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# **URBANIZATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**Bachelor thesis**

**Prague 2007**

**Thesis supervisor: RNDr. Josef Novotný, Ph.D.**

# Aims and hypotheses

## Aims:

- To evaluate the state and trends of urbanization in developing countries
- To define the problem of urbanization of poverty

## Hypotheses:

- Poverty threat moves from rural areas to the cities
- Rural poverty is still perceived as a prevalent problem, even in the poverty reduction strategies

# Current situation

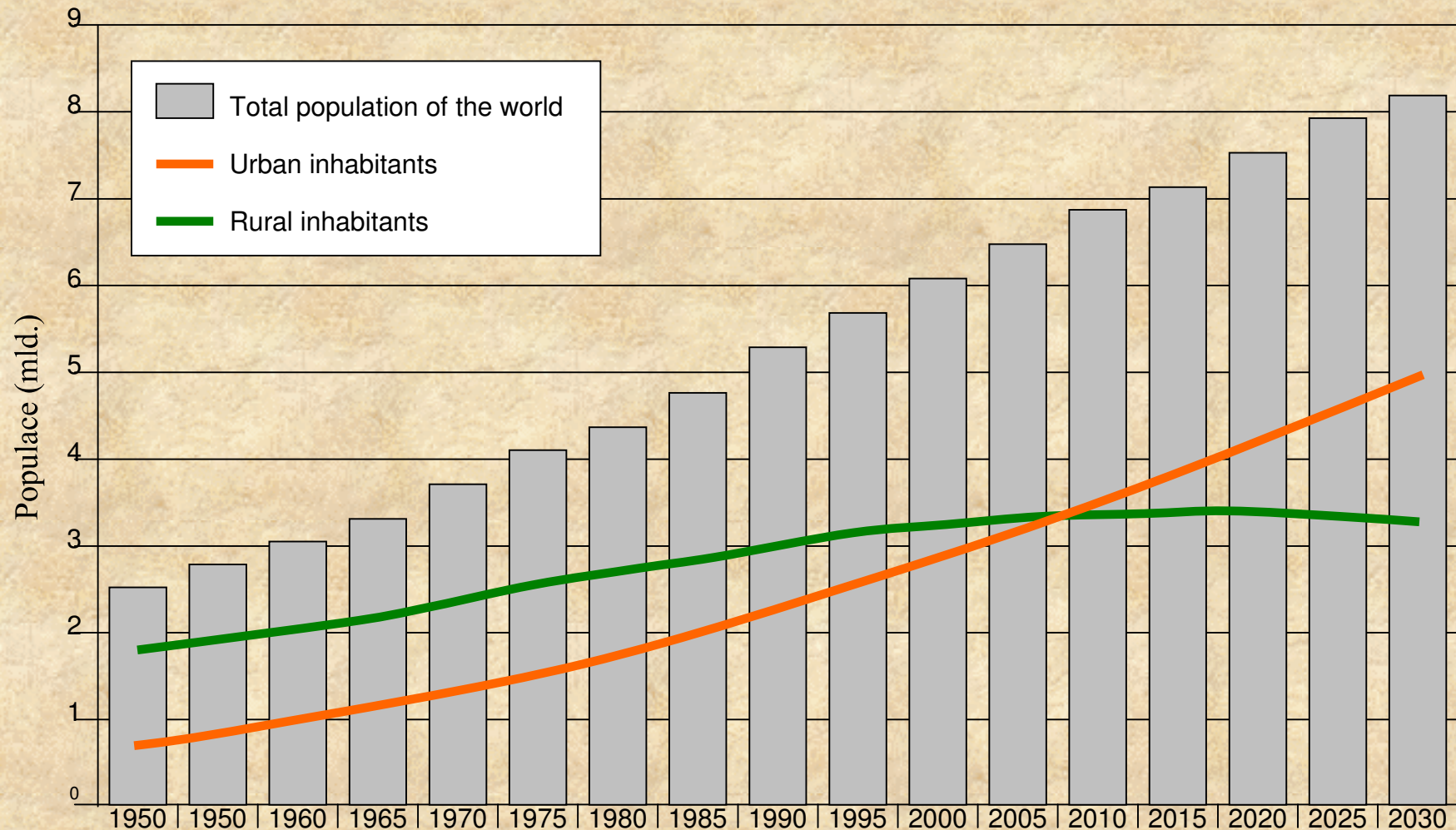
- There are substantial changes in the poverty in developing countries at the edge of the millennium
- Quick urbanization keeps bringing a larger part of the poverty into the cities
- The usual idea of flourishing cities and poor countryside is becoming a myth
- The situation of poor city inhabitants is in many cases even worse than in rural areas, although the statistical data may not reveal this

