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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik

German Development
Institute

Session 1:
The need for a new global development agenda

Introduction:

What is good about the MDGs and what is bad...

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German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

International research workshop

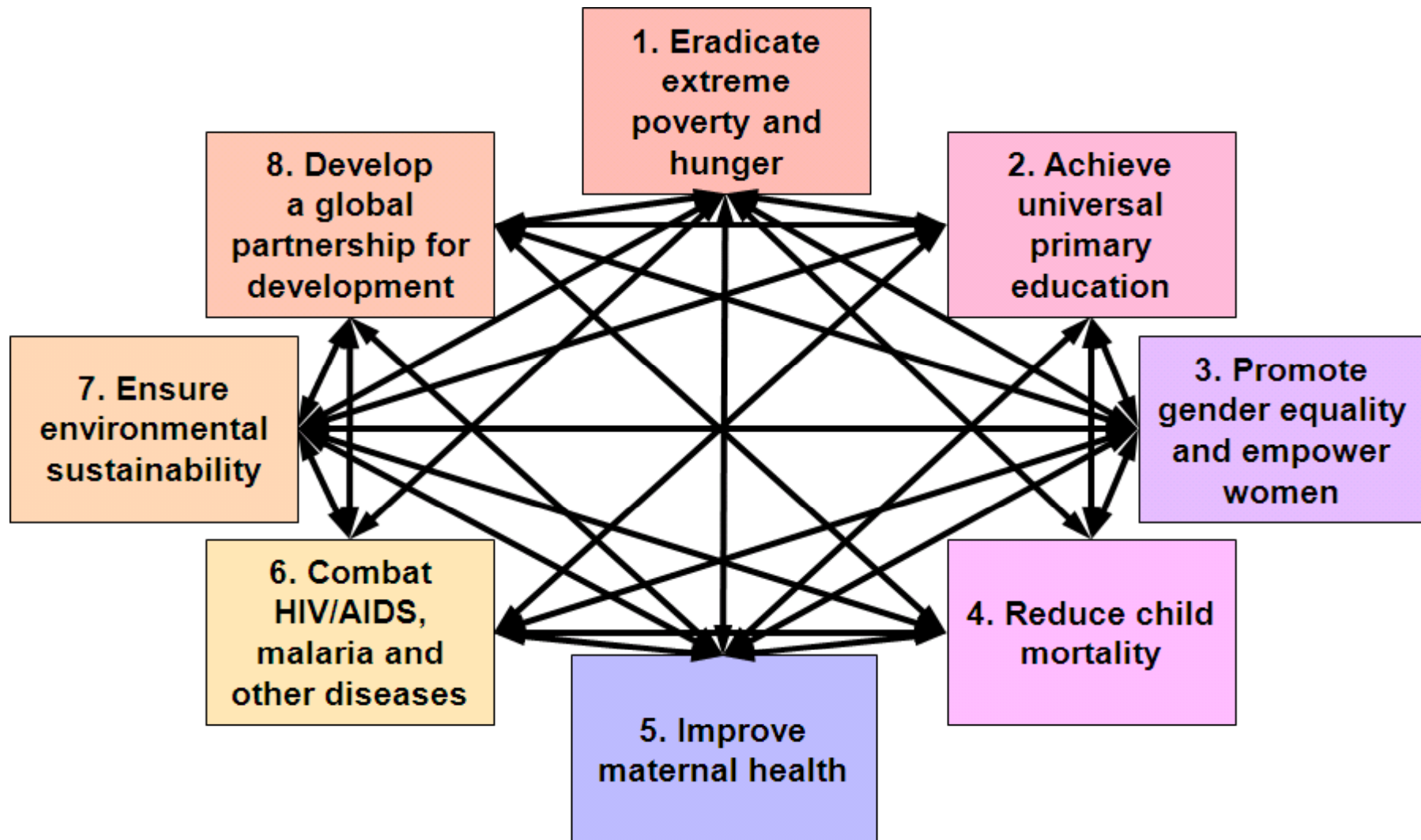
The Millennium Goals and Beyond:

Reflections on an International Development Policy Agenda after 2015

German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE),

Bonn, 21 - 22 November 2011

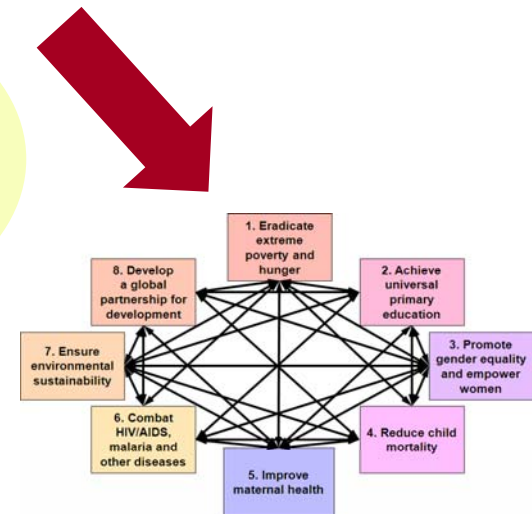
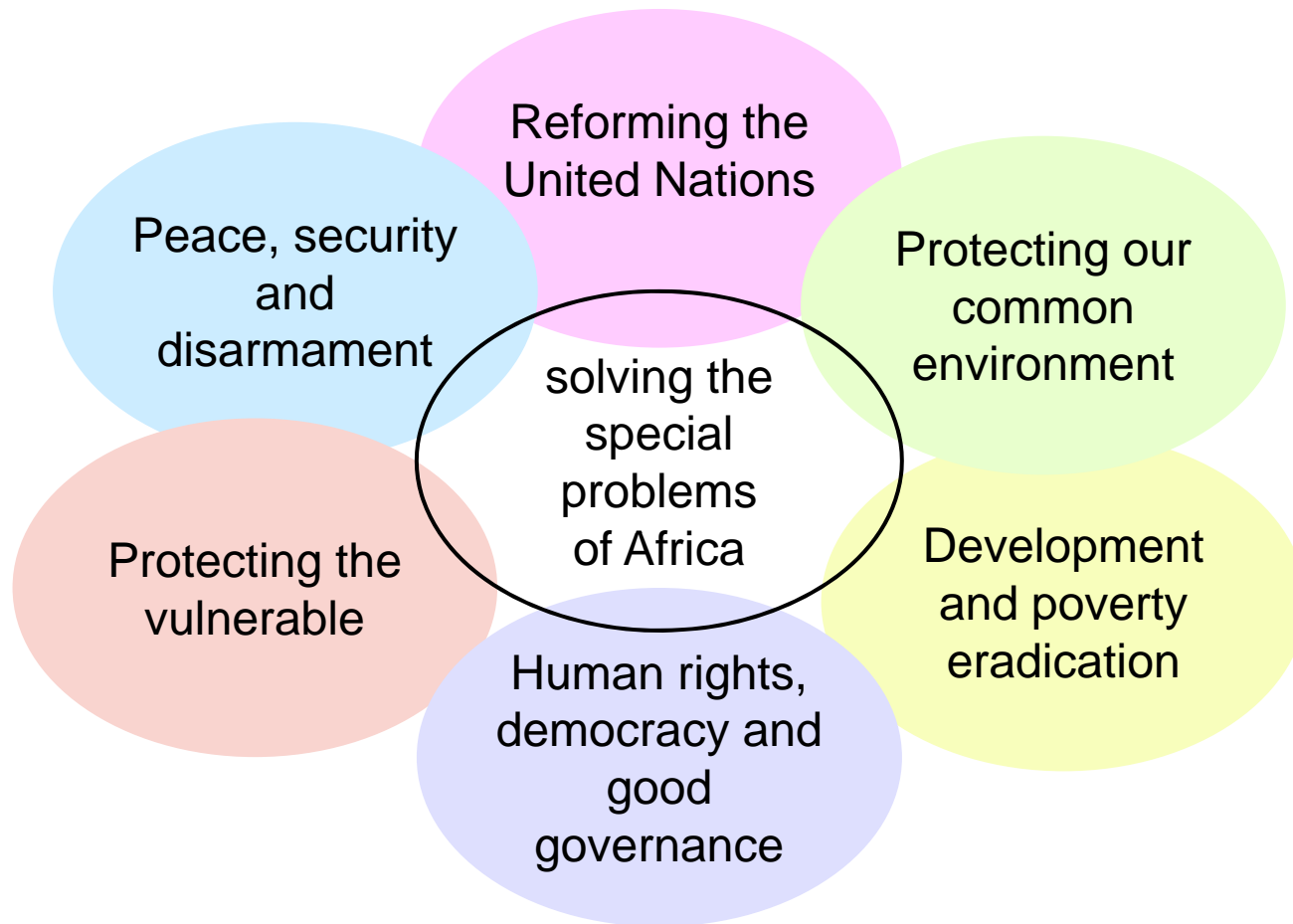
Millennium Development Goals



