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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [78/165](#), in the present report the Secretary-General reviews the current state of rural poverty and identifies gaps and challenges that impede its eradication, giving specific attention to the role of climate change and climate action. He analyses the economic and socioeconomic facets of rural poverty, highlights the impacts of climate change on rural poverty and explains how climate action can contribute to combating rural poverty, and concludes with recommendations to address gaps and challenges to rural poverty eradication and to promote sustainable, resilient and transformative rural development.

* [A/79/150](#).



I. Introduction

1. Progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1, to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, is falling short, and the same is true for the first target under Goal 1, to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere. In 2022, 712 million people lived in extreme poverty worldwide,¹ and it is projected that there will still be almost 600 million people living in extreme poverty in 2030.² Extreme poverty is overwhelmingly a rural reality.³ Multiple factors, such as the uneven socioeconomic recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, violent conflicts, economic slowdowns and downturns, and climate change, have significantly hindered poverty eradication efforts.

2. In the present report, the Secretary-General examines the state of progress in reducing rural poverty globally, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 78/165. He analyses the economic and socioeconomic facets of rural poverty in monetary and multidimensional terms, highlights the impacts of climate change on rural poverty and explains how climate action can contribute to combating rural poverty. He concludes with recommendations to tackle challenges to rural poverty eradication and promote sustainable, resilient and transformative rural development.

3. Extreme weather events and slow-onset processes, such as increasing temperature, desertification and loss of biodiversity, both disproportionately affect the poor and people in situations of vulnerability, many of whom reside in rural areas in low- and middle-income countries and depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods.⁴

4. Not only are the poor the most vulnerable to climate risks, they also bear disproportionately the costs of adaptation and mitigation. Adaptation measures entail resource requirements and risks that poor rural households may find particularly difficult to take, given their lack of access to finance and other essential services and markets.⁵ Climate mitigation policies, including the removal of fossil fuel subsidies and carbon pricing, often increase the cost of essential goods, such as food, housing and transport, thereby disproportionately affecting low-income groups, who spend a larger proportion of their incomes on necessities. Moreover, the opportunity costs of mitigation measures, such as land conservation, include the current and future poverty-reducing potential of agricultural growth, which are often inadequately assessed.⁶ These concerns have coalesced in a focus on a just transition.⁷

¹ R. Andres Castañeda Aguilar and others, *March 2024 Update to the Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP): What's New*, Global Poverty Monitoring Technical Note, No. 36 (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2024).

² See [A/79/79-E/2024/54](#).

³ Andres Castañeda and others, "A new profile of the global poor", *World Development*, vol. 101 (January 2018); and Shohei Nakamura, Mark Roberts and Benjamin Stewart, "Has extreme poverty been urbanized?", World Bank blogs, 27 February 2024.

⁴ Stephane Hallegatte and Julie Rozenberg, "Climate change through a poverty lens", *Nature Climate Change*, vol. 7, No. 4 (April 2017).

⁵ Nicholas J. Sitko, Antonio Scognamiglio and Giulia Malevolti, "Does receiving food aid influence the adoption of climate-adaptive agricultural practices? Evidence from Ethiopia and Malawi", *Food Policy*, vol. 102 (July 2021).

⁶ Vijaya Ramachandran, Alex Smith and Satvika Mahajan, "Land grabs for carbon: are carbon offset megadeals the future of conservation in Africa?", The Breakthrough Institute, 28 May 2024.

⁷ See definition of "just transitions" provided in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Annex II: glossary", in *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability – Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Hans-Otto Pörtner and others, eds. (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2022).

5. Without targeted interventions tackling the structural causes of rural poverty, including those related to climate change, the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will remain unattainable. Structural causes of rural poverty parallel those underlying environmental degradation, such as weak governance, limited access to resources and education and the marginalized voices of rural communities on both poverty and the environment.

II. State of rural poverty: progress achieved in multiple dimensions

6. In 2022, nearly 9 per cent of the world's population, or 712 million people, lived below the extreme poverty line of \$2.15 a day.⁸ An estimated 23 million more people were living in extreme poverty in 2022 compared with 2019.⁹

7. Extreme poverty remains concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, and areas affected by fragility and conflict. Projections indicate that, by 2030, 87 per cent of the extremely poor will reside in sub-Saharan Africa, with two thirds residing in countries affected by fragility and conflict.¹⁰

8. Across all regions, rural populations are disproportionately affected by poverty, as over 80 per cent of the extremely poor live in rural areas,¹¹ and extreme poverty is increasingly concentrated there, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa.¹² Nearly two thirds of the extremely poor engage in agriculture.¹³

9. Deprivations extend beyond income and consumption. Multidimensional measures show how people experience poverty in other aspects of their daily lives, such as limited access to food, education, health, housing, drinking water, sanitation and electricity. Over 18 per cent of people across 110 countries, representing 92 per cent of the population in the developing regions, experience multidimensional poverty, with 84 per cent of the poor living in rural areas.¹⁴

10. Rural poverty and food insecurity are closely linked. In 2023, around 733 million people globally were affected by hunger, measured by the prevalence of

⁸ Aguilar and others, *March 2024 Update to the Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP)*; and Dean Jolliffe and others, "Assessing the impact of the 2017 PPPs on the international poverty line and global poverty", Policy Research Working Paper, No. 9941 (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2022). In September 2022, the World Bank revised the global poverty lines, establishing the new extreme poverty line at \$2.15 per person per day based on 2017 purchasing power parities, replacing the previous \$1.90 line based on 2011 figures. The real value of the international poverty line remained essentially unchanged.

⁹ See Aguilar and others, *March 2024 Update to the Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP)*, for World Bank's update of its first estimates of global poverty until 2022 from survey data.

¹⁰ Colin Andrews and others, *The State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021: The Potential to Scale* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2021).

¹¹ Shohei Nakamura and others, *Where Is Poverty Concentrated? New Evidence Based on Internationally Consistent Urban and Poverty Measurements*, Policy Research Working Paper, No. 10620 (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2023); and Castañeda and others, "A new profile of the global poor".

¹² World Bank, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2020); and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), *Rural Development Report 2021: Transforming Food Systems for Rural Prosperity* (Rome, 2021).

¹³ Castañeda and others, "A new profile of the global poor".

