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Understanding the drivers of rural vulnerability

Towards building resilience, promoting socio-economic empowerment and enhancing the socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized populations for an effective promotion of Decent Work in rural economies

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Development
and Investment
Branch

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Preface

The primary goal of the ILO is to work with member States towards achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all. This goal is elaborated in the ILO Declaration 2008 on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, which has been widely adopted by the international community. Comprehensive and integrated perspectives to achieve this goal are embedded in the Employment Policy Convention of 1964 (No. 122), the Global Employment Agenda (2003) and – in response to the 2008 global economic crisis – the Global Jobs Pact (2009) and the conclusions of the Recurrent Discussion Reports on Employment (2010 and 2014).

The Employment Policy Department (EMPLOYMENT) is engaged in global advocacy and in supporting member States in placing more and better jobs at the centre of economic and social policies and growth and development strategies. Policy research and knowledge generation and dissemination are essential components of the Employment Policy Department's activities. The resulting publications include books, country policy reviews, policy and research briefs, and working papers.

The Employment Policy Working Paper series is designed to disseminate the main findings of research on a broad range of topics undertaken by the branches of the Department. The working papers are intended to encourage the exchange of ideas and to stimulate debate. The views expressed within them are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the ILO.

Azita Berar Awad
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Foreword

More and more countries recognize the need to develop the often overlooked potential of rural economies to create decent and productive jobs and to contribute to sustainable development and growth. The ILO's Decent Work Agenda offers integrated policies and a wealth of instruments and tools to support tripartite constituents in their efforts to promote employment and decent work for sustainable livelihoods in economic, social and environmental sectors in rural areas.

The global challenge of ending poverty is fundamentally one of ending rural poverty. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have a strong sectoral focus and are set to increase attention towards the rural economy. Reaching SDG 1 will only be possible if adequate policy attention is given to rural areas. In addition to target 1.1 on the elimination of extreme poverty, the ILO's work on the rural economy contribute to reaching targets 1.4 on equal rights for access to basic services, 1.5 on building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reducing their vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental disasters, and 1.b on creating pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions. Its commitment under 8.5 to achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all will require a significant focus on agriculture and related rural sectors to support the integration of decent work principles and objectives into national development policies and frameworks.

The present Working Paper examines drivers of rural vulnerability and how the challenge of rural vulnerability can be addressed by promoting socio-economic empowerment, enhancing socio-economic inclusion and building resilience of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized populations in order to promote employment and Decent Work in rural economies.

The research develops the concept of vulnerability of disadvantaged and marginalised rural populations and highlights the understanding the use of the concept in the development of the rural economy. It therefore emphasizes the need to identify who are the vulnerable groups in the rural economy, what challenges they face and the risks they are exposed to, and how vulnerability affects decent work opportunities and conditions in the rural economy.

The paper aims to identify the root causes of rural vulnerability and to analyse how these impact on employment and Decent Work and hence to provide guidance for the development of sustainable livelihoods among targeted vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised people. The research highlights how socio-economic, environmental and governance issues are having an impact on targeted groups and how this can be addressed through development programmes.

The annexes provide tools that can be applied in this endeavour in order to undertake appropriate assessments and improve targeting of development programmes. It furthermore exposes country cases in order to present successful ILO projects and programmes on these matters.

This Working Paper will further contribute to ILO's development of a strategy to address the needs of vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised people in rural areas.

Terje Tessem
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Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Preface	i
Foreword	iii
Acknowledgements	v
List of Figures	viii
List of Boxes	viii
List of abbreviations	ix
1. Introduction: key concepts, audience and content	1
1.1. Vulnerability as a concept	1
1.2. Vulnerability: understandings and uses	1
1.3. Introducing the concepts of Disadvantaged and Marginalized rural populations	3
1.4. Building Resilience, reducing vulnerability through Risk Management	5
1.5. Objective, audience and content	5
2. Main features of vulnerability and its drivers in relation to the rural economy	7
2.1. Vulnerability in relation to ILO's work in the rural economy	7
2.2. Eradicating extreme poverty and Rural Vulnerability	8
2.3. Disclosing factors of vulnerability in rural areas?	10
2.4. Vulnerabilities in the rural economy and their impact on Decent Work and sustainable livelihoods	12
2.5. Vulnerability in relation to employment statuses	14
3. Identifying the drivers and targeting vulnerable disadvantaged and marginalized people in the rural economy to foster decent work	15
3.1. Are rural people vulnerable per se?	15
3.2. Women: what makes them vulnerable in rural areas?	15
3.3. Children and Youth	18
3.4. Smallholders and agricultural workers	19
3.5. Indigenous and tribal peoples (ITP)	21
3.6. Workers in the rural informal economy	22
3.7. Migrant workers	23
3.8. People with disabilities	24
3.9. Persons living with or affected by HIV or AIDS	25
3.10. Older people	26
Criteria to apply the Tools	29
References	49

List of Figures

Figure 1: Accumulating vulnerabilities conditions multiplies exponentially the level of exposure to risks	11
Figure 2: From Sekong River to the Vietnam border 210 km, 8-10 hours by car	13
Figure 3: Young Women selling in a Vegetable Market in Sekong province, Lao PDR	16
Figure 4: Syrian child refugees working in Northern Lebanon	19
Figure 5: Sekong Province the poorest and most diverse of Lao PDR has 14 different ethnic groups ..	21
Figure 6: Large number of war disable people on warn-torn areas of Sri Lanka	24

List of Boxes

Box 1: Some Definitions of Vulnerability	1
Box 2: Promotion of Decent Work	4

List of abbreviations

ACI	Area of Critical Importance
CEACR	Committee of Experts on the Application of the Conventions and Recommendations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HIV or AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILC	International Labour Conference
ILO	International Labour Office
ICSE	International Classification by Status in Employment
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ITPs	Indigenous and tribal peoples
LED	Local economic development
LER	local economic recovery
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIPP	United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Introduction: key concepts, audience and content

1.1. Vulnerability as a concept

Vulnerability is a concept that entails many understandings and interpretations depending on the disciplines¹ and/or the perspectives of the organizations. In a general definition, vulnerability links the exposition of people, individuals or population groups, to threats, their capacity of reaction, and the consequences in terms of a decline in well-being.² The level of vulnerability depends in great part on the people's capacities to cope with external situations, at times difficult, and also on the social, economic, political and environmental systems in which they live in.

Box 1: Some Definitions of Vulnerability

"Vulnerability is defined as the probability or risk today of being in poverty or to fall into deeper poverty in the future. It is a key dimension of welfare since a risk of large changes in income may constrain households to lower investments in productive assets -when households need to hold some reserves in liquid assets- and in human capital".
(WB 2015, Poverty Reduction and Equity, Measuring vulnerability)

"Vulnerability can be defined as the diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard. The concept is relative and dynamic. Vulnerability is most often associated with poverty, but it can also arise when people are isolated, insecure and defenceless in the face of risk, shock or stress". (IFRC 2012, Disaster and Crisis Management)

"Vulnerability is the manifestation of social, economic and political structures, and environmental setting. Vulnerability can be seen as made up of two elements: exposure to hazard and coping capability. People having more capability to cope with extreme events are naturally also less vulnerable to risk".
(UNEP 2003, Assessing Human Vulnerability to Environmental Change)

1.2. Vulnerability: understandings and uses

The concept of "vulnerability" is generally used in development work so as to:

- a) Describe exposure to risks of being harmed, suffering a loss or being affected by the realization of an adverse event. This can affect entire communities, countries, certain individuals, households, or groups of people. Risks are not equally distributed and certain individuals or groups of people are more exposed than others due to a wide range of factors, namely geographic location, status, age, socio-demographic characteristics, economic situation, among others.³ Those risks may result from natural events or from human actions; some may occur at the individual level (associated with health such as injuries, accident, or social risks

¹ A very wide range of disciplines have explored this notion, from engineering, geography, ecology, to sociology, anthropology, development studies, gender studies, security, public health, risk management, etc.

² There tend to be a consensus in the literature arguing that vulnerability analysis entails a risk-related angle and is more dynamic and multi-dimensional than the analysis of poverty.

³ UNDESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs), "Report on the World Social Situation 2001", New York, p.14

for instance violence, etc.), while others may occur at a wider level (natural disasters, epidemics, political or economic crisis, for instance).⁴

- b) Guide normative analysis of actions to enhance resilience through risk management; vulnerability is considered as having limited capacity⁵ to deal with those risks.⁶ The concept of resilience is closely related, and can be defined as “the ability of households, communities and systems to ex ante anticipate, withstand, adapt to and ex post recover from the aftermaths of shocks, stresses and threats (such as natural disasters, epidemics, socio-economic instability or conflict) in ways that support economic and social development and reduce vulnerability”.⁷ In the world of work, particularly in the rural economy, rights-based elements (such as protective labour laws, respect for fundamental rights at work, social protection, dialogue and participation of workers’ and employers’ organizations, governments and communities to labour governance) and socio-economic elements (economic diversification, access to services), are key to fostering resilience.⁸
- c) The third, and probably the most relevant analysis of vulnerabilities for the purpose of the present work, is that because in terms of socio-economic policies is important to understand why some proved to be effective policies and tools fail in particular conditions and certain external factors contribute to revert their effect or even aggravate the problematic that seeks to be addressed through such policies. The concept is widely used to guide the design of projects and to better define their target groups.

The above mentioned becomes particularly relevant when working on rural development and realizing the frustrations which motivated in the latest eighties and early nineties the trend to address the needs of rural poor through creation of job opportunities for them in urban settings and thus return remittances to their families which stay in the rural areas. An initial success on this approach was the reduction of urban poverty and the increase in rural migration, in a disorganized and chaotic process until it compromised the sustainability of those urban settlements and increase again Urban Poverty ratios.

Understanding the concept of vulnerability requires to make a distinction between *External and Internal* factors. Taking these factors into account, when defining strategies to build resilience, is of utmost importance:

- a) External elements are those beyond the control of people; they can be part of the “drivers of vulnerability” (failures in services and policies, unfair norms, etc.); but they can also be part of the “drivers of resilience” (for instance, well-adapted policies or tools, solid governance mechanisms, among others, can provide adequate responses to address vulnerability).
- b) Internal elements mainly refer to people’s resilience, which is comprised of both ex ante (preparedness, sharing mechanisms, information, social networks etc.) and ex post coping strategies. Key elements in this matter are: the stress or shock to which a system is exposed; the economic, physical, environmental, social resources available and their distribution; the formal or informal; local, national or even

⁴ Bonilla Garcia A., Gruat J.V, 2003: *Social protection: a life cycle continuum investment for social justice, poverty reduction and development*, Geneva, November 2003, pp. 2-3.

⁵ The human development and capability approach developed by Amartya Sen can be linked to those two conceptions (see for instance SEN A., 1985. *Commodities and Capabilities*, Oxford, Elsevier Science Publishers; - 2002. *Éthique et économies et autres essais*, trad. S. Marnat, Paris, PUF).

⁶ Adger W.N, (2006), “Vulnerability”, *Global Environmental Change* 16, pages 268-281.

⁷ ILO (International Labour Office), 2015, “Report V, ILC, 105th Session”, *Employment and decent work for peace and resilience, Revision of the Employment (Transition from war to peace) Recommendation, 1944 (No. 71)*.

⁸ *Ibid.*

global institutions that play a role in their management and distribution of those resources.

1.3. Introducing the concepts of Disadvantaged and Marginalized rural populations

For the purpose of the present document, it is relevant to understand the condition of marginalization and disadvantage in the world of work of certain groups of populations as it increases their exposure to risk and therefore their level of vulnerability.

Disadvantage

In this context, *Disadvantage* refers to particular conditions affecting the possibilities of groups of population to succeed in seizing opportunities to improve their livelihoods, employment and decent work conditions due to cultural, social, economic, territorial, environmental and/or political factors.

