



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

ACCELERATING GLOBAL ACTIONS FOR A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY: GAPS, CHALLENGES AND PROGRESS

Inter-agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

Recent trend in eradicating poverty in Africa

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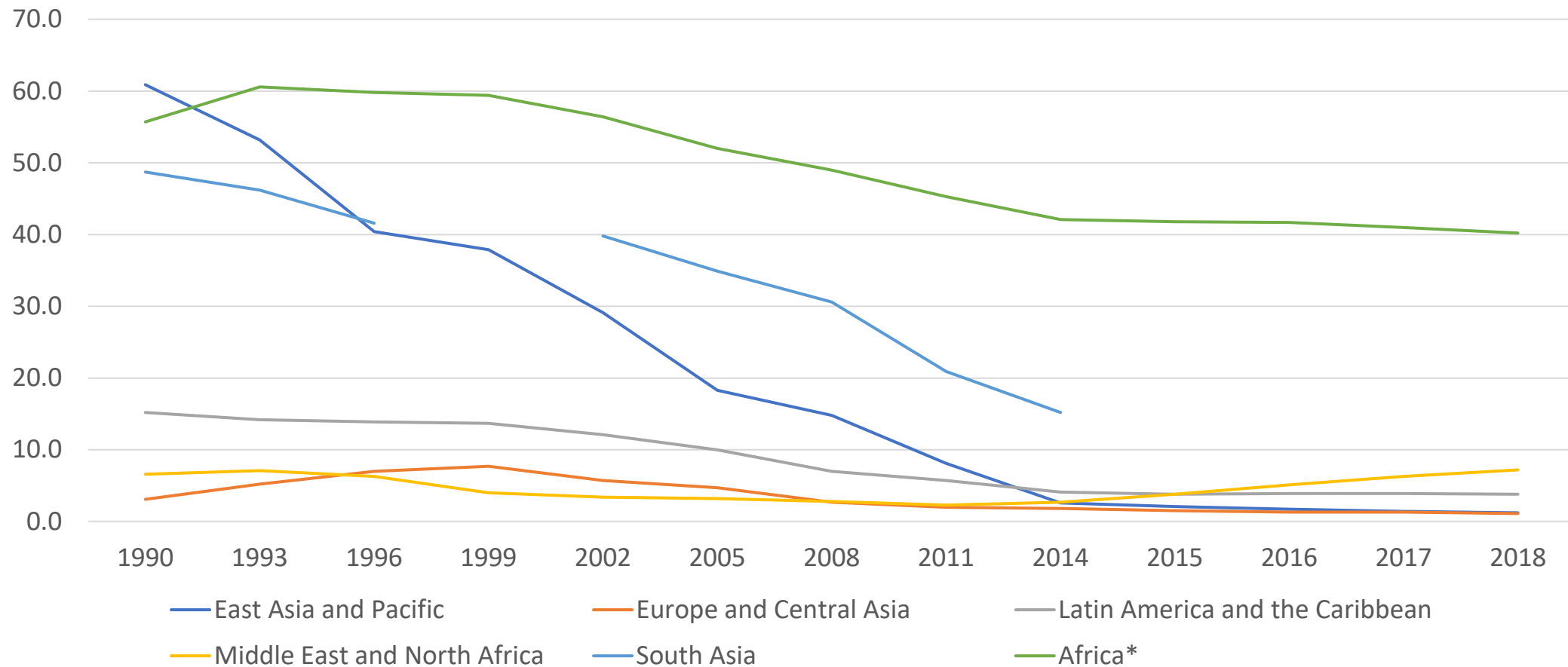
May 10, 2023



