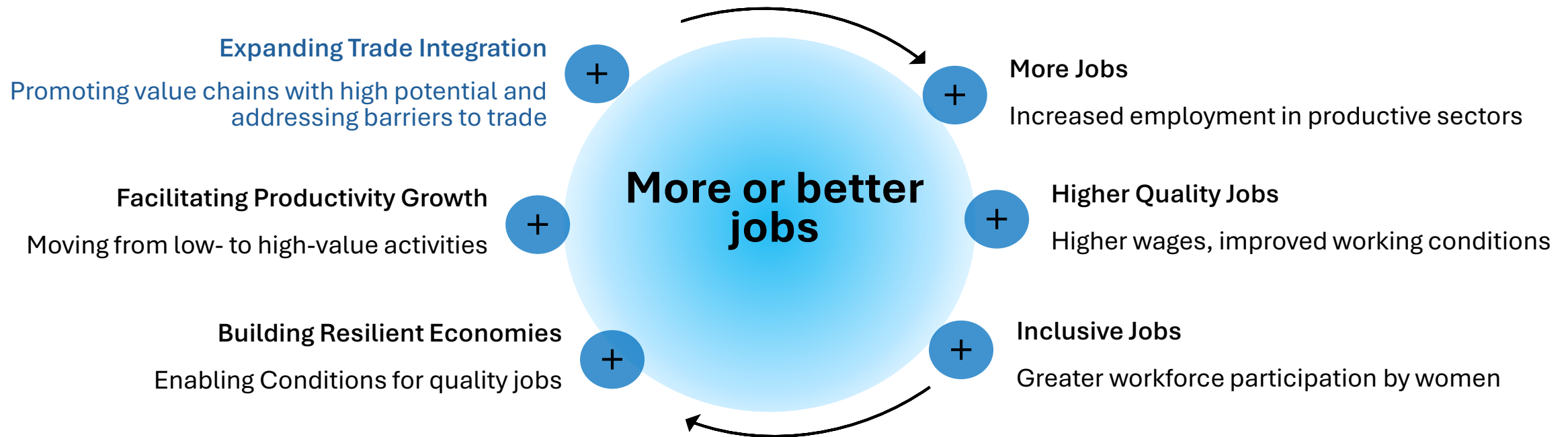


Igniting Trade Integration in Central Asia



Opportunity: Driving structural transformation in Central Asia for 15 million new and better jobs by 2040

Central Asia is the second fastest growing region in adult population after sub-Saharan Africa



Developing regional trade in Central Asia (CA-5) is a key objective of recent policy discussions in the region

President Tokayev ratifies Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan agreement on mutual protection of investments

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Discuss Boosting Trade Turnover and Air Connectivity

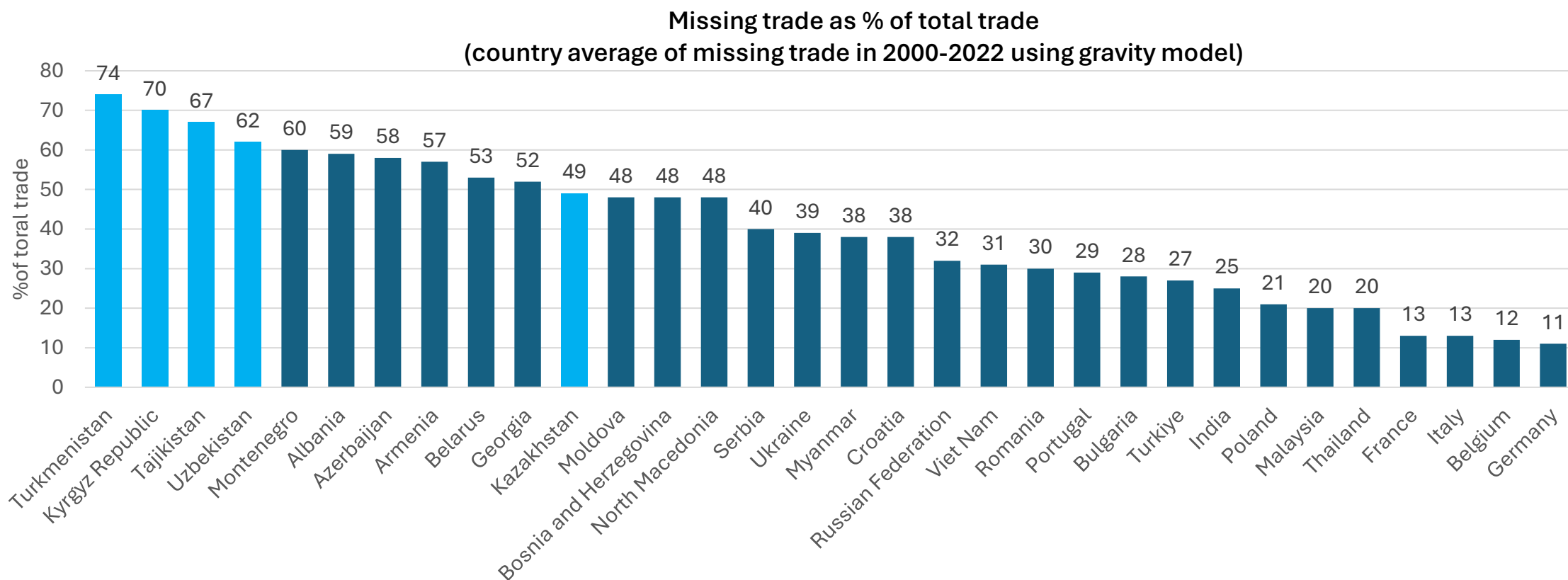
Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation

