

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND TRADE-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IN LDCS

INFORMATION NOTE¹

KEY POINTS:

- Among the COVID-19 pandemic's far-reaching consequences for the global economy, the least developed countries (LDCs) face the most daunting challenges. A lack of resources to support an economic rebound is compounded by LDCs' dependence on a limited range of products exported to a few markets, some of which have been those worst affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic threatens to derail hard-won development gains in LDCs.
- The year 2020 started against the backdrop of a subdued trade performance in 2019. The value of LDC exports of goods and services declined by 1.6 per cent in 2019, a greater decline than that of world exports (1.2 per cent). Consequently, the share of LDCs in world exports also registered a marginal decline, falling to 0.91 per cent in 2019. The expected downturn in trade in 2020 is likely to be even more severe for LDCs than at the global level.
- The pandemic has accentuated the slump in oil prices seen in 2019. Declining demand, as well as supply disruptions, have weighed significantly on LDC exports, especially exports of textiles and clothing products. LDCs dependent on tourism revenues have seen the sector come to a virtual standstill. As migrant workers from LDCs return from host countries affected by the pandemic, flows of remittances – a critical source of foreign exchange for many countries – have dramatically dried up. All of these factors are predicted to worsen further in the coming months.
- The ongoing pandemic may affect the near-term prospects for some countries to graduate from LDC status. Angola and Vanuatu, which are scheduled to graduate soon, and LDCs such as Bangladesh, which are on the path to graduation in the next few years, have been experiencing unavoidable declines in economic growth and export earnings.
- The LDCs have called for countries to refrain from export prohibitions and restrictions on medical goods and food, of which many are net importers. Several LDCs have lowered duties on medical goods to ensure their availability at more affordable prices to their citizens.
- Since the start of the pandemic, at least two-thirds of LDCs have put in place a variety of lockdown measures. Some LDCs have announced stimulus packages, which have covered export-oriented sectors. They have also strengthened healthcare systems and ensured social relief packages and liquidity support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- The international community has announced support measures ranging from debt relief to strengthening social sectors and providing social safety nets for the most vulnerable. Maintaining this momentum, while redoubling coordination efforts, remains vital as the world moves towards economic recovery.

¹ This document has been prepared under the WTO Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

1. INTRODUCTION

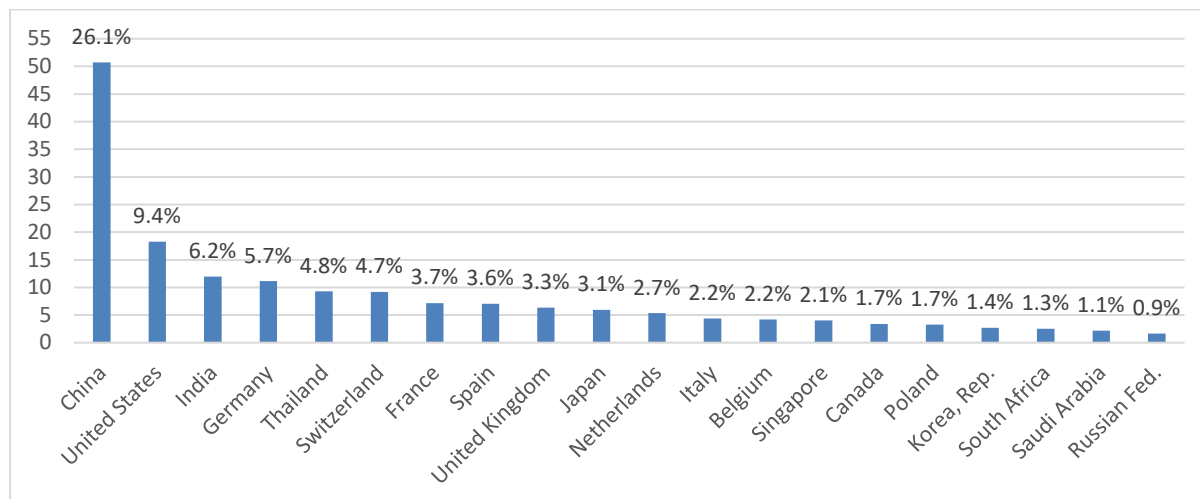
This note aims to look at the likely impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LDC trade. First, it briefly describes the trends in LDC trade over the past few years, especially in 2019, revealing the situation for the LDCs prior to the pandemic. It then looks into the latest trade situation for a selection of LDCs, based on publicly available information. It also discusses the extent to which the trade-related measures taken by governments in response to the pandemic could have an impact on LDC trade. Support measures taken at domestic as well as international levels to address the pandemic are also covered.