¹⁴ Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "Global multidimensional poverty index 2023: unstacking global poverty – data for high-impact action", 2023.

undernourishment. This is equivalent to 9.1 per cent of the global population, compared with 7.5 per cent in 2019.¹⁵

11. Moreover, nearly 30 per cent of the global population experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2023, significantly higher than in 2019.¹⁶

12. Rural areas have higher rates of moderate to severe food insecurity, affecting 32 per cent of adults, compared with 30 per cent in peri-urban areas and 25.5 per cent in urban areas.¹⁷ Rural children are 1.6 times more likely to be stunted and 1.4 times more likely to be wasted than urban children.¹⁸ Adolescent girls and women in rural areas are more likely to be underweight, have short height and/or be anaemic compared with those living in cities.¹⁹

13. Healthy diets were unaffordable for more than 2.8 billion people globally in 2022.²⁰ About 65 per cent of people in Africa and 35 per cent in Asia could not afford a healthy diet.

14. The share of people unable to afford healthy diets is higher in rural than in urban areas.²¹ Moreover, children in rural households are more likely to experience severe food poverty, defined as consuming foods from only two food groups or fewer per day.²² A significant portion of food consumed by rural households comes from purchases.²³ Consequently, each additional 1 per cent rise in global food prices is expected to push almost 10 million additional people into extreme poverty, making food even more unaffordable for them.²⁴

15. Poverty is strongly correlated with age, gender, migration status, disability and other dimensions of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization. These can be amplified in rural areas, and poverty disproportionately affects Indigenous Peoples.

16. Over 50 per cent of the extremely poor globally are children, despite the fact that children make up only 31 per cent of the global population. Specifically, 333 million children worldwide live below \$2.15 a day, nearly 90 per cent of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Asia. Children in rural areas are significantly more likely to live in extreme poverty.²⁵

17. Multidimensional poverty is also significantly higher among children and young people, with 28 per cent of children under 18 years old classified as poor compared with 13 per cent of adults.

18. Globally, women are overrepresented among the poor: 383 million women and girls are estimated to be living in extreme poverty, compared with 368 million men

¹⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024: Financing to End Hunger, Food Insecurity and Malnutrition in All Its Forms* (Rome, 2024).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ FAO and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023: Urbanization, Agrifood Systems Transformation, and Healthy Diet across the Rural-Urban Continuum* (Rome, 2023).

¹⁹ FAO and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy Diets More Affordable* (Rome, 2022).

²⁰ FAO and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024*.

²¹ FAO and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023*.

²² United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Child food poverty: a nutrition crisis in early childhood", October 2022.

²³ FAO and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023*.

²⁴ Daniel Gerszon Mahler and others, "Pandemic, prices, and poverty", World Bank blogs, 13 April 2022.

²⁵ Daylan Salmeron-Gomez and others, "Global trends in child monetary poverty according to international poverty lines", Policy Research Working Paper, No. 10525 (World Bank, 2023).

and boys.²⁶ Women are especially vulnerable to poverty between ages 25 and 34 – their prime reproductive years – when 123 women for every 100 men are living in poverty.²⁷ In addition, single-mother households are more likely to be poor than two-parent households.

19. Women continue to be systematically disadvantaged across multiple dimensions of well-being. In 2023, for example, 26.7 of women worldwide were moderately or severely food insecure, compared with 25.4 per cent of men, a gender gap of 1.3 percentage points, compared with 3.6 percentage points in 2021 in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸

20. Indigenous Peoples account for 19 per cent of the extremely poor, despite the fact that they constitute less than 10 per cent of the global population.²⁹ Historic patterns of subjugation, discrimination, marginalization, dispossession and exclusion have affected Indigenous People's development in accordance with their own needs, interests and rights. Indigenous Peoples manage or have tenure rights on over one quarter of the world's land surface, which intersects with about 40 per cent of all terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes.³⁰ Meaningfully engaging with Indigenous Peoples and their institutions is critical in order to address conservation, poverty and equality issues.

21. Data from 36 countries around the world in 2015 showed that around 35 per cent of international migrants were in or at risk of poverty, compared with just 23 per cent of non-migrants.³¹ Furthermore, inadequate regular migration pathways and protections leave people vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse.

22. Persons with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty than persons without disabilities owing to barriers in society, such as discrimination, limited access to education and employment opportunities and lack of inclusion in livelihood and other social programmes.³² They also carry extra costs associated with disability, related, for instance, to health care, housing, transportation and personal assistance.³³ Persons with disabilities living in rural areas of developing countries tend to face greater challenges than those living in cities. Specifically, they have less access to income-generating opportunities and to essential services, including for health care and rehabilitation, transportation and education.³⁴

III. Major challenges in eradicating rural poverty

23. The challenges of reducing rural poverty are numerous, including limited decent work opportunities; low agricultural productivity; inadequate and unequal access to

²⁶ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and United Nations, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2022* (New York, 2022).

²⁷ Ana Maria Muñoz Boudet and others, "A global view of poverty, gender, and household composition", Policy Research Working Paper, No. 9553 (World Bank, 2021).

²⁸ FAO and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024*.

²⁹ International Labour Organization (ILO), *Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 towards an Inclusive, Sustainable and Just Future* (Geneva, 2019).

³⁰ Stephen T. Garnett and others, "A spatial overview of the global importance of indigenous lands for conservation", *Nature Sustainability*, vol. 1, No. 7 (July 2018).

³¹ Elisa Mosler Vidal, *Leave No Migrant Behind: The 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation* (Geneva, International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021).

³² *Disability and Development Report: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities* (United Nations publication, 2018).

³³ World Health Organization (WHO), *Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities* (Geneva, 2022).