Joint Declaration following the First European Union-Central Asia Summit

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan Strengthen Ties with New Cooperation Agreement

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan Sign Over 70 Agreements at Samarkand Forum

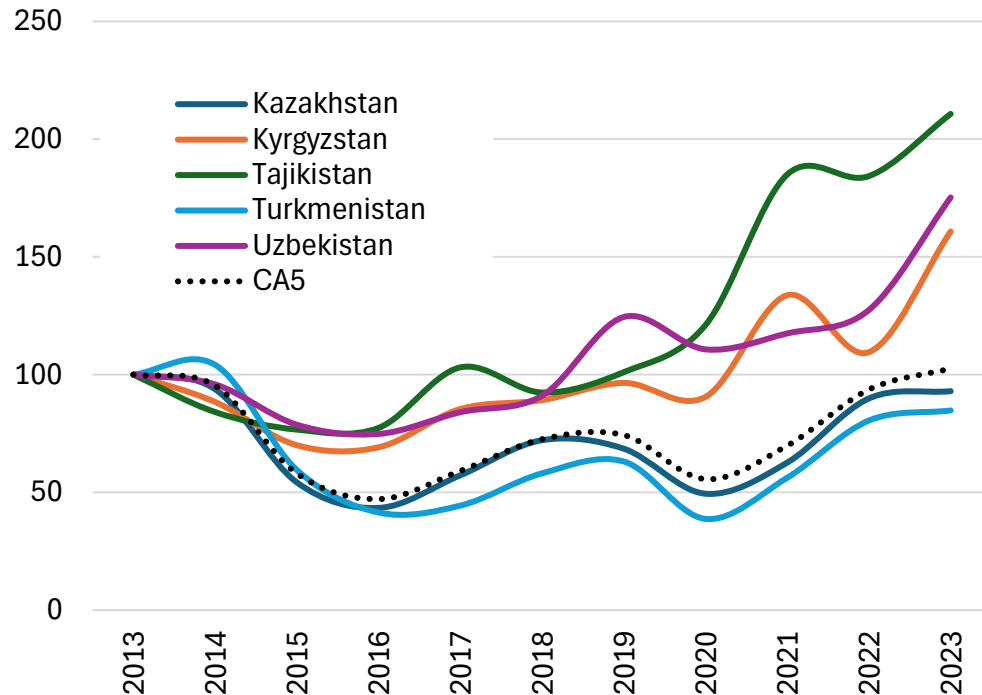
Potential for promoting trade in Central Asia is very high



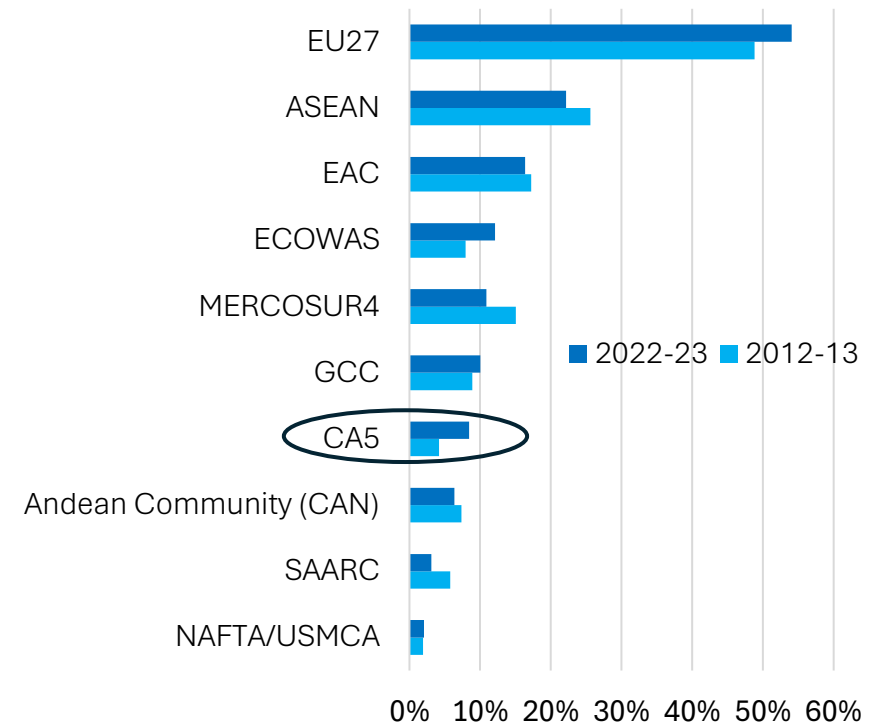
Source: World Bank calculations

While trade integration is picking up, intra and inter-regional trade in CA-5 countries can expand further

