

## Problem Statement

#### "COMMODITY DEPENDENCE"



- High portion of commodities in a country's exports.
- Sometimes overall GDP is depended upon one export.
- Commodities dependence was found in:
  - Developing nation LLDCs and LDCs.
  - Also found on African as well as south asian countries
- UNCTAD study on the level of commodity dependence around the world from 1998 to 2017 using trade data from 189 countries.

## Why is this a big problem?







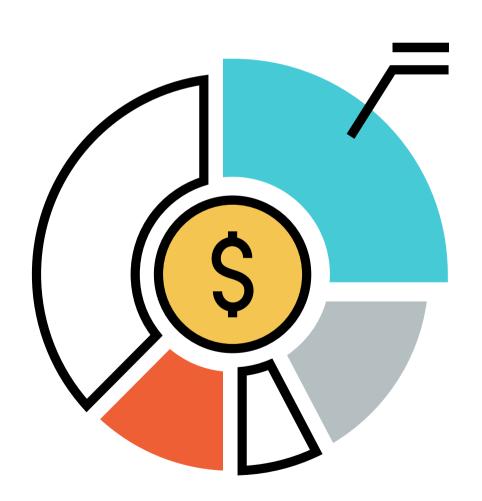


POLITICAL INSTABILITY

## WHAT CAN SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?



# Export Diversification



#### Traditionally,

Transitioning away from dependence on one or a few commodities toward a broader range of sources of production, employment, trade, revenues, and expenditures.

#### New Defination,

The movement of a country's productive resources from low-productivity activities to higher-productivity activities in the industrial or service sector.

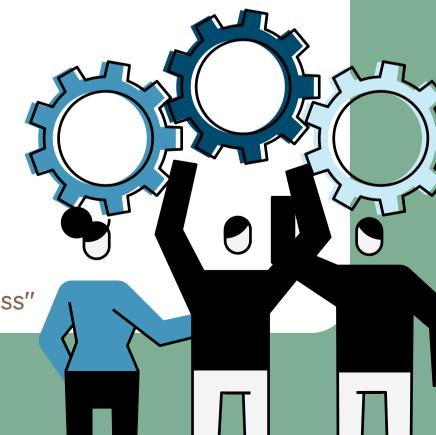
Economic Diversification in Africa: How and Why It Matters

#### HOW CAN DIVERSIFICATION HELP LLDCS AND LDC?

- It helps to hedge against trade shocks by stabilizing export revenues.
- Directs favourable terms of trade shocks into growth and increasing returns.
- Input factor in increasing the productivity of other goods.
- Protection from an unpredictable declining trend in international prices of primary exportable commodities --> unstable export earnings.
- Extending investment risks over a wider portfolio of the economic sector --> increases income.
- Economic growth and structural change --> type of products traded -->helps to expand in territories where certain exports are banned.
- Export diversification could help stabilize export earnings in the long run.

#### Strategies to Promote Export Diversification

- Financial sector development and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Reducing excessive Costs
- Lowering barriers
- Role of Government
- Research and Development



#### THE ROADBLOCKS

- Low-income elasticities of Demand
- Lack of finance
- Lack of Adequate Infrastructure
- Bureaucracy and market access
- Lack of strength in the public institutions