In order to understand how these situations of *disadvantage* in the world of work contribute to increase the level of vulnerability within the rural economy, we could consider the following examples:

- a) Inequalities in rights and entitlements, whether economic or social, are a powerful source of discrimination against vulnerable populations and can limit the control over resources
- b) Underdeveloped rural infrastructure and services for transport, electricity and clean water further limit access to resources, markets and public services such as healthcare, and lengthen the time needed for household and care work.
- c) The lack of clarity in terms that define land boundaries and ownership rights for Indigenous and Tribal populations will limit their access to financial opportunities, including those oriented to reduce their exposure to certain natural hazards.
- d) Gender inequality in accessing the same relations by societal norms and attitudes; as a result, women networks may remain weak while these are essential to connect with labour market opportunities.
- e) Rural youth can be true engines of rural transformation. However, their potential is insufficiently acknowledged and neglected in domestic and international development policies.
- f) Where issues of youth employment are addressed, the focus is most often on better educated urban youth and results in poor quality, lack of educational relevance and training curricula to local needs, as well as the “relative” high cost of schooling.
- g) Rural areas lack opportunities for educated youth to employ their skills productively, thus encouraging out-migration that results in a ‘rural youth drain’.
- h) Within the agricultural sector, considered as one of the most hazardous industries, many migrant workers find themselves in very poor and hazardous working conditions.

With the aim of overcoming disadvantage conditions, *Socio-economic Empowerment* is thus the process of obtaining access to equal rights and opportunities for affected population groups, either directly by them, or through the help of other people who share their own access to these opportunities. Empowerment implies visibility, voice, better knowledge of rights and obligations, and often implies strong advocacy campaigns.

Marginalization

On the other hand, *Marginalization* refers to a particular situation where a group of people have been relegated to the lower echelons, or outer edges of opportunities and progress, based on several conditions such as ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, genealogy, education, culture and/or economic status. Even if in many cases marginalization is supported in unfair and many times anachronic formal and or consuetudinary law or traditions, poor rule of law, isolation, weak and corrupted institutions contribute to create conditions for a *de facto* marginalization. Indigenous and Tribal People, the extreme poor, people with disabilities and elderly people are among the most frequent marginalized groups of the population.

Among the situations of *marginalization* in the world of work, within the rural economy one can find:

- a) Geographical isolated populations, exposed to extraordinary transaction costs, lack of services, limited access to alternative markets, reduced acknowledgement of economic opportunities affecting their economic competitiveness. Isolation and remoteness are often associated with poor rule of law and ineffectiveness in the protection of labour market mechanisms.
- b) Indigenous and tribal peoples (ITP) who have scarce or no control of their development due to historical reasons. Through these processes, most ITP have become economically and politically marginalized, and are largely excluded from decision-making processes at all levels with particular reference to the exploitation of natural resources (mining and forestry activities on ITP lands).
- c) Low rates of female land ownership as a consequence of limited rights, included in different customary laws, can hinder access to financial assets and their capacity to set up a business, for instance.
- d) Children working in agriculture are often invisible, facilitated by the limited reach of labor inspectors in rural areas.

In order to fight marginalization, Social and Economic Inclusion, becomes the adequate process to improve the conditions in which people take part in society, protecting their rights and providing opportunities to overcome their current condition. Socio-economic inclusion measures could include update/changes on policies and improvement of mechanisms for their implementation, creation of mechanisms to accelerate the backlog on accessing new rights and entitlements, promote rights and entitlements literacy, promote diversification to fight economic dependency, voice and organization, public awareness campaigns, enable access to services, knowledge and financing. Reducing isolation through rural accessibility programs, introducing innovative approaches in poor institutions as well as promoting networking agreements need to be strongly targeted.

Box 2: Promotion of Decent Work

“To promote Decent Work for disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable rural populations would be necessary to increase their overall resilience and build the capacity of individuals, groups and communities to strengthen their socio-economic empowerment and enhance socio-economic inclusion.”

On these terms, ILO’s approach to promote Decent Work for disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable rural populations would be necessary to increase their overall resilience and build the capacity of individuals, groups and communities to strengthen their socio-economic empowerment and enhance socio-economic inclusion.

1.4. Building Resilience, reducing vulnerability through Risk Management

Some population groups are more likely to be exposed to risks than others and to lack resilience options to anticipate, cope, resist and recover from their impacts. Those are the “vulnerable groups” that have to be targeted on the frame of a government initiative or policy intervention. Building resilience involves developing better strategies to “manage risk” and these can be either formal or informal, including:

- Adaptation: can be either an anticipation or a reaction to change;
- Reduction: mitigate the potential negative impacts of an adverse event or a disadvantaged situation by reducing these to a lower level that the stakeholders deem acceptable and affordable. Impact mitigation can also be achieved by putting in place measures through an effective organization of who-does-what-with-what-resources-in-what-sequence. In this context, the role of institutions (formal and informal) is key. e.g. through business continuity management practices;
- Sharing or transfer mechanisms: involves transferring part of the risk to an external counterpart who accepts it, for instance through insurance;
- Avoidance: eliminate the risk by not getting involved in the risky situation;
- Retention: when considered that the consequences of a negative event can be absorbed, including if needed, expected recovery costs (e.g. creating a provision, reflecting the cost on prices, or arranging labor conditions through collective bargaining)
- Preparedness: involves contingency planning, a risk management planning, an emergency response, an evaluation of the threats and vulnerabilities on human, physical, economic and social capitals, at both national and local levels. This will be related to existing mechanisms; institutions, Ministries, resources, among others, and are going to facilitate the process of recovery, by reducing the pain, the social stress and suffering of the population, in an accelerated process.

Finally it has to be noted that both the degree of exposure to risks and the ability to cope with them do not remain constant throughout life, but may vary according to different stages of life, or “life cycle”.⁹

1.5. Objective, audience and content

This document tries to reach a common understanding of the above mentioned concepts from an ILO perspective and to better understand how drivers of vulnerability affect the World of Work in rural areas. Furthermore, it will try to harmonize ILO’s perspective of vulnerabilities with those incorporated in the global debate for the New Agenda for Global Action: Transforming our world by 2030, which will be reflected by the new Sustainable Development Goals¹⁰ and targets adopted in September 2015.

⁹ According to the framework developed by the Department of Social Protection of the ILO, a « life cycle » is considered as the period when for an individual, the whole set of risks and certainties to which he or she is exposed remains constant; one enters a new life cycle when the set of risks and certainties that define the level of vulnerability, changes in a positive or negative way (Bonilla Garcia A., Gruat J.V, 2003: *Social protection: a life cycle continuum investment for social justice, poverty reduction and development*, Op.cit, p.32).

¹⁰ As a reference we use the Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN summit to adopt the Post 2015 Development Agenda circulated officially by the presidency of the General Assembly on June 2015.

The analysis proposed will be enriched with the lessons learned drawn from different ILO projects and programs, contributing to enhance the institutional capacity of the ILO, so as to:

- Identify populations who can be considered “vulnerable” in the rural economy and recognize their essential vulnerabilities features ;
- Assess the needs and challenges they face to develop coping mechanisms.

Firstly, this concept note will introduce the main conceptual elements of vulnerability that are relevant regarding decent work and the rural economy. Secondly, it will focus on different groups of people so as to capture their specific challenges. The intention is to adopt a practical angle so to raise and answer the following set of questions (considering that those questions may need adaptations due to the different conditions from one country to another):

- *Who* are the vulnerable groups in the rural economy?
- *What* are the challenges they face and the risks they are exposed to?
- *How* is vulnerability affecting decent work conditions in the rural economy?

This exercise will also contribute to better understand the relevance and efficiency of the ILO’s action in Rural Economies when operating in high vulnerable conditions and/or working with disadvantaged and marginalized groups. In that sense, the following questions will try to give a further and better response regarding:

- *What* are the strategies (formal/informal) people develop to manage risks, and what are the potential shortages between the risks faced, the strategies deployed, and its outcomes?
- *How* can be ensured a good and relevant response to help them reduce their vulnerabilities and increase their resilience and coping capacities?
- *Which* are the tools to be refined or adapted for rural areas, and which new tools may be needed?

This approach strongly takes into consideration that some groups can be qualified as “vulnerable” although they have the knowledge and the skills to give innovative responses. It is important to build the vision that local actors are key to employment creation, social protection and promotion of rights, and that they can provide a very powerful social and economic contribution to their community.

This document is oriented to policy makers and practitioners regarding initiatives which contribute to poverty reduction and/or extreme poverty eradication in the rural areas, through the promotion of decent work. This analysis has the aim to contribute to improve effectiveness of their policies and programs which are exposed to risks posed by different natural/human challenges and threats.

2. Main features of vulnerability and its drivers in relation to the rural economy

2.1. Vulnerability in relation to ILO's work in the rural economy

The ILO defines its role in promoting Decent Work in the rural economy by facilitating that *“Tripartite constituents are better equipped to promote decent work for sustainable rural livelihoods with a focus on protecting and empowering vulnerable people”*.¹¹

The ILO identifies different challenges, risks and threats which are prone to affect the above mentioned success: *“Eight out of ten of the world's working poor live in rural areas where the lack of decent work opportunities is pervasive. Therefore, the challenge of ending poverty is fundamentally one of ending rural poverty. As highlighted in the conclusions on promoting rural employment for poverty reduction adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 97th Session (2008), decent work deficits in rural areas are typically many, diverse and inter-related. Common constraints to unleashing the potential of rural economies include: a lack of decent jobs and reliable incomes; low productivity; informality; weak enforcement of the rule of law; ineffective organization and participation of rural people in decision-making; under-investment in agriculture, non-farm rural employment and infrastructure; and limited or no access to social protection and services. Additional pressures result from climate change, conflict and natural resource depletion, including land and water scarcity”*.¹²

“Rural poverty has numerous root causes, ranging from climate change, natural resource degradation, conflict, weak institutions, poor agricultural conditions and trade-related challenges. Rural poverty is a driver of a host of social problems, including hunger and malnutrition, poor working conditions and exploitation of children.

The ILO's approach to rural poverty is to increase the overall resilience of rural communities and their capacity to address such challenges through the Decent Work Agenda. This approach is based on three main goals: increasing the voice of rural people through organization of communities and promotion of rights, standards and social dialogue; promoting an employment based rural development model through diversified livelihoods, sustainable enterprises and better integration in value chains; and providing social protection floors which guarantee minimum income and access to basic services in rural economies which are often very vulnerable to external shocks”.¹³

Different factors, such as lack of access to services or markets, the global financial crisis, fragile settings characterized by food insecurity, environmental stress, change in demographics, turmoil and conflict may greatly change and impact the world of work, and consequently cause higher vulnerability for certain groups of people. These factors are oftentimes exacerbated by underlying root causes, such as unsustainable livelihoods and precarious employment conditions.

As part of the 2014-15 Areas of Critical Importance (ACI), the ILO identified as part of the ACI 5, Priority Area 1: Promoting Decent work for disadvantaged, marginalized and

¹¹ ILO (International Labour Office), 2015, “Outcome 5: Outcome Statement”, *Programme and Budget 2016-17*

¹² Ibid, “Outcome 5: The problem to be addressed”, *Programme and Budget 2016-17*

¹³ ILO (International Labour Office), 2014, “Decent Work in the Rural Economy; Goals and Strategies2, *Concept Note Area of Critical Importance*

vulnerable rural populations. It also indicated that for increased income and food security and livelihood resilience, vulnerable populations in rural areas may be identified by a lack of access to land, water, markets, income generating opportunities, energy and infrastructure, services, including access to finance, social protection, education and essential health care, basic rights and legal protection, and by high exposure to socio-economic and political risks, climate change, and extreme poverty and hunger.

“Eight out of ten of the world’s working poor live in rural areas where the lack of decent work opportunities is pervasive...”