³⁴ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "Policy guidelines for inclusive Sustainable Development Goals: rural areas", 2020.

land and water, technologies, markets, public services, such as quality education, and health care; and persistent social exclusion. Economic, political and environmental shocks exacerbate poverty and inequality.³⁵

A. Economic, social and institutional challenges

24. Rural households are highly reliant on agrifood systems, particularly agriculture, for their livelihoods. In Africa, 48 per cent of all working adults are employed in agriculture, with an additional 14 per cent employed in occupations linked to agriculture, such as processing, retailing and transportation of agrifood products.³⁶ In Asia, 29 per cent of the workforce is in agriculture, and 11 per cent is in non-agricultural occupations in the agrifood system. Agrifood systems are more important for women's livelihoods, especially in low- and middle-income countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, agrifood systems account for 66 per cent of women's employment, compared with 60 per cent of men's, while in southern Asia agrifood systems represents 71 per cent of women's employment, versus 47 per cent of men's.³⁷

25. However, in many low- and middle-income countries, the agrifood sector is characterized by high informality, low land and labour productivity, seasonality and weak institutions.³⁸ These conditions hinder its capacity to provide a decent living. The prevalence of extreme poverty among agricultural workers is more than four times as high as among non-agricultural workers.³⁹ Having a job does not ensure a decent livelihood, as 21 per cent of the world's employed population are categorized as extremely or moderately poor.⁴⁰

26. Informality is nearly twice as high in rural (80 per cent) as in urban areas (44 per cent) and is highest in the agricultural sector (94 per cent).⁴¹ Globally, nearly half of women in agriculture are reported to work as contributing family workers, often unpaid, without access to social protection and with limited decision-making power over agricultural production.⁴² This compares with 17 per cent for men in agriculture.

27. Young people in rural areas are more exposed to working poverty and informality than adults.⁴³ An increasing share of young people in rural areas is not in employment, education or training, and thus are missing out on crucial early formation of human capital, reducing their chances of finding decent employment in the future.⁴⁴ Young people are three times as likely as adults to be unemployed, with a global youth unemployment rate of 16 per cent in 2021, corresponding to 75 million young people.⁴⁵

³⁵ Bas van Bavel and Marten Scheffer, "Historical effects of shocks on inequality: the great leveler revisited", *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, vol. 8, No. 76 (2021).

³⁶ Benjamin Davis and others, *Estimating Global and Country-Level Employment in Agrifood Systems*, FAO Statistics Working Paper, No. 23-34 (Rome, 2023).

³⁷ FAO, *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems* (Rome, 2023).

³⁸ Luc Christiaensen, Zachariah Rutledge and J. Edward Taylor, "Viewpoint: the future of work in agri-food", *Food Policy*, vol. 99 (February 2021).

³⁹ Castañeda and others, "A new profile of the global poor"; and World Bank, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020*.

⁴⁰ Rosina Gammarano, "The working poor or how a job is no guarantee of decent living conditions", *ILOStat Spotlight on Work Statistics*, No. 6 (ILO, 2019).

⁴¹ ILO, *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture* (Geneva, 2018).

⁴² FAO, *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems*.

⁴³ ILO, *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Investing in Transforming Futures for Young People* (Geneva, 2022).

⁴⁴ ILO, "Elevating the potential of rural youth: paths to decent jobs and sustainable futures", May 2024.

⁴⁵ ILO, *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022*.

28. Furthermore, child labour contributes to and derives from rural poverty.⁴⁶ Some 70 per cent of child labour occurs in the agricultural sector in rural areas, contributing to school drop-out and intergenerational transmission of poverty.⁴⁷

29. Forced labour is another major challenge for agriculture. Of almost 25 million victims of forced labour worldwide, 11 per cent are in agriculture.⁴⁸ In addition, the prevalence of fatalities, injuries and work-related ill-health incidents in agriculture remains the highest of any sector. Around 128,000 agricultural workers are estimated to die in work-related accidents every year.⁴⁹

30. Social protection coverage remains insufficient in rural areas, especially in low-income and lower-middle-income countries. As of 2020, only 47 per cent of the global population was effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit (excluding health care and sickness benefits).⁵⁰

31. Poverty is strongly correlated with education. Forty per cent of people living in extreme poverty globally have no education, compared with only 9 per cent of the non-poor.⁵¹ Literacy rates and education opportunities are lower in rural areas than in urban areas.⁵² By grade 3, rural children are 4 per cent less likely to gain foundational reading skills and 9 per cent less likely to gain foundational numeracy skills compared with their urban peers.⁵³

32. Reduced access to resources such as land, water, finance, technologies and infrastructure limits rural people's ability to earn a sustainable income and improve their living standards. In over one third of the 46 countries reporting on Sustainable Development Goals indicator 5.a.1, fewer than 50 per cent of both women and men own or have secure rights over agricultural land. In 40 of 46 countries with available data, men in agricultural households have higher ownership of land or secure rights than women.⁵⁴

33. Indigenous Peoples are highly reliant on their land, territories and natural resources for their livelihoods, but the lack of formal recognition, non-implementation and abolition of collective land rights affect the sustainability and resilience of their food and knowledge systems.⁵⁵

34. Water scarcity is a serious concern in many global regions owing to various factors, including groundwater depletion and pollution, with climate change likely to increase the seasonal variability and uncertainty about water availability and quality.⁵⁶ Approximately 25 per cent of global croplands experience agricultural economic

⁴⁶ FAO, *FAO Framework on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture* (Rome, 2020); and www.un.org/ldc5/youth.

⁴⁷ ILO and UNICEF, *Child Labour: Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward* (New York, 2021).

⁴⁸ ILO and Walk Free Foundation, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage* (Geneva, ILO, 2017).

⁴⁹ ILO, 2024 (forthcoming).

⁵⁰ ILO, *World Social Protection Report 2020–22: Social Protection at the Crossroads – In Pursuit of a Better Future* (Geneva, 2021).

⁵¹ Castañeda and others, “A new profile of the global poor”.

⁵² United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), *Global Education Monitoring Report, 2020: Inclusion and Education: All Means All* (Paris, 2020).

⁵³ UNICEF, *Are Children Really Learning? Exploring Foundational Skills in the Midst of a Learning Crisis* (2022).

⁵⁴ FAO, *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems*.

⁵⁵ FAO, *The White/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems* (Rome, 2021); and *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Rights to Lands, Territories and Resources*, 5th vol. (United Nations publication, 2021).

