

# **Introducing Urban Rural Land Links**

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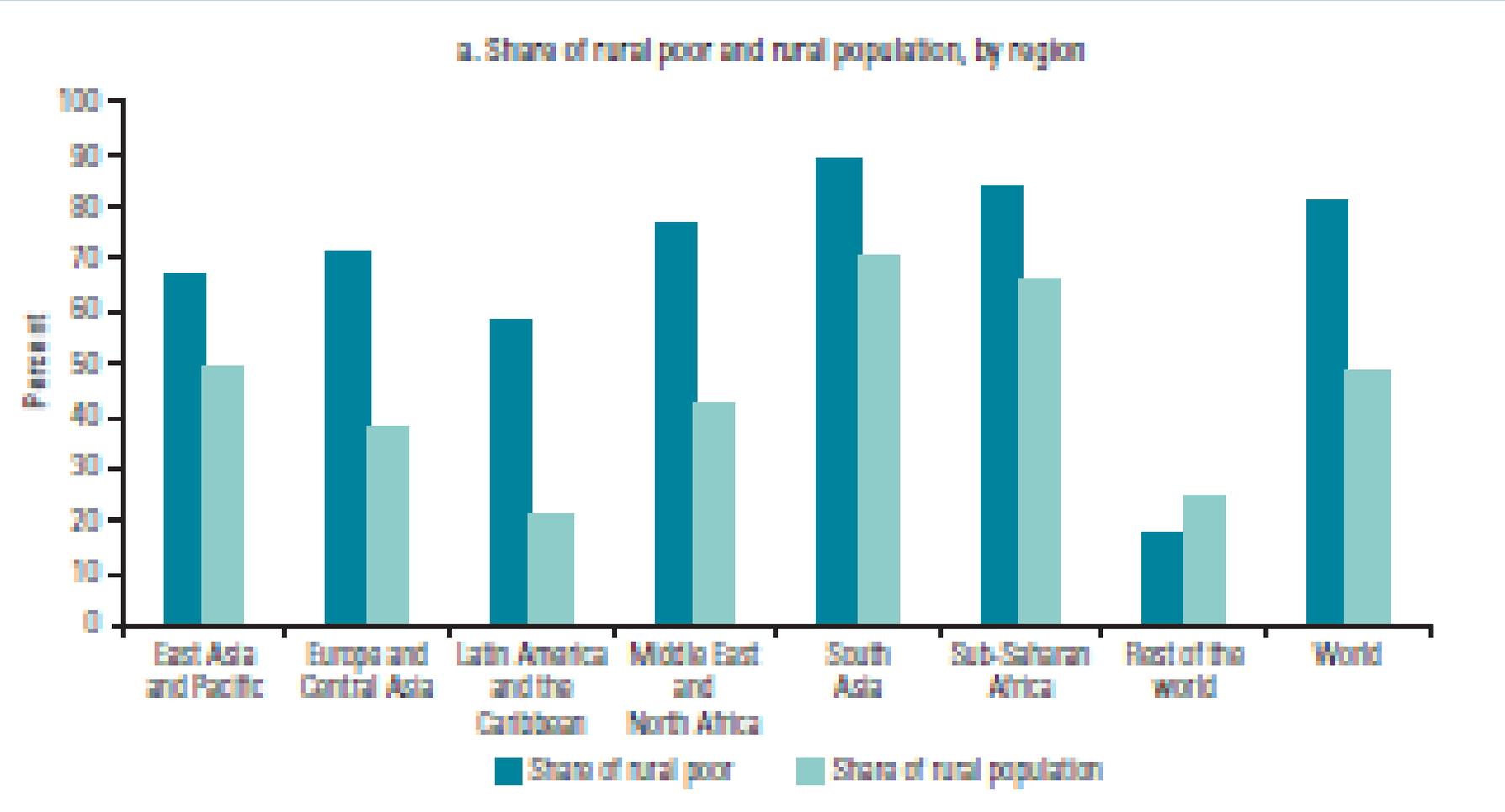
# Major Challenges For Rural Areas

- There are 3.4 billion people living in rural areas today. Only since 2007 has the urban population surpassed that of rural areas. Around 92% of the rural population is located in developing countries. Moreover, the number of rural people in developing countries is still increasing, and is projected to continue growing until 2028.
- Conditions for rural people across the developing world are worse than for their urban counterparts when measured by almost any development indicator, from extreme poverty, to child mortality and access to electricity and sanitation. The gulf is widening, contributing to large-scale migration to urban areas. However, urban areas in developing countries have limited ability to house and productively employ their own increasing populations, let alone migrants. The result is an increase in slums and urban poverty.