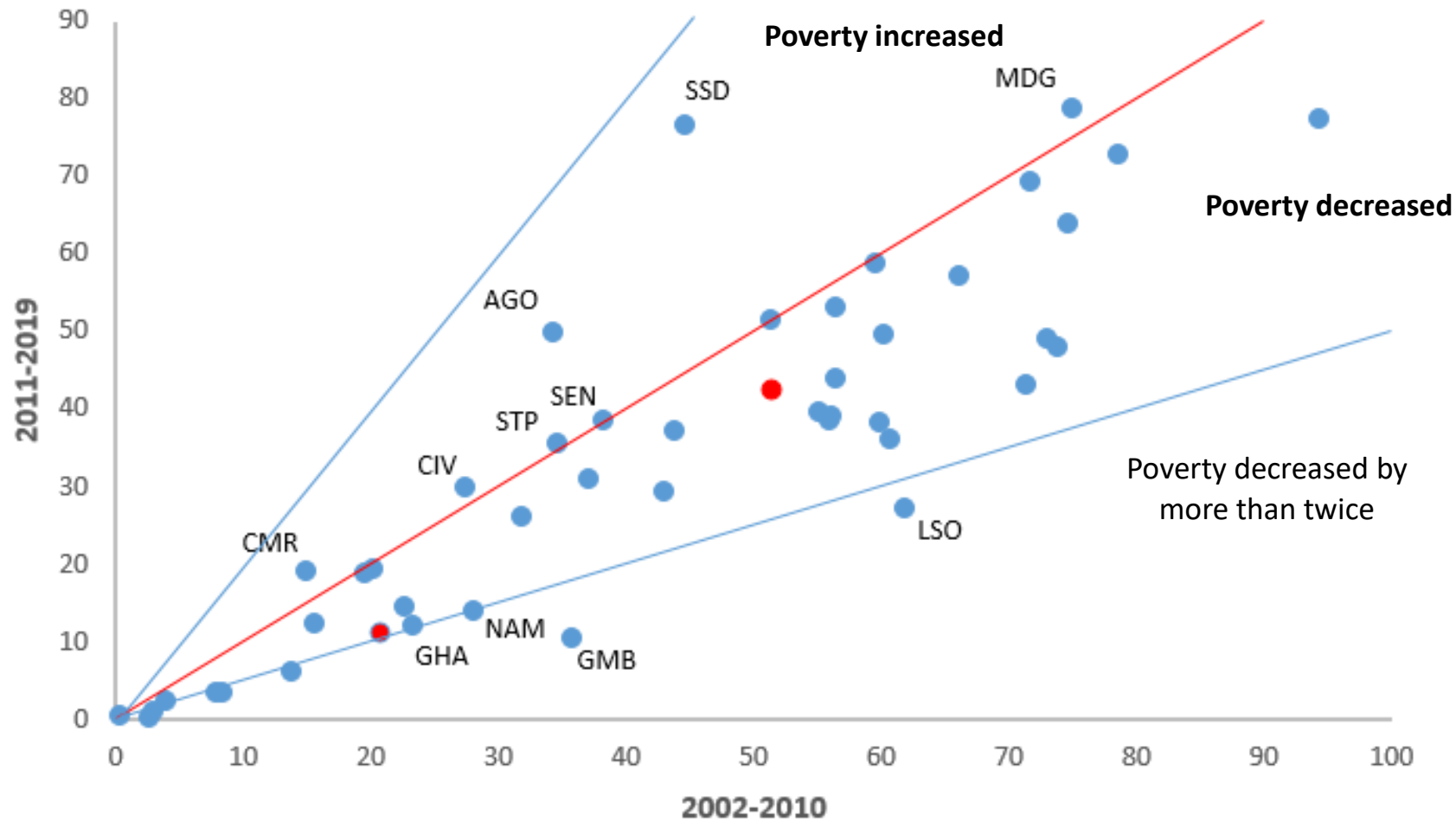
**DECADE
OF >>>
ACTION**

Before COVID-19, the pace of poverty reduction in Africa was considerably slower than other regions in the world

