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Helping Landlocked Countries Connect

Take action for a connected world



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45% of the world is still not connected

The lack of affordable access to the Internet and the disparity in levels of access across the world remains a key challenge.

This creates competitive and economic disadvantage.



We must act now

It's time to:

- Change policies to connect the unconnected
- Deploy networks with partners
- Build communities
- Focus on capacity development



Landlocked Countries: Higher Transport Costs, Delays, Less Trade

“Countries without a port pay more and wait longer for imported oil, food, and other goods. And they have an equally hard time exporting, with the result that they trade less and grow more slowly than their coastal neighbors. Being landlocked is a major reason why 16 of the world’s landlocked developing countries are among the poorest in the world.”

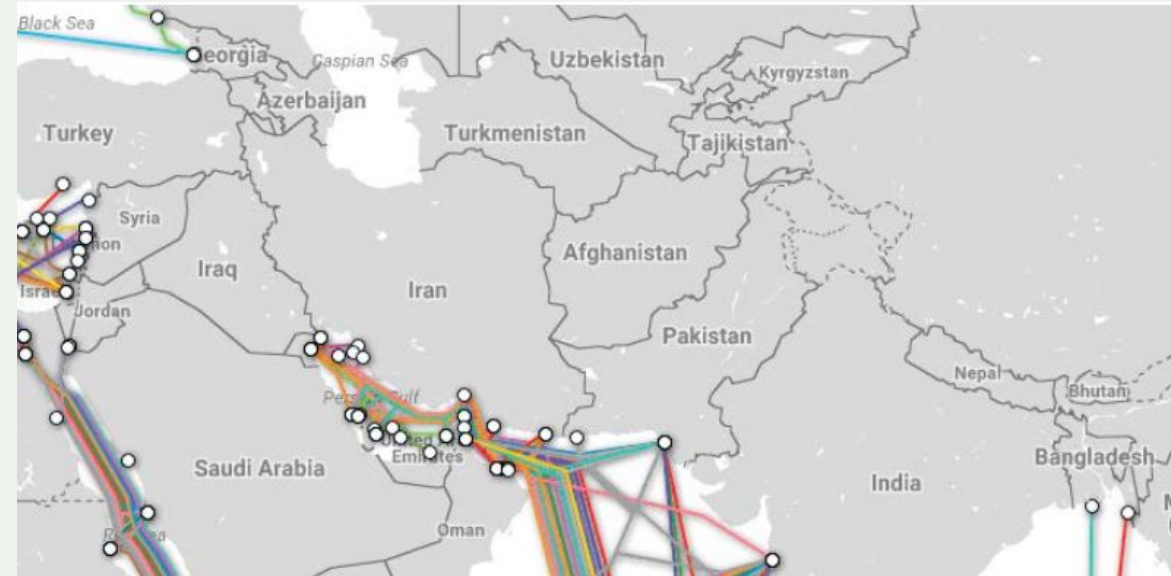
— World Bank



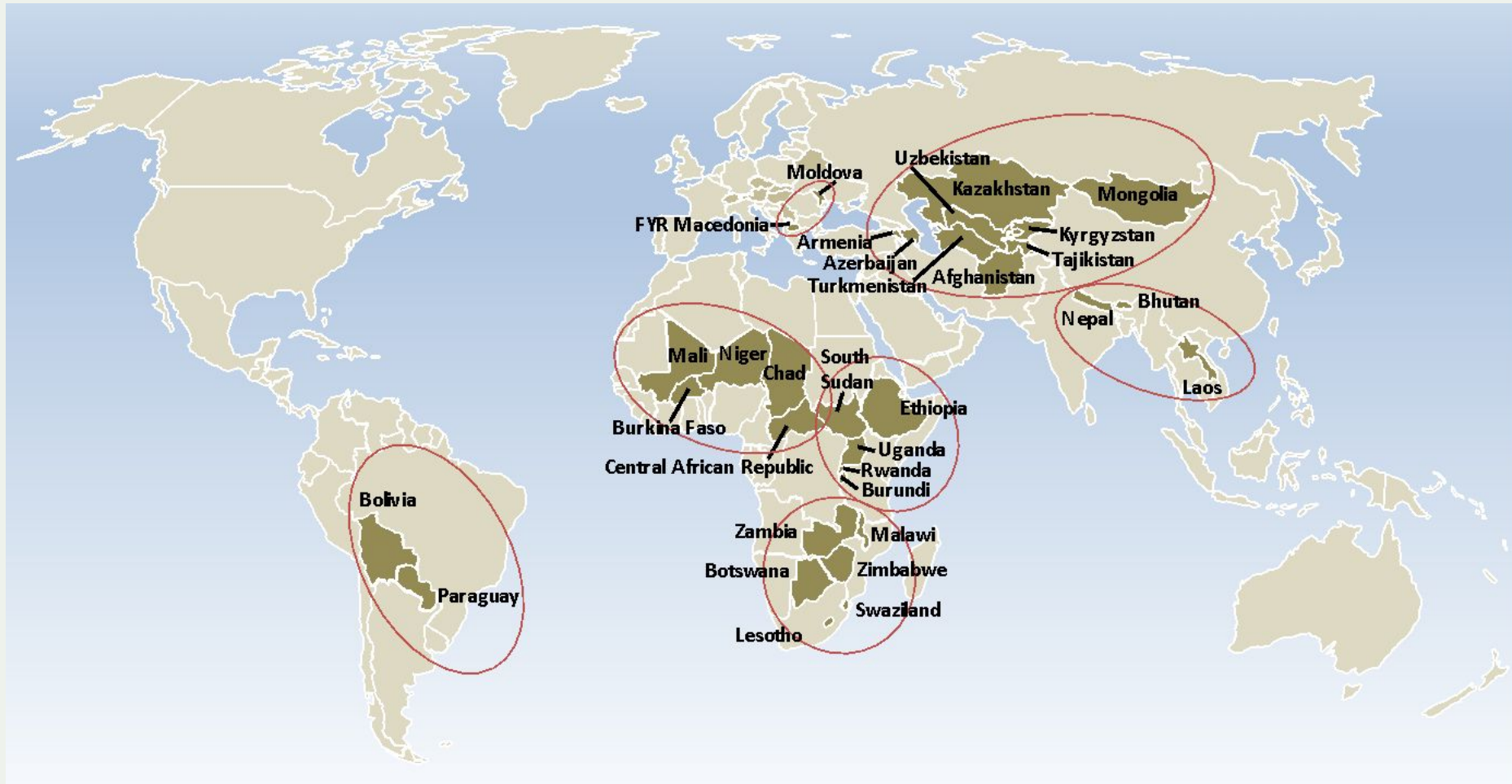
Overcoming LLDC Trade Obstacles with Digital Links

The Internet can assist physically landlocked nations become digitally land linked:

1. LLDCs need access to the sea for goods trade, and they also need it for access to fibre optic submarine cables.
2. Networked customs systems have a significant impact on reducing the delays and cost of trading across borders.
3. LLDCs are on a more equivalent footing with non-landlocked countries in services trade. Here the Internet can provide a platform for information technology services.