2. THE LDC TRADE SCENARIO BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

LDC goods and services exports declined by 1.6 per cent in 2019 compared to the previous year, while respective world exports declined by 1.2 per cent. In addition, the LDC share in global exports stood at 0.91 per cent in 2019, representing a marginal fall from 0.92 per cent in 2018. Their trade balance widened further, reaching a new high of US\$ 113 billion in 2019, up from US\$ 97 billion in 2018. The LDC share in world goods exports was estimated to be 0.99 per cent in 2019, while their share in world services exports amounted to 0.68 per cent (see Annex 1 for further information). In sum, the LDCs entered the pandemic period as marginal participants in world trade, and the drastic decline in global trade is likely to have a disproportionate impact on all LDC exporters.

Merchandise exports of LDCs are concentrated in a few markets, which makes them even more vulnerable to COVID-19-related decline in demand in these markets. The top destination markets for LDCs (see Figure 1) include those that are among the worst affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 (i.e. China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States).

Figure 1: Top 20 destination markets for LDCs' merchandise exports in 2019, US\$ billion and %



Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) Trade Map.

Note: Aggregates are based on mirror and direct data.

Annex 2 provides further insights into the concentration of merchandise exports by showing, for each LDC, the top five destination markets in 2018. At the level of individual LDCs, the market concentration is often even more pronounced. For instance, all of the top five markets for Bangladesh were countries that have been severely affected by COVID-19 (France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States). Other LDCs are also exposed to this vulnerability of relying on limited export destinations. For example, in 2018, Angola exported around 57 per cent of its merchandise to China, Benin around 41 per cent to India, Burkina Faso around 54 per cent to Switzerland, Haiti around 82 per cent to the United States and Rwanda around 65 per cent to the United Arab Emirates.

Table 1 shows that the LDCs face a different market exposure for imports compared to their exports (as per Figure 1). On the import side, developing economies and economies in Asia play a more important role as suppliers for LDCs. However, there have been disruptions to supply chains in these economies, which in turn has impacted LDC imports from these countries. Table 1 also lists the top 20 supplying markets for LDCs in terms of medical supplies, some of which have been subject to temporary trade measures.

Table 1: Top 20 supplying markets for LDCs in 2019, US\$ million and %

Total merchandise			Medical supplies		
Exporter	Value	%	Exporter	Value	%
China	77,594.3	30.4%	India	1,852.0	23.9%
India	29,665.5	11.6%	China	1,473.3	19.0%
Thailand	18,134.7	7.1%	France	762.6	9.8%
Singapore	12,852.4	5.0%	Netherlands	616.8	8.0%
United States	10,293.7	4.0%	Thailand	444.7	5.7%
South Africa	9,361.3	3.7%	South Africa	298.0	3.8%
Korea, Republic of	7,139.4	2.8%	Germany	291.7	3.8%
Japan	6,990.3	2.7%	United States	204.8	2.6%
France	6,125.7	2.4%	Switzerland	188.5	2.4%
Malaysia	5,560.8	2.2%	Portugal	153.5	2.0%
Belgium	4,877.6	1.9%	Belgium	144.6	1.9%
Turkey	4,869.8	1.9%	Hong Kong, China	112.8	1.5%
Netherlands	4,400.1	1.7%	Japan	112.0	1.4%
Germany	4,194.0	1.6%	Singapore	106.7	1.4%
Hong Kong, China	4,050.5	1.6%	Korea, Republic of	106.2	1.4%
Russian Federation	3,943.4	1.5%	Malaysia	99.3	1.3%
Brazil	3,362.8	1.3%	Turkey	95.4	1.2%
Italy	2,900.8	1.1%	United Kingdom	79.1	1.0%
United Kingdom	2,862.3	1.1%	Italy	75.4	1.0%
Saudi Arabia	2,705.0	1.1%	Spain	44.0	0.6%
Top 20	221,884.5	86.9%	Top 20	7,261.2	93.7%

Source: ITC Trade Map.

Note: Aggregates are based on mirror and direct data.

