

2024 Sustainable Development  
Transformation Forum

# Boosting the SDGs in the least developed countries

29-31 October 2024, Incheon City, Republic of Korea

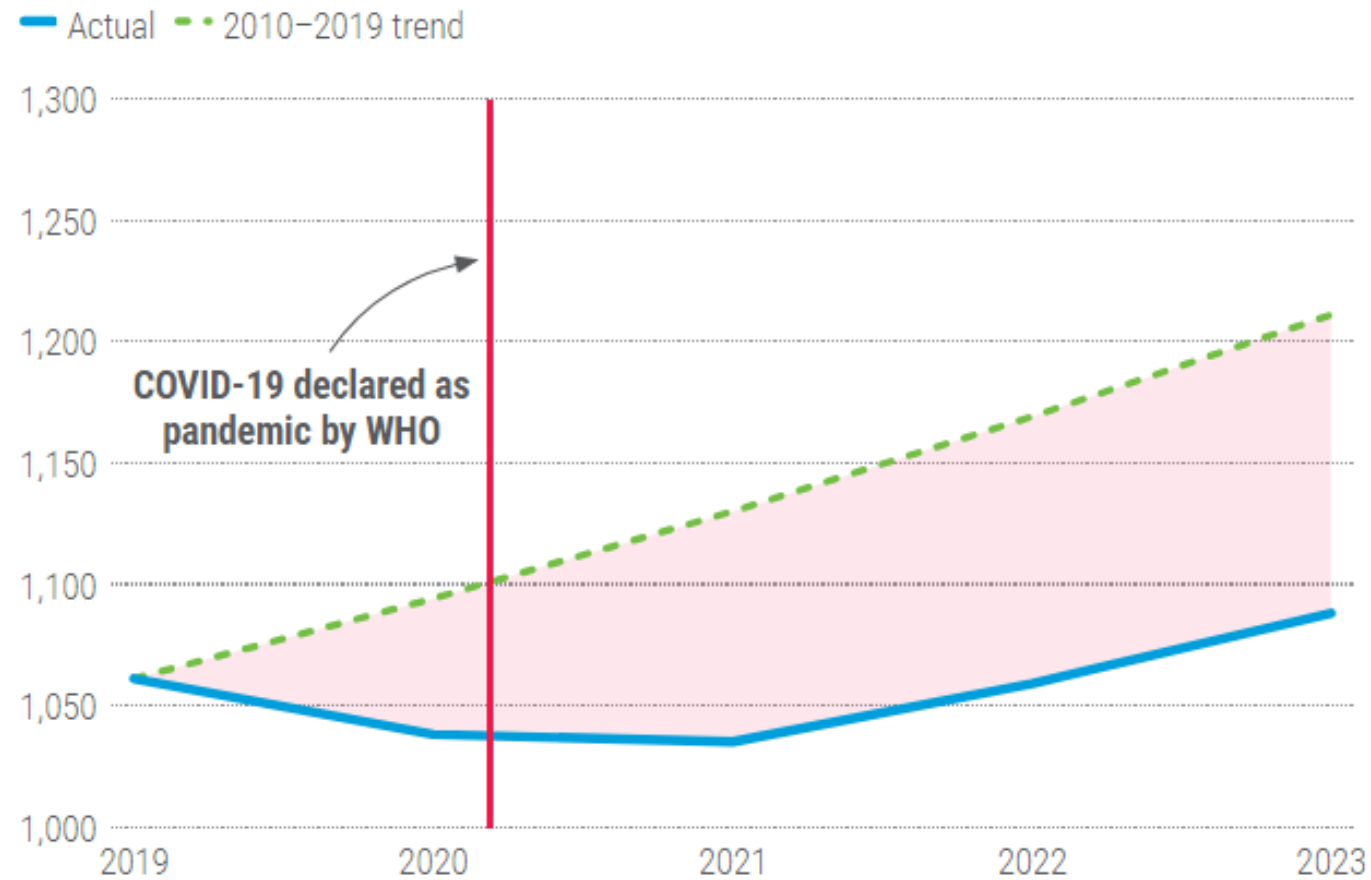
Stefan Csordas

# ▶ Why focus on LDCs?

- ▶ LDCs account for 14% of the global population but...
- ▶ 34% of the world's undernourished
- ▶ >50% of the world's extreme poor
- ▶ 71% of the people without access to electricity
  
