood systems, focusing on immediate and medium–term impacts. This assessment estimated preliminary losses in agriculture; diagnosed the supply chain disruptions at each stage– from production to consumption; revisited Government–led responses and identified gaps; and put forward actionable suggestions to bring agriculture back to its pre–COVID level and render it more resilient.

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	sustainability of the agrifood and land use sector; iii) support the scaling up of nature–based solutions, with a focus on ecosystem restoration and management, including sustainable forest, livestock and wildlife management and the greening of value chains that nurture smallholder stewardship. (Building on existing green initiatives, countries of focus potentially include **Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Paraguay and Uganda**.)			
GCF	Provide financial support to governments to craft a range of green stimulus measures and design, in collaboration with partners, for a pipeline of projects to scale up climate initiatives with strong socio–economic co–benefits. This seeks to promote a green resilient recovery from the COVID–19 pandemic.	2020 – 2022	GCF plays a key role supporting developing countries to prevent, respond to and recover from COVID–19. This includes supporting governments in crafting green stimulus measures to help transition to low emissions and climate resilient pathways while building inclusive, equitable and sustainable economies. Since launching its COVID–19 Rapid Readiness in the Spring of 2020, GCF has provided over USD 2 million in readiness grant funding, of which include 7 LLDCs countries to support in COVID and Health related activities, including in supporting the drafting of green stimulus plans.	
ADB	Undertake projects/programs in LLDCs for COVID–19 response. This includes: – Projects under COVID–19 Pandemic Response Option (CPRO)/COVID–19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program, which provide quick–disbursing budget support loan and grants to procure medical supplies and expand the supply of essential medical goods	2020–2024	In 2020, 10 CARES/CPROs amounting to $2,110 million approved: –Afghanistan: CARES project for $100 million –Bhutan: CARES project for $20 million –Kazakhstan: CARES project for $1,000 million –Kyrgyz Republic CARES: $50 million –Kyrgyz Republic: COVID Emergency Support: $20 million –Lao PDR: GMS Health Security for $20 million –Mongolia: COVID–19 Rapid Response Program for $100	

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	–Asia–Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) to provide COVID–19 vaccines and improve international logistics – Other projects supporting regional health security		• million • –Nepal: CARES project for $250 million • –Tajikistan: CARES project for $50 million • –Uzbekistan: CARES project for $500 million In 2021, 6 COVID response projects for $534 million approved: – Azerbaijan: CARES project for $250 million – Afghanistan: APVAX project for $50 million – Kyrgyz Republic: $25 million – Mongolia: $ APVAX project for $19 million – Nepal: APVAX project for $165 million – Tajikistan: APVAX project for $25 million As of 31 December 2022, ADB, through its BRACE program, provided $600 million to three CAREC LLDCs—the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, to help them mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The following health projects were also approved in 2022: • KGZ: Central and West Asia Strengthening Regional Health Security Project ($20 million) • KGZ: Central and West Asia Strengthening Regional Health Security Project ($10 million) • BHU: South Asia Responsive COVID-19 Vaccines for Recovery Project under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility ($10 million) Over the period of 2022–2024, the following projects are planned. • – ARM: Central and West Asia Health System Transformation Project (RBL) ($50 million) LAO: Southeast Asia Greater Mekong Subregion Border Areas Health Project ($14.95 million)	
UNECE	Establishment of an Informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group	2020–2021	Pending	

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	Meeting on Transport Responses to the COVID–19 Crisis: Gather representatives of ministries of transport, health and customs officials from across the ECE region and beyond to take stock of the challenges experienced by the inland transport sector in view of the COVID–19 pandemic, discuss possible issues in re–opening of cross–border traffic and exchange views on possible recommendations to increase transport authorities` preparedness for and resilience to future outbreaks. Ongoing UNECE–led process so far with a focus on the Euro–Asian region. Next informal advisory group meeting on 8 September 2020.			
UNWTO	Share Tourism and COVID–19 Recovery Package	2019–Ongoing	As tourism was among the sectors most negatively and immediately affected by the COVID–19 pandemic, impacting livelihoods and economies globally, global coordination is essential for tourism to deliver on its status as a leading generator of opportunity for all. UNWTO will continue to work closely, engage and have dialogue among the different stakeholders, to promote tourism for people, planet and prosperity. Among the tools and services to help address this recovery is the COVID–19 Recovery package, that offers guidance to both public and private tourism sector stakeholders in their efforts to mitigate the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on the tourism sector and accelerate recovery. The Recovery package includes technical assistance based on three pillars: a) Economic Recovery (including activities such as COVID–19 tourism impact assessment, preparing recovery plans for Governments including incentives and financial support to MSMEs, and value chain analysis b) Marketing and Promotion: review of growth scenarios and priority markets; marketing strategies (domestic,	