⁵⁶ United Nations, *The United Nations World Water Development Report 2023: Partnerships and Cooperation for Water* (Paris, UNESCO, 2023).

water scarcity, defined as a lack of irrigation due to institutional and economic capacity rather than physical water scarcity.⁵⁷ Inadequate water availability for agricultural production can result in crop failures, reduced yields, income losses and food shortages, directly affecting the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities. Water scarcity is also often connected to increasing competition among users and even conflict.⁵⁸

35. Infrastructure – including roads, energy systems, water and sanitation facilities, communication networks, food markets and storage facilities – plays a crucial role in economic development and poverty reduction. Globally, close to one billion people in low-income and lower-middle-income countries are served by health-care facilities with no or unreliable electricity access, especially in rural areas.⁵⁹ In 2022, the coverage of safely managed drinking water was 62 per cent in rural areas, compared with 81 per cent in urban areas.⁶⁰ A large share of rural people globally continue to live at least 2 kilometres away from an all-season road, severely constraining their access to markets and services.⁶¹

36. Inadequate infrastructure, along with social norms around the gendered division of labour, contribute to women's and girls' higher unpaid domestic workloads, which reduce women's agency, employment opportunities and earnings.⁶² On average, women spend 4.2 hours per day on unpaid domestic and care work, while men spend 1.9 hours. In rural areas, women's unpaid workload is even greater, including tasks like collecting water and fuel.⁶³

37. An estimated 2 billion people do not have access to health services within their communities.⁶⁴ People living in rural settings and the poorest households experience less coverage of essential health services than national averages, and impoverishment through health spending is more common among households in rural areas compared with those in urban areas.⁶⁵

38. In addition, only 60 per cent of the rural population in developing countries have an account with a financial institution, with women, young people and other vulnerable groups facing greater barriers to financial inclusion.⁶⁶ In sub-Saharan Africa, 62 per cent of unbanked adults are rural.⁶⁷

39. Globally, rural residents are half as likely to have basic access to the Internet – defined as having used it once in the past three months – with a significantly larger

⁵⁷ Lorenzo Rosa and others, “Global agricultural economic water scarcity”, *Science Advances*, vol. 6, No. 18 (April 2020).

⁵⁸ United Nations, *The United Nations World Water Development Report 2023*.

⁵⁹ WHO and others, *Energizing Health: Accelerating Electricity Access in Health-Care Facilities – Executive Summary* (Geneva, 2023).

⁶⁰ UNICEF and WHO, *Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000–2022: Special Focus on Gender* (New York, 2023).

⁶¹ Jeffrey D. Sachs and others, *Sustainable Development Report 2023: Implementing the SDG Stimulus – Includes the SDG Index and Dashboards* (Paris, Sustainable Development Solutions Network; Dublin, Dublin University Press, 2023).

⁶² Seema Jayachandran, “Social norms as a barrier to women's employment in developing countries”, *IMF Economic Review*, vol. 69, No. 3 (September 2021).

⁶³ FAO, *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems*.

⁶⁴ WHO, *WHO Guideline on Health Workforce Development, Attraction, Recruitment and Retention in Rural and Remote Areas* (Geneva, 2021).

⁶⁵ WHO and World Bank, *Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2023 Global Monitoring Report* (Geneva, 2023).

⁶⁶ Alliance for Financial Inclusion, “Enhancing financial inclusion in rural areas”, Guidance Note, No. 50 (Kuala Lumpur, 2022).

⁶⁷ Asli Demirgüç-Kunt and others, *The Global Findex Database 2021: Financial Inclusion, Digital Payments, and Resilience in the Age of COVID-19* (World Bank, 2022).

gap in the least developed countries (73 per cent) and in Africa (70 per cent).⁶⁸ In addition, in 2019 across low- and middle-income countries, rural people were 37 per cent less likely to use mobile Internet than those living in urban areas.⁶⁹ Women are 19 per cent less likely than men to use mobile Internet and 7 per cent less likely to own a mobile phone, especially women in rural areas, with low incomes or with disabilities.⁷⁰

B. Climate change

40. The impacts of climate change are unequal and unjust. Although low-income countries and populations have historically contributed the least to climate change, they bear a disproportionate burden of its impacts. It is estimated that, owing to climate change, the poorest 40 per cent in developing countries will suffer income losses that are 70 per cent greater than the average income loss in the population.⁷¹

41. Climate change is a poverty multiplier. Around 4.5 billion people were exposed to an extreme weather event, such as a flood, drought, cyclone or heatwave in 2019. Almost 400 million live on less than \$2.15 per day.⁷² Climate change is projected to push an additional 32 to 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030.⁷³

42. Rural poor populations, including small-scale producers and family farmers, experience higher risks and heightened vulnerability to climate change owing to various factors, including their reliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods, fragile infrastructures and limited assets and resources to cope with shocks.⁷⁴ They have the fewest resources to adapt to climate change owing to structural barriers limiting their access to resources, markets, services, technologies and institutional support.⁷⁵

43. Climate change disrupts rural livelihoods by reducing agricultural yields, increasing seasonal variability in water availability, contributing to land degradation and destroying crops and livestock, making it more difficult for poor farmers to earn a decent living and achieve food security and nutrition.⁷⁶ Moreover, heat exposure threatens workers' health, decreases labour productivity and leads to significant income losses.⁷⁷

44. Climate change exacerbates gender inequality. When climate shocks occur and there is an increased demand for family labour, older girls may face a higher risk of being withdrawn from school compared with older boys, with long-term implications for their

⁶⁸ Kevin Hernandez and others, *Towards digital Inclusion in Rural Transformation* (Rome, FAO, 2024).

⁶⁹ Alliance for Financial Inclusion, "Enhancing financial inclusion in rural areas".

⁷⁰ Global System for Mobile Association, *The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2023* (London, 2023).

⁷¹ Hallegatte and Rozenberg, "Climate change through a poverty lens".

⁷² Miki Khanh Doan and others, *Counting People Exposed to, Vulnerable to, or at High Risk from Climate Shocks: A Methodology*, Policy Research Working Paper, No. 10619 (World Bank, 2023).

⁷³ Bramka Arga Jafino and others, "Revised estimates of the impact of climate change on extreme poverty by 2030", Policy Research Working Paper, No. 9417 (World Bank, 2022).

⁷⁴ FAO and Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, *Managing Climate Risks through Social Protection: Reducing Rural Poverty and Building Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods* (Rome, 2019).

