## Understanding Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

An explainer



## **32 Countries**

# 590 million people

Africa: 16 LLDCs Asia: 10 LLDCs Europe: 4 LLDCs Latin America: 2 LLDCs

# With challenges.

Lack of access to the sea

The average distance to the nearest seaport for the LLDCs is 1,370 km. They are dependent on their transit neighbors' infrastructure and administrative procedures for the transportation of their exports and their imports.





#### trade costs of coastal Countries On average, LLDCs currently face significantly higher trade costs nearly double those of coastal countries—due to high transport

LLDCs face almost double the

costs and non-tariff measures. They also take longer time to send and receive merchandise from overseas markets due to multiple border crossings, cumbersome border procedures, un-harmonized cross-border and transit transport documentation, formalities and procedures.

#### 200,000 km of paved roads, over 46,000 km of railways, and an investment of more than half a trillion USD.

Infrastructure gaps in transport





## primary commodities accounting for more than 80 % of their exports.

LLDCs exports is characterized by a limited number of

LLDCs continue to be heavily commodity-dependent with

products with low value addition.

#### LLDCs have faced lower per capita GDP growth in recent years. On average, the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in neighboring coastal countries is more than three times that of the 32 landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). Furthermore, the average level of the human development index in LLDCs is 19 percent lower than that of coastal developing countries, highlighting the disparity in development outcomes.

Regional trade growth

4.3 in 2023, with most LLDCs participating in multiple

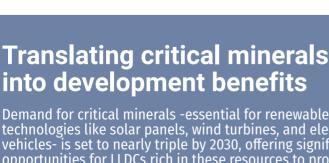
And opportunities.



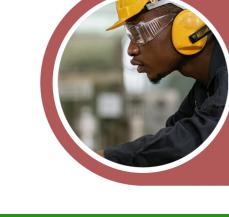
agreements. As a result, regional trade from LLDCs grew by 70% over the past decade under the Vienna Programme of Action. **Turning tourism into opportunities** In 2023, international tourism receipts in LLDCs surpassed

Many LLDCs engage in more trade with neighboring countries than with distant partners. The average number of regional trade agreements (RTAs) for LLDCs increased from 3.3 in 2014 to

### pre-pandemic levels, reaching nearly 20 billion USD, with an estimated 43 million international visitors. Harnessing tourism's benefits will be critical to achieveing SDGs amd implementing the new Programme of Action.







With rapidly growing young populations, many LLDCs offer exciting opportunities for consumer market and product growth, making them attractive destinations for supply chains. Between 2023 and 2050, the population in LLDCs is projected to increase more than 400 million, surpassing 1 billion by 2050.

### Potential in digital services

Digital services exports from LLDCs reached \$10.6 billion USD in 2022, with a higher annual average growth rate than that of the world between 2019-2022. LLDCs have scope for much more digital growth: While 95 % of the population is covered by mobile networks, less than half of the population has