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			regional, thematic); product diversification, incentives to stimulate travel, etc; c) Institutional strengthening and building resilience: review or formulation of COVID–19 safety protocols for the tourism sector, capacity building programmes for government officials and private sector on a vast variety of topics, crisis management strategies. Beneficiary countries include: Botswana, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Zambia. UNWTO is about to initiate a project in Mongolia as well.	
UNOPS, IGAD, IOM, TradeMark East Africa	EU response to the health and socio–economic impact of COVID–19 in the Inter–Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region – covering Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia	2020–2022	Funded by the European Union, the $59 million programme is managed by UNOPS through a dedicated Programme Management Unit based in Djibouti and implemented by IGAD, IOM, and TradeMark East Africa. The EU response to the health and socio–economic impact of the COVID–19 programme mitigates the health and socio–economic effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the IGAD region through coordinated, comprehensive actions in 45 cross–border sites in 7 countries, including 3 LLDCs. The programme has four main objectives : 1. Increased capacity at IGAD to coordinate national responses. 2. Increased access to health and socio–economic support to vulnerable groups. 3. Borders and critical supply chains are safe for trade. 4. Digital solutions relevant for COVID–19 health response are promoted. The ongoing programme has so far reached more than 1.9 million people across the region with implementation of activities in health, gender–based violence prevention, WASH, provision and distributions of medical supplies and PPEs (more than 5.6M kits; 175k test kits, 22 ambulances and seven mobile laboratories distributed). Under a component implemented by IOM, this programme also responds to the refugee humanitarian crisis in East Sudan by addressing the needs of health workers and the vulnerable populations in Cross border areas with an	

The impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs				
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			emergency water supply system and sanitation in a refugee camp. 250 Latrines and 150 showers are already installed. They are being completed with safe bathing areas for women, viral disease prevention kits, a hybrid solar energy power system that will provide power for water pumps, 4 boreholes and 5 water tanks.	
UNOPS (project funded by the World Bank)	COVID–19 preparation and response in Chad	2020–2022	To support the Government of Chad's response to COVID–19, UNOPS (with USD 8 million in funding from the World Bank) enabled the acquisition of several thousands of screening kits, medical equipment and medicines, as well as two ambulances for the benefit of hospitals in N'djamena and the targeted rural areas of Bol, Bongor, Pala, Doba, Sarh and Abéché in Chad. The project is ongoing with the purchase of additional equipment and their distribution across the country.	
UNOPS (project funded by the World Bank)	COVID–19 preparation and response in Mali	2020–2022	To support the COVID–19 response in Mali, UNOPS (with USD 3.5 million in funding from the World Bank) facilitated the purchase of medical equipment, medicines, personal protective equipment, prefabricated emergency structures and respirators. This project is also part of the REDISSE Project (The Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement) in West Africa, which aims to sustainably strengthen the capacities of health systems in West Africa.	
UNOPS (project funded by the Islamic Development Bank)	Acquisition of laboratories to strengthen the capacity of health structures in response to COVID–19 in Chad	2020–2023	This project aims to strengthen the capacities of health structures through the acquisition, installation, and equipment of five modular P3 level laboratories in three cities of Chad. These facilities are equipped with test kits, virus scanners and extractors. The $4 million project (funded by the Islamic Development Bank) is ongoing with the purchase of additional equipment and their distribution across the country.	

The impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs

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UNOPS	COVID–19 procurement support in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	2020–2022	In order to contribute to the VPoA, the UNOPS Austria Multi–Country Office has been implementing COVID–19 responses in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Through this initiative, UNOPS supports governments in Central Asia in building healthcare resilience with: the provision of medical supplies and personal protective equipment in the context of the ongoing pandemic; and the appropriate capacity building to healthcare professionals. To achieve these results, UNOPS has been working closely with National Ministries of Health and other National Authorities, respective project donors, the UN system (UN Resident Coordinator's Office as well as World Health Organisation and other UN Agencies) and suppliers. UNOPS COVID–19 response activities have supported Ministries of Health by: ● undertaking a pre–survey to validate the final procurement list for the Ministries of Health, in coordination with WHO, determining the list of required medical equipment, and their specifications; ● procuring and delivering medical equipment, including item assembly and training of healthcare professionals in the countries; ● supporting with customs clearance and deliveries across the countries and coordinating with National Authorities. **Initiatives to be implemented by March 31st, 2022:** Uzbekistan (2020–2022): 7 medical institutions have been supplied with 102 types of medical facility products, diagnostics kits and other medical supplies, including but not limited to Oxford nanopore MinION, software and accessories, RT–PCR, CT scans, portable X–ray, thermal imaging cameras, video laryngoscopes, consumables and reagent of hematology analyzers and steam sterilizers. **Initiatives to be completed in May 2022:** Turkmenistan (2021–2022): 15 hospitals and health centres have been supplied with 11 types of key materials designed to enhance its health system through the provision of medical equipment. An initial list of items to	Parts of the project were completed in 2021. In Tajikistan (2020–2021): 10 hospitals have been supplied with 34 types of crucial medical equipment and personal protective equipment to ensure strategic preparedness for COVID–19 cases. This includes ICU ventilators, infusion pumps, hospital beds and patient monitors, but also sterilisers, mobile X–Ray and blood gas analysers. In addition, more than 200 mechanical hospital beds are being supplied across the country.

The impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs				
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			be procured to Turkmenistan is including but not limited to duodenoscopes, advanced ultrasound, modular ICU vital sign monitors and mobile X–ray machines. UNOPS activities have received funding from: –The World Bank for Tajikistan (USD 5.3 million); –KOICA for both Uzbekistan (USD 3.2 million) and Tajikistan (USD 200,000); and –the Government of Japan for Turkmenistan (USD 2.8 million).	
UNOPS	Strengthening the health system in response to COVID–19 in Paraguay	June 2020 – December 2021		UNOPS worked with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay (with funds from the World Bank) to strengthen the health system of the country. To do so, it supported the procurement of supplies and equipment to increase health capacities and providing timely care to patients with COVID–19. In 2021, intermediate and intensive therapy units in more than 20 health centers throughout Paraguay were provided with enhanced medical equipment, supplies and medicines. Additionally, in order to protect the living conditions of the population in vulnerable situations, UNOPS supported: –the National Government and ITAIPU Binacional in the delivery of 100,000 VDRL Syphilis test units and 64,200 rapid HIV detection tests to the National HIV/AIDS/STI Control Program (PRONASIDA); –the acquisition of a cabin electric generator to the National Secretariat for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS); and –the delivery of medicines and biomedical equipment to the hospitals and health centers in Alto Paraná (triple–border area between Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina).
UNOPS	Food security and humanitarian assistance to address COVID–19 pandemic and other adverse events in Paraguay.	October 2020 – April 2022	To protect the living conditions of the population in vulnerable situations, UNOPS supported the National Government of Paraguay with the distribution of 13,000 food kits to families from indigenous communities through the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute (INDI). In addition, families affected by climatic events in different parts of the country were assisted with the delivery of	

The impact of COVID–19 on LLDCs				
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			46,500 food kits, 33,330 zinc sheets and 3,330 mattresses through the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN). Furthermore, UNOPS supported the provision of awnings for the COVID–19 vaccination campaign and over 85,000 food services were delivered to patients and health professionals in order to support the response to the pandemic in Alto Paraná (triple–border area between Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina). The project is expected to be completed in April 2022.	
UNOPS	Emergency procurement of critical medical equipment, including personal protective equipment, laboratory supplies and equipment, COVID–19 tests, and IT equipment in Lao PDR.	2021		With the aim to reduce COVID–19 community transmission, UNOPS has been working in partnership with the Government of Japan to support the government of Lao PDR. This resulted in aid to healthcare workers and the public. Urgently required personal protective equipment and laboratory supplies, valued at $1.9M USD were procured and distributed in 2021, creating a safer work environment while at the same time enhancing the capacity of the central and provincial laboratories. The population that is primarily benefiting from this response are those living in the Vientiane capital as well as in the Luangprabang, Champasak and Savannakhet Provinces. The project was completed in 2021.
UNOPS	Supporting the Government of Lao PDR to procure critical medical equipment, and to enhance their response to the COVID–19 outbreak.	2020–2022	As part of an eight–country coordinated effort, UNOPS is working with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to support the Government of Lao PDR to procure critical medical equipment, and to enhance their response to the COVID–19 outbreak. The project started in August 2020 and runs to August 2022, with the possibility of a project assessment to be completed in 2022.	
UNOPS	Nepal COVID–19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness	2020 2021–2024	**2021–2024:** UNOPS is supporting the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population to mitigate the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic in Nepal, covering the procurement of vital medical supplies, supply chain management, and infrastructure development.	**2020:** UNOPS procured and delivered 100,000 RT PCR test kits and 50,000 RNA Extraction Reagents to the Nepal Ministry of Health and Population. This took place under the Emergency Procurement Procedure within 14 days of contract signing under the World Bank financed project during the first wave of COVID–19 in 2020.