ILO, 2015, “Programme and Budget 2016-17

The following key technical activities had been identified for achieving this Priority Area 1:

- a. “Analysing the drivers of rural vulnerability and their impact on decent work; developing a tool to monitor indicators according to a defined statistical and legal framework in order to better target vulnerable populations;
- b. Analysing and improving the content and effectiveness of existing policies, programs and tools and creating synergies with strategic partners; providing policy advice to ILO constituents and other stakeholders and developing pertinent models of intervention;
- c. Developing and piloting models of intervention in a selected number of countries specifically targeting workers who are at risk of multiple discrimination and are exposed to socioeconomic, environmental and political risks”.¹⁴

2.2. Eradicating extreme poverty and Rural Vulnerability

The main aims of the proposed new declaration for the Global Sustainable Development Goals involve: “*We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We resolve also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities*”.¹⁵

One of the strongest challenges of these new SDGs constitutes their proposed Goal 1: “*End poverty in all its forms everywhere*” and in particular their target 1.1: “*By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day*”.¹⁶ Moreover, as highlighted in the “*Least Developed Countries Report 2014*”.¹⁷ this necessarily implies a much stronger focus on the least developed

¹⁴ILO (International Labour Office), 2014, “Decent Work in the Rural Economy; Priority Areas for Action 1”, *Concept Note Area of Critical Importance*

¹⁵ UN General Assembly 2015: A/RES/70/1 “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (Adopted by UN General Assembly, 25th September 2015) paragraph 3

¹⁶ UN General Assembly 2015 Ibid page 15/35

¹⁷ UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), 2014, “Least Developed Countries Report 2014”, *Chapter 3: “From MDGs to SDGs: Reconnecting Economic and Human Development”*, particularly section C. *Achieving the SDGs: What would it take?*

countries (LDCs). The LDCs are, quite simply, the battleground on which the Post-2015 Development Agenda will be won or lost; and their performance will very largely determine whether the SDGs are met or missed.

Rural development is of particular importance in most LDCs, “...since the majority of people in LDCs live in rural areas, with a handful of exceptions (Djibouti, Sao Tome and Principe, Angola, the Gambia, Haiti and Tuvalu, where 36–49 per cent live in rural areas). In 20 LDCs — including three of the five exporters of manufactures (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lesotho) — the proportion of the population living in rural areas is between 70 per cent and 90 per cent. Across developing countries in all regions, poverty also tends to be greater in rural areas than in urban areas, even allowing for differences in living costs, although this tendency appears to have diminished over time”.¹⁸

Poverty in almost all LDCs is both more widespread and more acute in rural than urban areas, and in many cases by a very wide margin: in around half of the LDCs for which data are available, the poverty headcount ratio in rural areas is 2-3 times that in urban areas, and the poverty gap (which also takes account of the depth of poverty) 2-4.5 times higher. Moreover, while there has been some discussion of the urbanization of poverty in recent years, the available data do not suggest that this has been a general pattern in LDCs: rural-urban poverty gaps have widened in two thirds of the LDCs for which data are available.¹⁹

Thus, eradicating poverty will require a much greater income increase in rural than in urban areas; and in turn it will require both greater employment creation and higher incomes for those in employment. It is clear from the above discussion that achieving the SDGs will imply a substantially stronger focus on rural development than previously did the MDGs, in terms of employment creation and infrastructure investment.

While poverty could in principle be reduced to zero through income transfers to those whose incomes from economic activity are below the poverty line, in practice this would be infeasible in LDCs. There are some 450 million people below the poverty line in LDCs, many of whom live in the most remote, inaccessible, and often conflict-affected areas, in countries which in most cases have very limited public resources, administrative infrastructure and capacity, exposed to the impact of natural hazards and the accentuation of climatic change. Given these limitations of income transfers, poverty eradication will need to occur mainly through increases in primary incomes from economic activity. In order to guarantee these incomes’ sustainability they will need to be matched both by productivity and on the removal of those threats.

Accordingly, the SDGs declaration emphasizes: “People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80% live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. We resolve to take further effective measures and actions, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles and constraints, strengthen support and meet the special needs of people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and

¹⁸ Ibid, page 56

¹⁹ UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) 2015, *Draft document for peer review of the Least Developed Countries Report 2015*

in areas affected by terrorism”²⁰. “... We will devote resources to developing rural areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries, supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers in developing countries, particularly least developed countries”²¹.

On this aim they propose: *“by 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”²². “We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. Such cooperation should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries”²³ and also that “by 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”²⁴.*

“People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80% live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants”

Final Draft of SDG Declaration circulated for debate

2.3. Disclosing factors of vulnerability in rural areas? ²⁵

In the following paragraphs, vulnerability is considered as context-specific and characterized by numerous, complex and diverse specificities, such as demographic dynamics, territorial and cultural differentiations. An in-depth analysis on this matter would however go beyond the scope of this document.

Reduction of vulnerabilities and the promotion of resilience are complex and multi-dimensional, and very often structural weaknesses can constitute their root causes and become the underlying factors for vulnerability. In the case of rural areas, some of these factors are mentioned below:

- Extended poverty including its extreme manifestations
- Limited/disputed access to resources including land ownership
- Excluded economic systems, based on geographic, political, social, gender and/or age marginalization
- Lack of social and other forms of protection, including absence or ineffectiveness of labour laws
- Poor socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged populations and those with a “limited voice”, as a consequence of a weak social fabric

²⁰ UN General Assembly 2015: “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, paragraph 23

²¹ Ibid. paragraph 24

²² Ibid. Goal 1 Target 1.4

²³ Ibid. paragraph 29

²⁴ Ibid. Goal 1 Target 1.5

²⁵ This section follows the Risk “crunch” model proposed by Wisner, Blaikie, Cannon and Davis, 2003, *At Risk* (second edition), Chapter 2, and adopted by the UN World Conference on DRR in Kobe (Japan), January 2005.

These factors face a series of dynamic pressures, which contribute to exacerbate the level of exposure and to increase the risks. The following dynamic pressures can be considered in the case of rural areas:

- Weak or absence of local institutions
- Poor (levels of) education and inappropriate skills
- Insufficient investments
- Insolvent local markets
- Demographic pressures
- Brain-drain/Migration

Fragile conditions on multiple environmental spheres contribute to accelerating the likelihood of negative effects, thus extending the vulnerability context. In the case of rural areas, it can be recognized the following fragile conditions:

- Precarious/insufficient physical infrastructures
- Environmental degradation
- Insecurity and poor rule of law
- Political systems that disenfranchise diverse ethnic, regional and/or cultural groups
- Authoritarian regimes
- Volatile and unstable economies

Triggers are exogenous factors with a limited capacity of control or anticipation. They include, but certainly not limited to, one or a combination of the following:

- Acute forms of climate change
- Extreme meteorological events
- Tectonic hazards
- Socio-economic instability
- Internal/external violent conflicts

Figure 1: Accumulating vulnerabilities conditions multiplies exponentially the level of exposure to risks



Source: Elaborated on the bases of the document: "Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment" International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 1999

2.4. Vulnerabilities in the rural economy and their impact on Decent Work and sustainable livelihoods.²⁶

To facilitate the analysis of the potential impacts on decent work and sustainable livelihoods of the underlying factors, dynamic pressures and the fragile conditions above mentioned, we suggest clustering the drivers of rural vulnerability in three major categories:²⁷ Socio-economic, Governance & Security, and Environmental. Vulnerabilities are regularly complex processes, engaging multiple drivers which accumulate and scale up their effects. The potential benefit on using these categories will become more evident in a further stage when analysing the responses to reduce vulnerabilities and managing risks. In the following subsections, the most common drivers in internal ILO's literature and projects reports will be identified and categorized in a non-exhaustive manner but harmonized so as to avoid a major dispersion.

- a. In socio-economic terms: drivers of vulnerability in rural areas include:
 - Lack of diversification of economic and livelihoods opportunities that make people dependent on (subsistence) agriculture and potentially vulnerable to environmental stress.
 - Poor access to markets and public services, which reinforce socio-economic exclusion.
 - Weakness of labour market institutions that reduces awareness of different labour opportunities and triggers migration under uncertain conditions;
 - Lack of access to health care through social health protection and other social protection benefits, which lead to a lower general health that affects population's productivity
 - Lack of access to insurance schemes (e.g. social security) which provide protection in case of an adverse event threatening the household to fall into poverty and/or indebtedness.
 - Insufficient access to information and knowledge on risk management, prevention and coping mechanisms
- b. In governance and security terms: Vulnerable groups of people live in areas where socio-political upheavals and conflicts can threaten the survival of their livelihoods and productive assets, and can also lead to an absence of the rule of law, possibly increasing abusive and dangerous work practices These include, among others:
 - Exclusion of rural workers from labour laws-partially or in full, in rights or in practice;²⁸
 - Weakness or non-existence of labour inspection systems due to the lack of resources, the remoteness of the work place, the informality, the narrow technical inspector training, government interferences, etc.

²⁶ We will consider the following definition of sustainable rural livelihoods: "a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term." (Source: Chambers R., Conway G., December 1991, "Sustainable rural livelihoods: practical concepts for the 21st century", *Institute of Development Studies*, Discussion Paper 26)

²⁷ Bear in mind that some factors may affect whole communities while other may impact only certain groups.

²⁸ International Labour Office ILO, 2014, "Skills for rural employment and development", *Policy Brief*.

- Rural areas may experience the prolonged presence of refugees and internal displaced populations, as a result of a conflict or natural disaster, stressing the labour market when the reintegration process will require new labour opportunities in a depleted economy.
- c. In environmental terms: Exposure to risks/hazards such as droughts, natural disasters or extreme weather events can increase or constitute an important source of vulnerability in rural areas, where people tend to rely on climate-sensitive resources (water, arable lands, etc.) and where houses can be settled in zones that may be adversely impacted by climate change (such as coastal or flooding zones).

The remoteness and/or isolation of certain locations can also shape the conditions of the poor or absence of rule of law and government services, which affect the possibilities of certain groups of people to succeed in seizing opportunities to improve their livelihoods, employment and decent work conditions.

Figure 2: From Sekong River to the Vietnam border 210 km, 8-10 hours by car



Disasters may arise from natural hazards (geological, hydro-meteorological and biological) or be induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards), causing a wide range of impacts: loss of life, injury, disease and physical and/or mental and social impairment together with property damage, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption, and environmental degradation.²⁹ This will result in a disruption of the community, the working conditions and the sources of income and employment. Climate change may create important variations, whose impacts tend to be more acute in fragile and marginal rural settings where they can translate into greater vulnerability because it can exacerbate the negative effects of other adverse factors.³⁰ The absence of regulatory measures and tools to address these issues may reinforce already existing vulnerabilities.

For each of these categories, micro, mezo and macro scales are inter-related. For instance, vulnerability will be greater at the individual level (micro-level) if the institutions lack the resources and capacity to provide services (mezo- or macro-level context). Social

²⁹ ILO (International Labour Office), “Employment and decent work for peace and resilience”, *Op.cit.*, p.40.

³⁰ ILO (International Labour Office), 21 February 2011, “International Labour Office submission to the UNFCCC on the Cancun Adaptation Framework on Enhanced Action and Adaptation”, *Green Jobs*

(formal and informal) institutions as well as power relations within groups are key elements for both reducing and creating vulnerabilities.³¹

2.5. Vulnerability in relation to employment statuses

The vulnerable employment rate³² is an indicator of what are deemed to be the most vulnerable statuses of employment (i.e. persons who are employed under relatively difficult circumstances as indicated by the status in employment). The ICSE (International Classification by Status in Employment) defines six status categories as follows:³³

1. Employees: among whom countries may need and be able to distinguish employees with stable contracts (including regular employees)
2. Employers
3. Own-account workers
4. Members of producer's cooperatives
5. Contributing family workers
6. Workers not classifiable by status

Categories 3 and 5 are considered to be the most vulnerable statuses: people in those situations would be less likely to have formal work arrangements, access to benefits or social protection programs and are thus more at risk to be in a vulnerable employment situation and as not being in the position to access decent work.³⁴

Bear in mind that this indicator may have some limitations: some wage and salaried workers might also carry high risk and some own-account workers might be quite well off and benefit from good working conditions and thus not vulnerable.

Other criteria such as illiteracy, a widespread phenomenon in rural areas of numerous countries,³⁵ may be included since it hampers the ability to train people, which in turn limits labour market options. In this regard, illiteracy rates can help to identify labour market segments that are at risk of lacking decent employment – taking into consideration that “not all illiterates are ‘vulnerable’ in the sense of being at risk of lacking decent employment, and not all those at risk of lacking decent employment are illiterate”.³⁶ Therefore, using people’s status in employment can be seen as a good indicator to assess and understand vulnerability in rural areas and its links to decent work. It is also needed to add more criteria to enhance the categories and better understand which may be the specific drivers of vulnerability for each specific group according to its context.