Export growth in Central Asia

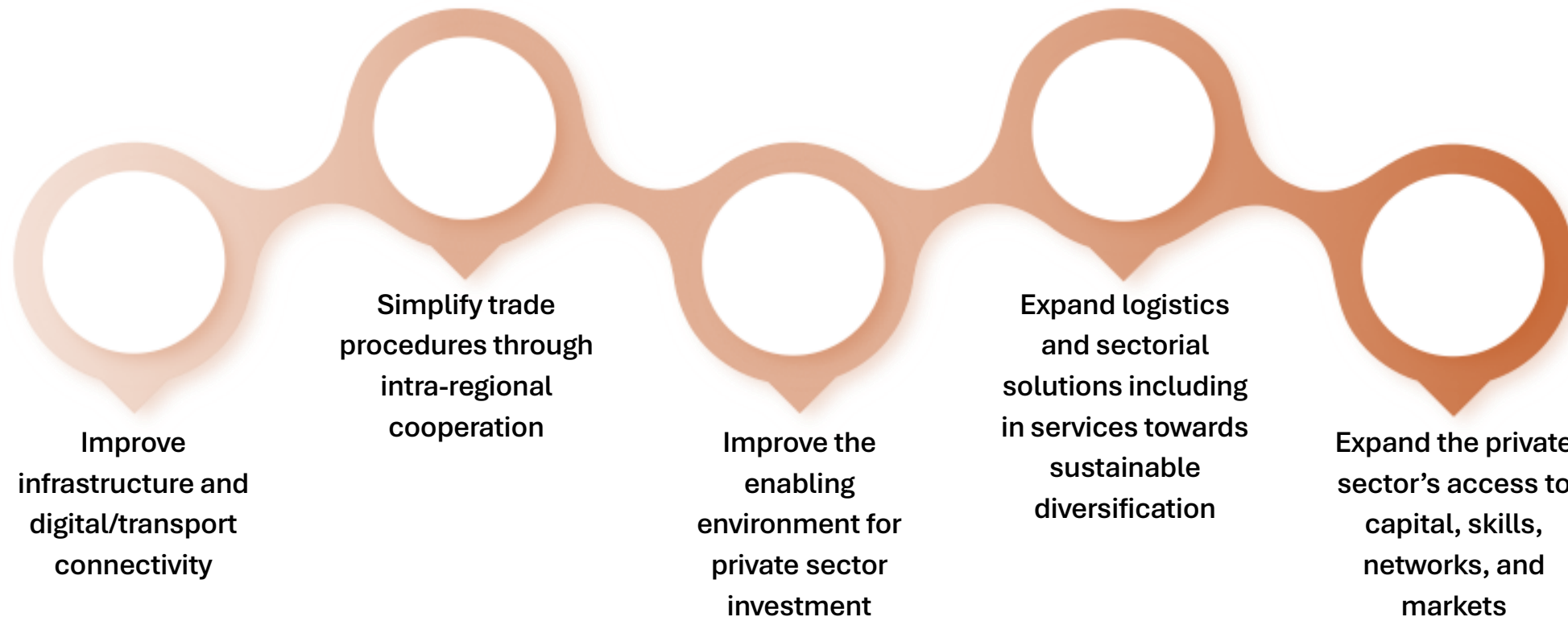


Share of intra-regional exports in total exports



Source: WB calculations based on national customs and UN Comtrade.

Expanding trade integration in Central Asia will require a holistic approach



Expanding trade integration in Central Asia will require a holistic approach

1

Transport Infrastructure

- Roads
- Railways
- Connection to ports

2

Trade Policy and Facilitation

- WTO accession
- Coordination across countries
- Digitalization and automation of border processes
- Border upgrading investment

3

Enabling Environment

- NTMs, Quality infrastructure, standards and certification
- Business enabling environment reforms
- Contestability of markets
- Investment Policy & Promotion

4

Logistics, Hubs, and Sector work

- Developing SEZs and other logistic hubs
- Trade in services
- Opening of enabling sectors (aviation, telecoms, fertilizers)

5

Value chains and firm capabilities

- Export and Supplier development
- Skills development and managerial capabilities
- Access to capital to high-growth companies in linkages to smallholders
- Technology and energy upgrading

Next steps from WBG in this agenda

Identification of tangible opportunities for reforms and investment

The World Bank is compiling core trade analytics, reviewing existing publications, and stocktaking of ongoing and planned initiatives by donors and governments (e.g., World Bank, ADB, EU, UNECE, etc). The goal is to identify the gap between what Central Asian countries need to expand their internal and external trade and what is already being done.

Stakeholder engagement to foster a program for impact

Convene key stakeholders from the CA-5 countries to discuss identified opportunities and plan actions that can have a transformational impact on trade and jobs. This can lay the groundwork for a possible regional Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach (MPA) aimed at accelerating trade integration in the region.



Igniting Trade Integration in Central Asia



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