

- **Current issues in the operation of transport corridors: LLDC perspectives**

• **22 June 2022**

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Special Needs of LLDCs

- Multiple overlapping crises - COVID, rising fuel prices, debt, climate change - disproportionately affecting LLDCs who have limited transit options.
- Trade is an important means to achieve the SDGs – land corridors are key.
- However trade costs for LLDCs are too high even before the pandemic.
- COVID-19 Protocols imposed movement restrictions
- Movement restrictions disrupt national, regional and international supply chains



CAREC Corridors- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

All major road transport indicators deteriorated

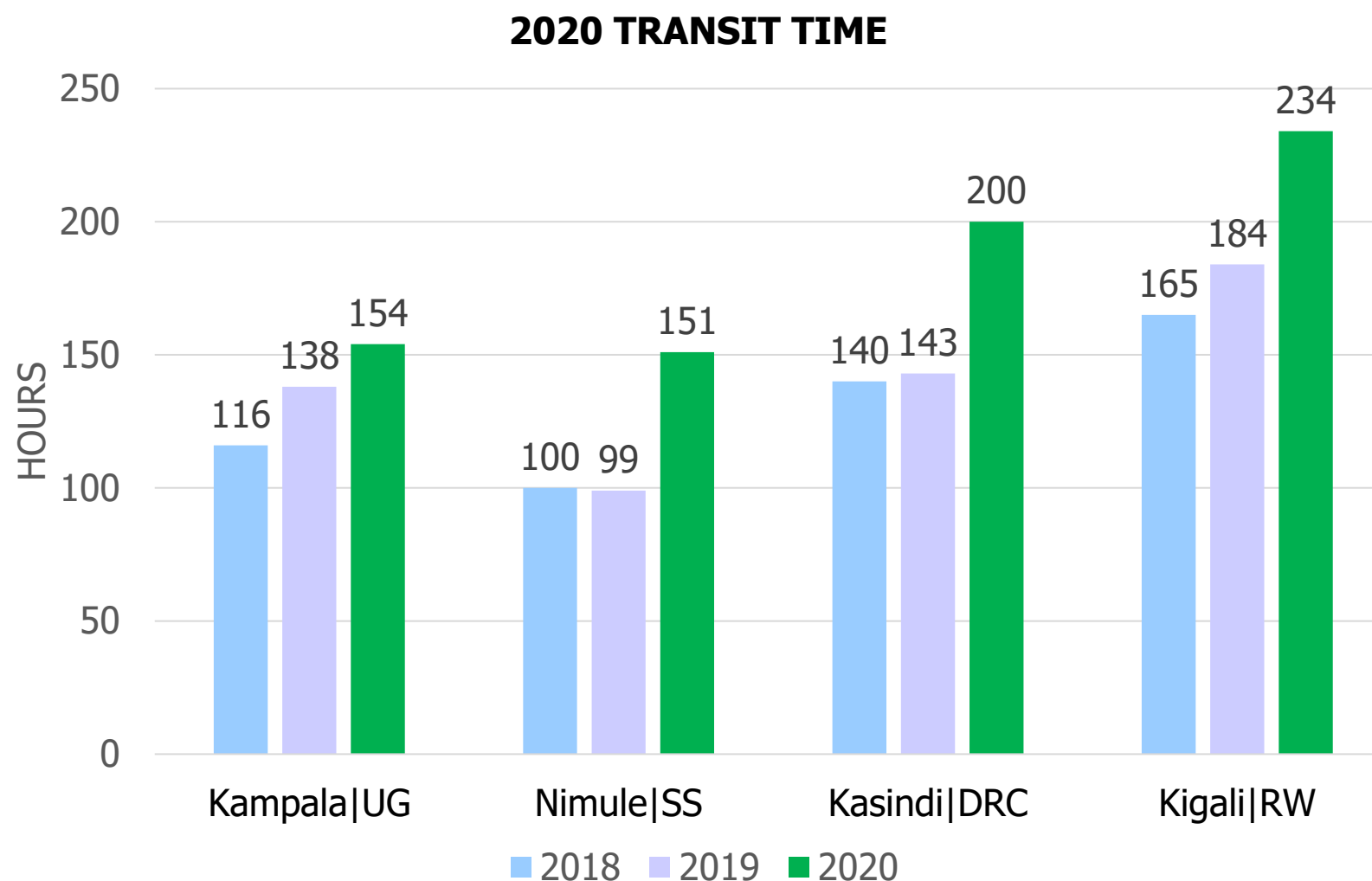
- Border crossing time average increased to 15.1 hours in 2020 from 12.2 hours in 2019 **(+23.7%)**
- Average border crossing costs increased to \$199 from \$162 **(+22.8%)**
- Total transport costs to travel corridor section increased to \$917 from \$901 **(+2%)**
- Average truck speed (without delays) decreased to 42.9 km/hr from 43.6 km/hr **(-2%)**