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			In this regard, to help support medical facilities with equipment used to treat people with COVID–19, UNOPS is procuring 1,000 oxygen concentrators. It is also procuring and installing seven oxygen generation plants – one for each of the seven provinces in the country – using more than $4.5 million in World Bank funding. The operations and maintenance of the plants will be carried out by UNOPS until July 2024.	
UNOPS	COVID–19 Emergency Procurement in Afghanistan	2019–2020 2020–2021		**2019–2020:** During the COVID–19 outbreak, UNOPS procured USD 1.5 million–worth of medical equipment (through Emergency Procurement Procedures) to support the Ministry of Public Health in addressing the needs of 50,000 infected patients and 3,250 medical staff. Through this initiative, UNOPS procured and delivered much needed oxygen cylinders, PPE kits and other equipment. The project was financed by the Japan Supplementary Fund – 2019–21 (USD 1.5 million). It was completed in 2020. **2020–2021:** UNOPS procured and delivered, to the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health, USD 5 million–worth of health supplies and equipment to make progress on the country's response to the Covid19 outbreak. The project was supported by CORCAID (USD 5 million) and was completed in 2021.
UNOPS	Procurement of medical training equipment, first aid kids, and pharmaceutical items for the treatment of tuberculosis, HIV and malaria in Afghanistan (Resolute Support – Procurement of Medical Equipment – Afghan National Army Trust Fund (ANATF)	2018–2022	Through its RSHQ programme, and with the support of its Asia Health Hub, UNOPS procured medical training equipment, first aid kids, and pharmaceutical items for treatment of tuberculosis, HIV and malaria in Afghanistan. Those items have been procured but some of them have not been delivered due to the change of regime back in August 2021. They will be donated to WHO, while UNDP has agreed to distribute some of them through the Global Programme Fund.	

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DESA – UNCRD	Organized 10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia–Pacific with the theme of "Advancing Circular Economy in Asia–Pacific towards the SDGs under COVID–19 Pandemic", which was joined by LLDCs.	2020		The 10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia–Pacific was held in six phases during 24 Nov to 22 December 2020. The Forum emphasized the need for regional cooperation and commitment to green recovery and natural resource management to overcome the challenges faced by the countries due to COVID–19. On the national level, these responses can be translated to supporting measures related to SDGs like access to water and sanitation, building resilient and sustainable infrastructure, and promoting public and private partnerships in sustainability initiatives. The Forum underscored that 3R and Circular Economy are the most beneficial approaches to manage COVID–19 waste that mainly includes additional healthcare waste, plastics and packaging waste including personal protective equipment and home deliveries, and E–waste mainly due to ICT related equipment and batteries for work from home and home schooling.
DESA – UNCRD	Organized Intergovernmental 13th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia, with the theme of "Changing the Course of Asia's Transport Sector through Transformational Change", which was joined by LLDCs.	2020		The 13th EST Forum in Asia was organized on 10–11 November 2020. One of the objectives of the Forum was to develop a consensus on how Asian EST member countries, including LLDCs, can contribute towards the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, in particular, during and after the COVID–19 pandemic through effective mobility solutions, including better traditional and new public transport options as well as walking, cycling and other transport modes.

