



FAO's efforts to promote decent rural employment (DRE) and reduce rural poverty

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Agriculture and employment

The agricultural sector provides livelihoods for the vast majority of the world's poorest inhabitants

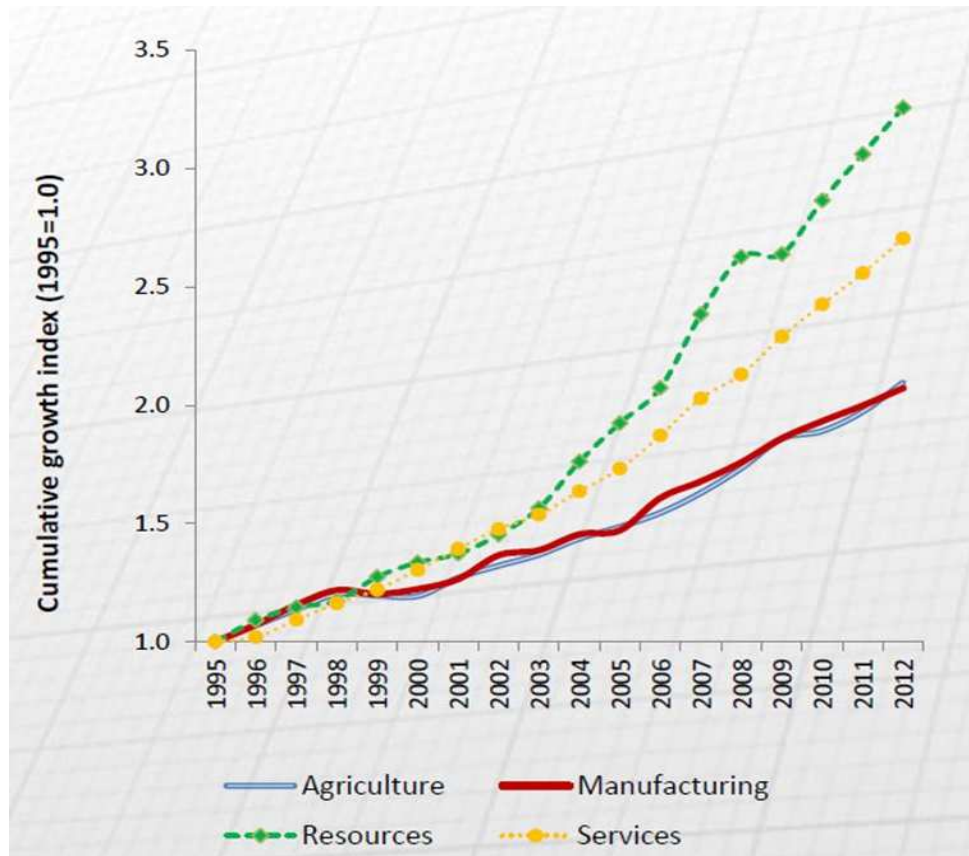
- 78% of the world's extreme poor (US\$1.25/day or less) live in rural areas, the majority of whom earn a living from agriculture
- In DCs, the agricultural sector accounts for about 50% of total employment
- In LDCs, agriculture accounts for over 70% of total employment
- The World Bank estimates that in the context of continuing poverty reduction elsewhere in the world, Africa could be home to up to 80% of the world's poor in 2030



Growth and poverty: The role of employment

- Much of the growth in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has come from the low-productivity service sector and the exploitation of natural resources
- These sectors (and growth therein) are typically **employment un-intensive**

Sectoral growth in SSA (1995-2012)



Employment by sector in SSA (2013)