# Structure and content

1. Urbanization in the global context
2. Poverty definition and characteristics of the particular issues of urban poverty
3. The urban poverty reduction efforts

# Total population of the World

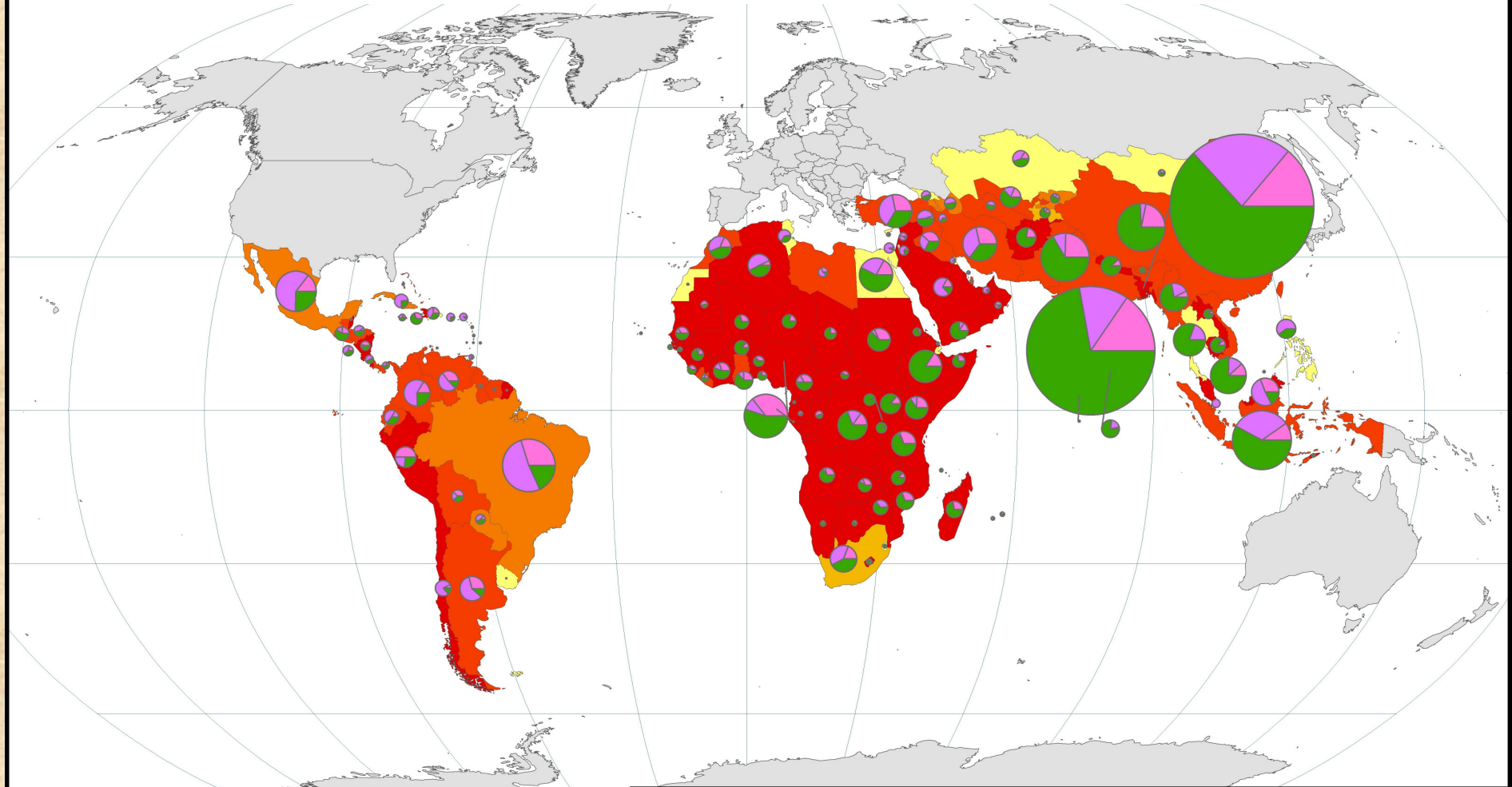
1950-2030



Sourcej: UNDP, World Urbanization Prospects, 2005 Revision

# Slum population

Share of the slum population by countries