Millennium Development Goals



The Millennium Declaration (2000):



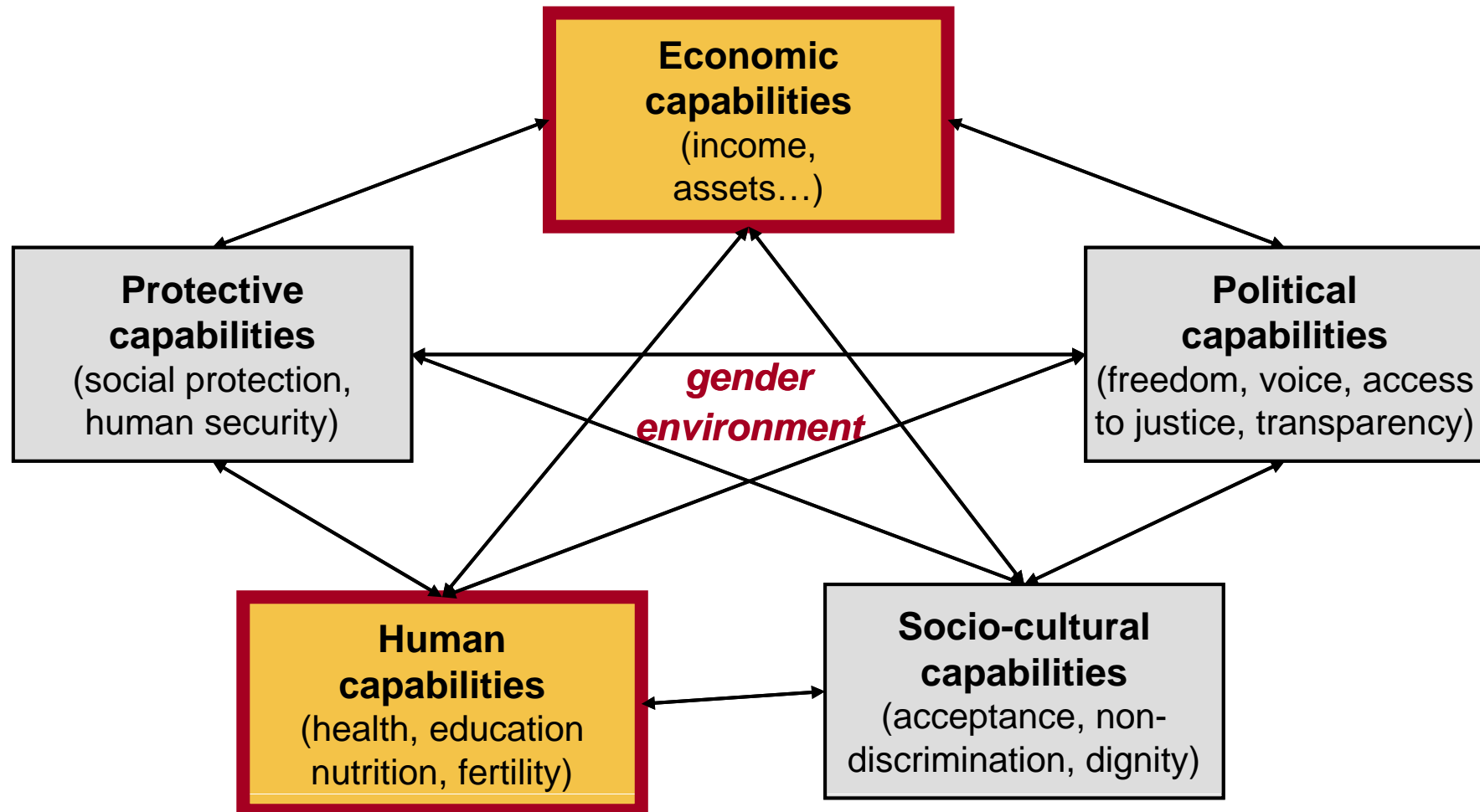
1. Defective goal system!