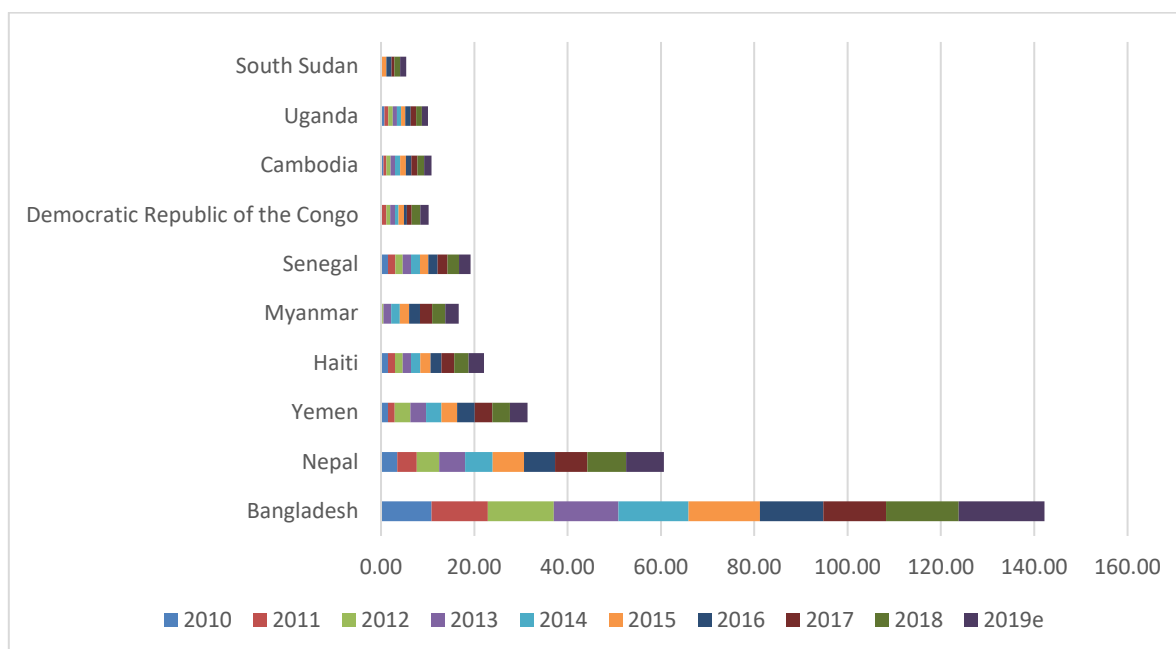
The COVID-19 pandemic is also likely to hit severely those LDCs dependent on travel services. The travel sector accounted for close to half (48.3 per cent) of total LDC commercial services exports in 2019, compared to only 24 per cent for world services exports. Annex 3 shows the dependence of individual LDCs on travel exports by providing a breakdown of services exports by category for LDCs where data are available. For instance, travel exports account for a predominant share of services exports for several LDCs: Nepal (93 per cent), Tanzania (93 per cent), Haiti (91 per cent), Angola (87 per cent), Cambodia (82 per cent), Lao People's Democratic Republic (81 per cent), Vanuatu (81 per cent), Zambia (81 per cent) and Timor-Leste (80 per cent).

3. LDCS AND REMITTANCES

Remittances from workers living abroad have been a major source of foreign exchange earnings in LDCs, and have, in the past, financed a considerable portion of their imports, as most of the LDCs

experience negative trade balance. Average remittances accounted for 7 per cent of GDP in 2019 in LDCs.² Remittance inflows to the top 10 LDCs reached US\$ 44.84 billion in 2019 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Ten LDCs with the highest cumulative remittance inflows, 2010-19 (US\$ billion)



Source: The Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), <https://www.knomad.org/data/remittances>, accessed on 18 May 2020.

In April 2020, the World Bank estimated that global remittances are likely to decline by about 20 per cent in 2020, the sharpest decline in recent history, and remittance flows are expected to fall across all regions.³ Remittances represent an important source of foreign exchange earnings for South Asian LDCs such as Bangladesh and Nepal, to which countries migrant workers are reportedly being repatriated due to crisis conditions in host countries.⁴ Remittance flows to Bangladesh, which is one of the top LDCs to receive remittance income, are projected to decline by 22 per cent in 2020; similarly, the contribution of remittances (accounting for one-quarter of its GDP) to the Nepalese economy is expected to drop by 14 per cent.

4. EVOLVING TRADE SCENARIO IN 2020

In order to gauge the evolving trade situation in LDCs, some information available in the public domain has been gathered for the purposes of this note. Overall, it appears that trade value has plunged for all groups of LDC exporters, including exporters of petroleum and minerals, manufacturing items (e.g. clothing), agricultural products (e.g. horticulture exports) and services exports (tourism revenues).

The downward spiral in commodity prices is increasingly being felt by LDCs heavily reliant on commodity exports. Angola – the largest LDC commodity exporter, and for which oil accounts for over 90 per cent of its exports – saw the average price of its crude oil plummet to US\$ 14.1 per barrel (pb) in April 2020 from US\$ 33.1 pb in March and US\$ 57.3 pb in February. Overall, the average price of Angola's crude oil nosedived by 80.5 per cent in April on a year-on-year basis.⁵

² There are no data available for the Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea or Somalia. Data for Afghanistan and Angola begin in 2008, for South Sudan in 2014, and for Mauritania in 2017.

³ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/22/world-bank-predicts-sharpest-decline-of-remittances-in-recent-history>, accessed on 18 May 2020.