⁷⁵ FAO, *The Unjust Climate: Measuring the Impacts of Climate Change on Rural Poor, Women and Youth* (Rome, 2024).

⁷⁶ Cheikh Mbow and others, "Food security", in *Climate Change and Land: An IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems*, Valerie Masson-Delmotte and others, eds. (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2022).

⁷⁷ Marina Romanello and others, "The 2023 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: the imperative for a health-centred response in a world facing irreversible harms", *The Lancet*, vol. 402, No. 10419 (December 2023).

well-being.⁷⁸ Women are more likely than men to work and to work longer, especially on the family farm, in the face of extreme weather events.⁷⁹ Heat stress and floods exacerbate the income disparity between households headed by women and those headed by men. On average, female-headed households lose 8 per cent more of their income from heat stress and 3 per cent more from floods, increasing the income gap across low- and middle-income countries by \$37 billion and \$16 billion per year, respectively.

45. Climatic shocks can lead to higher levels of child labour in the agricultural sector, in particular in poorer communities with inadequate access to insurance or credit.⁸⁰ Evidence shows that higher temperatures have large negative impacts on the education of poor children in agrarian economies and exacerbate existing inequalities in education.⁸¹ Extreme temperatures force children to work an additional 49 minutes per week compared with prime-aged adults, predominantly in off-farm activities.⁸²

46. Persons with disabilities face heightened risks from the adverse effects of climate change, including threats to their health, food security, access to water, energy and sanitation, as well as their livelihoods, especially in developing nations.⁸³

47. Climate change is affecting health by leading to death and illness from increasingly frequent extreme weather events, increases in food-, water- and vector-borne diseases and the disruption of agrifood systems. It can also affect water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in rural areas, highlighting the need for integrating climate resilience into WASH risk management approaches.⁸⁴ Climate change affects food security and nutrition, both directly by affecting crop yields and nutritional quality and indirectly through changes in water availability and quality, as well as pests and diseases, pollination and biodiversity. It also exacerbates food safety risks during transport and storage.⁸⁵

48. Climate-related shocks and disasters are already a leading cause of new displacements worldwide.⁸⁶ Without early and concerted action, by 2050, as many as 216 million people could move within their own countries owing to climate change impacts.⁸⁷ Migration and migrant remittances to those remaining in affected areas can be a form of adaptation to manage climate risks and reduce exposure.⁸⁸ However, migration is not always available, and populations who do not or are not able to

⁷⁸ Peter Agamile and David Lawson, “Rainfall shocks and children’s school attendance: evidence from Uganda”, *Oxford Development Studies*, vol. 49, No. 3 (July 2021); and Martina Björkman-Nyqvist, “Income shocks and gender gaps in education: evidence from Uganda”, *Journal of Development Economics*, vol. 105 (November 2013).

⁷⁹ Gianluigi Nico and Carlo Azzarri, “Weather variability and extreme shocks in Africa: are female or male farmers more affected?”, IFPRI Discussion Paper, No. 02115 (Washington, D.C., International Food Policy Research Institute, 2022); and FAO, *The Unjust Climate*.

⁸⁰ FAO, *The Relations between Climate Change and Child Labour in Agriculture: Evidence on Children’s Work Trends after Climate-Related Events in Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Nepal and Peru* (Rome, 2023).

⁸¹ Teevrat Garg, Maulik Jagnani and Vis Taraz, “Temperature and human capital in India”, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, vol. 7, No. 6 (2020).

⁸² FAO, *The Unjust Climate*.

⁸³ See [A/HRC/44/30](#).

⁸⁴ WHO, *Addressing Climate Change: Supplement to the WHO Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy 2018–2025* (Geneva, 2023).

⁸⁵ Victor Owino and others, “The impact of climate change on food systems, diet quality, nutrition, and health outcomes: a narrative review”, *Frontiers in Climate*, vol. 4 (2022).

⁸⁶ International Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Report on Displacement 2024* (Geneva, 2024).

⁸⁷ Vivian Clement and others, *Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2021).

⁸⁸ Edwin J. Castellanos and others, “Central and South America”, in *Climate Change 2022*, Pörtner and others, eds.

migrate are at risk of becoming “trapped” in locations with heightened vulnerability to environmental shocks and impoverishment.⁸⁹

49. The climate financing required for adapting to, mitigating and addressing loss and damage is inadequate and largely ignores agricultural smallholders, who receive only 1.7 per cent of global climate financing,⁹⁰ with most funding devoted to climate mitigation rather than adaptation efforts.⁹¹ Adaptation financing needs are estimated to be \$215 billion to \$387 billion per year until 2030, and the financing gap is as much as 10 to 18 times greater than current international public adaptation finance flows.⁹² For loss and damage, the economic costs in developing countries was estimated at \$435 billion in 2020 and \$580 billion in 2030.⁹³

50. Climate action needs to be inclusive. Climate mitigation and adaptation measures that lead to price increases of basic goods and inputs and loss of earnings need to be accompanied by adequate compensation to the poor and those in vulnerable situations and by investments in climate adaptation.⁹⁴ Only 1 per cent of climate actions mention the poor and 6 per cent mention women in an analysis of the national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions of 24 countries.⁹⁵ Carbon and biodiversity offset markets require regulatory oversight to ensure that the land-use rights of Indigenous Peoples, smallholders and pastoralists are not undermined.⁹⁶

IV. Eradicating poverty in a changing climate: effective policy and programming strategies

51. Eradicating poverty is achievable: since 2000, extreme poverty has decreased by 20 percentage points. In addition, 25 out of 81 countries (with available data) have halved their multidimensional poverty within 15 years.⁹⁷ In 2025, the Second World Summit for Social Development will present a great opportunity to renew commitments and accelerate progress towards this goal.

52. Eradicating rural poverty is intrinsically linked to transforming food systems towards greater inclusivity and resilience. This connection was highlighted in 2021 at the United Nations Food Systems Summit and is echoed in the collaborative efforts of Rome-based and other United Nations agencies through United Nations country teams to implement integrated approaches for addressing rural poverty.

⁸⁹ IOM, *Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021–2030: For a Comprehensive, Evidence and Rights-Based Approach to Migration in the Context of Environmental Degradation, Climate Change and Disasters, for the Benefit of Migrants and Societies* (Geneva, 2021).