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Leaves out many goals already agreed at earlier conferences:

E.g. the Dakar Framework for Action (2000)

- (i) expanding and improving comprehensive **early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children**;
- (ii) **ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality**;
- (iii) ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through **equitable access** to appropriate learning and life skills programmes;
- (iv) achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults;
- (v) **eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015**, with a focus on ensuring **girls' full and equal access** to and achievement in basic education of good quality
- (vi) improving all aspects of the **quality of education** and ensuring excellence of all so that **recognized and measurable learning outcomes** are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

2. Neglect qualitative aspects!



MDG2: covers **school enrolment**,
while neglecting **quality and relevance of education**

MDG4&5: measure **child and maternal mortality rates**,
but not **morbidity rates**
or the **quality of life of disabled people**

MDG7: includes reduction of biodiversity loss
but not **prevention of climate change**

...

3. Inconsistencies!



MDG2: primary school enrolment:	reach a level
MDG3: gender equality:	reach a level
MDG1: reduction of income poverty:	relative change
MDG4: reduction of child mortality:	relative change
MDG7: access to improved water:	relative change of inverse indicator
MDG7: slum dwellers:	absolute change

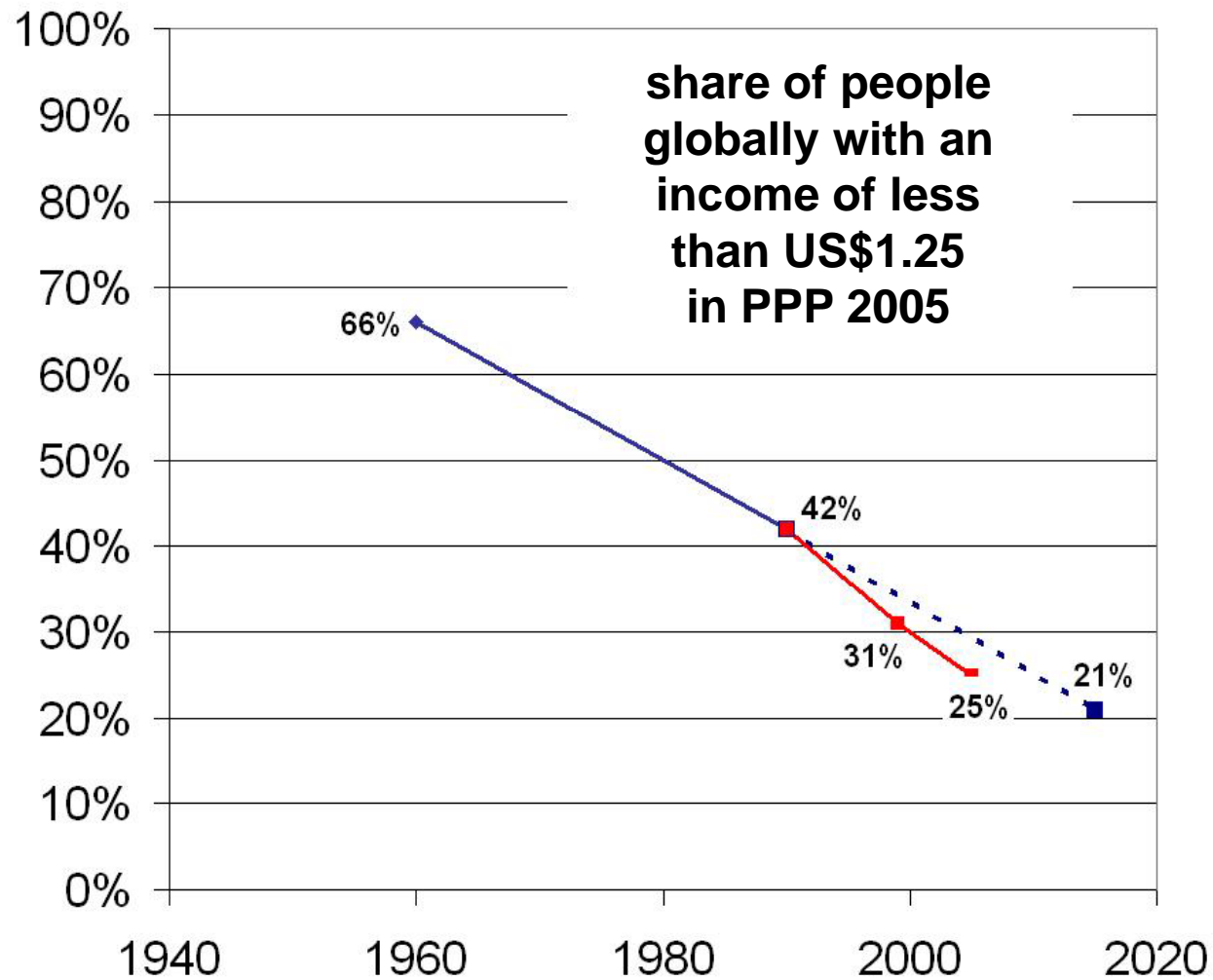
3. Inconsistencies!