⁴ Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates represent over half of employment opportunities for Nepalese migrant workers.

⁵ See <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/angola/news/commodities/cabinda-crude-oil-prices-fall-to-over-two-decade-low-despite-lower>, accessed on 25 May 2020.

Zambia, which is among the top ten exporting LDCs, relies heavily on the mining sector (70 per cent of exports). Since the pandemic, over a span of two months, the price of copper in Zambia fell by 9.6 per cent, contributing to a sharp depreciation of the national currency (Kwacha).⁶

Manufacturing LDC exporters (e.g. of textiles and clothing products) are likely to experience a significant fall in export revenues in 2020. For instance, according to the export promotion agency of the Government of Bangladesh, the country's exports registered an 83 per cent decline in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Reportedly, Bangladesh and Cambodia have received order cancellations worth several billion US dollars. Moreover, some retailers in export destinations have started to file for bankruptcy protection, causing significant worries to suppliers in LDCs, as existing contracts risk being cancelled. Agriculture and horticulture exports from LDCs are also being significantly affected. For instance, Ethiopia, the second-largest flower exporter in Africa, has lost 80 per cent of the mainly European demand for its cut flowers.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimated that international tourist arrivals could decline by 20 to 30 per cent in 2020, translating to losses of US\$ 300 to US\$ 450 billion in international tourism receipts (exports).⁷ LDCs dependent on tourism and related services are witnessing a significant drop in their incomes, partly due to travel restrictions. Air passenger traffic in some LDCs (e.g. Cambodia) dropped by 90 per cent in April 2020. Some LDCs (e.g. Bhutan) stopped issuing tourist visas, with consequent impact on the local tourism economy.

The number of tourists visiting the Serengeti in Tanzania (among the top five services exporters in the LDCs) dropped from 6,000 per day to 24 in the wake of COVID-19.⁸ According to the Rwanda Convention Bureau, about 20 conferences and meetings scheduled for March and April, which had been expected to generate some US\$ 8 million for the economy, have been postponed as a result of travel bans. According to Vanuatu's tourism office, 70 per cent of tourism jobs (the sector accounts for 40 per cent of Vanuatu's GDP) have been lost since mid-March as a result of the pandemic, in addition to the tropical cyclone Harold, which hit the country in April.

LDCs on the path to graduation, such as Angola, Bangladesh and Vanuatu, have been experiencing massive falls in their export earnings.⁹ Given the weakening economic growth, coupled with the severe toll on remittances, gross national income (GNI) per capita in these economies is likely to fall. These LDCs are also likely to exhibit poor scores in socio-economic indicators – used as criteria for LDC graduation – as governments grapple with competing resources. The looming protracted recession may constrain the graduation prospects of some LDCs in the near term.

5. TRADE POLICY ISSUES

The WTO has been monitoring the trade-related measures governments have introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant number of these measures are temporary export restrictions imposed on medical goods. There have also been several trade-facilitating measures, such as the temporary and unilateral withdrawal of tariffs to facilitate imports of these products. Some non-tariff measures associated with trade in these goods (e.g. the elimination of non-automatic licensing procedures or the introduction of special export licensing requirements) are also being taken by members to combat the impact of the crisis. A number of members have adopted measures to temporarily prohibit or restrict exports of food and agricultural products.¹⁰ Some of the export bans introduced earlier have now been lifted.¹¹

⁶ See <https://www.theiqc.org/blog/the-structural-constraints-limiting-zambias-economic-response-to-covid-19/>, accessed on 20 May 2020.

⁷ See <https://www.unwto.org/impact-assessment-of-the-covid-19-outbreak-on-international-tourism>, accessed on 20 May 2020.

⁸ See <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/east-african-business-bloc-urges-support-for-tourism/1795044#>, accessed on 20 May 2020.

⁹ At present 12 LDCs are at different stages of their path to graduation from LDC status – Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

¹⁰ Four members (Kyrgyz Republic, North Macedonia, Thailand and Ukraine) notified under Article 12 of the Agreement on Agriculture, export prohibitions or restrictions measures (WTO official documents numbers G/AG/N/THA/107, G/AG/N/KGZ/8, G/AG/N/MKD/26 and G/AG/N/UKR/37 – accessible via <https://docs.wto.org>). Unlike the three other notifying members, Ukraine did not specifically attribute its export-limiting measures to COVID-19. Egypt notified export prohibitions on various fruits and vegetables to the Committee on Market

A preliminary overview of trade-related measures adopted by members indicates a limited incidence of measures on LDC exports. LDCs are more likely to be affected by the economic downturn in their export markets than the measures that are being introduced. Moreover, the import liberalization measures, though temporary in nature, are unlikely to create lasting export opportunities for LDCs, as most LDCs are not major producers of medical goods such as personal protective equipment (PPE), surgical masks or disinfectants. Some members have made proposals for full liberalization of food and agricultural products. This offers limited prospects for LDC exports, as such products are already duty-free for them in some of their export destinations.