⁹⁰ Daniel Chiriac, Baysa Naran and Angela Falconer, *Examining the Climate Finance Gap for Small-Scale Agriculture* (Rome, IFAD, 2020).

⁹¹ OECD, *Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries in 2013–2022: Climate Finance and the USD 100 Billion Goal* (Paris, 2024).

⁹² United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Adaptation Gap Report 2023: Underfinanced. Underprepared. Inadequate Investment and Planning on Climate Adaptation Leaves World Exposed* (Nairobi, 2023).

⁹³ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), *Taking Responsibility: Towards a Fit-for-Purpose Loss and Damage Fund* (Geneva, 2023), pp. vii and 3.

⁹⁴ Hans Peter Lankes and others, “The relationship between climate action and poverty reduction”, *The World Bank Research Observer*, vol. 39, No. 1 (February 2024).

⁹⁵ FAO, *The Unjust Climate*.

⁹⁶ International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems, *Land Squeeze: What is Driving Unprecedented Pressures on Global Farmland and what Can Be Done to Achieve Equitable Access to Land?* (2024).

⁹⁷ Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and UNDP, “Global multidimensional poverty index 2023”.

53. To address rural poverty concerted strategies must be developed that address the intricate web of economic, environmental, social and institutional challenges that perpetuate it. Education, health care, infrastructure, access to resources, decent work and social protection are all interconnected and must be addressed simultaneously. Integrating climate-resilient approaches into poverty reduction efforts and considering poverty in climate action can create sustainable pathways out of poverty while contributing to mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change and strengthening the resilience of the rural poor.

54. Balancing climate action and poverty reduction interventions can involve trade-offs, such as when the allocation of land for reforestation or renewable energy projects potentially limits its availability for agriculture, especially in impoverished areas.⁹⁸

55. Eliminating extreme poverty would have a negligible impact on global greenhouse gas emissions. Global emissions linked to extreme poverty eradication could lead to a 5 per cent annual increase in global greenhouse gas emissions that can be further offset by 90 per cent through lower inequality, higher energy efficiency and decarbonization of energy.⁹⁹

56. Promoting decent work in agrifood systems can help address rising food insecurity in rural areas and environmental degradation. For there to be decent work, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions must be addressed, in particular for women, who are overrepresented in informal, unpaid and low-paid seasonal or part-time jobs. Informal employment is associated with serious negative effects on the health of women of reproductive age and their children.¹⁰⁰

57. Supporting the development of agro-industrial parks can accelerate rural industrialization and contribute to poverty reduction. Agro-industrial parks can add value to local agricultural production, facilitate linkages to regional and global markets and create jobs for rural communities. Modern industrial policies offer opportunities for developing countries to pursue sustainable agrifood-system transformation, create decent jobs and alleviate rural poverty, while contributing to the global energy transition. Each manufacturing job creates 2.5 jobs on average in other sectors of the economy.¹⁰¹

58. Strengthening the resilience of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the agrifood sector is essential for promoting economic growth and reducing rural poverty. Building sustainable linkages between such enterprises, larger-scale business partners and support institutions can help those enterprises increase their competitiveness through economies of scale, the use of shared services such as industrial parks, and access to training, expertise and knowledge.¹⁰²

59. For many rural households, especially in developing countries, migration is a livelihood strategy to manage risks and increase living standards. When well managed, human mobility can be leveraged to boost rural development, including by filling labour shortages and transferring knowledge, skills and remittances. Around 40 per cent of international remittances are sent to rural areas, where remittance-

⁹⁸ FAO, *Agrifood Systems in NDCs: Global Analysis* (forthcoming).

⁹⁹ Philip Wollburg, Stephane Hallegatte and Daniel Gerszon Mahler, "Ending extreme poverty has a negligible impact on global greenhouse gas emissions", *Nature*, vol. 623 (2023).

¹⁰⁰ Amanda Emma Aronsson and others, "The health consequences of informal employment among female workers and their children: a systematic review", *Globalization and Health*, vol. 19, No. 1 (December 2023).

¹⁰¹ United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), *Industrial Development Report 2024: Turning Challenges into Sustainable Solutions – The New Era of Industrial Policy* (Vienna, 2024).

¹⁰² UNIDO, *Annual Report 2023: Progress by Innovation* (Vienna, 2024).

receiving households can channel these diversified incomes into improved food and nutrition security and enhanced resilience to shocks and stressors.¹⁰³

60. Reducing rural poverty requires the delivery of high-quality education and skills development to rural communities, including adult literacy and training in digital and climate-resilient technologies, vocational training for young people, off-farm employment and green jobs.¹⁰⁴ Higher education can help address malnutrition and poor health. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that, if all adults attained at least primary and secondary education, over 420 million people would escape poverty, thereby reducing the global poverty rate by more than half.¹⁰⁵

61. Investing in rural girls' education can accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment. This will lead to significant other benefits, including improved incomes, food security and nutrition for children and adults, and greater resilience.¹⁰⁶ To achieve sustained improvements in women's empowerment, social norms and institutional barriers that discriminate against women must be addressed.¹⁰⁷

62. Supporting inclusive rural institutions, both formal and informal, including community-based natural resource management associations, producers' organizations, cooperatives and self-help groups, can improve the provision of essential services, especially to those from poor and isolated rural communities.¹⁰⁸ By harnessing the power of collective action, rural men, women and young people can access land and rural advisory services, secure credit, enhance their leadership, create social networks for mutual assistance in the face of climatic risks and shocks, and enable more efficient, harmonious and sustainable natural resource management. However, current evidence suggests that, in most contexts, rural institutions fail to engage marginalized farmers, including younger, less educated and female farmers,¹⁰⁹ especially in decision-making and leadership roles.¹¹⁰

63. Social protection reduces poverty by securing income along the life cycle, facilitating human capital accumulation, safeguarding food security and nutrition, as well as enabling investments in productive activities, including agriculture.¹¹¹ In a sample of 79 countries with available monetary data, social safety net transfers reduced extreme poverty by 36 per cent.¹¹² Social protection in rural areas enables effective risk management, including a reduced need to resort to negative coping

¹⁰³ IFAD, *Sending Money Home: Contributing to the SDGs, One Family at a Time* (Rome, 2017).