**Zdvojnásobení počtu obyvatel ve slumech (v letech)**

- 2 - 25
- 26 - 80
- 81 - 250
- 251 - 999
- Nezvyšuje se
- Bez slumů, chybí data

**Základní dělení obyvatelstva (pouze státy nad 100 tis. obyvatel)**

- Slumy
- Ostatní ve městech
- Venkovské obyvatelstvo



Velikost kartodiagramu odpovídá počtu obyvatel

Zdroj dat: UN-HABITAT 2003

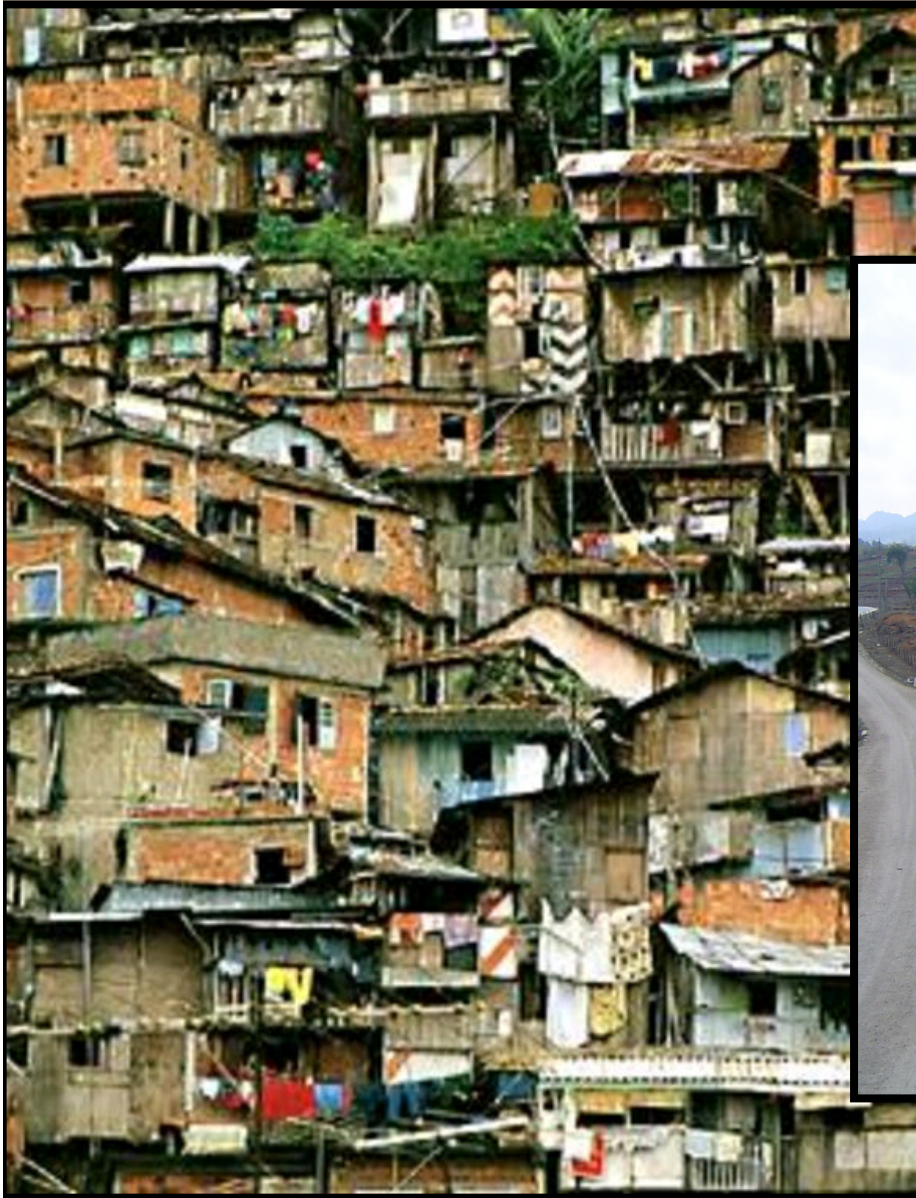
