

KEY CHALLENGES IN THE PROMOTION OF DECENT RURAL EMPLOYMENT FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

Expert Group Meeting on Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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What is Decent Work?

- Decent Work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives.
- It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

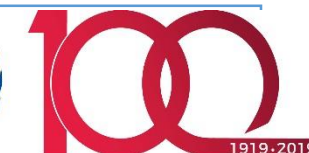
What are the Pillars of Decent Work?

EMPLOYMENT CREATION

SOCIAL PROTECTION

RIGHTS AT WORK

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



SOCIAL JUSTICE
DECENT WORK

Decent Work and SDGs

- During the UN General Assembly in September 2015, decent work and the four pillars became integral elements of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda calls for the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work.



Issues in the Rural Economy(1)

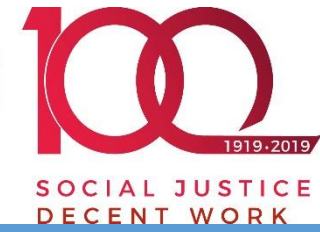
The rural economy employs more than the urban

| Country | Rural(`000) | Urban(`000) |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cote d' Ivoire | 2574 | 2312 |
| Egypt | 3205 | 2153 |
| Eswatini | 89 | 47 |
| Mali | 3980 | 1281 |
| Zambia | 1153 | 1737 |

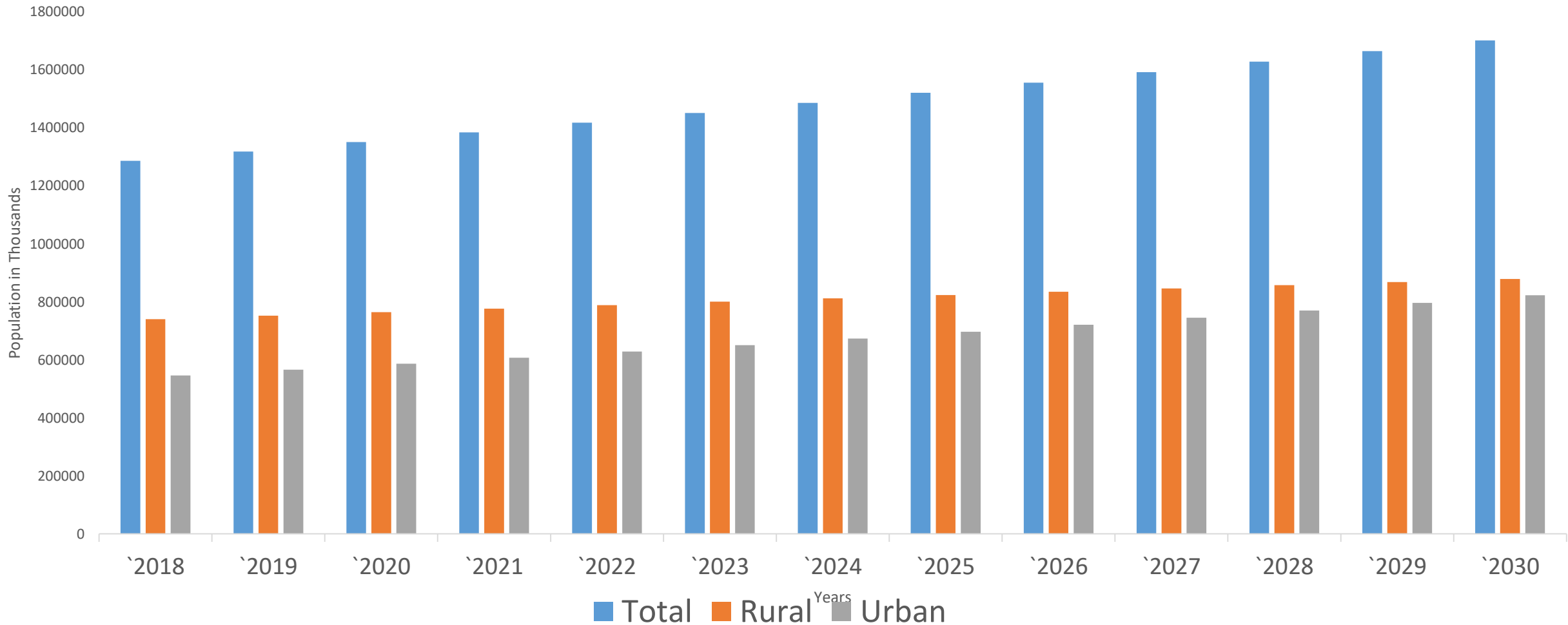


Issues in the Rural Economy(2)

Has more people than the urban



Rural and Urban Population in Africa (2018-2030)