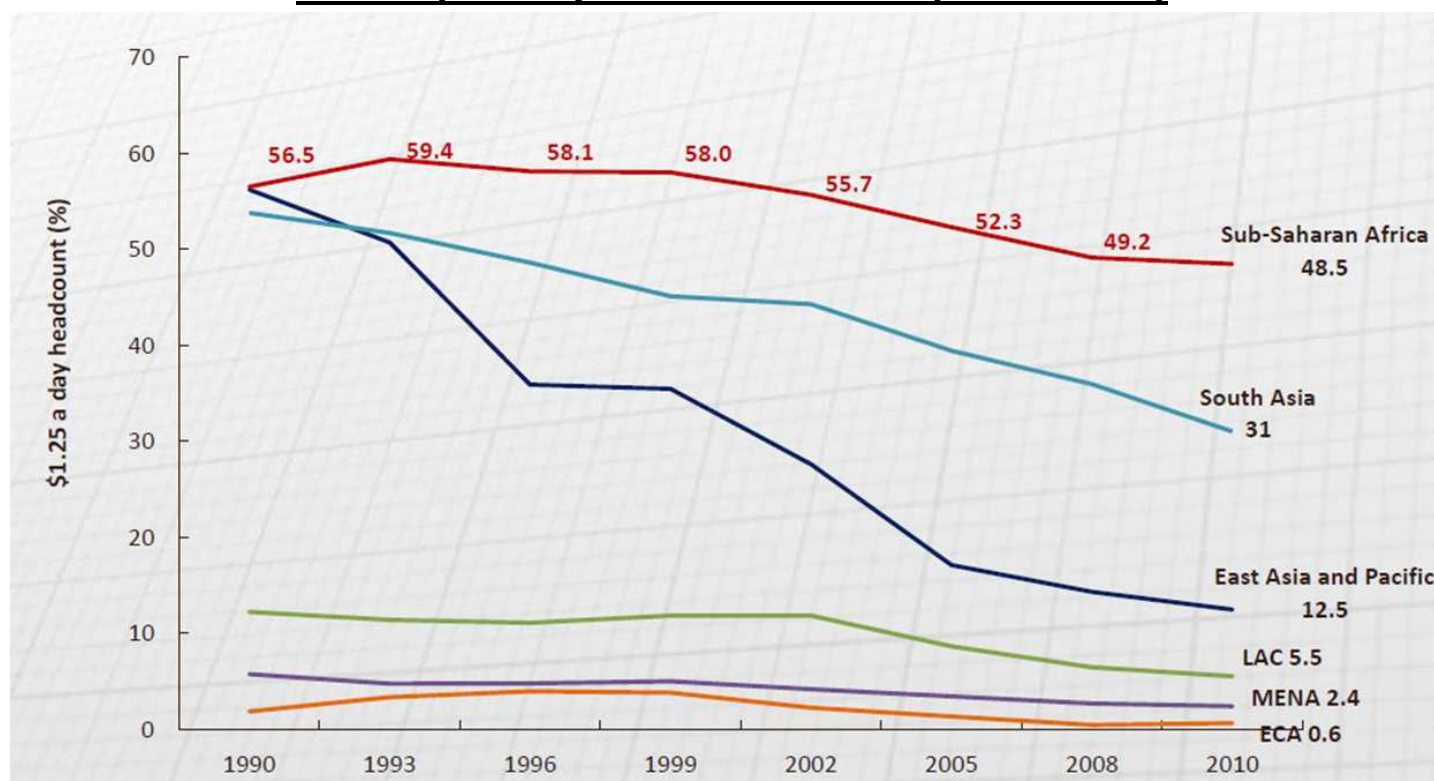
Sector	Employment share
Agriculture	61.3%
Industry	8.9%
Services	29.9%



Growth and poverty: The role of employment

Because economic growth in SSA has been less employment intensive than in other regions, it has been less effective at reducing poverty