³¹ Moret W., *Vulnerability Assessment Methodologies: A Review of the Literature*, USAID, FHI360, SPIRES, March 2014

³² International Labour Office (ILO), 2009, *Guide to the new Millennium Development Goals Employment Indicators*, p.26.

³³ International Labour Office (ILO). 2013. *Revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93)*, International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, 2013 (Geneva).

³⁴ Decent Work indicators include: economic and social context, employment opportunities, adequate earnings and productive work, decent working time, work that should be abolished, stability and security of work, equal opportunity and treatment in employment, safe work environment, social security, social dialogue, workers’ and employers’ representation.

³⁵ International Labour Organisation (ILO), 2014, “Skills for rural employment and development”, *Policy Brief*

³⁶ International Labour Organisation (ILO), 2008, “Assessing vulnerable employment: The role of status and sector indicators in Pakistan, Namibia and Brazil, Economic and Labour Market Analysis Department”, *Emp Working Paper No. 13*, , p. 12-14.

3. Identifying the drivers and targeting vulnerable disadvantaged and marginalized people in the rural economy to foster decent work

3.1. Are rural people vulnerable per se?

Even if in recent years poverty rates have declined more steeply in rural areas, compared to urban areas, they remain higher in these areas in most countries around the world as well as they have higher precarious employment rates.³⁷ According to the Committee of Experts on the Application of the Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), rural workers are often prevented from exercising freedom of association rights,³⁸ which as a consequence hampers their possibility to bargain collectively. Some characteristics of the rural economy may explain this situation, namely: the importance of temporary employment, self-employment and small enterprises (which hinder people's organization); the geographical situation that may prevent people from accessing relevant information; low level of education, among others.³⁹ This absence of collective bargaining may in turn prevent people from accessing decent work, notably acceptable wages and decent working hours, thus creating or reinforcing vulnerability.

In the meantime, it is important to mention that community relationships, kinship networks and solidarity may tend to be stronger in rural areas and could be considered as a method of *Informal Insurance Mechanism*, possibly reducing vulnerabilities. Moreover, various social and economic initiatives are taking place, many successful enterprises, producers' cooperatives or saving groups are growing, and innovations are being developed in the rural economy.⁴⁰

The next sections will examine some specific categories of vulnerable populations, bearing in mind that some categories can be interlinked, consequently aggregating impacts and many times escalating them. For instance a Rural Indigenous Girl forced to Migrate as a domestic worker will include negative impacts of each category but the social stigma of her ethnic origins, the lack of a protective social fabric and language/cultural mismatches could seriously worsen her status, exposing her to some of the worst forms of work.

3.2. Women: what makes them vulnerable in rural areas?

- a. In socio-economic terms: Although the degree and scale of gender inequalities varies greatly between regions and contexts, there is evidence that, on a global scale,

³⁷ Levakova, D. and Kashef, H. "Statistical activities on the ACI on Decent Work in the Rural Economy", *Meeting of the ACI/RE working group, 26 March 2015, Geneva*.

³⁸ International Labour Organisation (ILO), 2015, "General survey concerning the rights of association and rural workers' organizations instruments", Report of the CEACR, Report IV, Part 1 B, ILC 104th Session, 2015 *Giving a voice to rural workers*, p. 54.

³⁹ International Labour Organisation (ILO), 2015, "Gaps in Coverage and Barriers to Ratification and Implementation of International Labour Standards", *International Labour Standards (NORMES) Department*

⁴⁰ De Luca, L. et al. (2013), "Learning from Catalysts of Rural Transformation", ILO, Geneva. Hillenkamp, I. et al., (2013), *Securing Livelihoods. Informal Economy Practices and Institutions*, Oxford University Press.

women benefit less from rural employment, whether self- or wage employment than men do,⁴¹ and are more vulnerable to decent work deficits. This is linked to several factors:

Figure 3: Young Women selling in a Vegetable Market in Sekong province, Lao PDR



- Due to “traditional” labour division, women tend to be assigned to domestic work and to be responsible for any type of care, including childcare, old-age care, etc.). In rural areas, underdeveloped infrastructure (e.g. transport, services, access to clean water, electricity and time-saving devices such as household appliances) lengthen the time needed for household chores, which limits women’s possibility to develop income-generating activities as well as networks outside the village,⁴² while these are critical to connect to labour market opportunities.
- This labour division often starts at a very young age. Girls may be involved in domestic work instead of being sent to school,⁴³ which undermines their potential, lead to lower productivity and reduce their decent work opportunities, as well as the opportunities to find skilled jobs. These factors reduce their independence and possibility of social and economic empowerment.
- Evidence also show that women are often disadvantaged in accessing productive assets and resources, including land, technologies, financial services and tools; moreover, rural women face higher unemployment than women in

⁴¹ FAO-ILO, Gender-equitable rural employment, FAO website (<http://www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-gender/fr/>)

⁴² FAO-IFAD-ILO (Gutierrez M.T and Kuiper M.) 2010, “Women in infrastructure works: Boosting gender equality and rural development!”, *Gender and rural employment Policy Brief No. 5*

⁴³ TERMINE P (2011), “Eliminating child labour in rural areas through decent work”, *Policy Brief, ILO-Geneva*

urban areas.⁴⁴ As a result, they often perform unpaid work (as contributing family workers), and they predominate in unstable and flexible jobs that lack social security and other benefits. In the agricultural sector, women tend to be the main food producers while men are more engaged in commercial crops; women may also be involved in commercial food production, but with great asymmetries and rigid task division. In rural non-agricultural sector, women are most of the time employed as domestic workers.⁴⁵

- Women's representation and voice in rural employers', workers' and farmers' organizations are low, thus they have very limited bargaining power. This is due to social norms and cultural perceptions, but also to their limited access to education and heavy domestic responsibilities, which restrict their ability to speak out in front of men and undermine their possibilities of participation in organizations and decision-making.⁴⁶ As a result, rural women's rights at work, including equal pay, decent wages, social protection, among others are very often not recognized, which undermine their socio-economic power and contribution, as well as their wellbeing.⁴⁷

b. In terms of governance and in relation to crisis, conflict and violence: Unequal power relations, discrimination, gender-based violence, inequitable laws and customary practices further exacerbate women's vulnerability:⁴⁸

- Women are often not protected by national legislation, and even where laws to secure their access to productive resources exist, women are frequently still not protected because of sociocultural norms impeding law enforcement and because of their lack of knowledge of their entitlements.⁴⁹
- Evidence show that there is a link between women's control over productive resources, property rights and access to land, and HIV/AIDS levels; this is in great part linked to issues of domination and violence.⁵⁰
- In agriculture, pregnant women can face high reproductive health risks, and women are subject to different forms of violence at work, such as sexual harassment.⁵¹
- In case of economic downturns or crisis, women are often the first ones to lose their jobs.

⁴⁴ Levakova, D. and Kashef, H. *Op.cit.*

⁴⁵ FAO-IFAD-ILO, 2009, "Gaps, trends and current research in gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: Differentiated pathways out of poverty", Report of the workshop.

⁴⁶ SARD Initiative: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Brief No.15 on Women, 2007.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ See Message from UN Women's Executive Director for World AIDS Day, 1 Dec. 2014,

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/12/world-aids-day-2014#sthash.aqc3fNNu.dpuf>;

UNWOMEN, 2014. *Exploring the Dynamics and Vulnerabilities of HIV. Transmission Amongst Sex Workers in the Palestinian Context*; UN WOMEN and UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 2013.

Realizing women's right to land and other productive resources, NY and Geneva.

⁴⁹ The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Women: *Realizing women's rights to land and other productive resources*, 2013; 2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, UN Publication, 2009.

⁵⁰ United Nations Development Program (UNDP) 2013, *Voices and Visions: The Asia Pacific Court of Women on HIV, Inheritance and Property Rights*, 2008; ActionAid International: *Securing women's rights to land and livelihoods are key to ending hunger and fighting AIDS*, Briefing Paper, June 2008; UNHR, UN Women: *Realizing women's rights to land and other productive resources*, 2013

⁵¹ FAO/IFAD/ILO 2010 (author: Otohe N.): *Gender-equitable rural work to reduce poverty and boost economic growth*, Gender and rural employment Policy Brief No. 1, Rome: 2010.

- c. In environmental terms: climate change may have negative impacts on access to natural resources, which can add a burden for rural women who are often in charge of energy supply, water management and food security.

Nevertheless, some rural women organize pool resources, share knowledge and access to financial services (for example through village group savings, women's cooperatives and microfinance). They manage to develop coping mechanisms and safety nets, engaging in income-generating activities.

3.3. Children and Youth

- a. Children: Child labour remains a main issue in rural areas, with nearly 70% of working children (from 5 to 14 years old) in the agricultural sector. Poverty, limited access to education and the absence or lack of labour laws enforcement are among the drivers. On the supply side, child labour is a result of vulnerability at a first stage since parents neither have decent wages nor insurance, hence insufficient family income. Every hand is useful and families see this attitude as a way of transferring knowledge and skills in order to perpetuate the household traditional activity. Shortage of labour force at peak agricultural season also represents a major factor; traditional attitudes towards child labour seen as a way of transferring skills or reproducing a livelihood system. On the demand side, employers prefer child workers as they are paid lower wages or unpaid, and they also have the perception that children are easier to exploit.⁵² Only one out of five child workers get a salary, the others are unpaid family workers. Rural child labour is often invisible because of the remoteness of the locations, the informality and the fact that they are often engaged in domestic work in private homes. They are also more exposed to occupational hazards because of their size and exposed to lower capacity to judge risks. It has to be noted that the use of child labour may undermine adults' working conditions, as children constitute cheap labour and can lead to adults accepting lower wages, for instance.⁵³ Traditional gender roles are often reproduced when it comes to child labour, young boys being engaged in agricultural work and young girls being engaged in domestic work and care tasks.

⁵² Murray U., Termine P., Demeranville J.2010: *Breaking the rural poverty cycle: getting girls and boys out of work and into school*, FAO-IFAD-ILO Gender and Rural Employment Policy Brief No.7, Rome: 2010.

⁵³ International Labour Office (ILO) (Termine P.)2011: *Eliminating child labour in rural areas through decent work*, Policy Brief, (Geneva:,2011).

Figure 4: Syrian child refugees working in Northern Lebanon



- b. Youth and youth vulnerabilities on the labour market: the vulnerabilities of rural children, especially rural child labourers, have presence in the age group between 15-24 or 15-29 years old in some definitions. The limited access to education in rural areas means that potential labour productivity remains low. Moreover, limited availability of stable and paid jobs, mean that rural young women and men work primarily in own-account work or in family establishments, as unpaid family workers). Vulnerable employment remains the dominant status of employment among rural youth both in agriculture and in the non-agricultural sector (with exceptions),⁵⁴ and this situation can lead to a feeling of demotivation. There is limited access to training on means to scale up small scale enterprises. Agriculture remains a vulnerable venture, with no social protection, insurance for crop failure or finances to promote investment. Youth are sources of positive change and have a lot of potential but require a sustained investment as a target group in order to ensure they are given the proper tools to meet their productive potential.

3.4. Smallholders and agricultural workers

- a. In socio-economic and security terms: even if we observe an increasing diversification of economic activities in rural areas, agriculture and agriculture-related activities remain the main source of livelihoods and employment.⁵⁵ This sector is characterized by major decent work deficits, and evidence in several countries show that a high incidence of vulnerable employment at national level is

⁵⁴ Elder S., de Haas H., Principi M., Schewel, K. (March 2015), *Youth and rural development: Evidence from 25 school-to-work transition surveys*, Work4Youth Publication Series No. 27, ILO, Geneva.