# Major Challenges For Rural Areas

- Rural populations are being left behind by economic growth, and a high share of them live in extreme poverty. The global extreme poverty ratio (the share of population living on less than USD 1.25 per day) fell from 52.5% in 1990 to 29.4% in 2008 in rural areas. However, the ratio is more than twice that of urban areas, where the share of extreme poverty fell from 20.5% to 11.6% over the same time period.
- Regionally, East Asia and Pacific had the highest rural poverty rate at 67.5% in 1990, but this dropped dramatically to 20.4% in 2008. Poverty is now more severe in sub-Saharan Africa, where the rate fell by only 8% over those two decades.
- OECD, [A New Rural Development Paradigm for the 21st Century](#)

# WB Reversals of fortune 2020, p.9



# Rural Economy Characteristics

- Rural areas are characterized by governance gaps and informality. Gender inequalities in rural areas are pervasive. If women in rural areas had the same access to agriculture assets, education and markets as men, agricultural production could be increased and the number of hungry people reduced by 100-150 million.
- Common challenges to unleashing the potential of rural areas include low productivity; underinvestment in agriculture and non-farm rural employment; lack of adequate infrastructure; poor occupational safety and health and working conditions; and limited or no access to services, including financial services. Additional pressures in rural economies result from conflict, natural resource depletion and climate change.
- ILO; <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/themes/rural-economy/lang--en/index.htm>

# COVID 19 & Poverty

- The pandemic's impacts on food security have been induced primarily by falling incomes. The World Bank estimates that the global economy shrank by 5 percent in 2020, with the greatest burden borne by poor people. By the end of 2020, 95 million additional people, mostly in Africa south of the Sahara, were estimated to be living in extreme poverty. IFPRI research estimates that the number of poor people globally is likely to increase by about 150 million, 20 percent above pre-pandemic poverty levels (IFPRI, Global Food Policy Report 2021, p.9)

# Urban Rural Land Links

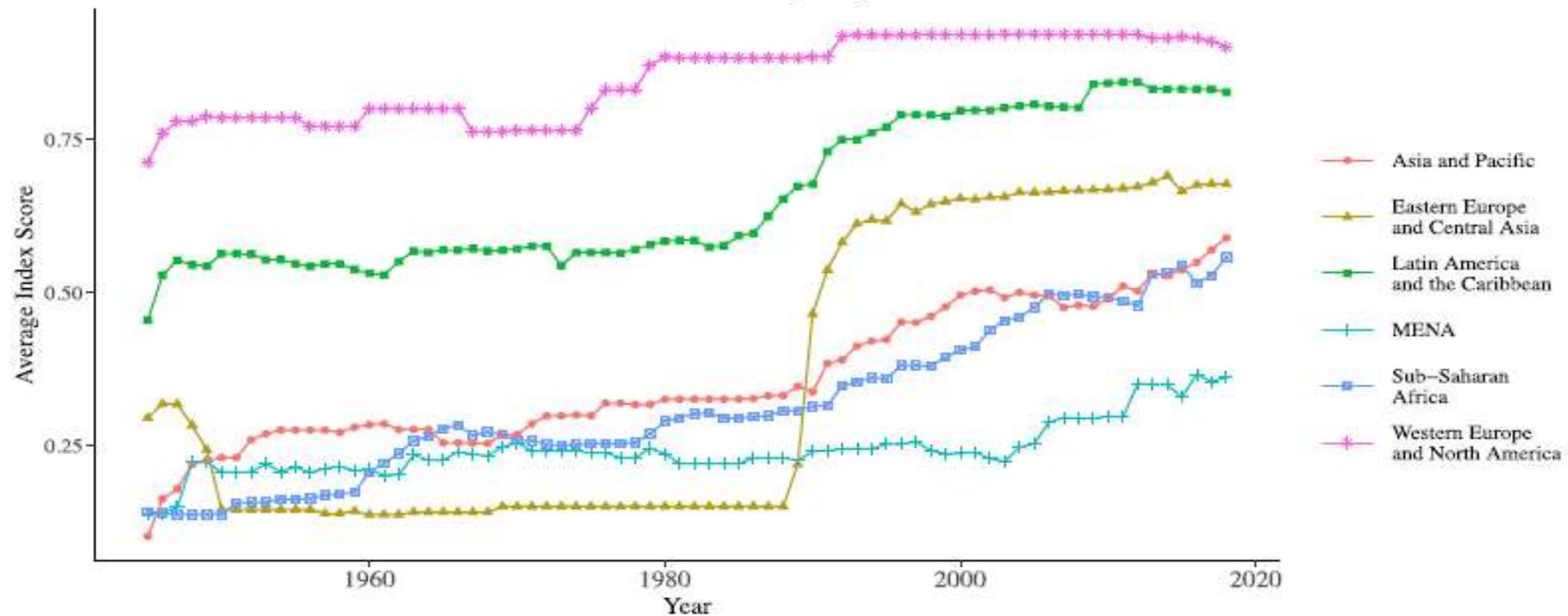
- In both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) , United Nations Member States agreed to policies that support integrated urban and territorial planning and development. They called for new, inclusive approaches and enhanced synergies between urban and rural communities and spaces - an essential component of the vision of Agenda 2030 to “leave no one behind”.
- The reciprocal and repetitive flow of people, goods and financial and environmental services (defining urban-rural linkages) between specific rural, peri-urban and urban locations are interdependent.

# Capacity building and decentralization

- The research produced by Prof. Engen Chigbu will shed an interesting light on the land dimension of the complex relations between urban and rural areas, with the aim of enhancing a balanced approach of both areas' sustainable development;
- However, I believe that rural areas require a particular effort to upgrade their capabilities, through capacity building, together with the encouragement of bottom-up initiatives, the guarantee of equal treatment for both areas, at the expense of the centralized attitudes that one can unfortunately too often notice.

# Decentralisation and empowerment of local authorities (Gothenburg University)

Figure 1: Decentralization patterns across regions, based on V-Dem's Local Government Index.  
Local Government Index by Region



V-Dem Definition: 'Are there elected local governments, and if so to what extent can they operate without interference from unelected bodies at the local level.'

**Thank you for your attention**  
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