Poverty rates (%) at the US\$1.90-a-day poverty line, by region

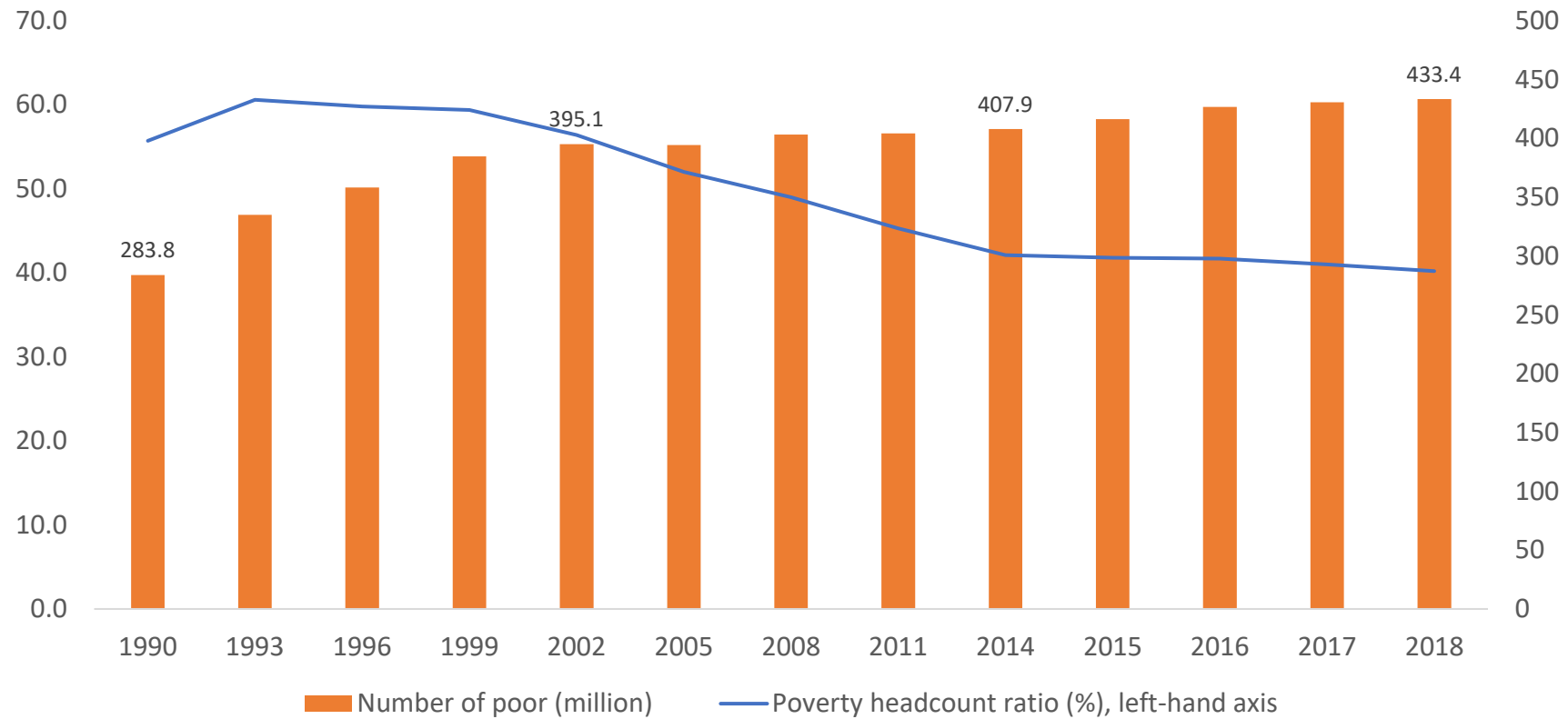


Progress in poverty reduction across Africa has been uneven



While the share of the population in extreme poverty has reduced since 1990, more Africans are living in poverty today than thirty years ago

Even before COVID-19, numbers in poverty increased even as the poverty rate in Africa declined



Global poverty is increasingly African poverty

From less than 15 per cent in 1990, Africans made up 62 per cent of the world's poor people in 2017.