Most LDCs are net food-importing developing countries (NFIDCs); hence, their food security could in certain cases be threatened, especially when export restrictions are imposed by major suppliers. Although the extent of the threat would depend on individual situations, conventional market forces indicate that when supply is reduced, prices increase. This is even more pronounced in the case of agricultural goods, where international markets are often shallow and concentrated and, hence, potentially react faster to supply shortages. LDCs are more vulnerable to sharp increases in the price of staple crops as they have a limited capacity to produce these crops domestically.

The LDCs, as a group, issued a communication (WTO official document number WT/GC/211) asking non-LDC members to refrain from imposing export prohibitions or restrictions on medical goods and food and to facilitate flows of these goods for LDCs' domestic use, including through the effective implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement's provisions on transit. A few LDCs have joined statements being issued by other groups of members. Afghanistan, Lao PDR and Vanuatu co-sponsored a statement highlighting the importance of protecting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises during the COVID-19 crisis (WTO official document number WT/GC/215/Rev.1). Malawi co-sponsored a joint statement calling for open and predictable trade in agriculture and food products in response to the pandemic (WTO official document numbers WT/GC/208/Rev.2 and G/AG/30/Rev.2). Afghanistan, Benin, Cambodia, Madagascar, Mauritania and the Solomon Islands co-sponsored a Ministerial Statement on the importance of the multilateral trading system during the COVID-19 crisis (WTO official document number WT/GC/212/Rev.1).

6. STIMULUS PACKAGES IN LDCS

The IMF Policy Tracker captures the latest information on fiscal policy measures announced by governments.¹² Building on this information, a dataset on fiscal stimulus packages is regularly being updated by Elgin et al. (2020).¹³

Most of the measures announced in LDCs are focused on supporting the health sector, including strengthening hospital facilities and procuring the most critical medical supplies. One-quarter of LDCs has adopted simplified import procedures, and some have waived or reduced customs duties on imports of essential supplies, including medical equipment. Exporting industries also feature in the stimulus packages of some LDCs, with the announced measures ranging from the payment of workers' salaries in Bangladesh to exemptions from advance income tax on exports in Myanmar. Another important dimension of the measures adopted so far are social relief packages and transfer programmes benefitting the poorest and most vulnerable communities. Such measures include subsistence allowances, distribution of food, and cuts in electricity and water bills.

Several LDCs have started to provide support measures for SMEs, including reducing interest rates on loans and offering tax breaks and salary support. The Government of Bangladesh has put in place a working capital loan programme for SMEs, including cottage industries, whereby banks will

Access in WTO official document number G/MA/QR/N/EGY/1/Rev.1. The Russian Federation, the world's largest wheat exporter, took temporary export-restrictive measures, pursuant to the Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission [N43](#) and the Government Order [N385](#) from 31 March 2020. The list of goods and services measures adopted by members is regularly updated and available on the dedicated page of the WTO website, https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹¹ For example, [Cambodia](#), [India](#) and [Viet Nam](#) (the third-largest rice exporter) initially introduced temporary export prohibitions which have now been lifted.

¹² The IMF estimates that the governments across the globe have so far taken fiscal measures amounting to US\$ 9 trillion (see <https://blogs.imf.org/2020/05/20/tracking-the-9-trillion-global-fiscal-support-to-fight-covid-19/>, accessed on 26 May 2020.)

¹³ See <https://voxeu.org/article/economic-policy-responses-pandemic-covid-19-economic-stimulus-index>, accessed on 14 May 2020.

lend them at concessional interest rate. Myanmar established a specific COVID-19 fund amounting to over US\$ 70 million to provide loans at 1 per cent interest rate to SMEs, as well as to businesses operating in tourism and apparel sectors, in order to alleviate the economic consequences of the pandemic. Meanwhile, Rwanda is expediting VAT refunds to SMEs, and all businesses in Lesotho have been exempted from a variety of taxes, including VAT, according to the national revenue authority. With over two-thirds of the LDCs having put in place a variety of lockdown measures,¹⁴ this type of support gives an opportunity for many smaller businesses to open their doors again once the lockdowns have been lifted.

7. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

The G20 Finance Ministers issued a communiqué on 15 April 2020 which includes a "debt service suspension initiative for the poorest countries", aimed at assisting LDCs and other countries eligible for the support of the International Development Association (IDA).¹⁵ With this initiative, principal repayments and interest payments were suspended from 1 May 2020 until the end of 2020, but this requires certain commitments from beneficiary countries.