6.4   Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls				
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ESCAP	Provide support to Working Group on Gender and SDGs under the auspices of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).	2020–2022+ (Annual)	ESCAP and UNECE convened the annual meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs on 9 November 2022 in the margins of the SPECA Economic Forum taking place from 16 to 17 November 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.	In 2021, ESCAP also issued the report 'North and Central Asia: An analysis of the Beijing+25 review reports'. The report contains a summary of the identified achievements, challenges, and key actions taken by the ESCAP members States in the North and Central Asia

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls				
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			The annual meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs is held annually in advance of the SPECA Economic Forum and serves as a forum for policy dialogue, capacity building and networking for government stakeholders from relevant key ministries and agencies in SPECA countries in partnership with UN agencies to discuss critical and key emerging issues for gender–transformative economic policies to empower women's decision–making and participation in the context of climate change. Participants shared experiences in implementing various measures and initiatives and how these measures have affected gender equality in their countries. Strategies and actions will be further discussed to identify the way forward towards advancing gender equality in the context of climate change, including women's full economic and political empowerment in support of the 2030 Agenda. https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/annual–meeting–thematic–working–group–gender–and–sustainable–development–goals–united ESCAP and UNECE convened the Annual Meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs: "Gender–responsive policies to achieve SDG5 in the context of COVID–19 pandemic: critical and key emerging issues in the SPECA region", on Tuesday 2 November 2021. The SPECA Working Group on Gender and Sustainable Development Goals (WG on Gender and SDGs) is a subsidiary body within the governing structure of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). It works to raise awareness on the interdependency between gender and economy through sharing good practices in mainstreaming gender in economic policies, policy–oriented research and projects and developing cross–sectoral linkages and synergies with other relevant areas of the SPECA activities. During the meeting, participants shared advances made and challenges encountered on the implementation of SDG	sub–region to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. The LLDC countries that have submitted their national review reports, and are included in the report, are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The report identifies key priority areas for action for countries in the region for the next five years, with a view to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in the region and progress in implementing the Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/north–and–central–asia–analysis–beijing25–review–reports

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls				
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			5 on gender equality and discussed strategies to forge ahead on key issues to advance gender equality, including women's full economic and political empowerment. The outcome of the meeting informed the work of ESCAP and UNECE towards the Beijing+30 review process within the context of sub–regional collaboration with SPECA countries. It is expected that one or more joint initiatives will be identified for potential future sub–regional collaboration. The key recommendations are expected to identify, in the context of the COVID–19 pandemic, both opportunities and challenges to achieving the ambitions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Sustainable Development Goal 5. https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/annual–meeting–speca–thematic–working–group–gender–and–sustainable–development–goals The Annual Meeting on Gender and SDGs also took place on 27 October 2020.	
ESCAP	Implement the "Catalysing Women's Entrepreneurship" (CWE) programme, with Nepal as one of the six target countries.	2018–2024–	Since 2022, the CWE programme trained a total of 338 women entrepreneurs on e–commerce and digital marketing in Nepal. Additional virtual training sessions will be organized by CWE's partner in Nepal, the South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) and the Asian Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development/ESCAP towards the end of 2023, benefitting an additional 1,000 home–based women entrepreneurs.	ESCAP supported SAWDF to undertake a study to assess the digital landscape and accessibility for, as well as related challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in the country. **Outcome/Results:** The study findings were disseminated, and feedback was obtained on the recommendations during a stakeholder consultation on August 17 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Key recommendations include the need for inclusive digital infrastructure, tailored, context–specific and comprehensive training programmes, and policy reforms to create an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs. During the workshop, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies expressed their commitment to utilize the study findings to inform policy decisions.
ESCAP	Implement project on E–Commerce Capacity Building for Women–led	2019–2022	Enhance the knowledge and capacity of target women entrepreneurs in the application of e–commerce platforms	

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	MSMEs for all three LLDCs of South Asia – Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal – as target countries so as to link them with local, regional and global supply chains.		to expand their business exports and participate in local, regional and global supply chains.	
UNECE	Conduct two studies on the Impact of COVID–19 on the Trade and Business Development Prospects of female–owned enterprises in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova. These studies provide evidence from UNECE's Survey of Female–owned Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.	2021–2022	Key findings and recommendations of these studies will be submitted to the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards at the beginning of June 2022 and are expected to be discussed at the seventh session of the Committee, which will take place on 27–28 (am) June 2022. The final versions of the studies will be published at the UNECE webpage https://unece.org/trade/studies–regulatory–and–procedural–barriers–trade.	
ISA	Enhance the role and participation of women scientists from LLDCs in deep–sea research	Ongoing	On 8 March 2021, ISA together with UN–OHRLLS have joined hands to advance empowerment and leadership of women in marine scientific research through the joint implementation of the "Women in Deep–Sea Research (WIDSR)" project which will focus on women scientists from developing States and in particular those from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. In that occasion, ISA and UN–OHRLLS organized a high–level webinar through which the specific challenges and opportunities faced by women scientists from LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS in engaging in deep–sea research disciplines and leadership positions. The Chair of the Groups of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS to the UN participated and shared insightful perspectives on what could be done to improve the situation. See [https://www.isa.org.jm/vc/enhancing–role–women–msr/WIDSR–project] As a first major deliverable under this project, a gender mapping and analysis of barriers identified has been conducted between July 2021 and March 2022 for selected countries in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Several countries contacted to identify a focal point to enable data collection have contributed to this initiative and the report is expected to be released at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon in June 2022.	