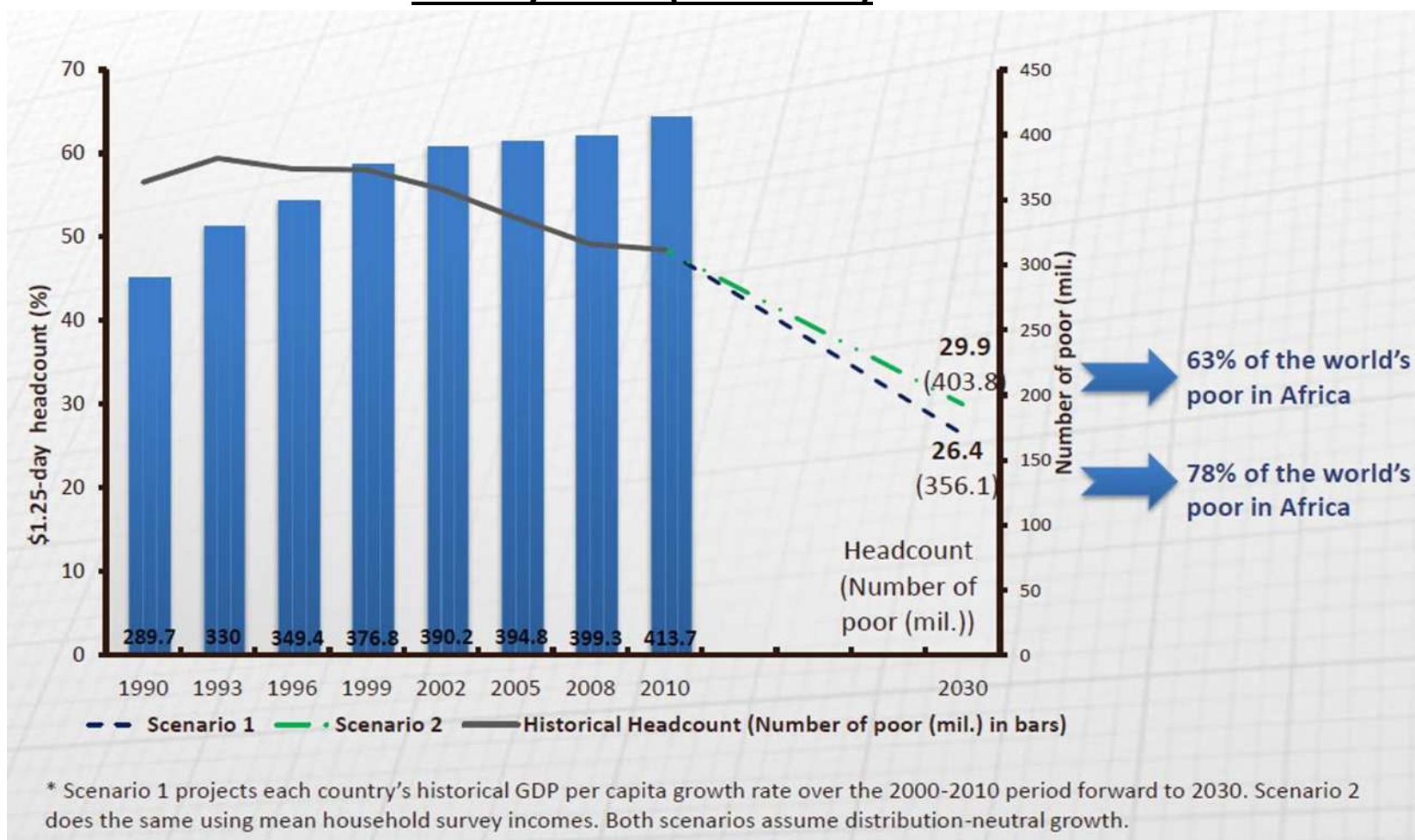
Global poverty headcount ratio (1990-2010)



Growth and poverty: The role of employment

Due to the lower growth elasticity of poverty in **SSA**, the region is (and will continue to be) home to the **vast majority of the world's poor**

Poverty in SSA (1990-2010)



The prevalence of decent work deficits

Many jobs in agriculture are **informal** and characterized by **low productivity** (particularly in SSA) giving rise to significant **decent work deficits**

- Nearly 80% of the world's working poor live in rural areas
- Due to endemic underemployment, about 70% of Africa's youth subsist on US\$2 per day or less
- 59% of the world's child labourers are found in agriculture
- Agriculture is one of the world's most hazardous sectors as measured by the incidence of workplace fatalities

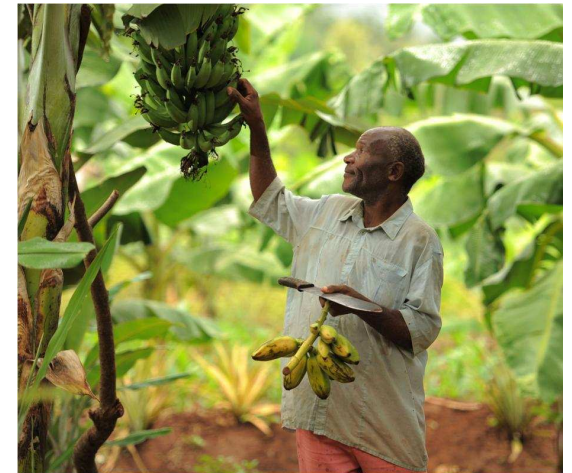


Decent rural employment (DRE)