MDG1: reduction of income poverty:	outcome level
MDG2: primary school enrolment:	outcome level
MDG4: reduction of child mortality:	impact level
MDG6: reduction of infectious diseases:	impact level
MDG8: access to modern technologies:	output level
MDG8: availability of essential drugs:	output level



4. Some goals are under-ambitious!

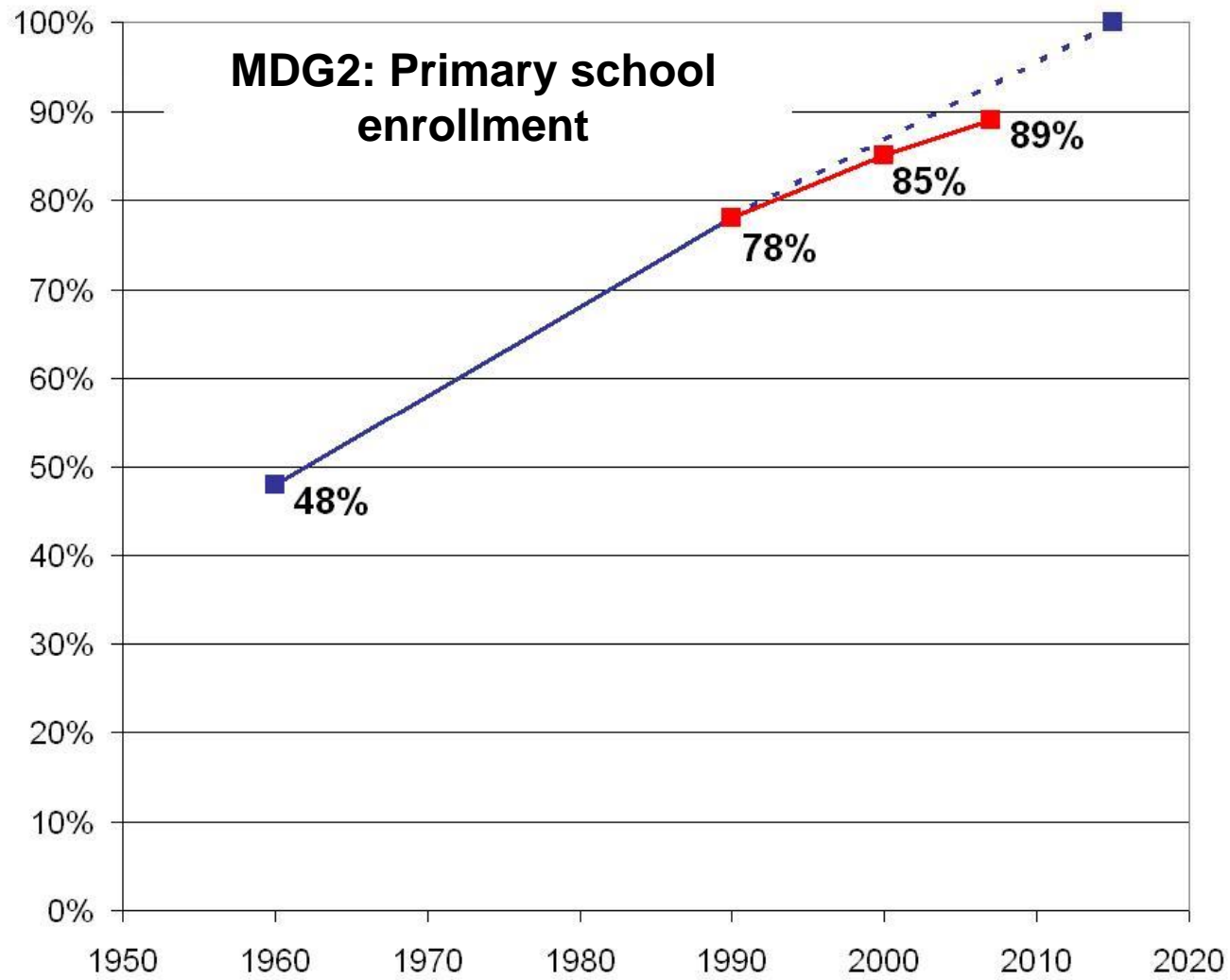


4. Some goals are under-ambitious!



Source	Goal	Baseline	Goal	Annual change required
World Food Summit 1996	“ ... reducing the number of under-nourished people to half their present level no later than 2015”	1996: 800 m 14%	2015: 400 m 5.5%	- 3.6%
Millennium Declaration 2000	“Halve, by the year 2015, ... the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”	2000: 820 m 13%	2015: 470 m 6.5%	-3.6%
MDGs 2001	“ Halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”	1990: 840 m 16%	2015: 580 m 8%	-2.5%

