An Employment Approach to Poverty Reduction in Ghana

The Informal Economy in Ghana: a Comparative Perspective.

24 October 2005, Accra.

Employment for Poverty Reduction

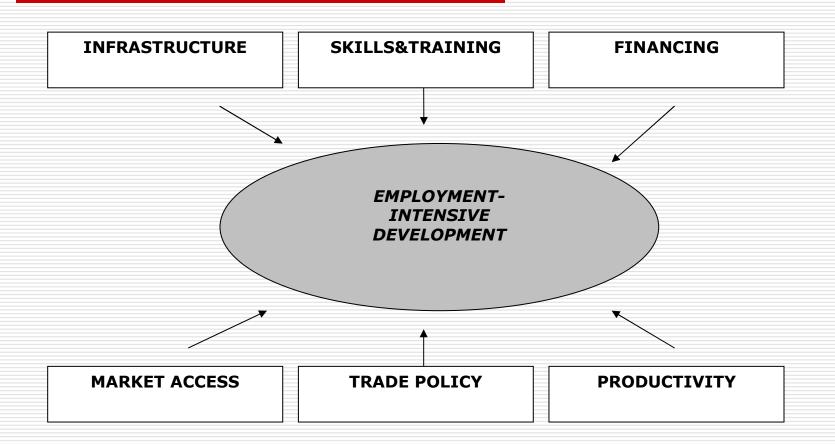
- Growth Component
 - Growth is necessary but not sufficient
 - "Jobless growth" and informalization.
- Employment Component
 - Ensure that growth generates new employment opportunities
 - "Working poor" the type of employment matters
- Poverty Focus

Making Growth "Pro-Employment"

Some challenges to employment creation in Ghana:

- Infrastructure and public investment
- Access to markets
- Financial sector
- Macroeconomic management
- Labour force information
- Policy coordination

Policy Coordination



Making Employment "Pro-Poor"

- Priority Areas in Ghana
 - Agricultural employment
 - Informal employment
 - Labor-intensive formal employment
- Particular Focus
 - Youth employment
 - Women's employment

Making Employment "Pro-Poor"

- Better understanding of the segmented labour force in Ghana
 - Education & skills
 - Financial markets
 - Social norms and networks
- Raising returns to labour
 - Labour is the productive resource the poor command in abundance
 - Improving poor workers' "terms of trade" will reduce poverty (infrastructure, markets, cooperatives)

Making Employment "Pro-Poor"

- Designing appropriate social protections
 - Are informal workers covered? Are the policies appropriate?
- Improved understanding of the links among household dynamics, gender, and the risk of poverty for working people.