Several LDCs have already requested emergency financial assistance from the IMF. As of 07 June 2020, over 60 per cent of LDCs had benefitted from at least one of the following four categories of programmes: catastrophe containment and relief trust (debt relief service); augmentation of extended credit facility (lending arrangements for balance-of-payments problems); and rapid financing instrument and rapid credit facility (arrangements to provide liquidity). The total amount of IMF emergency financing support to LDC has surpassed US\$ 5 billion (US\$ 3.7 billion in special drawing rights).¹⁶ The Rapid Financing Instrument and the Rapid Credit Facility account for over 90 per cent of total IMF emergency financing support to LDCs.

The World Bank has committed US\$ 160 billion to fight the pandemic with nearly one-third going to IDA-eligible countries. This covers a considerable number of LDCs.¹⁷ So far, nearly US\$ 700 million has been allocated to LDCs in COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Projects under the COVID-19 Fast Track Facility (see Table 2). In addition, nearly US\$ 200 million will be provided under the Pandemic Emergency Facility (PEF) to IDA-eligible countries.¹⁸

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has announced the allocation of US\$ 14 billion to support the health systems (US\$ 6 billion) and the businesses and livelihoods of developing countries (US\$ 8 billion);¹⁹ 40 per cent of the US\$ 8 billion package is dedicated to businesses of LDCs and other IDA-eligible countries. The key objective of this support is to provide access to working capital and trade finance.²⁰

LDC-focused components form an integral part of support announced by regional development banks. For example, out of US\$ 10 billion announced by the African Development Bank under the COVID-19 Response Facility, US\$ 3.1 billion has been allocated to concessional support to the beneficiaries of the African Development Fund, which includes all African LDCs.²¹ The support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic amounts to US\$ 20 billion,

¹⁴ IMF Policy Tracker (2020), <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>, accessed on 14 May 2020

¹⁵ G20 Finance Ministers' Communiqué [https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_FMFCBG_Communiq%C3%A9_EN%20\(2\).pdf](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_FMFCBG_Communiq%C3%A9_EN%20(2).pdf), accessed on 15 May 2020.

¹⁶ IMF COVID-19 Lending Tracker, <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/COVID-Lending-Tracker>, accessed on 07 June 2020. Special drawing rights refer to international reserve assets put in place by the IMF.

¹⁷ See <https://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries>, accessed on 20 May 2020.

¹⁸ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/27/pef-allocates-us195-million-to-more-than-60-low-income-countries-to-fight-covid-19>, accessed on 18 May 2020.

¹⁹ See <https://ifcextapps.ifc.org/ifcext/pressroom/ifcpressroom.nsf/0/CCCB1EAC6F61E32C8525852E0068124B?OpenDocument>, accessed on 19 May 2020.

²⁰ It is implemented through the following four programmes: Trade Finance Programme (US\$ 2 billion); Real Sector Response Facility (US\$ 2 billion); Working Capital Solutions Program (US\$ 2 billion); Global Trade Liquidity and Critical Commodities Finance programmes (US\$ 2 billion) to support local banks in providing finance to businesses.

²¹ See <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-unveils-10-billion-response-facility-curb-covid-19-35174>, accessed on 18 May 2020.

including US\$ 2.5 billion to be provided in concessional and grant form.²² In terms of LDC-specific support, the ADB has already approved a grant to Afghanistan (US\$ 40 million) to improve hospitals and purchase medical products, and loans to Bangladesh (US\$ 500 million) and Bhutan (US\$ 20 million) to provide social relief packages.

Table 2: LDC beneficiaries of the World Bank's COVID-19 Fast-Track Facility

Country	US\$ million
Afghanistan	100
Bangladesh	100
Benin	10.4
Bhutan	5
Burkina Faso	21.5
Burundi	5
Cambodia	20
Central African Republic	7.5
Chad	16.9
Djibouti	5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	47
Ethiopia	82.6
Haiti	20
Lao PDR	18
Lesotho	7.5
Liberia	7.5
Malawi	7
Mali	25.8
Mauritania	5.2
Myanmar	50
Nepal	29
Niger	13.95
Rwanda	14.25
Senegal	20
Sierra Leone	7.5
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	2.5
The Gambia	10
Togo	8.1
Yemen	26.9

Source: World Bank Group's Operational Response to COVID-19, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do/brief/world-bank-group-operational-response-covid-19-coronavirus-projects-list>, accessed on 18 May 2020.

²² See <https://www.adb.org/news/features/adbs-20-billion-covid-19-pandemic-response-frequently-asked-questions>, accessed on 19 May 2020.