Source: ADB



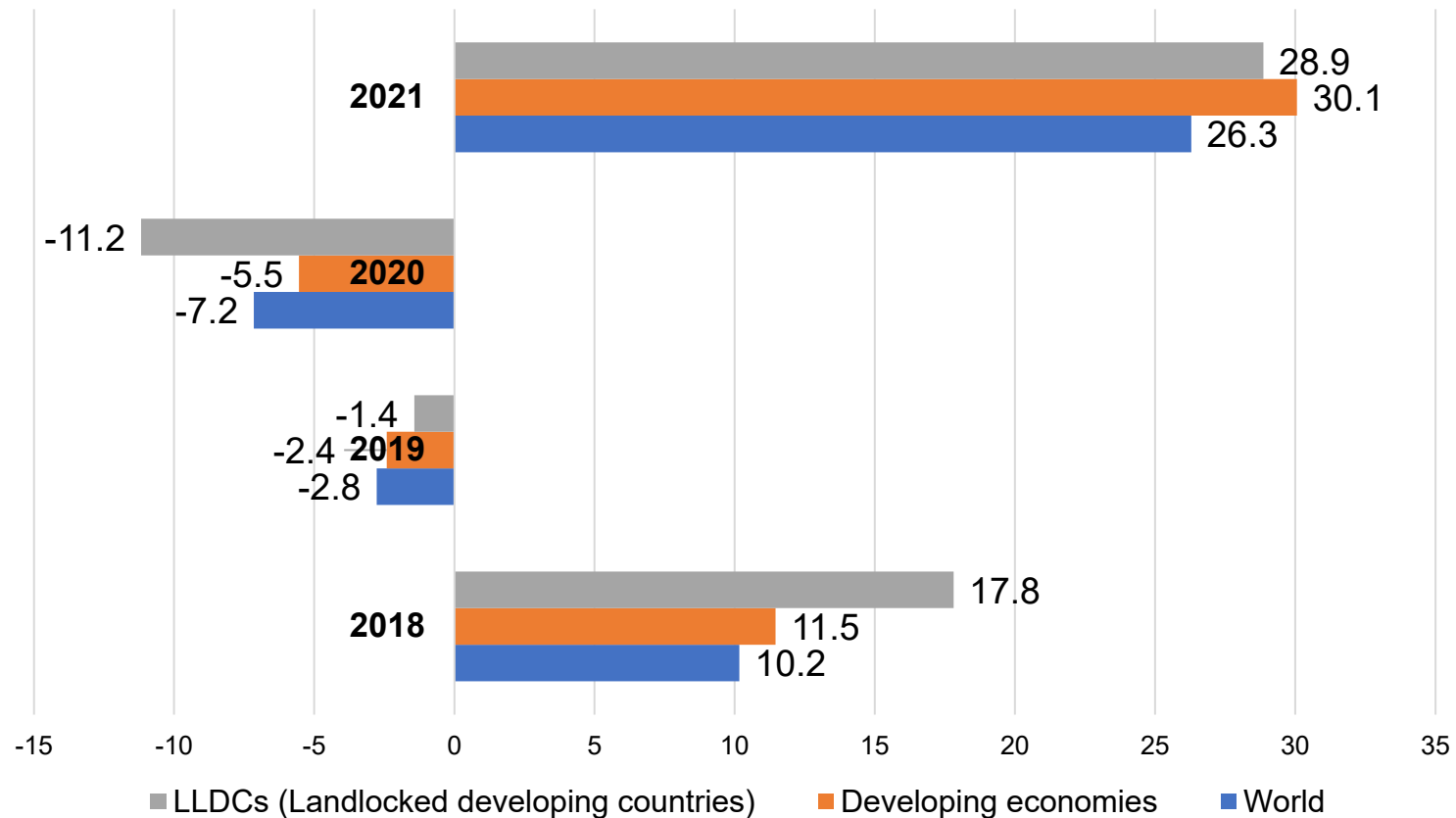
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Impact of COVID-19 on Northern Corridor in Africa- average transit time from Mombasa to various destinations