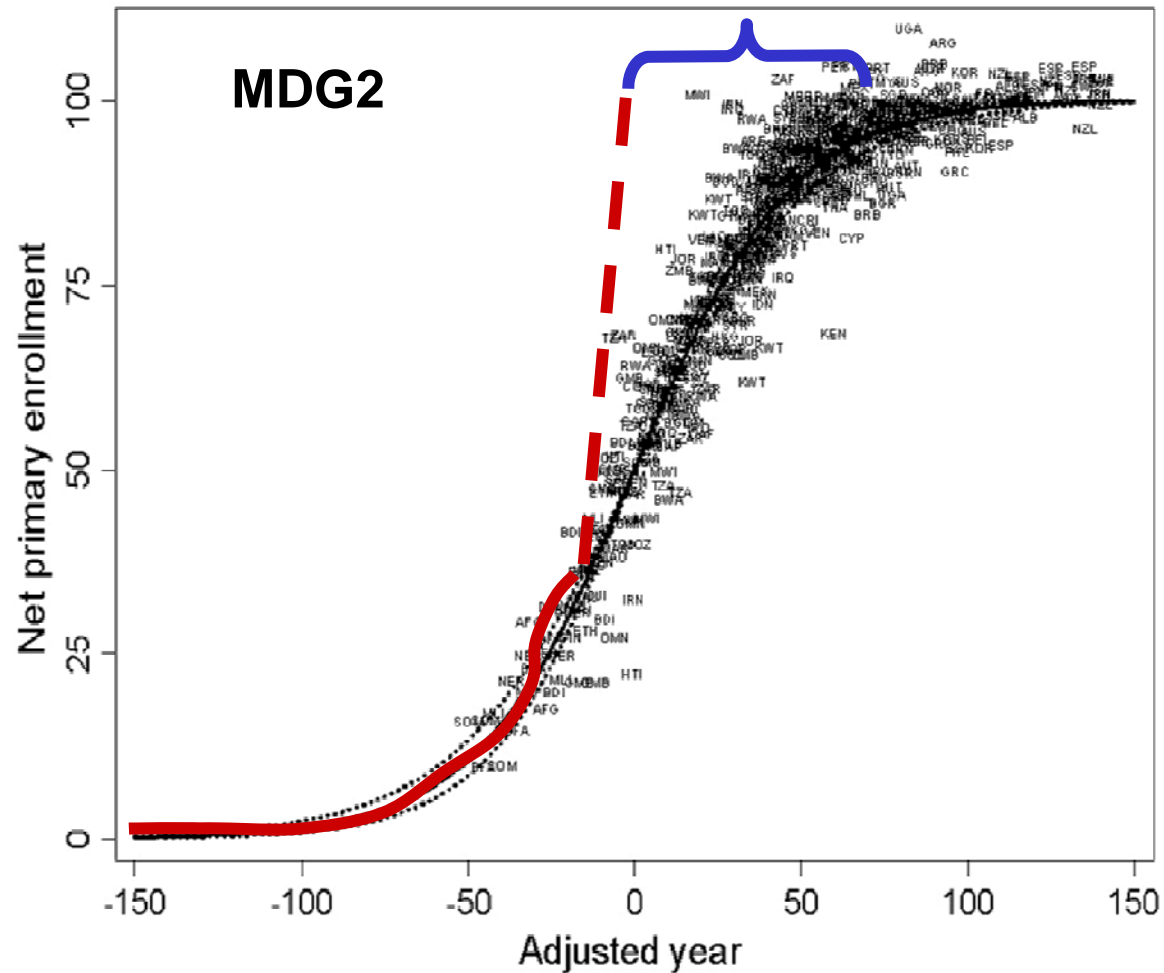
5. Other goals are unrealistic!



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at