Before COVID-19, the World Bank had estimated that by 2030 almost 86 per cent of the extreme poor people in the world would be in Africa.

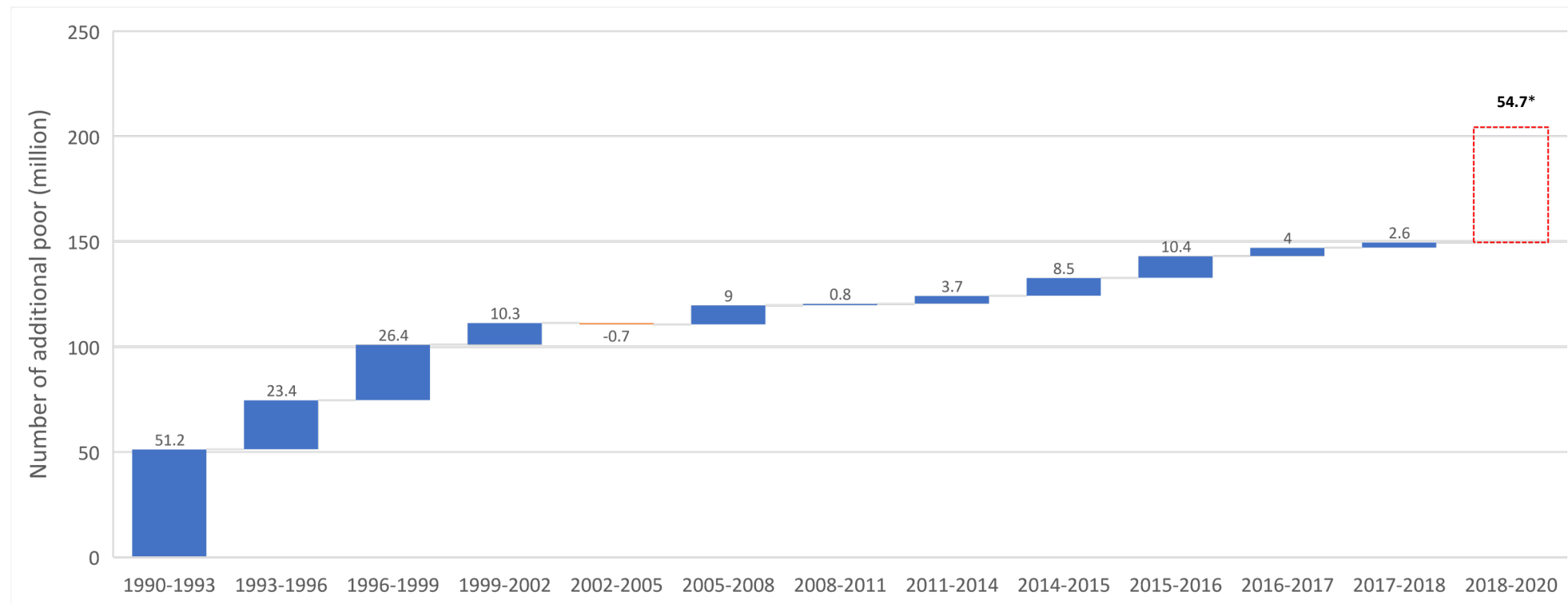
Even before the onset of the pandemic, various development goals (3rd Decade, SDG1) of eradicating extreme poverty were unlikely to be met for Africa.

The increase in the number of poor in Africa because of COVID-19 has to be seen within the context of a longer trend of an overall slow rate of poverty reduction on the continent.