FAO's Applied Definition

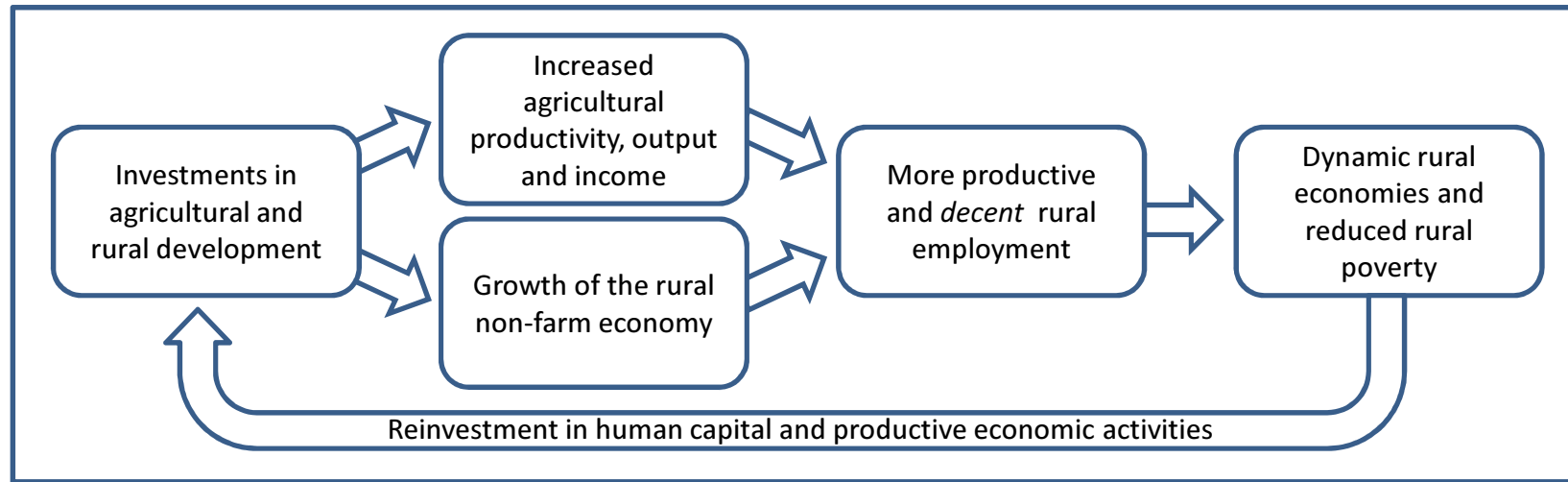
Decent rural employment refers to any activity, occupation, work, business or service performed by women and men (adults and youth) in rural areas that:

- 1) Respects the core labour standards as defined in ILO Conventions
- 2) Provides an adequate living income
- 3) Entails an adequate degree of employment security and stability
- 4) Adopts minimum OSH measures adapted to address sector-specific risks and hazards
- 5) Avoids excessive working hours and allows sufficient time for rest
- 6) Promotes access to adapted technical and vocational training



The importance of DRE for poverty reduction

Decent rural employment for poverty reduction: A theory of change



- Agricultural and rural development that generates DRE opportunities holds the greatest potential to reduce rural poverty over the long run
- This requires considerable investments in agriculture and rural areas, and a policy and regulatory framework that actively contributes to the creation of DRE opportunities
- There is thus a pronounced need for related support from FAO