# Urban poverty analysis

## Poverty measurement and available data

- Problematic 1\$/day income limit
- The urban data are often not representative
- There are still problems even if the poor urban inhabitants' data is differentiated from the other

## Vulnerability of the poor urban inhabitants

## Slum in Ciudad de México



Source: World 66 (2006)

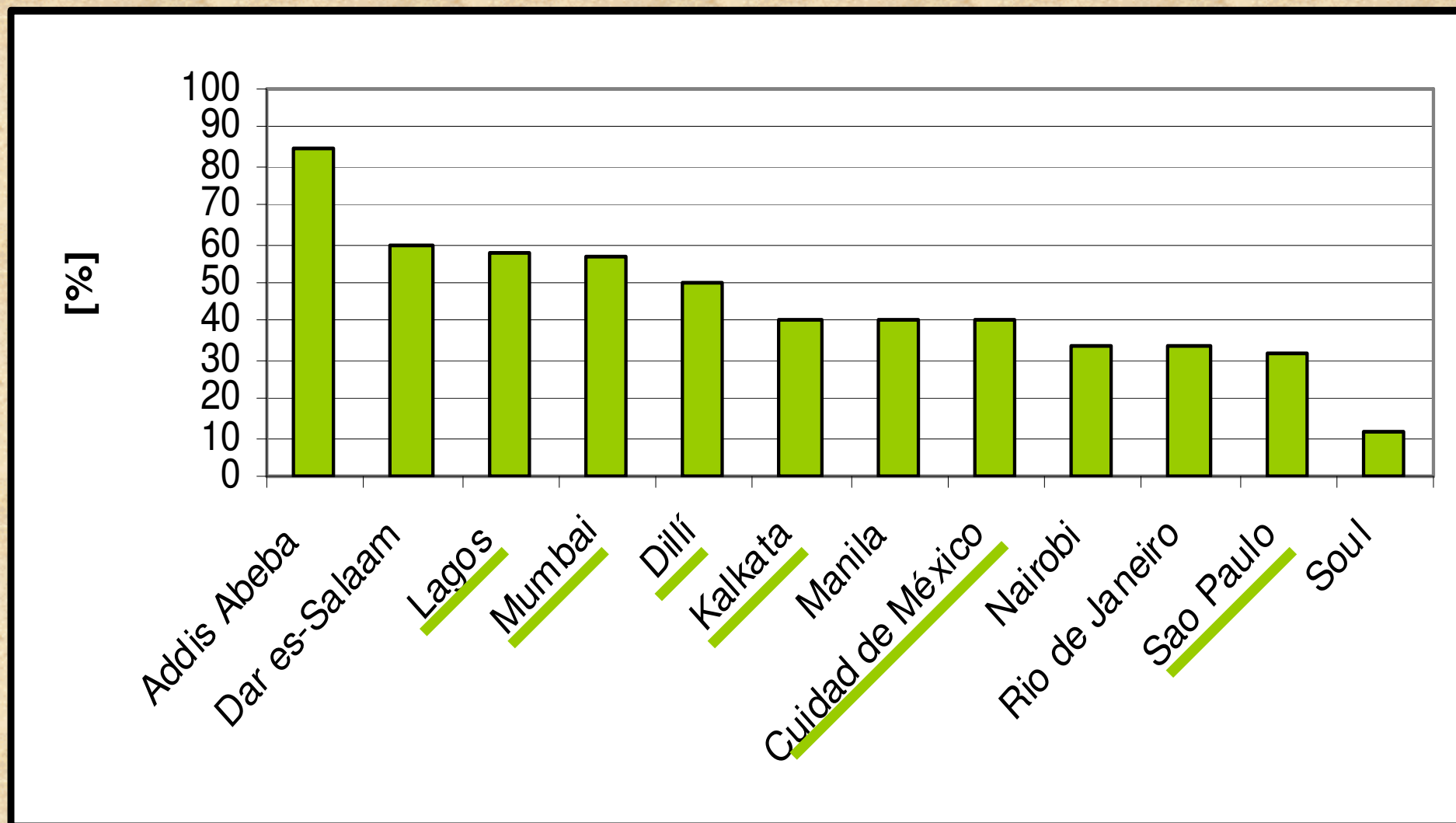
Rural area of the poorest Mexican state Chiapas