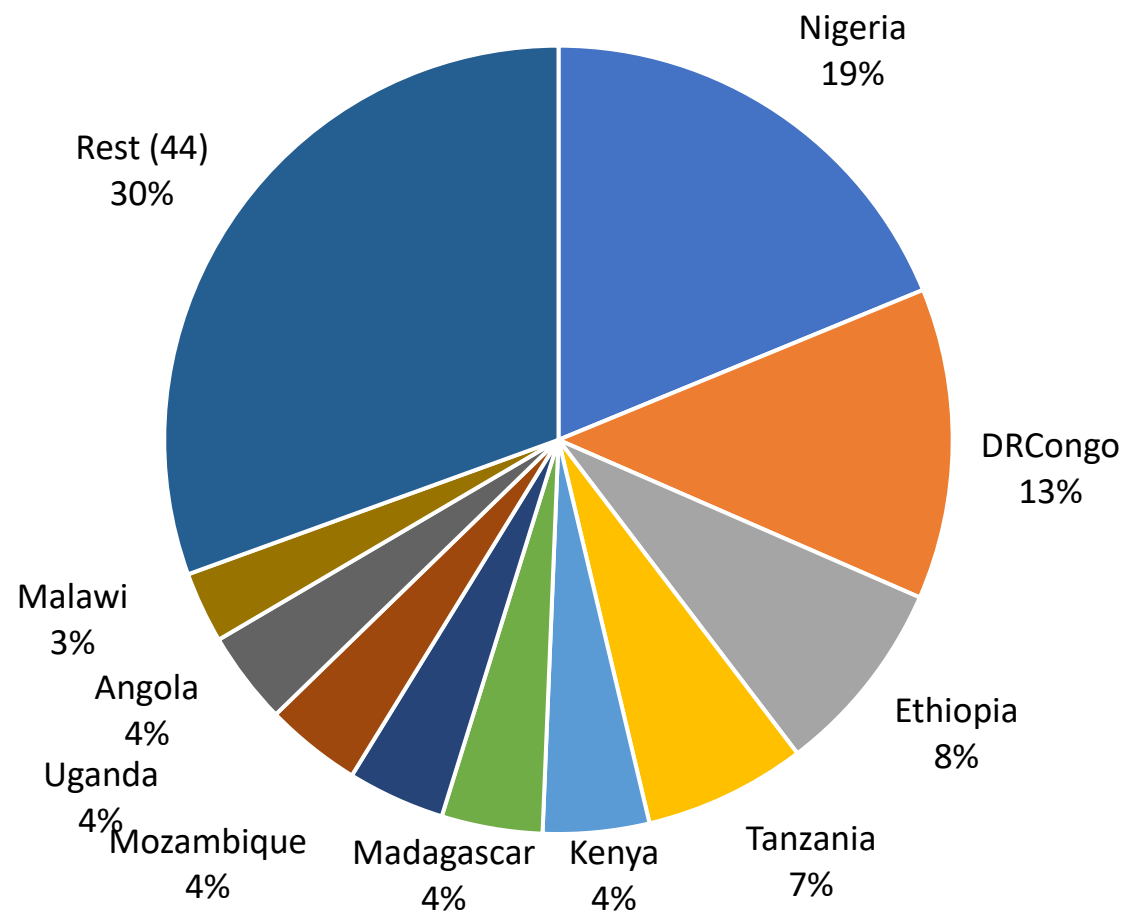
COVID-19 has upended Africa's slow progress in reducing poverty

While the number of people in extreme poverty had increased since 1990, the rate of increase was declining sharply since 2002 until before COVID-19