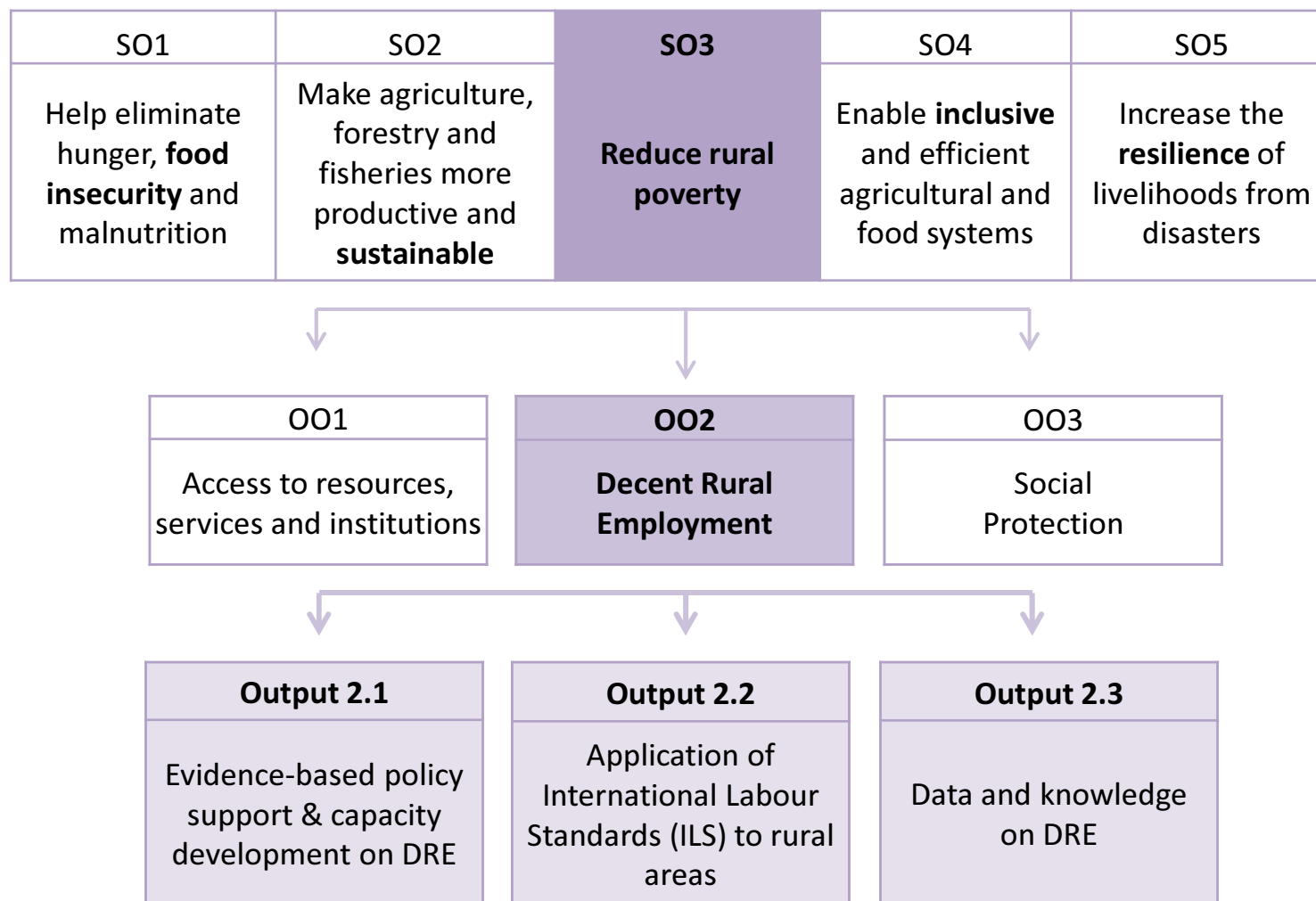


FAO's growing body of work on DRE

- Increasing awareness of the importance of *decent* rural employment in sustainably reducing rural poverty
- Steady increase in demand for FAO's technical support on DRE issues (e.g. youth employment, rural women's economic empowerment, reducing child labour in agriculture)
- Almost 100 FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) mention DRE issues
- FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework (2010-19) strengthens its commitment to promoting DRE to reduce rural poverty



DRE in FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework



FAO's work on DRE

Output 2.1

Evidence-based policy support & capacity development on DRE

DREPAC

Decent Rural Employment Policy Assistance & Capacity

RYE

Rural Youth Employment

RWEE

Rural Women's Economic Empowerment

Output 2.2

Application of International Labour Standards (ILS) to rural areas

RAILS

Rural Areas and International Labour Standards

CLAP

Child Labour in Agriculture Prevention

Output 2.3

Data and knowledge on DRE

REIN

Rural Employment Information Network



Mainstreaming support for DRE

In addition to its dedicated work programme on DRE, FAO is mainstreaming support for DRE throughout its work