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			In parallel, significant progress has been made to implement other elements of the WIDSR project. As such, the Republic of Korea and MABIK have partnered with the project to launch a Global Women Leadership programme in deep–sea research and the ISA Secretariat is planning to launch in May 2022 the mentoring programme for women scientists including those form LLDCs.	
UN–TBLDC and IDRC	Financing SMEs in LDCs with focus on supporting technology–based firms and women entrepreneurs in Ethiopia	2020–2021	Pending	
ADB	Mainstreaming gender into development in CAREC region	2020–2024	CAREC Gender Strategy 2030 was endorsed by the CAREC Ministerial Conference in 2020. To support CAREC LLDCs and other CAREC countries in implementing the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030, a technical assistance project (Promoting Gender Equity in the CAREC Region) was approved for $1 million in 2021. The Regional Gender Expert Group (RGEG) was established in 2022 as one of the operational mechanisms under the TA. The hybrid inaugural launch of the RGEG was held on 9 and 10 August in Istanbul, Türkiye with some participants joining online. The Group acts as an advisory and consultative body for the implementation of the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030. An operationalization plan for the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030, including a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, has also been prepared. The CAREC Women's Business Forum will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 28-29 November 2023, along with the Awarding Ceremony for CAREC Gender Awards for Advancing Gender Equality.	
UNOPS	Modernisation and Improvement of Policing (MIPP) Services in Nepal	2015–2021		Through the Modernisation and Improvement of Policing (MIPP) Services Project, UNOPS Nepal constructed and handed over 58 modern, gender–

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				sensitive, seismically resilient police units, improving access to justice for marginalized communities including women and girls. As part of capacity enhancement, 10,000 police personnel were trained on human rights, crime prevention, and citizen friendly policing. 43 units of functioning automated fingerprint identification systems were installed and a strategy and action plan were developed for a better Performance Management System for Nepal Police. The project was completed in 2021.
UNIDO	Promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in LLDCs	2020–2024	UNIDO continues implementing projects and programmes supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women in LLDCs. UNIDO's project and programme approval function requires all projects and programmes to assess their envisaged contribution to gender equality and the empowerment of women as a precondition to approval for implementation. This is done based on the criteria of the UNIDO Gender Marker (0; 1; 2A, and 2B). Many of the UNIDO projects and programmes in LLDCs contain outputs on gender, such as: supporting job creation for women, developing skills of women and girls, supporting gender parity in decision–making and consultation processes, tailoring knowledge and advocacy materials for women, ensuring sex–disaggregated data including for women– and men–owned businesses, etc.	In 2021, UNIDO published "Gender and industrialization: Developments and trends in the context of developing countries". This publication seeks to review the literature on the relationship between gender (in)equality and industrialization in the context of developing countries. It also documents past developments, accounting for pre–industrial preconditions that might explain current differences in gender roles across developing societies. The publication is available HERE.
UNOSSC and UN Women	Under the India, Brazil and South Africa Fund (IBSA), managed by UNOSSC, implementation of a project in Malawi and Zambia titled Eliminating child marriages in Malawi and Zambia and offering scholarships to child marriage survivors. The project focuses to contribute to, and accelerate implementation of, the African and global commitments to ending child marriage as a way of achieving the	Ongoing, continuous	Under the IBSA Fund, contributed to eliminating child marriages in Malawi and Zambia by offering scholarships to child marriage survivors. The project contributed to and accelerated implementation of the Africa and global commitments to ending child marriage as a way of achieving the boarder development goals of gender equality, freedom from poverty and just world and there by contribute to agenda 2030 and SDGs. The project provided scholarship and support 1,417 young women and girls to enroll back to school from their early marriages.	

