



Although remittance flows to landlocked developing countries increased by 43 per cent between 2014 and 2022, the distribution of remittances across those countries is also quite uneven.

External borrowing remains an important source of financing for LLDCs. For the 22 landlocked developing countries for which a debt distress analysis is available, 8 face a high risk of distress and 3 are already in distress.

Therefore, it is crucial that LLDCs, transit countries and their partners take transformative action, including through substantially increasing resources from all sources to realize the full implementation of the next Programme of Action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Current trends emphasize the renewed importance of access to modern and digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, and big data, as key drivers of industrialization, structural transformation, and sustainable development. LLDCs need access to these technologies.

However, the benefits of digital technologies have not been evenly spread across and within the LLDCs. These countries struggle to leverage the power of science, technology and innovation due to stark gaps in the areas of infrastructure, regulations, policies, enforcement capabilities and institutions, and digital skills.

The proportion of individuals using the Internet in LLDCs was only 32.3 per cent in 2021, compared to the world average of 66 per cent. This factor highlights the need for substantial progress to achieve universal information and communication technology connectivity in LLDCs.

In terms of research and development,