⁵⁵ ILO 2014ACI/5 Concept note.

often associated with a large share of workers in often subsistence agriculture.⁵⁶ Agriculture is recognized as one of the three most dangerous sectors,⁵⁷ together with mining and construction, but yet rural workers and their families are among the least well protected in terms of access to basic health services, workers' compensation, long-term disability insurance and survivors' benefits.⁵⁸ The ILO Convention No.129 regarding labour inspection in agriculture is amongst the least ratified Conventions worldwide, and numerous problems have been reported. Some examples are the absence of legislation on equality of treatment and equal remuneration for agricultural workers, the lack of enforcement of relevant laws, abusive conditions, lower wages, and high levels of discrimination, in particular in the case of women, indigenous workers, migrant workers and lower-caste workers.⁵⁹

The specific case of the plantation sector has to be mentioned: even if some improvements have been noted over the years and if the sector is more included in the global economy, major challenges remain with regards to decent work. The ILO Convention No. 110 is in force only in ten countries, and recent observation by the CEACR report cases of bounded labour, "lawlessness", recourse to child labour, prevention of unionization, as well as, in a lower proportion, compulsory pregnancy testing and debt bondage. Labour inspection is very scarce, in great part due to employers' resistance. Workers are also exposed to important occupational hazards and usually do not benefit from living wages.⁶⁰

- b. In environmental terms: The increasing environmental stress faced by agricultural workers and smallholders in certain areas led to the need to adopt risk management strategies (in case of extreme and sudden events such as floods or tsunami), anticipation and mitigation measures (in case of progressive environmental changes, such as dryer lands), changes in the practices (diversification of the activities and/or the crops), new technologies and financial/economic tools (e.g. index-based insurance).

⁵⁶ Elder S., et al., *Youth and rural development: Evidence from 25 school-to-work transition surveys*, *Op.cit.*

⁵⁷ Major occupational hazards in agriculture include: handling of dangerous machinery; use of chemicals, toxic or carcinogenic agents (pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics); contact with animals that may have transmissible diseases; exposure to infectious and parasitic diseases; exposure to ergonomic hazards (use of inadequate equipment and tools, unnatural body position, carrying of heavy loads, excessive long hours); work under extreme temperatures (ILO: *Safety and Health in Agriculture*, Geneva: 2000).

⁵⁸ International Labour Office (ILO) (Paratian R.G), *Agriculture: An Engine of Pro-Poor Rural Growth*, ILO, (Geneva 2001).

⁵⁹ ILO: *Gaps in Coverage and Barriers to Ratification and Implementation of ILS*, *Op.cit.*

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

3.5. Indigenous and tribal peoples (ITP)⁶¹

There are over 370 million Indigenous and tribal people around the world across 70 countries. The World Bank estimates that they constitute about five per cent of the world's population while accounting for 15% of the poor.⁶² Even where economic growth has resulted in an overall decreasing inequality, ITP's tend not to benefit from such progress, with many countries facing a widening indigenous poverty gaps. In most countries, the majority of ITPs live in rural areas.

Figure 5: Sekong Province the poorest and most diverse of Lao PDR has 14 different ethnic groups



ITPs are often characterized by political, economic and social marginalization, which lead to their exclusion from national decision making processes - even in decisions that concern them directly, for instance with regard to the management of natural resources. Victims of the increasing global demand for energy and intense activities of extractive industries, see their traditional livelihoods most threatened, limiting their development capacities and opportunities.

In terms of governance, ITPs face major pressures such as the forced dispossession of land and eviction or the lack of attention from responsible authorities to attend their specific needs and priorities. It is important to bear in mind that indigenous and tribal communities' marginalization and disadvantage are related to past and persisting discrimination. From an economic perspective, forced dispossession of land and the lack of a legal framework that guaranties their right of property, excludes them from socio-economic development, depriving ITPs from the management and exploitation of natural

⁶¹ There is no single and "universal" definition of "indigenous and tribal peoples" due to the important diversity of cultural groups. The ILO Convention No. 169 highlights the principle of self-identification and lists characteristics such as: descent from populations who inhabited the country or geographical region at the time of conquest, colonization or establishment of present state boundaries; retention of some or all of their own social, economic and cultural and political institutions, irrespective of their legal status; social, cultural and economic conditions distinct from other sections of the national community; status regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations; culture and traditions that have strong connection to a given land and territory (see: ILO Programme to Promote Convention No. 169: *Unlocking indigenous peoples' potential for sustainable rural development*, Policy Brief, ILO, Geneva, 2011).

⁶² World Bank (WB) (), 2003, "Implementation of Operational directive 4.20 on Indigenous Peoples: an independent desk review"

resources. In social terms, ITPs face limitations in accessing education and/or vocational trainings, health and social protection, therefore increasing their vulnerability to abuse and labour exploitation. For that matter, it is important to highlight that indigenous and tribal workers tend to be found in the informal economy and in sectors or occupations with gaps in labour law coverage and enforcement, such as domestic work or agriculture. In environmental terms, ITPs live in fragile ecosystems which permanently threatened their livelihood and subsistence activities. The increasing over exploitation of their lands by extractive activities or deforestation for example accelerates the degradation of their natural/traditional/historical environment.

Furthermore, migration has become a coping mechanism for a large numbers of ITPs confronted with the loss of livelihoods and a lack of decent and productive employment, including self-employment. Yet, indigenous workers, particularly indigenous women are among the most vulnerable groups of migrants.

Indigenous people are however very active at the regional and international level in advocating for their issues and rights, as well as developing networks and forums⁶³. In spite of those crucial steps, the enforcement of their rights face a high number of challenges in practice, and many problems remain with regard to: integration in the world of work and the labour markets, the issues of natural and productive resources, and the understanding and respect for their traditional social and economic organizations and livelihoods⁶⁴.

3.6. Workers in the rural informal economy⁶⁵

As mentioned before, many rural workers and employers are engaged in informal (farm or non-farm) enterprises or are self-employed. Evidence show that informal working arrangements very often lead to important decent work deficits, including non-enforcement of workers' rights, lack of social protection, poor rule of law, leading to restricted livelihood opportunities, since the informal sector is also characterized by low income and low productivity. As a result, the high incidence of the informal economy in the rural economy makes the rural poor especially vulnerable to those decent work deficits. Even if this is not always the case, most workers operating in the informal economy enter not by choice but because of the absence of other means of livelihoods;⁶⁶ in that sense, working in the informal economy is both a result of being in a vulnerable situation and a driver of vulnerability as it may create more vulnerabilities in the world of work.

The absence of registration and written labour contracts lead to absence of labour inspection and absence of access to rights attached to formal employment, such as OSH

⁶³ For instance through the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982, the adoption of ILO Convention No. 169 in 1989, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues created in 2000, the establishment of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly in 2007 and the creation of the UN Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

⁶⁴ United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership(UNIPP)“Strategic Framework 2011-2015”, August 2012.

⁶⁵ The term “informal economy” refers to all economic activities by workers and economic units that are – in law or in practice – not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements. Economic units in the informal economy include: units that employ hired labour; units that are owned by individuals working on their own account, either alone or with the help of unpaid contributing family workers; and cooperatives and social and solidarity units (International Labour Office (ILO). 2015 *The transition from the informal to the formal economy*, Report V (2B), International Labour Conference, 104th Session, Geneva 2015 (Geneva).

⁶⁶International Labour Office (ILO). 2015. *The transition from the informal to the formal economy*, Report V, International Labour Conference, 104th Session, Geneva 2015 (Geneva) Op.cit., p.6

and social protection schemes. Informal workers are also hard to reach for trade unions, and are therefore more vulnerable to violence and abuses since they are an “invisible” workforce and they also lack collective voice and protection. Women tend to be more subject to being “locked” in the informal economy due to socio-cultural constraints that limit their education access, thus restricting their opportunity to organize and strengthen their bargaining position along with limiting their access to decent work conditions in the formal economy.⁶⁷ Other disadvantaged or marginalized groups that have high probability to operate in the informal economy are as follows: indigenous and tribal populations, migrants, young people, women, older people, persons affected by HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities; this can reinforce existing vulnerabilities.⁶⁸

3.7. Migrant workers

Labour migration is defined as a movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions. In this sense, migration is nowadays related, directly or indirectly, to the world of work and the quest for decent work opportunities. Approximately 50 per cent of the 232 million international migrants in the world are economically active.⁶⁹ Even those fleeing persecution, conflict, violence and environmental disasters may eventually end up in the labour market.

Rural migrants are a very heterogeneous group, therefore, migration, whether at a national or international level, affects different groups of people such as women, youth,⁷⁰ seasonal workers, and even indigenous and tribal people.

Most of migrants’ worldwide, in particular women and young people, come from rural areas. The decision to migrate can be associated to diverse factors. From a socio-economic perspective, migration is triggered by different causes such as extreme poverty, limited access to education, the lack of decent work conditions and the access to credit. On the environmental side, migration can be triggered by degradation of land, resources depletion or the impact of natural or manmade crisis. In that sense, rural areas may experience the protracted presence of refugees and internally displaced persons as a result of a conflict or a disaster. Refugee population can represent a threat to local labour markets in countries where migration is unregulated, thus aggravating the already high urban unemployment rates. The irregular situation in which most of the immigrant population live in makes this vulnerable group more prone to abuses, exploitation and unacceptable forms of work. Furthermore, they are not in the position to collectively organize and to be aware of their rights. Additional serious problems regarding the working conditions of migrant workers include the recruitment processes (and the indebtedness that can result from it), the confiscation of passports, the fact that they may be subject to organized crimes and mafias, the dependence on the employers (regarding housing, access to health care), as well as forced labour.

⁶⁷ ILO (Lapeyre F., Ameratunga S., Possenti S.): Addressing Informality for Rural Development, Op.cit.

⁶⁸ ILO: The transition from the informal to the formal economy, International Labour Conference, Op.cit, p.6

⁶⁹ ILO 2015, “Promoting Decent Work for Migrant Workers”

⁷⁰ An estimated one in eight are young people between the ages of 15 and 24. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Population Division, Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision – Migrants by Age and Sex, available at

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/index.shtml>, and International Migration in a Globalizing World: The Role of Youth, UN DESA, Population Division, New York, 2011.

3.8. People with disabilities

Figure 6: Large number of war disable people on warn-torn areas of Sri Lanka



People with disabilities account for an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population and between 785 and 975 million of them are within the working age (15 years old or older). Most of these people live in developing countries where the informal economy employs a substantial proportion of the labour force. Due to stigma, inaccessible environments and other societal barriers, people with disabilities labour force participation rates however, are much lower than those of persons without disabilities. A huge majority of persons with disabilities worldwide are living in rural areas, thus the challenges to fulfil their right to decent work is further hindered.

People with disabilities are a very heterogonous group; they differ in terms of gender, age, indigenous status, sexual orientation, among others. They may have a physical, sensory, intellectual or psychosocial disability or a combination of different disability types. They may have had a disability from birth or acquired it during their childhood, teenage years or later in life, during further education or while in employment.

The right to decent work of persons with disabilities is frequently denied due to a wide range of societal barriers. As a consequence, this population experiences higher rates of unemployment and economic inactivity and are at greater risk of insufficient social protection which make them more likely to sink into extreme poverty. Furthermore, when employed, people with disabilities are more likely to be in low-paying jobs, part-time or temporary positions at lower occupational levels with poor promotion prospects and working conditions. Moreover, women with disabilities are among those who face the highest level of discrimination based on their gender identity and their disability status.

Disability is both a cause and an effect of poverty: poor people are more likely to have a disability because of the conditions in which they live in, and disability can result in poverty owing to limited skill development opportunities and employment, as well as limited access to social services.

Rural people with disabilities face exclusion and marginalization in several ways. In addition to a high level of stigma and prejudice many people with disabilities have limited access, if existing, to transportation and rural roads. Furthermore, buildings and other facilities are also often not accessible to persons with mobility limitations due to the lack of an accessible design in the first place. Yet too often, they have also not been made accessible once constructed, including the installation of an entrance ramp, retrofitting bathrooms or improving signage. People with disabilities are largely excluded from existing services, both mainstream and disability-specific services, located in urban areas such as employment promotion and social protection services. In terms of education, people with disabilities in rural areas are frequently excluded from basic education and therefore do not meet the entry requirements for formal vocational training programs, for instance literacy skills affecting their chances of finding a decent job. Schools and training centres in rural areas often do not offer accessible training methods and tools to fulfil disability-related needs of pupils and trainees with disabilities. Moreover, assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing aids or tape recorders are frequently lacking. Rural training centre staff, employment programs and services may lack disability awareness and therefore being not well prepared to teach and interact with people with disabilities.