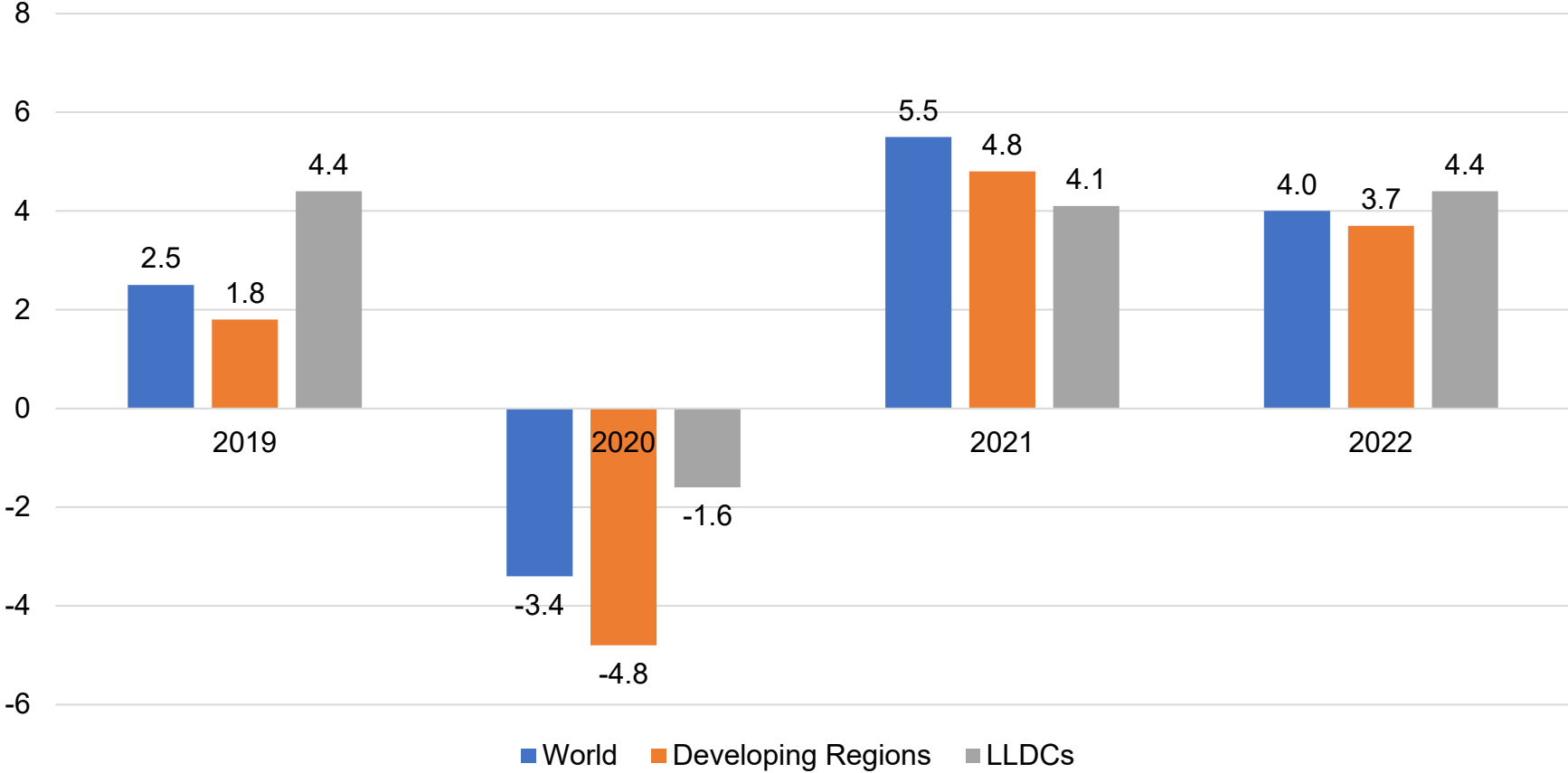
Source: Northern Corridor

Impact of COVID-19 on LLDCs' trade: merchandise exports growth rates, % (2018-2021)



Source: Data from UNCTAD

Impact of COVID-19 on LLDCs' economic growth, % (2019-2022)



Source: UN-DESA (2022 based on projections)



Policy recommendations to enhance LLDCs' connectivity

- Accelerate implementation of the Vienna Programme
- Enhanced TFA implementation
- Further development of transit corridors
- Simplifying transit procedures through automation and digitalization
- Enhanced regional approach to addressing connectivity challenges and increasing investment
- Strengthening integration of land corridors with link roads and other transport modes
- Ensuring new infrastructure is resilient
- WTO Trade Facilitation Committee transit session LLDCs



Looking ahead

- Third UN Conference on LLDCs in 2024
- Ministerial Transport Conference of LLDCs under the theme ‘Ashgabat Process: Financing for Better Connectivity’ (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 15-16 August 2022)
- Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries (September 2022)



Thank You