least 50 years earlier



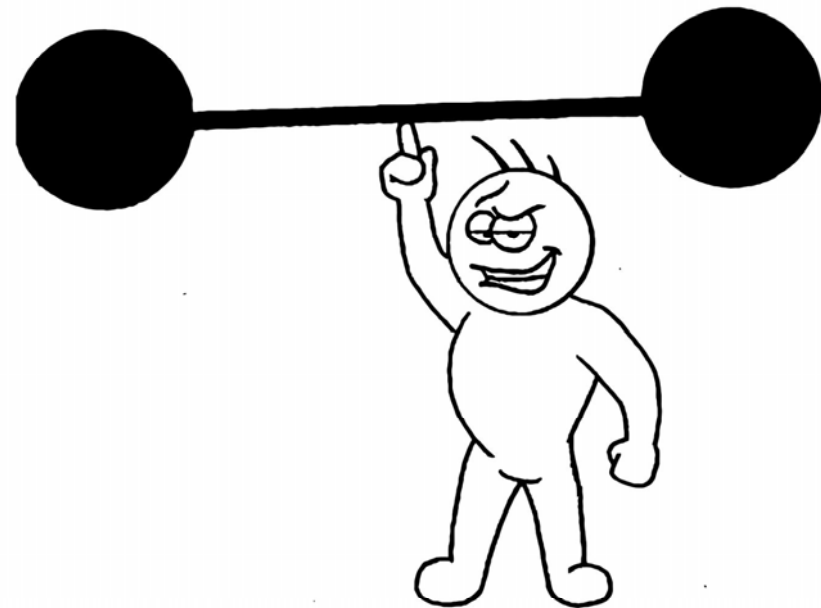
6. Most goals neglect distributive effects