## Study 01: Malawi

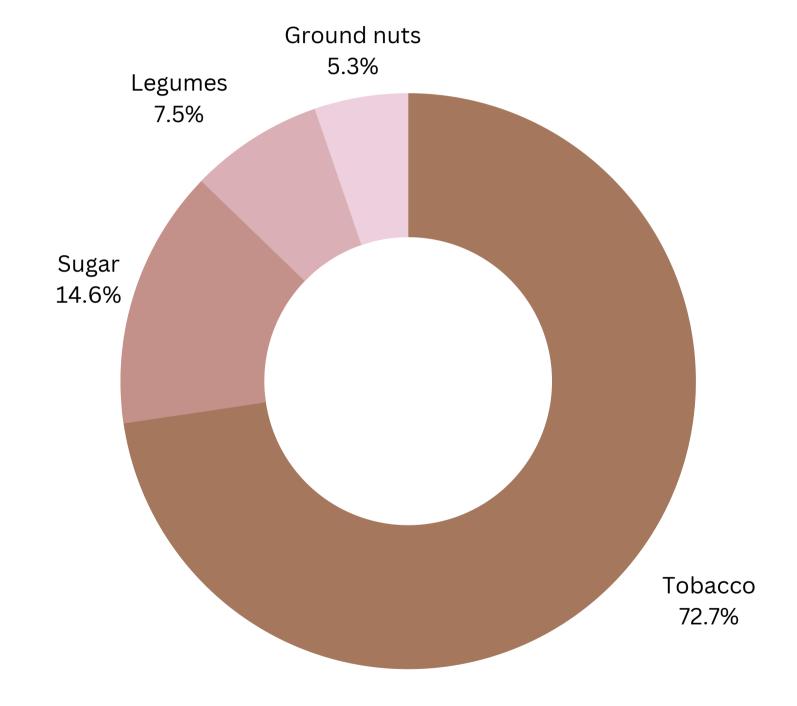
#### Brief Info:

- A landlocked country in Southeastern Africa.
- Among the world's least developed countries.
- Around 85% of the population lives in rural areas.
- Economy: Agriculture = > 2/3 GDP and 90% exports.
- Dependent on economic aid from the World Bank, the IMF, and other countries



#### Export Data of Malawi: 2020

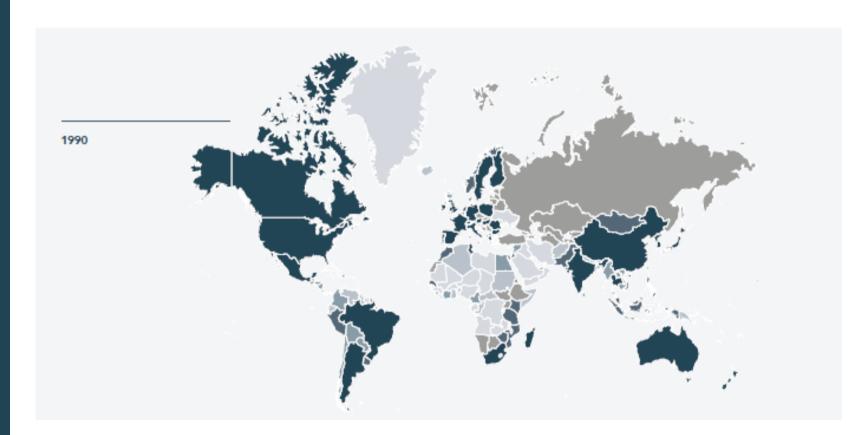
156th economy

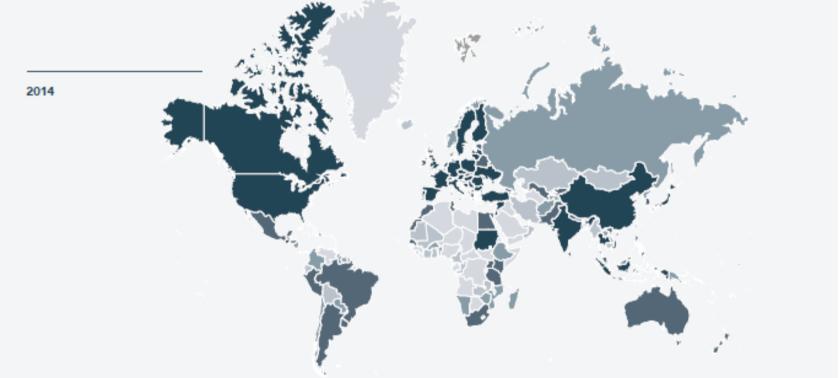


Malawi Exports and Imports : OEC

#### **Export Diversification Index**

Between 1990 and 2014, export diversification in Africa improved only marginally. Only Rawanda, Senegal and Sudan increased export diversification during this period.