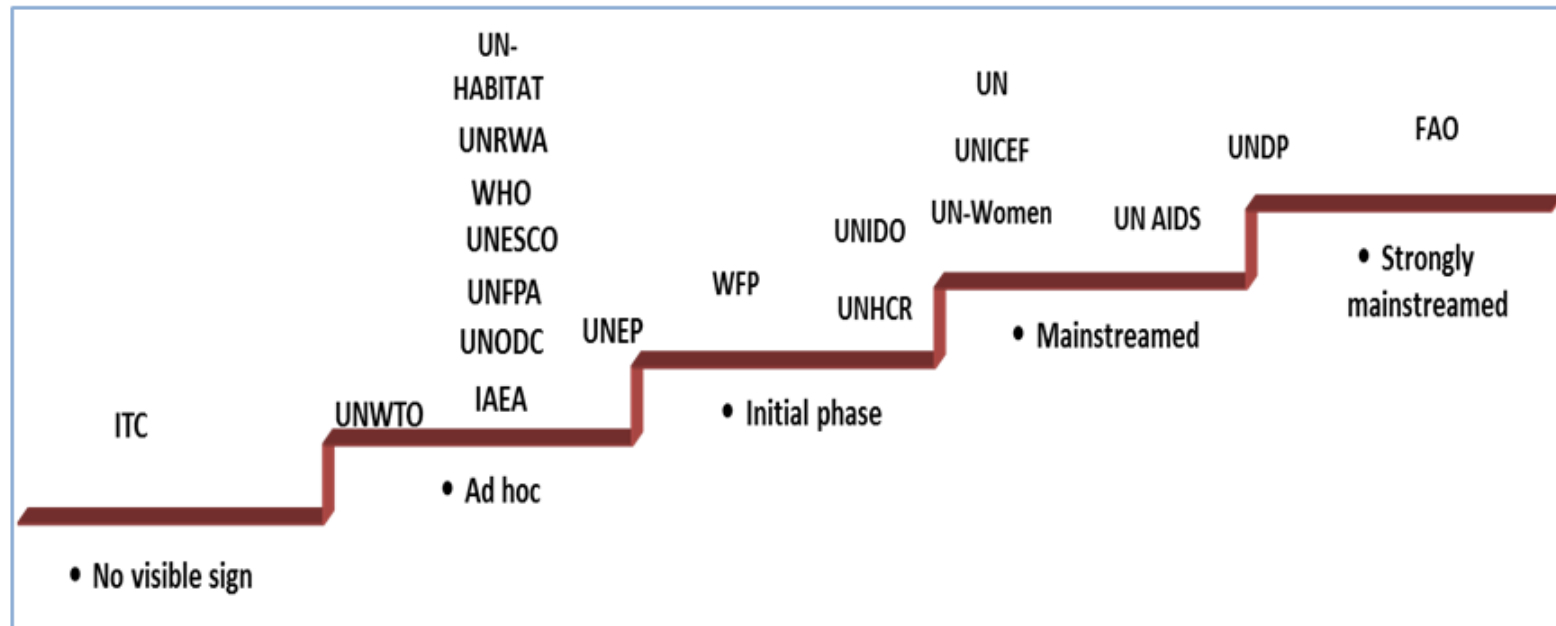
- **Standard 7 on “Decent Work”** in FAO’s new Environmental and Social Standards
- Inclusion of the **right to decent work in FAO’s Project Cycle Guidelines**
- Actively integrating DRE issues into **CPFs as the key mechanism for including DRE** in FAO’s country-level work



Mainstreaming support for DRE

- Joint Inspection Unit (2015): Evaluation of mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by the United Nations system organizations

Graph 1: Overall analysis of level of mainstreaming by United Nations system organizations



Supporting DRE among youth

Project title: *Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for promoting decent rural youth employment*

Countries: Guatemala, Senegal and Uganda

Main objectives:

- Bring about **lasting policy change** that is geared towards supporting **rural youth employment and entrepreneurship**

Main Pillars:

- Provide **integrated in-country support** that spans the **entire policy process** in partnership with national stakeholders



Rural youth enterprise development

Project title: *Decent jobs for youth and improved food security through the development of sustainable rural enterprises*

Country: Zambia

Main objectives:

- Support rural youth to launch **enterprises** that will provide **decent livelihoods** for them and their peers

Main Pillars:

- An ILO-FAO joint programme to provide **comprehensive technical support** to allow young women and men to **launch and manage micro-, small and medium enterprises** along the fish and soy bean value chains



Reducing distress migration

Project title: *Youth migration, food security and rural poverty reduction: Fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility*

Countries: Tunisia and Ethiopia

Main objectives:

- Address the root causes of migration in countries of origin & **reduce distress rural out-migration among youth**

Main Pillars:

- Develop **sound diagnostics and advocacy** tools to support better informed policy decisions
- Facilitate **policy dialogue** to strengthen the capacities of agricultural rural stakeholders and promote innovative mechanisms for youth employment in rural areas



Child labour in agriculture

Project title: *Child labour prevention and reduction in agricultural-based economies: A pathway toward sustainable rural development and poverty reduction*

Countries: Malawi and Niger

Main objectives:

- Prevent and reduce **child labour** in agriculture by addressing its **root causes** (e.g. rural poverty)

Main Pillars:

- Provide government counterparts with the **integrated support** needed to identify and understand national child labour issues, and ultimately **mount a more effective response** to these issues through national policy, legislation and programming



UN response to poverty: What has worked?

- Mobilized considerable human and financial resources to support poverty reduction as the overarching goal of interventions
- Acknowledgement of the need to institutionalize support in national policy to ensure the sustainability of poverty reduction outcomes
- Strong recognition of the importance of regional processes in shaping national policy
- Some high-level commitment to prioritizing employment in the discourse on poverty reduction
- Agencies' programmes on "employment"
- E.g. Youth SWAP and IANYD
- Some collaboration, e.g. UNJPs



UN response to poverty: What has not worked?

- Support for poverty reduction has not been adequately linked to national policy processes
 - Shortcomings in supporting countries in *operationalizing* poverty reduction policy priorities
- Difficulties in translating good understanding of the centrality of employment into employment-centered action
- Interventions have not been well coordinated, resulting in:
 - Isolated policy support and initiatives in beneficiary countries
 - Reduced impact on the ground



What needs to be done?

- Recognize and act on the **centrality of employment** for poverty reduction
 - SDG 8 is important, but should also be seen as vital to achieving all SDGs related to poverty, food security, etc.
- **Focus on the country level**
 - Support countries in developing and operationalizing their policy priorities
- **Coordinate all actors** to ensure that countries receive support that
 - Is comprehensive in meeting their needs
 - Follows a coherent approach
 - Works toward commonly defined objectives (e.g. CAADP Results Framework 2014-24)
 - Works in partnership through joint initiatives



How FAO is contributing

- Advocating for recognition of the centrality of DRE among FAO member countries, and in major international forums (e.g. CFS)
- Mainstreaming of DRE into FAO work programme and corporate processes
- Mainstreaming of DRE issues into broader policy frameworks (e.g. FIRST Initiative) to improve coherence of country policy support
- Explicit corporate work area on DRE
- Integrated approach for policy support
- Substantial role in child labour prevention in agriculture
- Substantial contributions in the areas of youth employment and migration from a rural perspective
- *Jobs for the Poor* umbrella programme to mobilize the resources needed to act at a scale that is commensurate with the magnitude of the challenge
- Systematic collaboration with other agencies (e.g. ILO)



Good practices in moving to scale: Example

The UN Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth is an example of how support for employment and poverty reduction could be pushed to scale in a coordinated and coherent way

- Initiated at the behest of the HLCP CEB to mount a strong UN response to the global youth employment challenge
- Process being led by a Task Team that includes ILO, FAO, UNDESA, ITU, UNEP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UN-WOMEN, UNIDO and UNESCO
- Partner countries will benefit from a comprehensive package of support on youth employment tailored to meet their national needs
- Country support will be coordinated by UNCTs, with UN agencies delivering support in line with their respective areas of comparative advantage



Thank you!

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Visit FAO's thematic website on DRE

www.fao.org/ruralemployment