Africa* is likely to have added 55 million new poor because of COVID-19

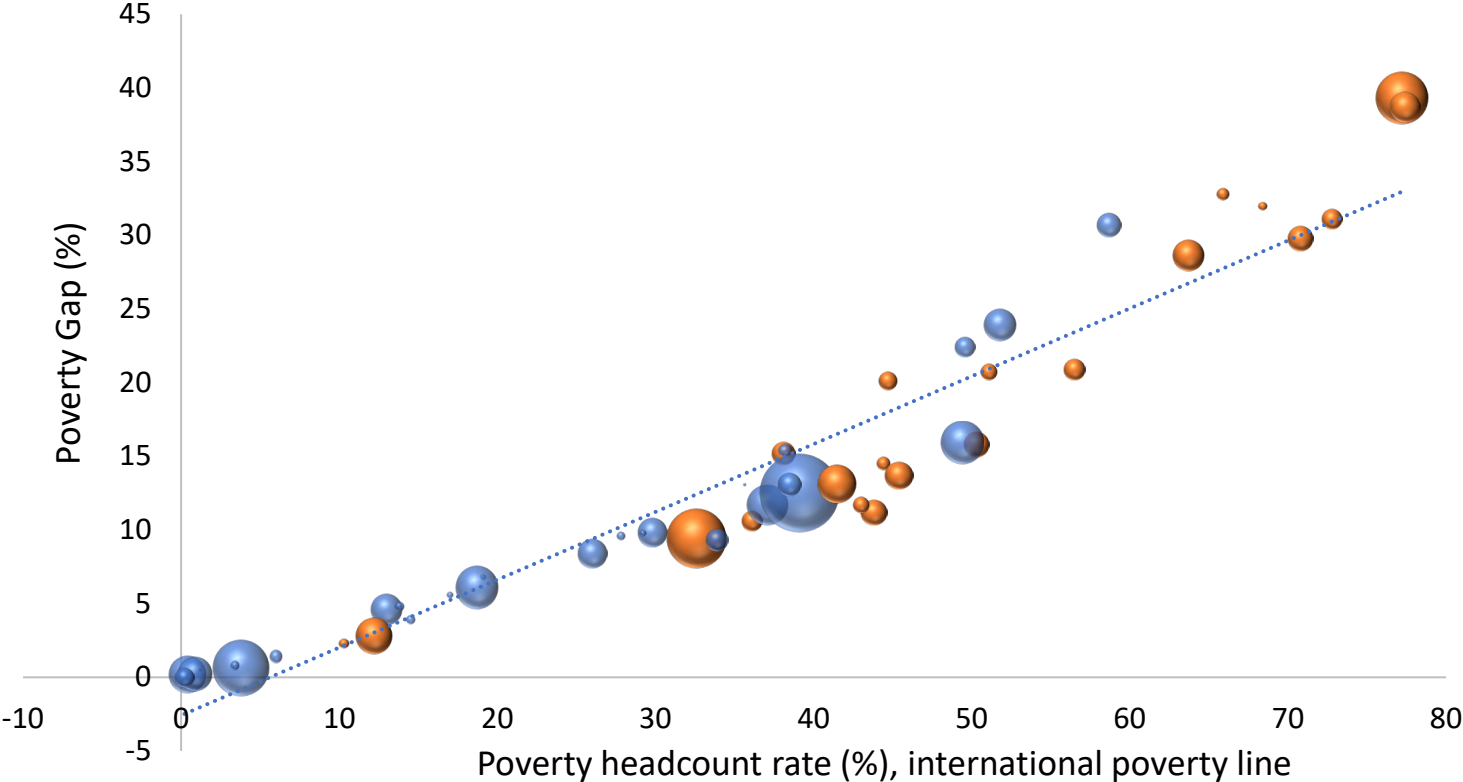


Ten countries, with more than half of the population, are home to nearly 70 per cent of the Africa's extreme poor



Poverty in Africa is both extensive and deep...