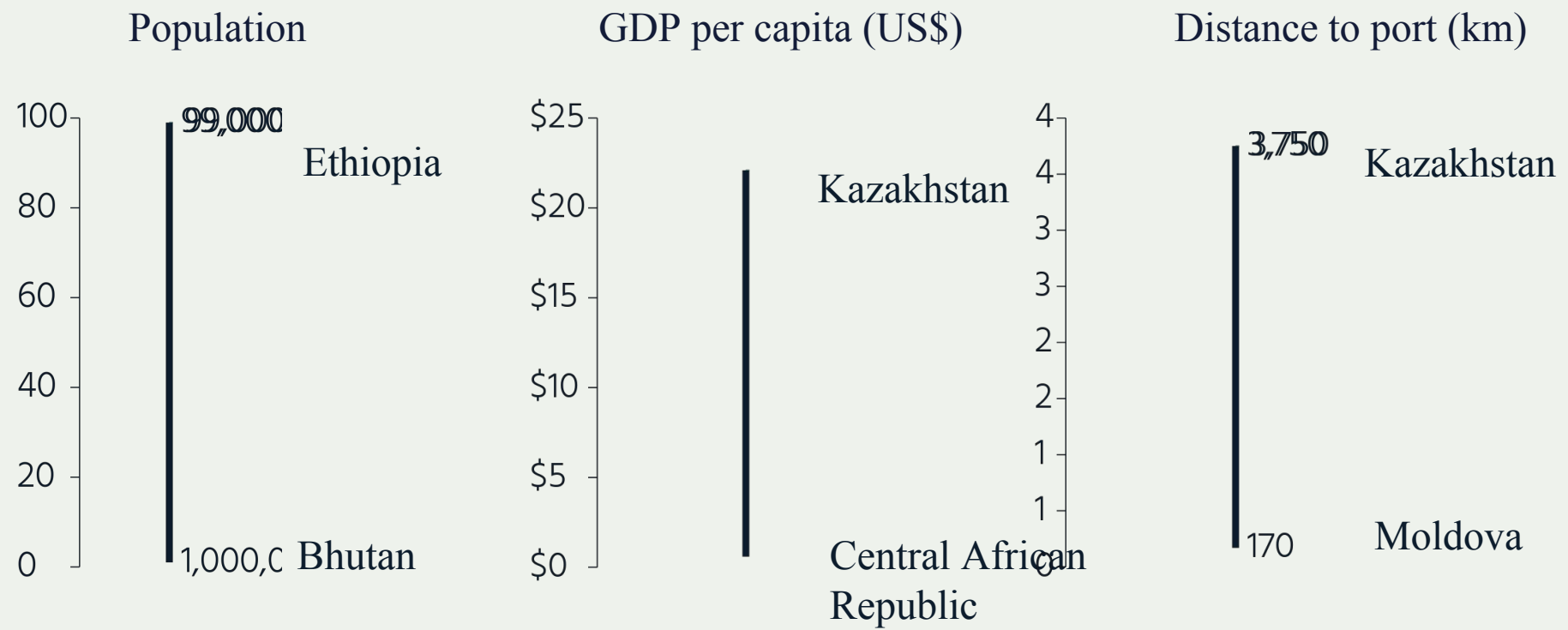
Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)



There are 44 landlocked countries in the world, of which 32 are classified as developing by the United Nations.

Landlocked Developing Countries: Far from Similar

Significant demographic, economic & geographic variation



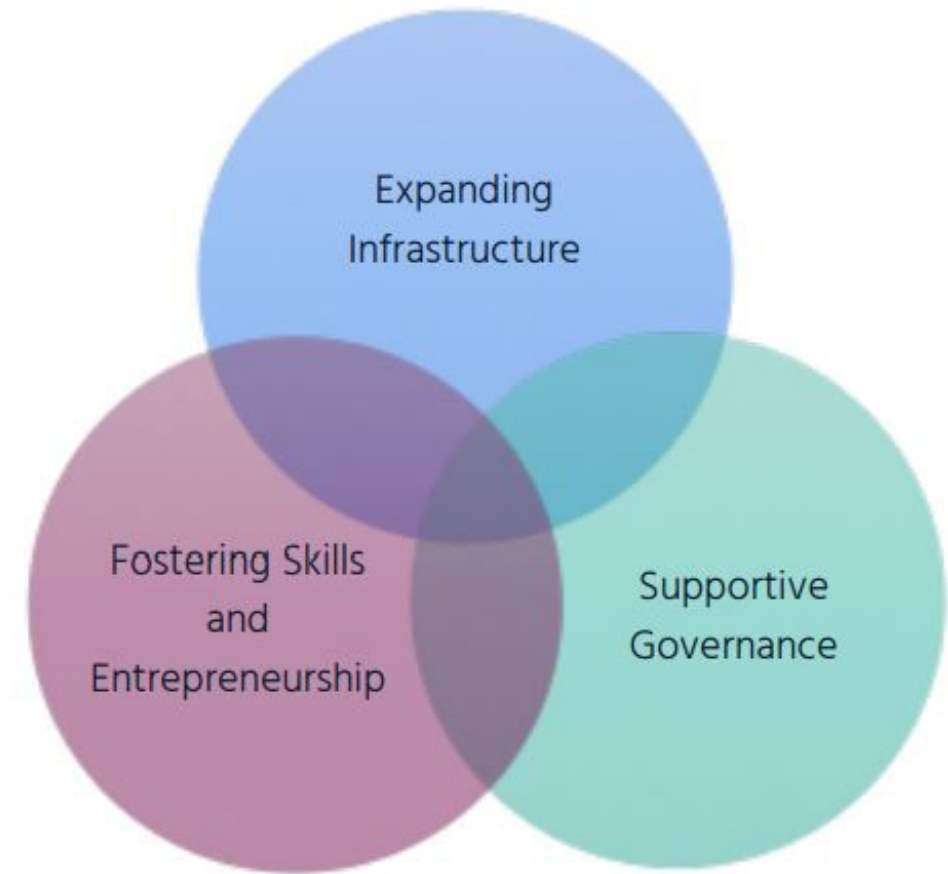
Case studies: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Assessment and recommendations using Internet Society's policy framework on access:

1. Expanding infrastructure
2. Fostering skills and entrepreneurship
3. Supportive governance

Open feedback period – comments welcome!

<https://www.internetsociety.org/resources/doc/2017/1ldcreport>



Recommendations: Infrastructure

- ❖ LLDCs should aim to increase domestic backbones, in particular, to all border crossings to enhance options and redundancy for international connectivity. This can be achieved through various models such as a competitive backbone market, public private partnerships or wholesalers with the aim of achieving open and cost-based access. This can be further encouraged through sharing, and making public rights of way (roads, electricity pylons) available for fiber deployment.
- ❖ Governments and operators in LLDCs should work with multilateral bodies (e.g. development agencies or regional communities) to promote competition in delivery of connectivity to inland borders of their neighbors, through regulatory means or infrastructure building.
- ❖ Where costs to connect from the coast to inland borders are very high, either some form of subsidy or a regional trade agreement may be required. Subsidies could take the form of funding of construction costs, direct or indirect price subsidy to suppliers or users of the routes, or support for demand aggregation and long-term contracting to reduce unit prices. A regional trade agreement could take the form of a cost-based transit price from the LLDC border to submarine cable landing stations.

Recommendations: Fostering Skills and Entrepreneurship

- ❖ Given the close link between secondary school enrolment and Internet use, governments need to invest the necessary resources to boost secondary school participation. Investment should also include computers and Internet access, which can be facilitated through universal service funds and corporate social responsibility programs. Those out of school should not be left behind and digital literacy programs should be developed leveraging facilities such as vocational schools, libraries and community centers.
- ❖ Government, industry and development partners should explore options for developing a services export industry, having regard for language compatibility and the level of skills available and varying from call centers to business process outsourcing to software development. Options could be evaluated based on the number of jobs likely to be created in the medium term and the contribution towards exports.

Recommendations: Governance

- ❖ LLDC governments should, in consultation with industry and civil society, identify sector governance activities, which may benefit from non-governmental input. These may include but are not limited to domain name management, innovation park planning and development, promoting local content development and local traffic exchange, authoring new laws on electronic communications, cyber security, and planning for e-government.
- ❖ LLDC governments need to ensure continuity of political and civil service leadership on ICT issues, and ideally for such leadership to be visible and accessible to industry and civil society.

How Is the Internet Society Supporting Access in Central Asia?

- Supporting development of Internet Exchange Points (IXP) through capacity building and policy recommendations
- Connecting remote communities through Community Networks – first pilot project in implementation in Kyrgyzstan
- Supporting events and activities related to reinforcing open dialogue on and governance of Internet policy issues.



A wide-angle photograph of a mountainous landscape in Georgia. In the foreground, several packhorses with saddles and gear are grazing on a green hillside. In the middle ground, a small structure with solar panels and a tall communication tower are visible, with a few people standing nearby. The background features a range of rugged, snow-capped mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

“For landlocked countries, the Internet is the sea.”

Lasha Tunaury (left) and his packhorses wait while Konstantin Stalinsky, Giorgi Kirvalidze and Amirani Giorganashvili complete construction of a tower on Kheki, a mountain peak in Tusheti, a beautiful but very remote region of the Greater Caucasus Mountains in the Republic of Georgia, ©Nyani Quarmyne



Get involved.

There are many ways to support the Internet. Find out today how you can make #SwitchItOn

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