- no indicators for extent of **relative poverty, inequality, vulnerability, empowerment of the poor, social justice, non-discrimination...**
- only 1 indicator under MDG1 captures an aspect of income distribution: **“share of poorest quintile in consumption”**
- **MDG2 calls for universal access to basic education, but not “free access to education”** (Dakar Plan for Action 2000)
- **MDGs 4, 5 and others call for improvements in mean values, thereby ignoring who benefits from progress:**
many governments are thus tempted to reduce child and maternal mortality rates among those who enjoy already a below-average propensity to die at young age and at delivery (urban groups) because progress among them costs less



**What than
are the strengths
of the MDGs?**





1. Development consensus:

- agreed upon by all UN member countries and all relevant international organisations

[admittedly only a narrow compromise on a couple of development issues]

- reference for joint efforts and contributions

=> **allows for more effective co-operation:**

donor alignment,
harmonisation of bi- and multilateral donors,
coherence of donor policies,

=> **synergies**



2. Results-based and time-bound:

- impacts matter rather than inputs
- MDGs call for concrete achievements in time
 - aid effectiveness and efficiency
 - timely, impact-oriented action
- no strategy!
no one-size-fits-all-solution
 - some consider this as a weakness and call for an implementation plan
 - developing countries design their own implementation strategies



3. Easy to understand, easy to remember, easy to accept:

- MDGs are plausible and close to people's day-to-day lives
- good for directing public attention in rich countries to the problems of the developing world and
- good for mobilising societies in developed and developing countries and for pushing governments for the
 - => mobilisation of additional energies and resources for international development



**Which questions
have to be answered
when we discuss
on a new global
development
framework for
beyond 2015?**



Questions to be answered



1. **Should we have another global development agenda at all?**
 - Should it have **explicit targets**?
 - Should it have **measurable targets** ?



2. What should the purpose of a new agenda be?

- Should it establish a **point of reference with realistic targets?**
Or be the **picture of a better world** that we strive for but will probably not reach in the near future?
- Should it mirror the **possible range of consensus?**
Or **cover all relevant fields** of global development even if there is no consensus on some of the goals?
- Should it rather be a **tool of policy planning**, improving alignment and promoting co-operation?
Or a **benchmark for evaluating progress?**



3. What should be the range of a new agenda?

- Should it continue to be about **sustainable human development**?
Or aspire to include **all problems of the threatened planet**?

In the first case:

Is it possible to **establish a parallel agenda** for climate change prevention?

In the second case:

Might **poverty reduction** goals become marginalised?

Is it possible to see the **mitigation of climate change** as a **prerequisite of sustainable human development**?



4. Who will select and formulate the goals?

– Once **again** **representatives of Western donors and international organisations?**

Or the **governments of all UN member countries?**

Or a committee of **experts?**

Or the **citizens of developing and industrialised countries in a joint participatory process?**



5. How should goals be formulated?

- How many goals, targets and indicators?
- Should current MDGs be better clustered?
- What time horizon?

[5 years probably too short for adaptations in policies,
25 years perhaps too long for sustaining the momentum over the whole
time]

- Which is the baseline year?

[Are data available for it for benchmarking?]

- To be reached globally, nationally or sub-nationally?
- In absolute or relative terms?



6. Which goals should be added to the current MDGs?

- **Political capabilities** (e.g. freedom of speech)
- **Socio-cultural capabilities** (e.g. non-discrimination)
- **Protective capabilities** (social protection)
- **Qualitative aspects** (e.g. quality of education)
- **Distributive aspects**
- **Productive sectors** (e.g. access to transportation)

Many questions... to be discussed today!



The Millennium Goals and Beyond



Monday, 21 November 2011

14:30-16:30 **Session 1: The need for a new global development agenda**

Phil Vernon, International Alert, London:

Working with the Grain to Change the Grain: Moving beyond the MDGs

(with Deborrah Barr, International Alert, London)

Malcolm Langford, Norwegian Centre on Human Rights, Oslo:

Post-2015: Pathways, Targets and Indicators

Lord Mawuko-Yevugah, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg:

Beyond the Rhetoric of Development Partnerships and Towards the

Construction of Equal and Inclusive Global Development Agenda

Panel discussant:

Timo Voipio, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Helsinki

Moderator:

Markus Loewe, German Development Institute /

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Bonn