- ▶ 1.4% of global GDP
- ▶ 1.1% of global exports

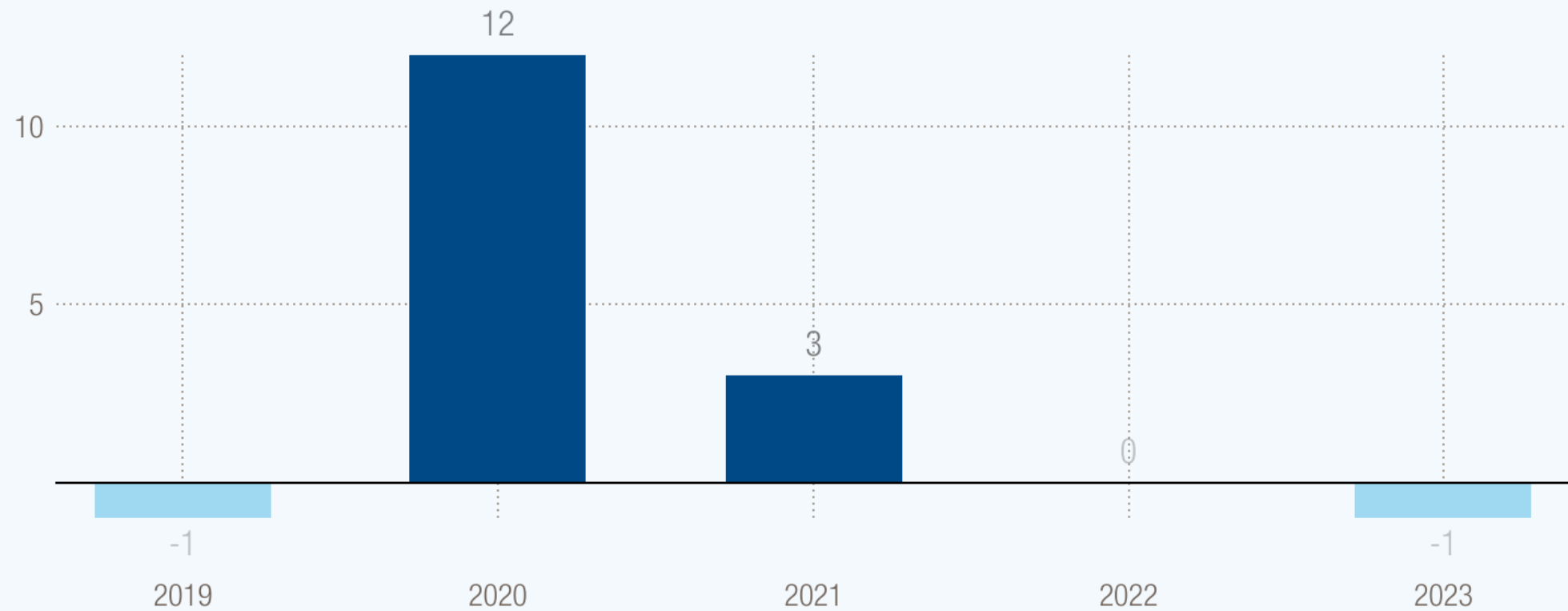
# Recent crises have impacted LDCs

Actual and projected GDP per capita of the LDCs, constant 2015 dollars



# Development setbacks in LDCs

Changes in the number of extreme poor in LDCs, millions



# ► Sources of vulnerability



## Commodity dependence

- ▶ 36 out of 45 LDCs derive more than 60% of their merchandise export earnings from commodities



## Unsustainable debt

- ▶ 7 LDCs are in debt distress, 13 at high risk
- ▶ 18 LDCs spend more on interest payments than on health



## Climate change

- ▶ 17 of the 20 most climate-vulnerable countries are LDCs

# ➤ From vulnerability to resilience



## Crisis-resilient development finance

- ▶ International financial architecture tailored to LDCs' needs
- ▶ Lasting solution to the debt crisis
- ▶ Support for climate adaptation



## Green structural transformation

- ▶ Economic diversification
- ▶ Improve productivity and competitiveness



## Productive capacities

- ▶ Close infrastructure gaps
- ▶ Support domestic value addition and productive linkages
- ▶ Boost employment creation

# ➤ What are productive capacities?



Productive  
resources



Entrepreneurial  
capabilities



Production  
linkages

that together determine the capacity of a country to produce goods and services and enable it to grow and develop

# ➤ The Productive Capacities Index



Human capital



Natural capital



Energy



Transport



ICT



Institutions



Private sector



Structural change



# ➤ Vulnerability profiles

## **PILLAR 1** **Situation analysis**

Productive capacity  
benchmarking



## **PILLAR 4** **Policies for resilience**

## **PILLAR 2** **Identify vulnerabilities**

## **PILLAR 3** **Consequences of identified vulnerabilities**



# UNCTAD resources

- ▶ UNCTAD LDC portal  
<https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries>
- ▶ UNCTAD Productive Capacities Index  
<https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/productive-capacities-index>
- ▶ UNCTAD Statistics  
<https://unctadstat.unctad.org/>

# Thank you