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	boarder development goals of gender equality, freedom from poverty and just world. It will contribute to the 2030 Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.			
UNOSSC with UNFPA	Funded by India–UN Fund, the adolescents of Paraguay are supported in prevention of adolescent pregnancy and against the sexual abuse in girls and adolescents	2019 – 2022	Supported by India–UN Fund, this intervention empowers adolescents of Caaguazú, Paraguay, to prevent adolescent pregnancy and sexual abuse through education, the provision of quality health–care services, and the optimization of inter–institutional response and coordination.	
UNOSSC and UNDP	Funded by India–UN Fund, provision of social innovation hubs in Bolivia will support women empowerment through early childhood care	2020–2022	The project is reducing barriers to access the labor market and decent jobs for lower income women in Bolivia through the provision of public policy to improve childcare for the most vulnerable population, an innovative centre for early childhood care, and an innovative training centre that promote gender equity.	
WTO	Provide technical assistance through training courses on Trade and Gender, targeted to enhance government officials from LLDCs' understanding of trade and gender issues and in building capacity to review, develop and implement gender–responsive trade policies	Upon request	All WTO LLDC Members are eligible to benefit from this training course on Trade and Gender as a Technical Assistance National Request. At the end of the training course, participants are able to utilize trade and gender concepts and tools in the analysis and development of trade policies.	

7   COORDINATION

7.1   Coordinated follow–up and stakeholder networks

Coordinated follow–up and stakeholder networks				
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UN–OHRLLS, with support from RCs	Establish the LLDC National Focal Points network and facilitate its regular meetings	2021+	The LLDC National Focal Points network seeks to enhance coherence and coordination at the national, regional and global levels on LLDCs related issues and foster peer–learning and exchange of best practices on the implementation and follow up of the Vienna Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global frameworks. The LLDCs National Focal Points Network was established in December 2021 and its Inaugural Meeting will be held on 16–17 June 2022.	
UN–OHRLLS, in collaboration with DCO	Establish a network of LLDC Resident Coordinators (RCs) with the aim of supporting national level implementation of the VPoA and of the Midterm Review Political Declaration	2021 – Ongoing	The network of LLDC Resident Coordinators (RCs) was established in 2020. OHRLLS, DCO and Resident Coordinator Offices of LLDCs agreed to meet regularly to discuss issues related to implementation of VPoA at the national level.	
UNECE and ESCAP	Ongoing support for the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia with its Working Groups in the areas of sustainable transport, water, energy and environment, trade, innovation and technology, gender and SDGs,	Ongoing	This is a unique programme for subregional cooperation in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Established in 1998, the programme actively promotes regional cooperation in a complex region, using support from UNECE and ESCPA in their relevant mandated areas, in cooperation with the Resident Coordinators in the countries. More information is available at: www.unece.org/speca	
Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WOAH and WHO) in support of One Health	FAO promotes a One Health approach as part of agrifood system transformation for the health of people, animals, plants and the environment. This involves a spectrum of actors and work on sustainable agriculture, animal, plant, forest, and aquaculture health, food	Ongoing	Support on a One Health is being upscaled by the Quadripartite through launching the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), including support to leveraging all forms of investment to boost health systems and mitigate threats. New sources of funding for LLDCs include the Pandemic Fund, where in its first call for proposals a number of LLDCs have been successful including **Burkina Faso, Bhutan,**	

	Coordinated follow–up and stakeholder networks			
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	**DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES**	**TIMELINE**	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING:** INDICATE PROGRESS ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIME PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	**IF ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED:** INDICATE DATE OF COMPLETION AND RESULTS/OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
	safety, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food security, nutrition and livelihoods		**Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Paraguay, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zambia.** In addition, through the Quadripartite Antimicrobial Resistance MPTF, support is being provided to **Ethiopia, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe** for the National AMR Action Plans. More broadly, One Health project system underlines the support offered by FAO on One Health in Agrifood systems transformation and areas of support include on Food Safety, Disease control and Biosecurity and surveillance such as in **Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mongolia, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.**	
UN–OHRLLS with other UN agencies	Organization of meetings of the Inter–Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on LLDCs	Ongoing, on an annual basis		The 2023 IACG meeting took place in June 2023, in the context of the preparations for the Third UN Conference on LLDCs in 2024, mandated by the UN General Assembly in resolutions 76/217 and 77/246, focused on the preparatory process for the Conference. The IACG members were invited to identify pre–conference events, side events, substantive reports or analytical work and successful solutions or concrete deliverables they intend to support as part of the preparatory process for the Conference.