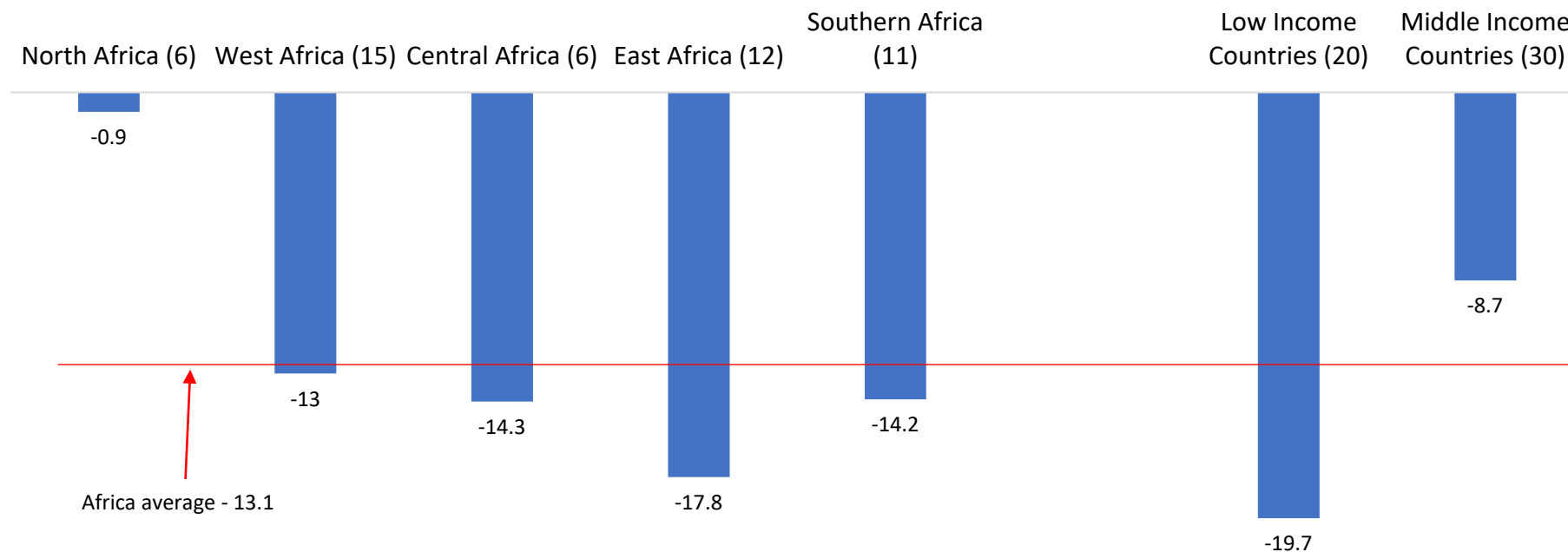
The higher the incidence of poverty, the greater the depth of poverty (that is, the poor are located far below the poverty line)



Size of the bubble reflects population size. Orange bubble – Low income countries; Blue bubble – Middle and High income countries.