¹⁰⁴ Green jobs are decent jobs that reduce the consumption of energy and raw materials, limit greenhouse gas emissions, minimize waste and pollution, protect and restore ecosystems and enable enterprises and communities to adapt to climate change. ILO, *World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with Jobs* (Geneva, 2018).

¹⁰⁵ UNESCO, "Reducing global poverty through universal primary and secondary education", Policy Paper, No. 32, Fact Sheet, No. 44 (Paris, 2017).

¹⁰⁶ FAO, *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems*.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ FAO, "Strengthening rural institutions and empowering people to reduce poverty and inequalities", 2018.

¹⁰⁹ Livia Bizikova and others, "A scoping review of the contributions of farmers' organizations to smallholder agriculture", *Nature Food*, vol. 1 (October 2020).

¹¹⁰ Rose Ingutia and John Sumelius, "Do farmer groups improve the situation of women in agriculture in rural Kenya?", *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*, vol. 25, No. 1 (2022).

¹¹¹ Garima Bhalla and others, "The effects of social protection on economic development", in *Handbook of Social Protection Systems*, Esther Schüring and Markus Loewe, eds. (Cheltenham, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Edward Elgar, 2021); and Juan Sebastian Correa and others, "Social protection and rural transformation in Africa", *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, vol. 15 (2023).

¹¹² World Bank, *The State of Social Safety Nets 2018* (Washington, D.C., 2018).

strategies, such as child labour and reallocation of household resources to more productive uses.¹¹³

64. In the context of climate change, social protection plays a key role in shielding people from climate shocks such as floods and droughts¹¹⁴ and facilitating inclusive climate adaptation and mitigation.¹¹⁵ Tying benefits to environmentally sustainable practices can directly support emission reductions. Moreover, social protection programmes can help cushion the adverse effects of climate mitigation policies by offering cash transfers, unemployment benefits and reskilling opportunities to ease workforce transitions.¹¹⁶ Directing more international climate finance towards expanding and strengthening inclusive, climate-adaptive social protection systems will be crucial in bridging this gap.¹¹⁷

65. Secure land rights are critical for empowering smallholders, especially women, who often face significant barriers to land ownership. Women's land ownership and secure tenure rights are associated with significant benefits, including greater adoption of technologies, improved agricultural productivity and incomes, participation in producer organizations and cooperatives, enhanced resilience and natural resources management, as well as better nutrition, health and food security for women and their families.¹¹⁸

66. Recognizing and respecting Indigenous Peoples' rights as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular their right to self-determined development and free, prior and informed consent, is a prerequisite for inclusive and effective rural development policy. This includes the recognition of their self-governance systems and institutions, their intellectual rights and data sovereignty, and that Indigenous Peoples are knowledge holders. When Indigenous Peoples have secure rights over their lands and natural resources, deforestation rates decrease, carbon storage increases, biodiversity is preserved and more people benefit compared with lands managed by public or private entities.¹¹⁹

67. Reducing poverty in the context of climate change requires channelling finance to smallholders and family farmers. Well-targeted financial products integrated with other support services, such as training, and tailored to the specific needs of poor rural populations can help smooth household consumption, thereby reducing the distress

¹¹³ Silvio Daidone and others, "The household and individual-level productive impacts of cash transfer programmes in sub-Saharan Africa", *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, vol. 101, No. 5 (October 2019); and Nyasha Tirivayi, Marco Knowles and Benjamin Davis, "The interaction between social protection and agriculture: a review of evidence", *Global Food Security*, vol. 10 (September 2016).

¹¹⁴ FAO and Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, *Managing Climate Risks through Social Protection*; and ILO, "Social protection for a just transition", January 2023.

¹¹⁵ Garima Bhalla and others, *Scoping Review on the Role of Social Protection in Facilitating Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation for Economic Inclusion among Rural Populations* (Rome, FAO, 2024); and Cecilia Costella and others, "Can social protection tackle risks emerging from climate change, and how? A framework and a critical review", *Climate Risk Management*, vol. 40 (2023).

¹¹⁶ Katrin Gasior and others, *The Role of Social Protection for a Just Transition in Developing and Emerging Economies* (Bonn, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, 2024).

¹¹⁷ USP 2030 Working Group on Social Protection and Climate Change, joint statement on directing international climate finance to social protection, 2023.

¹¹⁸ Ruth Meinzen-Dick and others, "Women's land rights as a pathway to poverty reduction: framework and review of available evidence", *Agricultural Systems*, vol. 172 (June 2019).

¹¹⁹ Wael Zakout and Andy White, "Community land rights: an untapped solution to secure climate, biodiversity, and development goals", World Bank blogs, 6 November 2019.

sale of assets, keeping children and adolescents, especially girls, in school and thus helping to mitigate the intergenerational transmission of poverty.¹²⁰

68. However, around 70 per cent of the global demand for smallholder finance is estimated to remain unmet.¹²¹ Only 19 per cent of the world's smallholder population currently has access to some type of agricultural insurance – with the largest gap in South and South-East Asia, where three-quarters of uninsured smallholders reside.¹²² This is despite increasing evidence of the effectiveness of instruments such as index-based insurances in providing protection to small-scale crop producers and pastoralists for losses caused by various factors, including climate change.¹²³

69. Climate-resilient technologies – such as drought-resistant crops, conservation agriculture, water harvesting, drip irrigation, solar power, improved feed and breeding programmes, and agroforestry – can contribute to rural poverty reduction by enhancing resilience, improving productivity, conserving scarce resources and creating sustainable livelihoods.

70. Energy-smart agrifood systems are essential to improve how food is produced, traded and consumed. Investments in energy-smart agrifood system solutions can directly advance energy and food security, while also contributing to green jobs, gender equality, low-carbon technologies and climate resilience and adaptation.¹²⁴

71. Clean energy solutions in agrifood systems can contribute to diminishing pollution and alleviating the significant health toll, especially on women and children, associated with traditional cooking methods using open fires or stoves fuelled by kerosene, biomass or coal.¹²⁵ It is estimated that approximately 3.8 million individuals suffer premature deaths from illnesses attributable to household air pollution caused by using solid fuels and kerosene for cooking purposes.¹²⁶

72. Digital technologies, especially when inclusive and gender-responsive, hold promises in reducing rural poverty, by enabling access to financial services, expanding employment opportunities, increasing market information and promoting inclusivity.¹²⁷ Digital technologies can help smallholder and family farmers manage risks associated with climate variability or gain access to microcredit and financial services to support investments in climate-resilient technologies and practices.

