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TRADE BENEFITS

Bangladesh to enjoy duty-free market access beyond 2026

Date: October 29th, 2023

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Bangladesh got into WTO in January 01, 1995

Bangladesh’s inclusion in LDC: December, 1975

Bangladesh graduating from LDC: November 24, 2026

Bangladesh’s Performance in 2021

GNI per capita
USD 1,827

Human Assets Index (HAI)
75.3

Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)
27.2

Snapshot

Graduation Thresholds

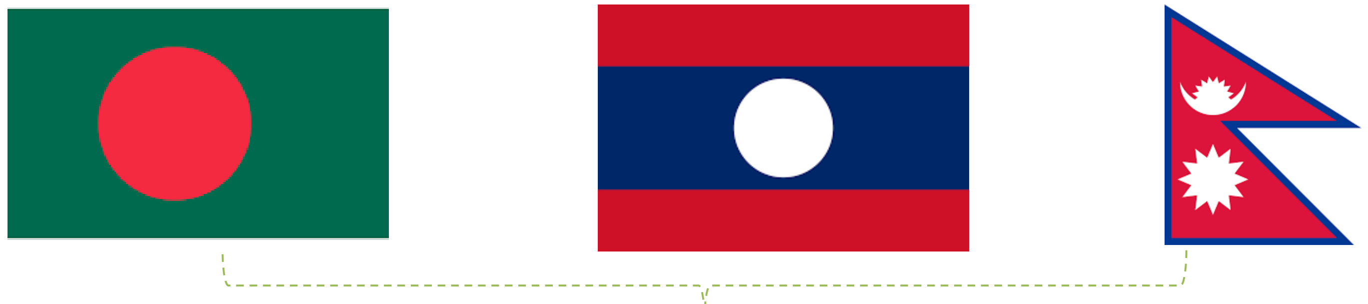
A country can graduate from the LDC category by meeting two of the three criteria or having a per capita income over twice the threshold (GNI>USD 2,444), at 02 consecutive triennial CDP meetings. The CDP can recommend graduation at the 2nd meeting. Graduation occurs at least 3 years after CDP's recommendation, following endorsement by ECOSOC and noting by the General Assembly. The actual graduation date, set by the General Assembly, can be 3 years or longer after the resolution.

Which Countries will Graduate Next?

Bhutan is scheduled to graduate from the LDC category in 2023. Angola, Sao Tome and Principe & Solomon Islands are scheduled to graduate in 2024. Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Nepal are scheduled to graduate in 2026.

2023

2024



2026

GNI per capita
USD 1,222 or Above

Human Assets Index (HAI)
66 or Above

Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)
32 or Below

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Graduation Status of 10 LDCs (WTO Members)

Countries	GNI>1,222 (USD)	HAI>66	EVI<32	Status	Graduation Year	Comments
Angola	3,207	52	45.6	Criteria Met	2024	GNI > 2,444
Bangladesh	**1,827**	**75.3**	**27.2**		**2026**	**Met all 03 Indices**
Cambodia	1,377	74.3	30.6		2027(est.)	Met all 03 Indices
Djibouti	3,235	61.9	53.9		2027(est.)	GNI > 2,444
Lao PDR	2,449	72.8	27		2026	Met all 03 Indices
Myanmar	1,263	73.9	24.3		To be assessed in 2024	Met all 03 Indices
Nepal	1,027	74.9	24.7		2026	Met 02 of the 03 Indices
Senegal	1,370	66.4	43		To be assessed in 2024	Met 02 of the 03 Indices
Solomon Islands	1,843	73.8	45.1		2024	Met 02 of the 03 Indices
Zambia	1,411	67.1	41.7		To be assessed in 2024	Met 02 of the 03 Indices

Source: Data from the 2021 triennial review (UN Economic Analysis)

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WTO to Extend Trade Benefits for LDCs

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) has voted to extend assistance measures for graduating countries, which will allow Bangladesh to benefit from trading after it leaves the least-developed country (LDC) category in November 2026.
- The decision was made at a meeting of the WTO General Council on 23rd October, 2023.
- Following Bangladesh's expected graduation from the LDC category in 2026, it requested a 12-year extension of duty-free market access from the WTO. Subsequently, **the proposal was revised to a range of 9 to 12 years**.
- There are currently 46 LDCs, of which 16 are at different stages of the graduation process.
- Of these, 10 are WTO members (Angola, **Bangladesh**, Cambodia, Djibouti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal, Solomon Islands and Zambia) and 04 (Bhutan, Comoros, Sao Tomé and Principe, and Timor-Leste) are negotiating their terms of entry into the WTO.
- The other 02 LDCs on the graduation path are Kiribati and Tuvalu. The Doha Programme of Action for LDCs calls for 15 more LDCs to meet the graduation criteria by the end of the decade.

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Trade Impacts Upon LDC Graduation

The benefits associated with being an LDC that will be continued once graduated-

Agriculture

Subsidies and countervailing measure

Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights

Trade Facilitation

Trade in Services

Dispute Settlement

LDC graduation and notification obligations

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