ANNEX 1
World and LDCs' export growth, and other LDC trade indicators, 2015-19

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
World export growth (%)					
Goods and commercial services	-11.3%	-2.0%	10.4%	9.6%	-1.2%
Goods	-13.1%	-3.1%	11.0%	9.7%	-2.2%
Commercial services	-4.9%	1.5%	8.7%	9.0%	2.0%
LDCs' export growth (%)					
Goods and commercial services	-19.4%	-3.3%	15.1%	10.2%	-1.6%
Goods	-21.7%	-3.5%	16.8%	9.4%	-3.1%
Commercial services	-5.8%	-2.2%	6.8%	14.6%	5.3%
LDCs' export value (US\$ billion)					
Goods and commercial services	187.8	181.6	209.0	230.3	226.5
Goods	155.3	149.8	175.0	191.4	185.5
Commercial services	32.5	31.8	34.0	39.0	41.0
LDCs' share in world exports (%)					
Goods and commercial services	0.89%	0.88%	0.91%	0.92%	0.91%
Goods	0.96%	0.95%	1.00%	1.00%	0.99%
Commercial services	0.66%	0.64%	0.63%	0.66%	0.68%
LDCs' trade balance (US\$ billion)					
Goods and commercial services	-105.2	-94.2	-94.7	-96.9	-113.1
Goods	-68.0	-62.1	-61.8	-64.7	-87.4
Commercial services	-37.2	-32.1	-32.9	-32.3	-25.7

Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates. Available at WTO data portal (<http://data.wto.org/>).

Note: Data on commercial services trade for 2019 are preliminary estimates based on quarterly statistics.

ANNEX 2
TOP 5 DESTINATION MARKETS FOR MERCHANDISE EXPORTS OF LDCs IN 2018, PERCENTAGE SHARE

Exporting LDC	Top 1 market	%	Top 2 market	%	Top 3 market	%	Top 4 market	%	Top 5 market	%
Afghanistan	India	39.5	Pakistan	39	United Arab Emirates	8.8	United States	2	China	1.7
Angola	China	57	India	12.3	United States	6	United Arab Emirates	3.5	Spain	3.2
Bangladesh	Germany	15.1	United States	13.8	United Kingdom	8.1	Spain	7	France	6.8
Benin	India	41	United Arab Emirates	26	Korea, Republic of	5.9	China	5	Lebanese Republic	4.1
Bhutan	India	86.8	Italy	3	Germany	2.5	United Kingdom	2.2	France	1.1
Burkina Faso	Switzerland	53.9	India	28.1	China	3.4	Spain	3	Germany	2.4
Burundi	United Arab Emirates	51.9	India	6.8	United States	6.4	Germany	6.3	Pakistan	6
Cambodia	United States	19.2	Germany	10.1	Japan	8.1	China	6.9	United Kingdom	6.4
Central African Republic	China	47	India	13.3	United Arab Emirates	8.1	France	5	Belgium	3.5
Chad	India	35	United States	27.6	Netherlands	19.6	United Arab Emirates	7.6	China	5.1
Comoros	India	46.5	France	20.5	Turkey	6.5	United Arab Emirates	5.4	Germany	4.4
Democratic Republic of the Congo	China	51.2	Zambia	12.6	United Arab Emirates	7.6	Korea, Republic of	5.8	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	4.6
Djibouti	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	44	India	13.8	Egypt	6.5	Nigeria	5.9	United Kingdom	5.8
East Timor	Singapore	61.4	United States	10.3	Canada	5.4	Indonesia	5	China	4
Eritrea	China	61	United Arab Emirates	27	Korea, Republic of	10.6	Italy	0.5	Egypt	0.4
Ethiopia	United States	15.3	China	13.8	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	7.4	Germany	6.8	Netherlands	6.5
Gambia, The	India	41.5	China	17.5	Korea, Republic of	8.1	Senegal	7.1	Belgium	4.5
Guinea	United Arab Emirates	36.5	China	35.5	India	8.1	Spain	2.7	Ireland	2.4
Guinea-Bissau	India	84	China	4.9	Cote d'Ivoire	2.5	Ghana	2	Korea, Republic of	1.6
Haiti	United States	82.4	Canada	4	France	2	Mexico	1.8	India	1.1
Kiribati	Thailand	63	Mexico	15.3	Philippines	6.3	Japan	6.1	Korea, Republic of	2.7
Lao PDR	Thailand	50.5	China	31.6	Japan	3	United States	2.7	Germany	2
Lesotho	United States	33.2	Belgium	31.3	South Africa	22.3	United Arab Emirates	4.3	India	3
Liberia	India	16.8	Switzerland	15.6	Germany	9.1	United Kingdom	6.1	China	5.6
Madagascar	United States	22.7	France	18.7	Germany	8.6	Japan	6.1	China	5.4
Malawi	Belgium	20.6	Germany	13.1	Russian Federation	7.1	South Africa	5.6	United States	5.6