73. In order to improve the targeting of interventions and monitor progress in reducing rural poverty, high-quality data are needed. Yet national household surveys are not available or not implemented regularly in all countries, in particular in fragile and conflict-affected settings.¹²⁸ It is also challenging to collect data on certain population groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, nomadic pastoralists, migrants, internally displaced persons or people living in remote and sparsely populated areas.

¹²⁰ Howard Miller, Laskhmi Krishnan and Lucciana Alvarez Ruiz, “Green inclusive finance: a framework for understanding how financial services can help low-income and vulnerable people respond to climate change”, Centre for Financial Inclusion, January 2023.

¹²¹ Alliance for Financial Inclusion, “Enhancing financial inclusion in rural areas”.

¹²² ISF Advisors, “Protecting growing prosperity: agricultural insurance in the developing world”, September 2018.

¹²³ UNEP, *Adaptation Gap Report 2023*, p. XVIII; and Committee on World Food Security, policy recommendations.

¹²⁴ International Renewable Energy Agency and FAO, *Renewable Energy for Agri-Food Systems: Towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement* (Abu Dhabi and Rome, 2021).

¹²⁵ Adina Rom, Isabel Günther and Dina Pomeranz, *Decreasing Emissions by Increasing Energy Access? Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment on Off-Grid Solar Lights* (2023).

¹²⁶ WHO, “Household air pollution”, 15 December 2023.

¹²⁷ Cristi Spulbar and others, “Digitalization as a factor in reducing poverty and its implications in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic”, *Sustainability*, vol. 14, No. 17 (2022).

¹²⁸ Paul Corral and others, *Fragility and Conflict: On the Front Lines of the Fight against Poverty* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2020).

More inclusive and participatory approaches to data collection and advances in digital technologies can be leveraged to close these gaps. Geospatial data and geographic information system technologies allow users to create more detailed poverty maps to aid in better responding to needs and vulnerabilities in the context of climate change.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

74. Ending rural poverty and combating climate change are interconnected goals that cannot be achieved in isolation. In support of integrated, transformative and sustainable rural development planning, Member States may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) Develop and implement, in close collaboration and consultation with the communities involved, comprehensive human rights-based policies that address both rural poverty and climate change, protecting rural communities from shocks and increasing their resilience to future crises. Human rights-based approaches to poverty eradication promote dignity, agency and the well-being of all individuals and communities;

(b) Boost climate finance for rural areas to enhance adaptation across sectors, including agriculture, water and sanitation, energy, tourism, housing, waste management, roads and transport and public services, such as health care, education and social protection;

(c) Ensure that climate mitigation policies such as carbon pricing are in line with the principle of climate justice, respect human rights and do not take place at the expense of the livelihoods and food security of rural populations, including Indigenous Peoples, artisanal fishers, forests dwellers and nomadic pastoralists, among others. Efficiency considerations in minimizing the cost for carbon capture should not outweigh equity considerations;

(d) Support small-scale food producers and family farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices to improve productivity while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This could include enabling access to crop varieties that are suitable to changing environmental conditions, supporting the diversification of agricultural production, assistance with implementing climate-resilient farming techniques, integrated soil and water management, and integrated pest management;

(e) Support the diversification of livelihoods and economic activities that create opportunities for decent work and formal employment. This includes promoting value chain development across all stages, from production to distribution, ensuring inclusivity of diverse rural populations, improved working conditions and sustainability;

(f) Adopt a systems approach that emphasizes synergies across multiple sectors to address the diverse constraints experienced by the rural poor. This will require expanding financial inclusion, education and skills training, and promoting livelihoods and green jobs for rural communities, including young people, women and other groups in situations of vulnerability and marginalization. It also includes expanding social protection coverage and adequacy, as robust social protection systems build resilience and human capital. Such measures can help to manage climate risks, promote economic inclusion and facilitate livelihood and work transitions;

(g) Make social protection systems “shock responsive”, including for climate shocks, by using climate vulnerability assessments, increasing transfer

levels to address climate or other shock impacts, customizing benefit packages for facilitating adaptation and mitigation, and integrating with disaster risk management strategies and anticipatory action programmes;

(h) Invest in sustainable infrastructure, including digital infrastructure, to improve resilience to climate change and enhance access to essential services such as health care, education, clean water and sanitation, irrigation, climate information, extension services and markets. Improved infrastructure can reduce drudgery, especially for women and girls, increase labour productivity, enhance market access, create decent jobs and improve overall living standards;

(i) Promote policies to expand access to land and secure tenure rights of small-scale producers, with a focus on achieving gender equality in both statutory and customary land tenure systems. This implies actively integrating international guidance like the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, alongside relevant human rights instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. These guidelines prescribe principles and good practices for Governments, civil society and the private sector to ensure secure and equitable access to land for all, with a specific focus on promoting women's land rights and empowering them as key actors in food security;

(j) Recognize the important role and contribution of rural women and those living in remote and maritime areas in the eradication of poverty and in enhancing sustainable agricultural and rural development, as well as sustainable fisheries. In keeping with the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women, continued and scaled-up efforts are required to ensure women's access to economic opportunities, productive resources, quality education, health care and support services across the life course, while facilitating their full, equal and meaningful participation in the design, implementation and follow-up of policies and activities that affect their livelihoods, health, well-being and resilience;

(k) Recognize and strengthen Indigenous Peoples' rights to communal lands, territories and resources, as well as to self-determined development through an integrated approach within the human rights framework, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the free, prior and informed consent enshrined in the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). Protect and support their food and knowledge systems and livelihoods, which are crucial for ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation. This entails working with Indigenous Peoples and their organizations as equal partners, co-creating initiatives and directing investments on the basis of their own preferences and aspirations;

(l) Strengthen rural institutions that empower local community members to participate meaningfully in decision-making and governance processes relevant to local development and implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. This includes allocating resources for capacity strengthening, gender transformative approaches and participatory processes.