In rural areas, people with disabilities often face an unfriendly environment in terms of information and communication consequently being excluded from actively participating in the community life. In addition to this situation, reasonable adaptation of disability-related needs is also rarely provided. In the case of communication, for example, this adaptation includes sign language interpreters (to translate during community meetings), speech recognition and screen reader software, or information in alternative formats, e.g. audio recordings, large print or braille.

People with disabilities, who are engaged in the informal economy of income-generating activities or the agricultural sector (e.g. subsistence farmers) frequently lack access to essential business development services and microfinance, particularly credit, because they are believed to be a high risk group and not credit-worthy.

In view of the fact that the rights of persons with disabilities, including the right to decent work, to social protection, to education, to community inclusion as well as accessibility in terms of the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, are frequently denied in rural areas, people with disabilities in rural areas represent a vulnerable and marginalized group.

3.9. Persons living with or affected by HIV or AIDS

In today's world, 35 million⁷¹ people live with HIV, 52 per cent of them are women and nearly 6.6 million are young people. In 2013, AIDS-related death accounted for 1.5 million⁷² people.

People living with HIV or affected by AIDS face discrimination and stigmatization within their families, communities, workplace and the society in general. They are often marginalized and do not enjoy the same opportunities as other people, even when having equal skills and capacities. Discrimination of people living with HIV or affected by AIDS is an offence to their human rights, including labour rights.

⁷¹ Global summary of the Aids epidemic 2013, World Health Organization (WHO) – HIV department, (July 2014).

⁷² The Gap Report July 2014, WHO.

The majority of the people living with HIV are aged from 15 to 49 years old, representing the most productive segment of the population and a large number of workers that are involved in agriculture (being subsistence farming or formal/ informal employees). The most affected countries are the ones that rely mostly on small-scale agriculture which represents around one third of its GDP.

HIV/AIDS affect agricultural capacity, essentially decreasing food production and threatening the livelihoods of rural families and communities. This situation results in a severe labour shortage for farm and non-farm economic activities, as well as for domestic work, as individuals, women in particular, spend their time and resources taking care of family members who fall ill.

In the rural informal sector, the burden of care often results in the diversion of labour away from agricultural activities (farming, harvesting, fetching water), while labour loss due to AIDS lead to lower food production and declining longer term food security.

HIV/AIDS can create a cycle of poverty because of the expenses incurred by affected households, which can include increased medical costs, transport to health centres, home care supplies, and funeral expenses.

Access to information and health services is limited in rural areas. Rural women and men are less likely to know how to protect them from HIV. If they fall ill, they are less likely to receive treatment, care and support.

The process of migration from rural areas increase the risk of HIV infection. Migrant and mobile workers who are separated from their families may engage in behaviours which increase their risk of HIV. Thus, partners who stay behind in rural communities may in turn be put into HIV risk when migrant and mobile workers return to their families.

HIV/AIDS significantly impact children in rural areas. When primary caregivers fall ill, children are often taken out of school to be looked after their parents and may also be forced into child labour to maintain the household income, thus perpetuating poverty. Moreover, they also impact women in rural areas increasing their vulnerability to social stigma and ostracism associated with AIDS, thus leaving them shunned and marginalized.

3.10. Older people

Older people in many developing countries are one of the poorest population groups, in particular where there are no public pension schemes. Older people who are poor have no choice to work, especially in rural areas where the informal sector is predominant, activity is irregular, with mostly seasonal and low-paid jobs that are often strenuous. They are vulnerable due to high unemployment and under-employment rates, age and gender discrimination. They have limited or no access to social protection and lack income security, legal protection for their rights as workers, and formal support mechanism or networks. They are also disadvantaged through low education and literacy levels, poor health and malnutrition.

World most developed countries have accepted the chronological age of 65 years as a definition of 'elderly' or older person, but like many western concepts, this does not adapt well to the situation in Africa. While this definition is somewhat arbitrary, it is many times associated with the age at which one can begin to receive pension benefits. At the moment, there is no United Nations standard numerical criterion, but the UN agreed cut-off is 60 or more years old to refer to the older population.

Realistically, if a definition in Africa is to be developed, it should be either 50 or 55 years of age, but even this is somewhat arbitrary and introduces additional problems of data comparability across nations. The more traditional African definitions of an elder or 'elderly' person correlate with the chronological ages of 50 to 65 years, depending on the setting, the region and the country.

Considering that a majority of old persons in sub-Saharan Africa live in rural areas and work outside the formal sector, and thus expect no formal retirement or retirement benefits, this imported logic seems quite illogical. Furthermore, when this definition is applied to regions where relative life expectancy is much lower and size of older populations is much smaller, the utility of this definition becomes even more limited.

Criteria to apply the Tools

1. The level of vulnerability is the result of an aggregation of different conditions of vulnerability, they can be exogenous (exposition to particular threats and risks, socio economic, governance and security and environmental) or endogenous (related to conditions of disadvantage and marginalization, inherent to specific characteristics of particular population groups).
2. The aggregation of conditions of vulnerability is often exponential. This characteristic implies that exposure to combined conditions could be more serious than the addition of the independent impacts, this require a particular attention to raise potential threats from the groups on risk themselves. As an example: the situation of a “YOUTH”, “GIRL”, from an “INDIGENOUS POPULATION” living in a “REMOTE” area, in situation of “CONFLICT & VIOLENCE”, could expose this girl to some of the “Worst Forms of Work”. E.g.: Similar conditions explain the serious cases of “Sexual Slavery”, carry on by different armed groups, recently denounced in different part of the world.
3. Keep in mind that: to be exposed to conditions of vulnerability does not transform a particular group or individuals into a vulnerable group or a vulnerable person. Although the level of risk exists, there is a high need to explore the different strategies to cope with these risks or to overcome the conditions of disadvantage and marginalization. At the end, the capacity of organization and inherent build of the voice of those rural workers are paramount.
4. The effectiveness of many traditional tools, policies, and programmes, is harmed when applied to contexts with high levels of vulnerability and, in many cases has an aggravating effect on the problem to be addressed. Conditions of vulnerability need to be identified in the process of formulation, design and application of those tools, policies and programmes and often require to succeed, to add new outcomes, such as reinforcing resilience capacity to exogenous risks, to strengthen the socio-economic empowerment of disadvantage groups and to guaranty the socio-economic inclusion of marginalized groups. Rural areas are the ones that encompass a large number of these conditions of vulnerability and their most dramatic negative impacts.
5. The following tools are aimed to support and guide those who are working on the formulation of tools, policies and programmes on improving their capacity to identify vulnerable groups and to assess the risks they are exposed to and the challenges they are confronted to.

Approaches in response to these challenges and how they could be embedded on traditional ILO tools will be analysed in a future publication.

Annex 1: Check List of main drivers of Rural Vulnerability for the World of Work

Socio-Economics	Governance and security	Environmental
Drivers	Drivers	Drivers
A1 Lack of diversification of economic and livelihood opportunities	B1 Weak or absence of local institutions including on health and education	C1 Precarious/insufficient physical infrastructures
A2 Extreme monetary poverty	B2 Weak/inexistent labour market institutions/labour inspection/inappropriate skills	C2 Remoteness and isolation
A3 Insolvent local markets	B3 Insecurity and poor rule of law	C3 Acute forms of climate change and extreme meteorological events
A4 Insufficient access to information and knowledge	B4 Political systems that disenfranchise diverse gender/ethnic/regional/cultural groups	C4 Tectonic hazards
A5 Volatile and unstable economy	B5 Socio-economic instability	C5 Technological hazards including water and land pollution
A6 Poor conditions for investments and for accessing productive assets and resources	B6 Internal/external violent (armed) conflicts	C6 Environmental degradation
A7 Extended economic informality	B7 Exclusion of rural workers from labour law	
A8 Traditional/marginalized division of labour	B8 Abrupt in bound migration	
A9 Lack of voice and representation	B9 Unequal power relation, discrimination, inequitable laws and customary practices	
A10 Lack of access to healthcare and social protection	B10 Gender based violence and sexual harassment	
A11 Limited access to education	B11 Forced dispossession of land/eviction	
A12 Societal barriers/stigma	B12 Abusive concentration of access to natural resources	
A13 Demographic pressures		
A14 Brain drain		

Annex 2: Exposure of vulnerable groups to Drivers of Rural Vulnerability

Population Group	Socio-Economic	Governance	Environment
Women	A8, A7, A2, A11	B9, B4, B11, B6, B2	C1, C2, C3
Children	A11, A2, A10	B2, B3, B6	C2
Youth	A7, A11, A4, A8	B2, B3	C1
Indigenous and Tribal People	A8, A11, A10	B4, B11, B9, B12, B6	C2, C3, C6, C5
Small-holders / agricultural workers	A7, A6, A4	B7, B2, B3	C2, C3
Informal workers	A4, A6, A9	B7, B12	C1, C2, C3
People with disabilities	A12, A10, A7	B6, B4, B2	C1, C2, C4
HIV/AIDS	A12, A4, A10, A11	B1, B4, B10, B8??	C1, C2
Migrant workers	A9, A10, A2, A11, A1, A5	B2, B3, B6	C3, C4, C5, C6

Annex 3: Matrix of potential impact on vulnerable Populations (Women)

Vulnerable Population	Socio-Economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
Women	A8 Traditional/marginalized division of labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preconditioned to domestic works and the responsibility for any type of care • Low skills poor employability • Their activities are not counted as income generating ones including work in agriculture, livestock, fisheries • Invisibility of their contribution to the world of work, impact on a lower attention to their specific needs and a lack of voice and poor representation 	B9 Unequal power relation, discrimination, inequitable laws and customary practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender discrimination in the labour market • Limited bargaining powers 	C1 Precarious/insufficient physical infrastructures C2 Remoteness and isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases the burden of care of domestic activities • Extend the working journey due to difficult accessibility
			B4 Political systems that disenfranchise diverse gender/ethnic/regional/cultural groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted management of family productive assets • Limited land rights 	C3 Acute forms of climate change and extreme meteorological events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discriminated of recovery and reconstruction opportunities • Increase stress and exposure to accidents
			B11 Forced dispossession of land/eviction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited land rights 		
	A7 Extended economic informality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their activities are not counted as income generating ones including work in agriculture, livestock, fisheries 	B6 Internal/external violent (armed) conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims of gender based violence • Risk of abduction to assume support activities for combatants, sexual slavery or as combatants 		
A2 Extreme monetary poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls sent away as domestic workers 	B2 Weak/inexistent labour market institutions/labour inspection/inappropriate skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impunity on discrimination practices • Trapped on stereotyped labour occupations 			
A11 Limited access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low skills poor employability & • Less attractive for labour engagement 					

Annex 3: Matrix of potential impact on vulnerable Populations (Children)

Vulnerable Population	Socio-Economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
Children	A11 Limited access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of opportunities will impact on future limited employability and/or future economic efficiency • Limited awareness of rights • Perpetuated conditions of poverty • Invisibility of their contribution to the world of work, impact on a lower attention to their specific needs 	B2 Weak/inexistent labour market institutions/labour inspection/inappropriate skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour exploitation • Increase of worst forms of child labour 	C2 Remoteness and isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed to occupational hazards (their size and incapacity to judge risks)
			B3 Insecurity and poor rule of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour exploitation • Increase of worst forms of child labour • Child trafficking 		
			B6 Internal/external violent (armed) conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour exploitation • Increase of worst forms of child labour • Child trafficking 		
	A2 Extreme monetary poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children work instead of going to school • Domestic work (informal) • Food insecurity leading to malnutrition, and contributing to educational failure 				
	A10 Lack of access to healthcare and social protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food insecurity leading to malnutrition, and contributing to educational failure 				

Annex 3: Matrix of potential impact on vulnerable Populations (Youth)

