



YOUTH AND THE ECONOMY : PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

Outline



- Who are ‘The Youths’?
- How do they make a living?
- What challenges do they face?
- What are the possibilities for progress?

Who are they 'Youth'



- Young people represent the majority of the Sudan's population **0-24 years: 63.07%**
- They are not a monolith – the category shouldn't be generalized.
- What features do they share? Beyond their age? How significant is their age in deciding their economic situation?

• Source : Sudan – Country Profile.

How do they make a living?



- Youth Unemployment between 1991- 2018 has hovered around 27-31 percent
- Youth Unemployment 33.8%
- Percentage of people living in poverty is about 46%.
- Source: World development indicators & National Household Survey

How do they make a living

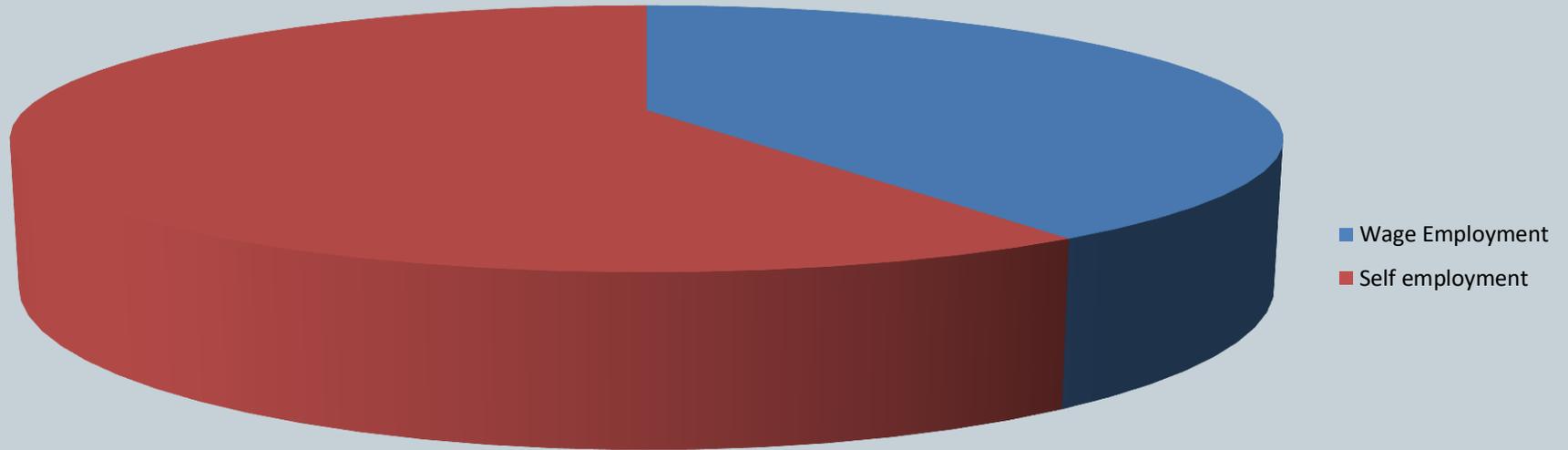


- Illiteracy rate 53%
- Labor force participation rates : Urban 56% M 22% F
Rural 62% M 27% F (2011)

How do they make a living?



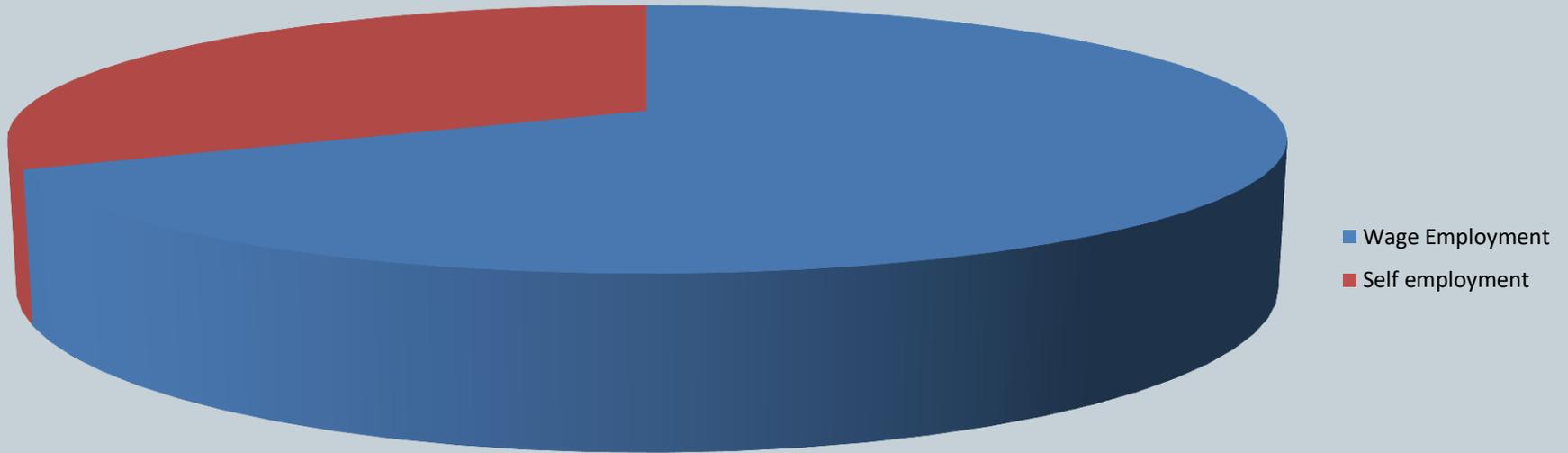
Rural



How do they make a living?



Urban



How do they make a living?



- Employment by main sectors.
- Agriculture: 47%
- Industry: 7.2%
- Extraction: 1.3% (very old mining is now 10 times more than this and employs about 5 million people)
- Source: National Household survey

What Challenges do they face



- Lack of opportunities – low investment in productive sectors , poor infrastructure, short-termism
- Political repression
- War (Young people in Darfur , South Kordofan are more likely to be in poverty)
- Climate Change

What possibilities for progress



- Analysis of underlying issues (beyond buzzwords and INGO agendas)
- Over-hauling the Sudanese economy.
- Long term economic planning that involves (private sector and public sector) moving away from rentier economy.
- Strong protection for labour rights (health care – fair pay – development)

Conclusion



- What is the role of youth – its very simple they are productive and therefore they are an ‘economic asset’
- What is more important is – what is the relationship that young people have with the economy as a whole and how is that relationship affected by politics (internal, regional and, international) and social norms etc.