Source: Author's archive



# Share of the urban population living in slums



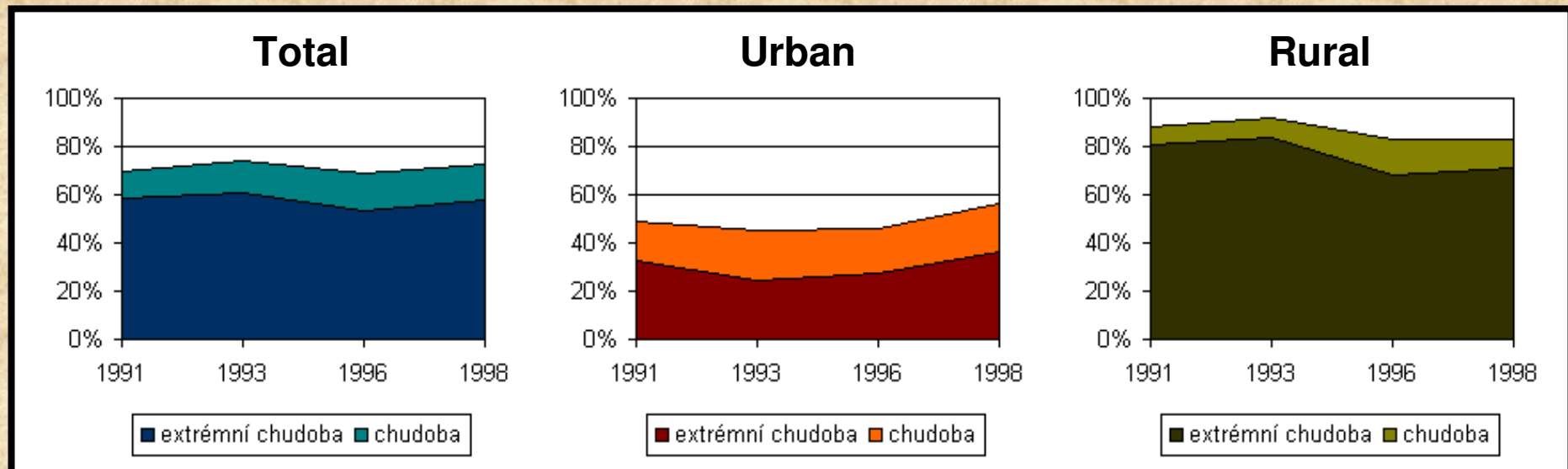
Source: United Nations (2005)

# PRSP and the urban poverty

- The problem is described
- It is the first step to understand the importance and threat of the urban poverty
- Absolutely necessary for the future steps

# Zambia

## Total and extreme poverty in Zambia by urban and rural population



# SWOT analysis of the PRSP

## Strengths

- Differentiation of the rural and urban poverty
- Pointing out the urban problems and regular researches
- Poverty measurement tries to deal with the urban-rural differences

## Opportunities

- Better understanding of the situation and urban poverty context
- Setting a different limit for the urban and rural poverty
- Better strategy setting for the urban poverty reduction

## Weaknesses

- Weak reflection of the urban-rural differences in reality
- Statistical data deliver only average urban data
- Prevalent material focus not dealing with psychical and social dimension of the poverty

## Threats

- Wrong evaluation of the urban statistical data
- Escalating of the situation in cities due to the high urbanization rate
- Rigid poverty help targeted at rural areas

# Summary

- Urban poverty is a substantial problem due to the high urbanization rate of poor
- The situation of poor inhabitants of slums is often worse than in rural areas
- Despite these findings, the rural areas gain more attention and resources

**Thank you for your attention**