Vulnerable Population	Socio-Economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
Youth	A7 Extended economic informality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of registration and written contracts lead to absence of labour inspection and absence of access to rights to formal employment • Hard to reach for trade unions 	B2 Weak/inexistent labour market institutions/labour inspection/inappropriate skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration of youth to urban areas 	C1 Precarious/insufficient physical infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality of rural education system compared to the rural one
	A11 Limited access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of opportunities will impact on future limited employability and/or future economic efficiency • Low potential labour productivity 	B2 Weak/inexistent labour market institutions/labour inspection/inappropriate skills B3 Insecurity and poor rule of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of registration and written contracts lead to absence of labour inspection and absence of access to rights to formal employment • Hard to reach for trade unions 		
	A4 Insufficient access to information and knowledge	-	B11 Forced dispossession of land/eviction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited land rights 		
	A8 Traditional/marginalized Division of labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young boys employed in agricultural work while young girls engaged in domestic work 				

Annex 3: Matrix of potential impact on vulnerable Populations (Smallholders / Agricultural Workers)

Vulnerable Population	Socio-Economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
Smallholders / Agricultural Workers	<p>A7 Extended economic informality</p> <p>A6 Poor conditions for investments and for accessing productive assets and resources</p> <p>A4 Insufficient access to information and knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural and agriculture-related activities remain the main source of income in rural areas 	<p>B7 Exclusion of rural workers from labour law</p> <p>B2 Weak/inexistent labour market institutions/labour inspection/inappropriate skills</p> <p>B3 Insecurity and poor rule of law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture represents one of the most dangerous sectors due to the absence of: poor level of labour inspection, poor enforcement of OSH and poor structures to promote social dialogue • Characterized by major DW deficits • Convention No. 129 is among the least ratified conventions: lack of enforcement of relevant laws, high level of discrimination 	<p>C2 Remoteness and isolation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hide abuses of labour exploitation including Forced Labour associated to illegal extraction of natural resources • Reduced market opportunities limited diversification of traditional livelihoods
					<p>C3 Acute forms of climate change and extreme meteorological events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They face environmental stress in certain areas (for example floods and tsunamis) • ,Lack of risk management strategies • Need to make a revision their practices (diversification of the activities and/or crops) • Absence of protection from “welfare-state”

Annex 3: Matrix of potential impact on vulnerable Populations (Workers Informal/Rural Economy)

Vulnerable Population	Socio-Economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
Workers Informal / Rural Economy	<p>A9 Lack of voice and representation</p> <p>A6 Poor conditions for investments and for accessing productive assets and resources</p> <p>A4 Insufficient access to information and knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal working arrangement that lead to important DW deficits • Characterized by low income and low productivity • Women, unable to receive education are locked-up in the informal sector 	<p>B7 Exclusion of rural workers from labour law</p> <p>B2 Weak/inexistent labour market institutions/labour inspection/inappropriate skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of registration and written contracts lead to absence of labour inspection and absence of access to rights to formal employment • Hard to reach for trade unions 		

Annex 3: Matrix of potential impact on vulnerable Populations (People with disabilities)

Vulnerable Population	Socio-economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
People with disabilities	A12 Societal barriers/ stigma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They experience higher rates of unemployment and economic inactivity • The employed in this sector lack access to essential business development services and microfinance, particularly credit 	B6 Internal/external violent (armed) conflicts B4 Political systems that disenfranchise diverse gender/ethnic/regional/cultural groups B1 Weak or absence of local institutions including on health and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery and peace building programmes often do not include special measures to facilitate the socio-economic reintegration of this socio-economic group 	C1 Precarious/insufficient physical infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disabilities are largely excluded from existing services, both mainstream and disability-specific services, located in urban areas such as employment promotion and social protection services • People with disabilities have limited access (or not access at all) to transportation and rural roads are inaccessible environment in terms of information and communication • Excluded from actively participating in the community life • Reasonable accommodation of disability related needs is also rarely provided
	A10 Lack of access to healthcare and social protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater risk of insufficient social protection which make them more likely to sink into extreme poverty 				
	A7 Extended economic informality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When employed, people with disabilities are more likely to be in low paying jobs, part-time or temporary positions at lower occupational levels with poor promotion prospects and working conditions 	•		C2 Remoteness and isolation C4 Tectonic hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccessible environment in terms of information and communication • Excluded from actively participating in the community life • Reasonable accommodation of disability related needs is also provided
	A11 Limited access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited opportunities for skills development and employment as well as due to limited access to social services • Excluded from basic education and therefore do not meet the entry requirements of formal vocational training programmes affecting their chances of finding a decent job 				
	Continues on next page ->					

Vulnerable Population	Socio-economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
	<p>A4 Insufficient access to information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff of rural training centres and employment programmes and services may lack disability awareness and therefore are not well prepared to teach and interact with people with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 			
<p>A11 Limited access to education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and training centres in rural areas often do not offer accessible training methods and tools to accommodate disability-related needs of pupils and trainees with disabilities • People with disabilities engaged in income-generating activities in the informal economy or the agricultural sector are believed to be a high risk group and not credit worthy 					

Annex 3: Matrix of potential impact on vulnerable Populations (People with HIV/AIDS)

Vulnerable Population	Socio-Economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
People with HIV/AIDS	A12 Societal barriers/ stigma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce their economic opportunities due to stigmatization and discrimination within the overall society in general • Women in rural areas heighten their vulnerability to the social stigma and ostracism associated with AIDS, thus leaving them shunned and marginalized 	B1 Weak and absence of local institutions including on health and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note widespread health policy or prevention programmes • Lack of sexual education and orientation in remote areas 	C1 Precarious/ insufficient physical infrastructures C2 Remoteness and isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces awareness on prevention and access to treatment opportunities facilitating the spread of the disease
	A4 Insufficient access to information and knowledge A10 Lack of access to healthcare and social protection A11 Limited access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results in a severe labour shortage for farm and non-farm economic activities, as well as domestic work • Affects the economic activities (agricultural capacity decreasing food production) • Creation of a cycle of poverty due to the expenses the disease produces • Children are withdrawn from school and may also be forced into child labour to maintain the household income, thus perpetuating poverty 	B4 Political systems that disenfranchise diverse gender/ethnic/regional/cultural groups B10 Gender based violence and sexual harassment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV inside the workplace: absence of regulation, absence of sanctions 	C2 Remoteness and isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sexual education and orientation in the remote areas

Annex 3: Matrix of potential impact on vulnerable Populations (Migrant Workers)

Vulnerable Population	Socio-Economic		Governance and Security		Environmental	
	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact	Drivers	Impact
Migrant Workers	A9 Lack of voice and representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable to abuses, exploitation and discrimination • Vulnerable to unacceptable forms of work 	B2 Weak/inexistent labour market institutions/ labour inspection/inappropriate skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims of abuses (can fall into forced labour) • Condemned to take low skilled/ low wage jobs, seasonal jobs • Tend to be victims of organized crimes, mafias and how no voice since their passports (identity) are sometimes confiscated by employers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C3 Acute forms of climate change and extreme meteorological events C4 Tectonic hazards C5 Technological hazards including water and land pollution C6 Environmental degradation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated displacement of rural population • Accelerates displacement of rural population
	A10 Lack of access to healthcare and social protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are excluded from social protection while being one of the most exposed population at risk and dangers 				
	A2 Extreme monetary poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrants search for a better living conditions, a better paid activity which could take them out of their condition of extreme poverty 	B3 Insecurity an poor rule of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower wages. They receive wages lower than the minimum wage (cheap workforce of which employers take advantage) Any regulation? • Sanction? 		
	A11 Limited access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unawareness of their rights • Condemned to take low skilled/ low wage jobs, seasonal jobs, precarious jobs 	B6 Internal/external violent (armed) conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement of population (migrants, refugees, internally displaced) notably in rural areas harmed the local workforce since migrant one is cheaper 		
	A1 Lack of diversification of economic and livelihood opportunities A5 Volatile and unstable economy Demographic pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration from rural areas/ rural-out migration: From rural to urban centre inside its country before migrating outside its country • ILO conventions are only for international migrants • Spread of sexual transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS 				

Annex 4: Country cases on analysis

Country	Risk at Threat	Vulnerable Groups	Approaches or Tools
Colombia	Internal Conflict	IDPs Small holder farmers Indigenous and other minorities	LED, LER, Value Chain, EII, Skills, other
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Poverty	Indigenous	LED, EII, Skills
Lebanon	Conflict affected	Refugees SHF	LED, EII
Mali	Climate change Conflict	Young people SHF	Skills, Job Pla., Soc. Part
Niger	Climate change Poverty	SHF	EII, Soc. Protect
Pakistan	Climate change	SHF	Various
Philippines	Climate change	SHF	EII, LED
Senegal	Poverty Migration	Young people	Skills, Job Pla., Soc. Part
Sri Lanka	Post conflict, Disasters Ethnic marginalization	IDPs Ethnic groups Vulnerable women	Skills, Job Pla., Soc. Part
Vietnam	Migration	Young people	Skills, Job Pla., Soc. Part

COUNTRY	PROJECTS
<p>COLOMBIA</p> <p>(These projects are negotiated with the government but not approved yet).</p>	<p>“ Manos a la Obra por la Paz” (2016-2017)</p> <p>The project aims at contributing to the economic reactivation, income generation, peace building, coexistence and reconciliation through the implementation of a small project of infrastructure for local economic development (public goods, productive infrastructure and improvement of tertiary roads), by creating temporary employment in 46 municipalities affected by the armed conflict and with high rates of multidimensional poverty.</p> <hr/> <p>“ Promoción del trabajo decente en la Economía rural de Colombia” (2016-2017)</p> <p>In the context of extreme vulnerability, poverty and decent work deficits in Colombian rural areas, the Government has requested technical assistance from the ILO in view of the 2016 peace agreements between the Colombian Government and the FARC.</p> <p>Main areas of work: I) Gender Equality and Non-discrimination, adopting a gender equality approach and promote the participation of men and women as well as youth and other vulnerable groups in rural Colombia; II) Promotion of decent work and productive employment in rural areas, with special emphasis on the prevention and elimination of child labour, forced labour and all forms of discrimination; III) Encourage social dialogue at the local and national levels, involving ILO constituents as key players in the regions, value chains and different initiatives. All this to promote decent, productive and sustainable work in the rural sector of Colombia.</p>
<p>Lao People's Democratic Republic</p>	<p>An integrated initiative on rural employment creation for poverty reduction (2014-2015) - (Pilot project 2012-2013)</p> <p>This project had the objective to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty through an integrated approach of productive and decent employment in rural Laos. The proposed employment strategy aimed at promoting and expanding productive opportunities and decent work as the main routes out of poverty. This involved promotion of well-functioning labour markets, increase productivity of small-scale agriculture and enhancement of employment opportunities of small-scale agriculture, an enabling environment for private sector development, and increasing the employability of poor women, men and youth. The strategy aimed to unlock the productive potentials of poor and vulnerable women, men and youth in rural Lao by improving their access to productive and gainful employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural employment promotion strategies had been incorporated into national policies, development plans and programmes; 2. Local government capacity to plan, implement and monitor rural employment promotion strategies has been improved; 3. Rural employment promotion strategies had been demonstrated at village level. <hr/> <p>The social and economic impact of the construction of the Nam Ham and Nam Ven Roads, Houaphan Province</p> <p>This project constructed two access roads in the Houaphan province, being this one component of an integrated rural livelihoods development programme. The project was designed with five interrelated components (i) capacity building of relevant Government departments; (ii) project management; (iii) diversified sedentary farming development; (iv) village based development and (v) rural infrastructure development. This last component designed was to support components three and four. The objective was to reduce poverty, increase food production, reduce production and consumption of opium and preserve natural resources.</p>
<p>LEBANON</p>	<p>Enabling Job Resilience and Protecting Decent Work Conditions in Rural Communities Affected by the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Northern Lebanon (2013-2016)</p> <p>Ref.: LEB/12/02/RBS - LEB/14/02/ITA</p> <p>The ILO worked in Lebanon to alleviate the negative impact of the Syrian refugee crisis in the North Governorate that has the highest incidence of poor (52.5 per cent) and where agriculture employs about 70 per cent of the local working population. The project aimed to create productive employment through local economic development and sustainable enterprises in northern Lebanese communities affected by the Syrian refugee crisis, so as to: i) Improve labour market intermediation and employability of vulnerable job seekers; ii) increase the income generation and employment creation potential of agriculture value chains through local economic development; iii) and enhance the capacity of service providers to produce local economic development opportunities.</p> <hr/> <p>Local Socio-Economic Development in War-Affected Areas in South Lebanon (2009 - 2010)</p>