Intra-African trade: A path to economic diversification and inclusion

## Study 02: Senegal

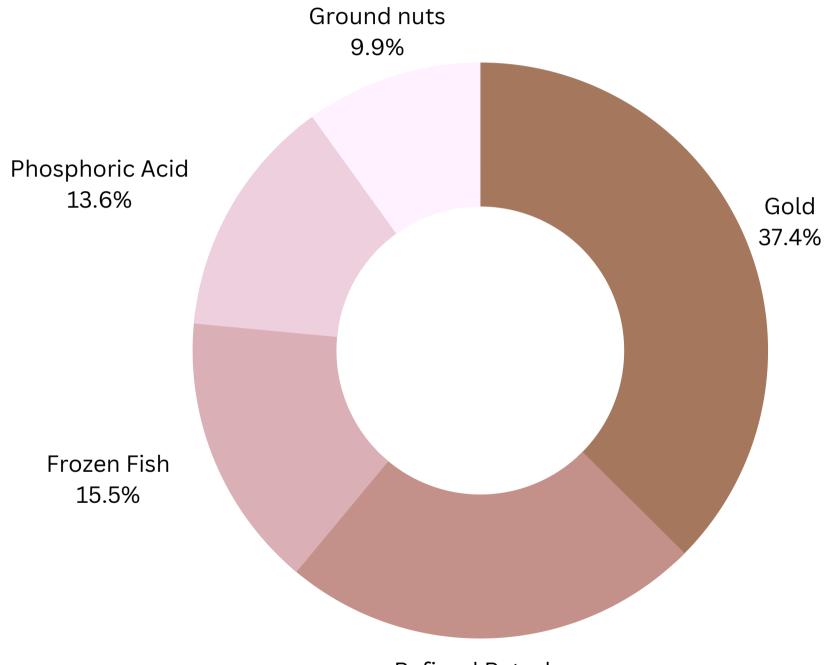
#### Brief Info

- Former French colony.
- Economic freedom = 60.0 --> 88th freest in the 2022 Index.
- 8th among 47 Sub-Saharan African countries
- Top Industries Agricultural, Fish Processing; Phosphate Mining, Petroleum Refining
- Top Trade Partners France, China, Mali
- Senegal has one of best developed tourism industries in Africa.
- GDP Agriculture (17.03%), Services (49.94%), Industry (23.22%), Manufacturing (14%).
- Bribery, misappropriation, abuse of authority, and fraud is widespread within government



### **Export Data of Senegal: 2020**





Refined Petroleum 23.6%

Senegal Exports and Imports : OEC

## How Senegal Managed to stay ahead?

- Economy; traditionally revolved around a single cash crop, the peanut.
- Worked to diversify by expanding into agricultural commodities and promoting nonagricultural sectors.
- Successful in making fishing, phosphates, and tourism major sources of foreign exchange.
- Exploitation of gold, petroleum, and natural gas diversified the economy.
- Emerging Senegal Plan (ESP), launched in 2012 one of focus area is economic diversification.



- GDP is steadily growing @ 1.5%.
- Industrial production in Senegal;
  more developed than in Western
  African countries

## How realistic is Export Diversification?

It has been done before.

- In 1983, Thailand's total agriculture export = \$6.5 B.
- Top exports = Rice, Rubber.
- In two decades, Thailand lessened dependence on rice and rubber exports. Diversified into at least ten major commodities.
- The growth of agri-food exports expanded markets for farmers and, in turn, created jobs and incomes that reduced rural poverty.
- Thailand ranks 6th among top agri-food exporters (WTO).
- From 1983 to 2011, Thai exports grew about 11-folds.

Primary products - Agriculture sector Secondary products - Manufacturing sector Tertiary products - Service sector

Dependence on Primary Sector Involvement in Primary, Secondary & Tertiary sector 1



The differentiating factor between primary and secondary and tertiary product exports is the knowledge content embedded in the products.

## **Export Diversification and SDG 8**

- Diversification in other sectors create decent job possibilities for all and improve living standards.
- Helps expand revenue streams
- Less sensitive to the ups and downs in a particular industry --> losses in declining industries are offset by opportunities in other stronger industries.



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