Exporting LDC	Top 1 market	%	Top 2 market	%	Top 3 market	%	Top 4 market	%	Top 5 market	%
Mali	United Arab Emirates	46.2	Switzerland	41.2	China	3	Uganda	1.8	Burkina Faso	1.2
Mauritania	China	30.3	Spain	13.1	Switzerland	11.3	Japan	7.8	Cote d'Ivoire	5.8
Mozambique	India	17.7	South Africa	14.5	China	9.6	Italy	8.1	Germany	4
Myanmar	China	25.2	Thailand	20.3	Japan	8.6	Germany	7	Korea, Rep. of	3.5
Nepal	India	58.7	United States	12.3	Turkey	5	Germany	3.9	United Kingdom	3.2
Niger	United Arab Emirates	52.5	China	30.3	Burkina Faso	3	Mexico	2.2	Ghana	1.6
Rwanda	United Arab Emirates	65	United States	7	Thailand	4.4	Pakistan	4.3	China	4
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	Poland	20.1	Singapore	18.6	Belgium	16.2	France	12.6	Portugal	4.9
Senegal	India	28.8	Switzerland	16.8	United Arab Emirates	5.5	Spain	5.5	Cote d'Ivoire	4.5
Sierra Leone	China	24.1	Belgium	19.7	Romania	11.3	United States	7.6	Germany	4.3
Solomon Islands	China	67.5	India	8.6	Italy	6	Thailand	2.7	Other Asia, not elsewhere specified	2.2
Somalia	United Arab Emirates	30.3	Oman	29.2	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	15	Bulgaria	3.4	China	3.4
South Sudan	China	92.3	India	3.2	United Arab Emirates	2.7	Pakistan	1.3	Uganda	0.2
Sudan	United Arab Emirates	26	India	20.2	China	15.8	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	13.3	Indonesia	5.6
Tanzania	India	28.8	United Arab Emirates	9.3	China	8.6	Switzerland	6.1	Uganda	5.5
Togo	Angola	33.4	India	11	Benin	10.6	United Arab Emirates	9.1	Cote d'Ivoire	5.6
Tuvalu	Thailand	58	Philippines	18.8	Ecuador	9.6	Japan	7.4	Nigeria	1.8
Uganda	United Arab Emirates	42	Kenya	16.2	Italy	5	Germany	4.3	Netherlands	3.2
Vanuatu	Japan	38.4	Turkey	12.1	China	9	Thailand	8.8	Korea, Rep. of	7.5
Yemen	China	41.5	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	8.8	India	8.3	Oman	8.3	United Arab Emirates	7.3
Zambia	China	47	Namibia	13.3	India	9.8	United Arab Emirates	4.5	South Africa	3

Source: UN Comtrade.

Note: The shares of the top five destination markets are based on mirrored import statistics for the year 2018.

ANNEX 3
COMMERCIAL SERVICES EXPORTS OF LDCs BY CATEGORY IN 2019, US\$ MILLION AND PERCENTAGE

	Commercial services	Goods-related services	Transport	Travel	Other commercial services
World	6,025,413	4%	17%	24%	55%
Least-developed countries	41,042	5%	26%	48%	20%
Afghanistan	598	0%	16%	32%	53%
Angola	558	0%	6%	87%	8%
Bangladesh	3,210	5%	20%	12%	64%
Bhutan	117	0%	26%	68%	5%
Cambodia	6,022	0%	13%	82%	5%
Ethiopia	4,541	0%	78%	15%	6%
Guinea	132	0%	1%	10%	89%
Haiti	298	0%	0%	91%	9%
Kiribati (2018)	8	0%	29%	43%	29%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1,101	0%	12%	81%	7%
Lesotho	27	0%	4%	79%	18%
Liberia	10	0%	28%	54%	17%
Madagascar (2018)	1,279	0%	45%	4%	51%
Mauritania (2018)	113	0%	69%	24%	8%
Mozambique	866	28%	8%	37%	27%
Myanmar (2018)	4,458	0%	9%	44%	47%
Nepal	1,560	0%	0%	93%	7%
Rwanda	703	0%	24%	58%	17%
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	43	0%	28%	61%	11%
Solomon Islands	128	0%	30%	62%	8%
Sudan	1,354	0%	16%	78%	6%
Tanzania	4,107	0%	4%	93%	3%
The Gambia (2018)	197	0%	11%	65%	24%
Timor-Leste	76	0%	15%	80%	4%
Uganda	1,631	0%	28%	32%	39%
Vanuatu (2018)	367	0%	4%	81%	15%
Yemen (2016)	309	0%	28%	32%	39%
Zambia	1,014	0%	4%	81%	15%

Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates as of 21 May. Available at WTO data portal (<http://data.wto.org/>).

Note: Preliminary annual estimates based on quarterly statistics for 2019.