COUNTRY	PROJECTS
	<p>Ref.: LEB/09/01M/UND</p> <p>This project promoted the empowerment of local stakeholders' through local economic development and direct livelihood support in conflict-affected areas in South Lebanon.</p> <p>It focused on: i) supporting local institutions and major implementing partners in South Lebanon in managing livelihoods projects by applying acquired tools and methodologies; ii) supporting local institutions in South Lebanon to consolidate and replicate participatory methodologies in promoting local development initiatives</p> <hr/> <p>Skills development, employment services and local economic recovery for the construction sector in South Lebanon (2008-2010)</p> <p>Ref.: LEB/07/03/ITA</p> <p>This project contributed to employment generation and to the social and economic recovery of South Lebanon by providing employment-oriented accelerated modular skills training programmes for priority jobs in the construction sector; and by offering institutional capacity building measures and interventions to support small business development.</p> <hr/> <p>Enhancing Local Employment, Skills and Enterprises in Nahr el Bared, Lebanon (2008-2010)</p> <p>The objective of this project was to reduce poverty amongst Nahr al-Bared residents by providing better access to employment, self-employment and training opportunities.</p> <p>It aimed to: i) Establish emergency employment services that operate with well-trained staff able to provide specific advisory and labour market services to targeted groups of job seekers. ii) Identify employment and training opportunities and refer jobseekers to employment opportunities with major projects, private sector employers and other employment options. iii) Provide relevant and up-to-date advice and assistance to targeted jobseekers on microfinance, business development services and self-employment opportunities available in the local labour market.</p>
MALI	<p>Project for the support of employment promotion and poverty reduction - APERP PROJECT (2011-2014)</p> <p>Ref.: RAF/58/10/FRA</p> <p>The main objectives of this project was to: i) encourage the implementation of coherent national employment, vocational training and investment policies integrated in the national development frameworks; ii) promote entry into employment through programmes targeting vulnerable groups, especially young people, women and migrants, formulating them in complementarity with social protection policies; iii) strengthen the technical capacities of those concerned with employment, especially the social partners.</p>
NIGER	<p>promotion du travail decent en zone rurale au Sahel (MALI / NIGER) (2012-2013)</p> <p>Ref: RAF/13/50 LUX</p> <p>The objective of this project was to promote productive, income-generating and decent work in particular for disadvantaged rural populations and rural workers (men and women) in Mali and Niger. The capacities of technical services, social partners, professional and consular organizations, and micro-entrepreneurs involved in the value chain were strengthened, modelled, tested and validated as an approach for the promotion of employment and decent work in rural areas.</p>
PAKISTAN	<p>Livelihood Restoration and Protection and Sustainable Empowerment of Vulnerable Peasant Communities in Sindh Province (2013-2016)</p> <p>Ref: OSRO/PAK/206/UNO</p> <p>This project was designed in response to the July 2010 monsoon rains which flooded a significant part of Pakistan, with Sindh Province being hardest hit. The overall goal of the project is "to restore and protect the livelihoods and empower the poor and vulnerable peasants (men, women, boys, and girls) dependent on feudal and tribal landholding and farming systems and affected by droughts, floods and insecurity".</p> <p>The three main objectives are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. To improve the livelihoods and economic security of rural communities through in-kind support to restore and/or protect farm production capacities and off-farm income-generating activities of vulnerable peasant families and well-targeted progressive landlords, which would, in turn, have a positive impact on their resilience to disasters;

COUNTRY	PROJECTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. To enhance the skills and knowledge base of men and women peasant farmers, landless people, and unemployed youth through technical support in GAPs, post-harvest management, and vocational skills. iii. To empower peasant organizations, farmers' organizations, water users associations (WUAs), farmers, women groups, their constituent hari members, and others to enhance their natural resource base (land, water, vegetation, etc.) while strengthening their resilience to future shocks.
PHILIPPINES	<p>Programme for Local Economic Development through Enhanced Governance and Grassroots Empowerment (PLEDGE) (2013-2015) Ref.: PHI/12/04M/IBR</p> <p>Through the PLEDGE Programme, the ILO aimed to contribute to peace building efforts through local economic development and sustainable livelihood creation in conflict affected areas in Mindanao. This was done through the strengthening of organizational capacities, specifically the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), to implement community-based enterprises and supply chains to create more employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups in the communities.</p>
	<p>Typhoon Bopha: Sustainable Livelihoods for Affected Communities (2013-2014) Ref.: PHI/13/03M/AUS</p> <p>It promoted climate change adaptation in line with the application of labour intensive and local resource-based approach to assist communities in building back better their communal infrastructures and generate livelihoods</p>
	<p>Green Jobs in Asia - Philippines (2010-2012) Ref.: PHL/12/01M/RBS</p> <p>The project was one of the green jobs initiatives of the ILO. The project's goal was to enhance capacities of its constituents - government, workers and employers, to undertake just transition measures including green jobs governance, greening of enterprises and decent work. Key strategies were assistance to policies, research and communication, capacity building, demonstration project, knowledge sharing and assistance to tripartite structure formation.</p>
	<p>Greener Business Asia (2009-2014) Ref.: RAS/10/57M/JPN (Phase I)RAS/13/52/JPN (Phase II)</p> <p>The project had the aim to promote capacity building and bipartite cooperation to support greener workplaces and sustainable enterprises. It proved that adopting environmentally-sound practices and technologies was not only necessary to ensure the longer-term viability of enterprises and economic sectors by safeguarding the natural capital on which they depend, but it could also be part of a strategy to maintain or improve firms' competitiveness</p>
SENEGAL	<p>Governance of labour migration and its links to Development in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal (2013) Ref.: RAF/09/01/SAP</p> <p>The project sought enhanced sustainable development and poverty reduction among the three countries of intervention, in the framework of the migration process.</p> <p>Main objectives: i) To enhance the institutional strengthening and the management of the migration flows; ii) The improvement of the labour inclusion system; iii) To foster the return and social inclusion of labour migrants.</p>
	<p>Promotion of rural entrepreneurship (PROMER II) (2006-2012) Ref.: SEN/06/01/SEN</p> <p>PROMER II was a large-scale programme which promoted the development of rural Medium and Small Enterprises (MSEs). The project aimed at developing an understanding and taste for entrepreneurship in rural vocational training, and at creating productive and decent jobs for disadvantaged young men and women through support to the setting up and development of their MSMEs. In this project the ILO was responsible for two major components: access to training and non-financial support services, and strengthening professional organizations, half of which are run by women and MSE representatives. The programme covered four rural localities and over 15 value</p>

COUNTRY	PROJECTS
	<p>chains. Besides entrepreneurship capacity building, the project included components on technical skills, enterprise management, occupational safety and health, access to micro-finance, health insurance and basic social coverage, sensitization to gender, child labour and youth employment.</p>
SRI LANKA	<p>Country level engagement and assistance to reduce child labour (CLEAR) (2013-2017)</p> <p>The immediate objectives of this project are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improved national legislation on the worst forms of child labour to bring them into compliance with international standards; ii. Improved monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies related to the worst forms of child labour ; iii. Adoption and implementation of national plans of action on child labour, including its worst forms; iv. Adoption and implementation of the national plan of action on child labour, including its worst forms; v. Improved implementation of local/national social protection mechanisms for the children engaged in WFCL and/or vulnerable to child labour, towards preventing and reducing child labour, including its worst forms. <p>Local Empowerment for Economic Development (LEED) (2010-2016)</p> <p>Ref.: SRL/10/04/</p> <p>The LEED Project has played an important role in providing a positive impact in terms of economic growth, jobs, income and cross community dialogue within the country. Its purpose has been to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable post conflict recovery and development, mainly for the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict, notably IDPs, through the creation of decent work opportunities and support inclusive growth and reconciliation, among northern Tamil ethnic minority and southern Sinhalese ethnic majority. The project is considered to have been successful in creating awareness of the north-south development gap in Sri Lanka and providing ways to reduce these differences. Moreover, gender mainstreaming was particularly important in order to tackle cultural barriers and give women a more inclusive role within their society.</p> <p>Its main objectives are as follows: i) To improve the enabling environment for entrepreneurship and job creation and livelihoods for women, young women and men and the disabled and for gender equality; ii) To develop the capacity (systems, organizational and individual) of local business development services, training providers and local government to facilitate the development and growth of enterprises with a focus on the special needs of women and youth entrepreneurs; iv) To provide post-training support; v) Increase market absorbability through value chain development and identification of interventions targeting local competitive advantages for businesses.</p> <p>Green Jobs in Asia (2010-2012)</p> <p>The main goal of the project was to assist Sri Lanka in shifting to a low-carbon, environmentally friendly and climate resilient economy that helps accelerate the jobs recovery, reduce social gaps, support development goals and realize decent work. The project directly contributed to the national programs and initiatives relating to employment, climate change, environment and disaster management and recovery from the economic crisis.</p> <p>Joint UN Programme (ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO) on Prevention of and Response to Gender-based Violence (2011-2013)</p> <p>Ref.: SRL/11/01/FPA</p> <p>The combination of strategies and activities in the Programme, through a multi-sectorial approach, addressed issues within the health, criminal justice, law enforcement and social services sectors that affected the delivery of an effective and sustained response to reduce GBV.</p> <p>Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) (2007-2009)</p> <p>Ref: SRL/07/02M/ONU</p> <p>It focused on reconstruction and maintenance of rural roads and to provide good accessibility to the population, as well as to have quality mobility road network for the transportation of passengers and goods. The primary objective is to provide a sustainable community based participatory planning mechanism to prioritise (re)construction and maintenance of rural roads to improve access to essential basic services and facilitate local economic development.</p>

COUNTRY	PROJECTS
VIETNAM	<p data-bbox="448 293 1385 353">Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development in ASEAN (TRIANGLE II) (2015-2025)</p> <p data-bbox="448 360 651 389">Ref.: RAS/15/05/AUS</p> <p data-bbox="448 405 1385 607">The project invests across six countries (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) and engages with all ASEAN Member States with the overall goal of maximizing the contribution of labour migration to equitable, inclusive and stable growth in ASEAN. Its objective focuses on the protection of the rights of migrant workers. TRIANGLE II has the overall goal of maximizing the contribution of labour migration to equitable, inclusive and stable growth in ASEAN, and it builds on the activities, relationships and processes established under the TRIANGLE I.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="448 629 1337 689">Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN TRIANGLE project) (2012-2016)</p> <p data-bbox="448 696 651 725">Ref.: RAS/12/01/CAN</p> <p data-bbox="448 741 1353 853">The Project aimed to significantly reduce the exploitation of labour migrants in the region through increased legal and safe migration and improved labour protection. The project promotes both bilateral and regional approaches to deal with shared concerns, make regionalism more effective, and enhance the capacity of institutions in ASEAN.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="448 875 1315 936">Joint Programme on Green Production and Trade to Increase Income and Employment Opportunities for the Rural Poor (2010-2011)</p> <p data-bbox="448 943 1362 1093">The objective of this project was to develop better integrated, pro-poor, and environmentally sustainable 'green' value chains, enabling poor growers, collectors and producers to improve their products and link to more profitable markets. The targeted sector is handicrafts and small scale furniture, focusing on 4 value chains: bamboo and rattan, sericulture; sea grass; lacquer ware; and handmade paper.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="448 1115 1337 1176">Youth Employment through Local Economic Development in Quang Nam Province (2010-2011)</p> <p data-bbox="448 1182 1374 1444">The objective of this project was to improve the employability and employment opportunities for young women and men by upgrading skills and improving job opportunities in through enhanced business enabling environment, business development services and overall market access. The target beneficiaries included young men and women, especially ethnic minorities from "61 poorest districts". Its main activities were i) Creating/improving pro-employment business framework conditions in the province; ii) Strengthening employability and employment of vulnerable rural youth, through upgraded vocational and entrepreneurial skills; iii) Improving the market access of selected products (rattan & bamboo and vegetable) in selected districts of the province through the value chain approach.</p>

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