...with wide variation across sub-regions

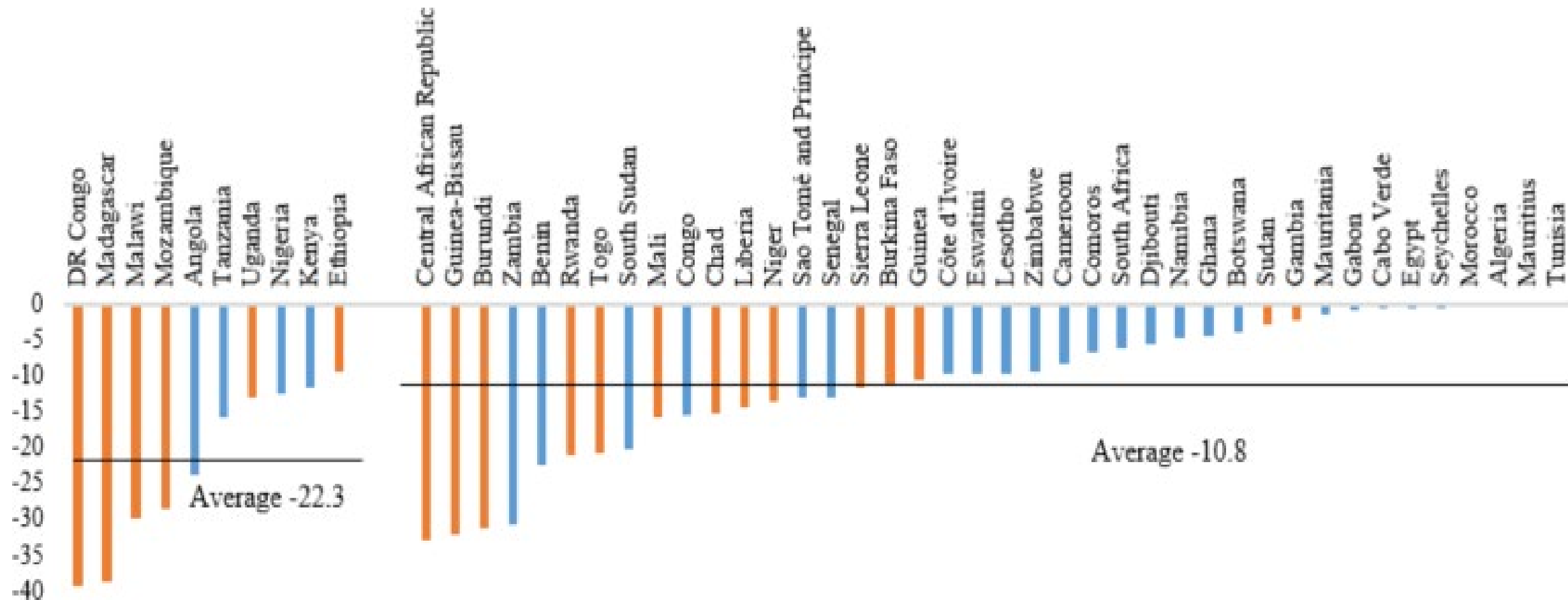
- ❖ The poor are less than 1 per cent below the poverty line in North Africa, but 13-18 per cent below in the other sub-regions.
- ❖ In low-income countries, the average poor is nearly 20 per cent below the poverty line.



Note: Figures in parentheses are the number of countries in each category.

- ❖ The top ten countries in the world with the highest depth of poverty are all in Africa.
- ❖ In the top six countries (DR Congo, Madagascar, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi and Zambia) the depth of poverty varies from 30 to 39 per cent.

Countries with the largest number of extreme poor also have twice the average depth of poverty



Note: Orange bars denote Low Income Countries (LICs); blue bars denote middle- and high income countries

Economic growth is key to reducing poverty

The period 2002-2014 was the best for Africa - average GDP per capita increased by 2.6 per cent and poverty declined by 1.2 percentage point per year in this period.

Overall, Africa has low poverty-elasticity of growth (-0.30 to -0.60) confirming that countries with low levels of initial development (or, high initial poverty rates) and high inequalities, tend to have lower growth-poverty elasticities.

Much of poverty in Africa is structural.

Other factors dampening the poverty-reducing impact of growth in Africa

- Rapid population growth driven by high fertility,
- High poverty gap ratio,
- High initial inequality and
- Low growth (and low productivity) in agriculture, where the most of the poor are located.

Key challenge of poverty reduction in Africa

The key challenge of poverty reduction in Africa is reducing poverty in 10 countries with half the total population and 70 per cent of the total poor who subsist 20 per cent below the poverty line*

- ❖ Angola
- ❖ DR Congo
- ❖ Ethiopia
- ❖ Kenya
- ❖ Madagascar
- ❖ Malawi
- ❖ Mozambique
- ❖ Nigeria
- ❖ Tanzania
- ❖ Uganda

With five years for the end of the 3rd Decade, and eight years left for achieving the SDGs, urgent steps are needed to accelerate progress on ending extreme poverty in Africa by 2030.

The task is as difficult as it is necessary to improve the well-being of African people at a rapid pace.

PO (71.2); P1 (33.3); Gini (44); 600 (GDP pc)



Thank you!

Ideas
to
Action