

# Understanding Landlocked Developing Countries

## An explainer

32 Countries

570 million people

4 Continents

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.



### Their trade costs doubles

LLDCs pay more than double what the transit countries incur in trade costs and 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.



### Infrastructure shortage

With nearly 200,000 km of paved roads and more than 46,000 km of railways needed to achieve global average road/raildensity. An investment of 509.3 billion is required.



### Tourism needs to recover

Exports of travel and tourism services from LLDCs reached \$14.2 billion in 2022, but require further growth to recover to pre-pandemic levels of \$18.2 billion in 2019.



## And opportunities...

### Regional trade growth

Regional trade grew by 70% from LLDCs in the course of the last 10-year UN Programme of Action for LLDCs.



### Rich in primary commodities

Accounting for 83% of their exports with many LLDCs having considerable potential in the critical mineral resources needed for the adoption of green technologies, such as batteries and solar energy equipment.



### Growing market

Of 570 million people worth \$836 billion that is set to expand to over 1 billion people by 2060



### Potential in digital services

Digital services exports from LLDCs increased by 67.2% since 2019, more than triple the average growth rate for the world, to reach \$10.6 billion in 2022. LLDCs have scope for much more digital growth with only a third of individuals currently using the Internet, compared to the world average of 66 percent.

