



## FACT SHEET 6

## WORLD RURAL POPULATION

- Although the world is urbanizing rapidly, the number of rural dwellers is high and still growing. In 2005, there were 3.3 billion rural dwellers, equal to the world's population in 1965. The rural population will start to decline slowly in 2019. By 2030, the rural population is projected to be 28 million people smaller than the population estimated for 2005.
- The less developed regions house most of the rural population of the world (3 billion out of the 3.3 billion globally). It is projected that the rural population of the less developed regions will reach its peak of 3.1 billion in 2020 and will then start to decline slowly.
- In 2005, the largest number of rural residents lived in India (0.8 billion), China (0.8 billion) and Indonesia (0.1 billion).

TABLE 5. TWENTY COUNTRIES WITH THE LARGEST RURAL AND URBAN POPULATIONS IN 2005

<i>Country</i>	<i>Rural population (millions) 2005</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Rural population (millions) 2030</i>
1 India	786	India	859
2 China	784	China	574
3 Indonesia	116	Pakistan	124
4 Bangladesh	106	Bangladesh	124
5 Pakistan	103	Ethiopia	94
6 Nigeria	68	Indonesia	84
7 Ethiopia	65	Nigeria	70
8 Viet Nam	62	Viet Nam	63
9 United States of America	57	Dem. Republic of the Congo	60
10 Japan	44	Uganda	57
11 Thailand	43	Egypt	49
12 Egypt	42	United States of America	47
13 Dem. Republic of the Congo	39	Kenya	41
14 Russian Federation	39	Afghanistan	40
15 Myanmar	35	Thailand	40
16 Philippines	31	United Republic of Tanzania	34
17 Brazil	29	Japan	32
18 United Republic of Tanzania	29	Myanmar	31
19 Kenya	27	Russian Federation	31
20 Mexico	26	Nepal	29