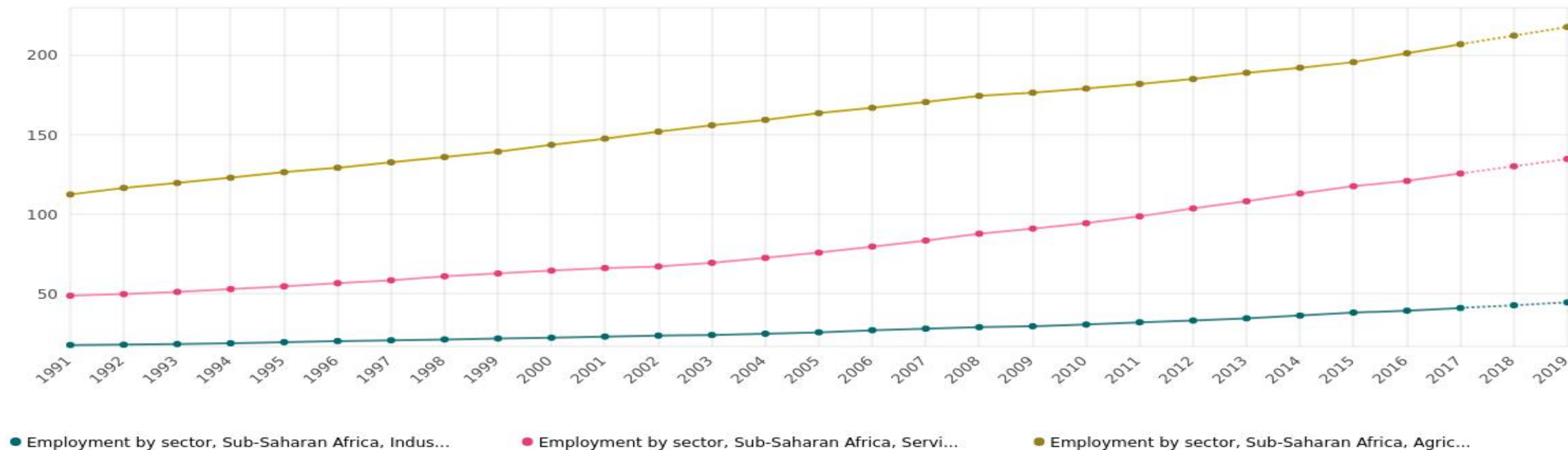
Issues in the Rural Economy(3)

The Agric. sector, a predominantly rural phenomenon, remains the dominant employer



SOCIAL JUSTICE
DECENT WORK

Million

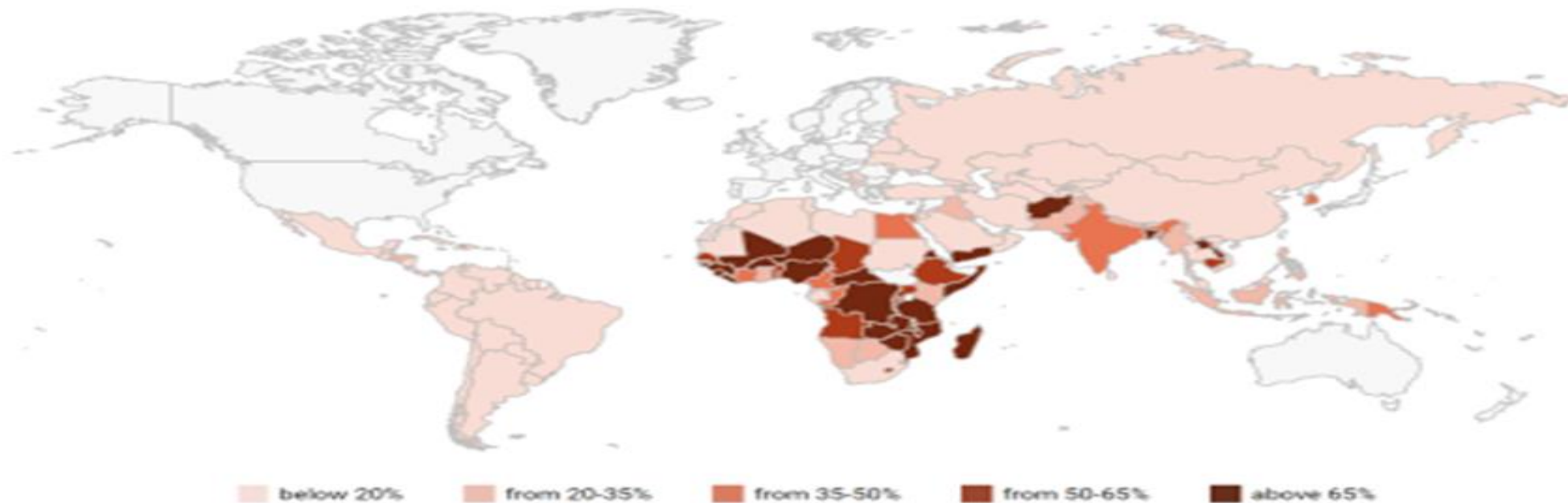


Issues in the Rural Economy (4)

Working poverty is widespread and affects rural workers disproportionately

**In many countries of sub-Saharan Africa
working poverty affects 3/4 of all workers**

The share of workers living on less than \$US 3.10 per day as a percentage of total employment



What are the key challenges?

- In SSA 60% of the 1.2 billion people are under 25. Creating jobs for such numbers is not easy (NEETS on the Increase)
- Predominance of the agricultural sector means more people end up in this sector where productivity is generally low but also affected by seasonality (and encourages rural wage workers)
- Driven mainly by the informal sector, means a striking majority actually enter into informal jobs (decent work deficits)
- Poor access to social protection
- Poor Government policies (e.g FDI policies, employment policies)
- Poor infrastructure, poor access to rural job seekers
- High skills mismatch, high illiteracy rates
- Fragility and conflict
- The political economy

Key Recommendations

1. *Institute pro-rural employment macroeconomic policies (e.g RSA ETI)*
2. **Promote rural-inclusive employment policies (e.g rural growth centres, local industrial development)**
3. *Enhance continuous (life-long) skills development initiatives in the rural economy (e.g TEVET)*
4. **Support formalisation from informality to the formal economy (Rec 204)**
5. **Institute interventions that support labour productivity in the rural sector (e.g extension services).**
6. *Undertake direct and targeted interventions e.g ILO EIIP programs*
7. **Expand social protection to rural workers**
8. **Deepen SSTC to ensure sharing of successful experiences and learning**
9. *Ensure deliberate FDI attraction to the rural sector (agriculture, resource extraction)*
10. **Ensure rights at work are respected**