



United Nations Development Programme

# The MDGs:

## Challenges and Opportunities

Poverty Practice Group  
Bureau for Development Policy



# United Nations Millennium Declaration

Adopted by all the 189 member nations of the UN in 2000.

It included commitment and resolutions in:

- I. Values and principles (*collective responsibility*)
- II. Peace, security and disarmament
- III. Development and poverty eradication**
- IV. Protecting our common environment
- V. Human rights, democracy and good governance
- VI. Protecting the vulnerable
- VII. Meeting the special needs of Africa
- VIII. Strengthening the United Nations

# What are the MDGs?

 <p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</b></p>	 <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</b></p>	 <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</b></p>	 <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</b></p>
 <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</b></p>	 <p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES</b></p>	 <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b></p>	 <p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</b></p>

# Why do they matter?

- Poverty has many elements
  - Income – whether you have enough to buy the essentials
  - Quality of life – health, education
  - Opportunities – for ourselves and our children
  
- Distinct, but interconnected
  
- Smart investments
  - Benefits both now and over long time periods
  - Break inter-generational transmission of poverty
  - Build resilience
  - Enhance peace and security

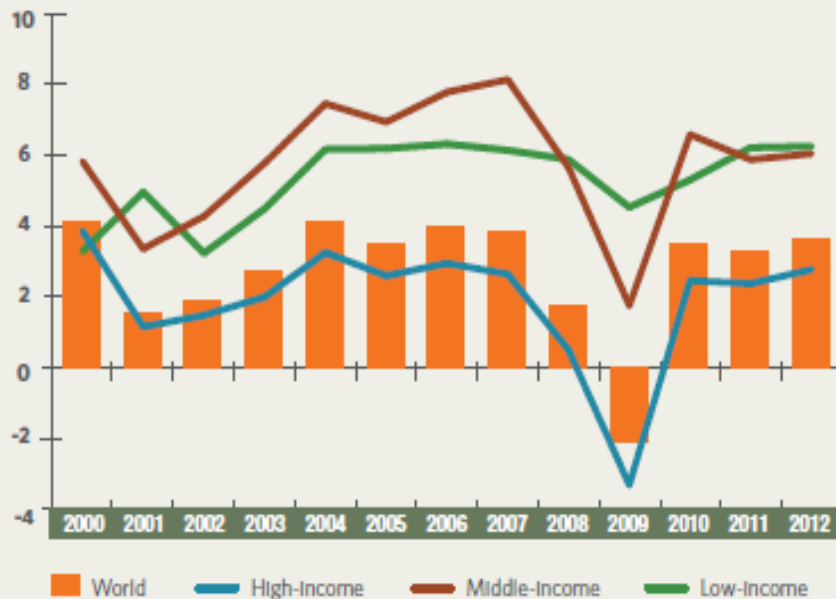
# What is special about the MDGs?

- Partnership for development
  - Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society, Faith-Based Groups, Non-profits, Citizens...and YOU
  - Official Development Assistance (ODA)
  - Trade
  - Technology
  
- Goals have targets that can be measured and monitored
  - 1990 benchmarks
  
- Global – but also local
  - Countries – and provinces – adopt and adapt to suit

# What happened since 2000?

- Periods of strong economic growth
  - Uneven across countries and regions; and over time
  - *But growth alone is not enough*
  - Done right, it speeds up reduction in income poverty
  - Provides resources for the other goals – ODA and domestic

Global growth rates 2000-2012



Source: Development Prospects Group, World Bank

GDP growth in Sub-Saharan Africa

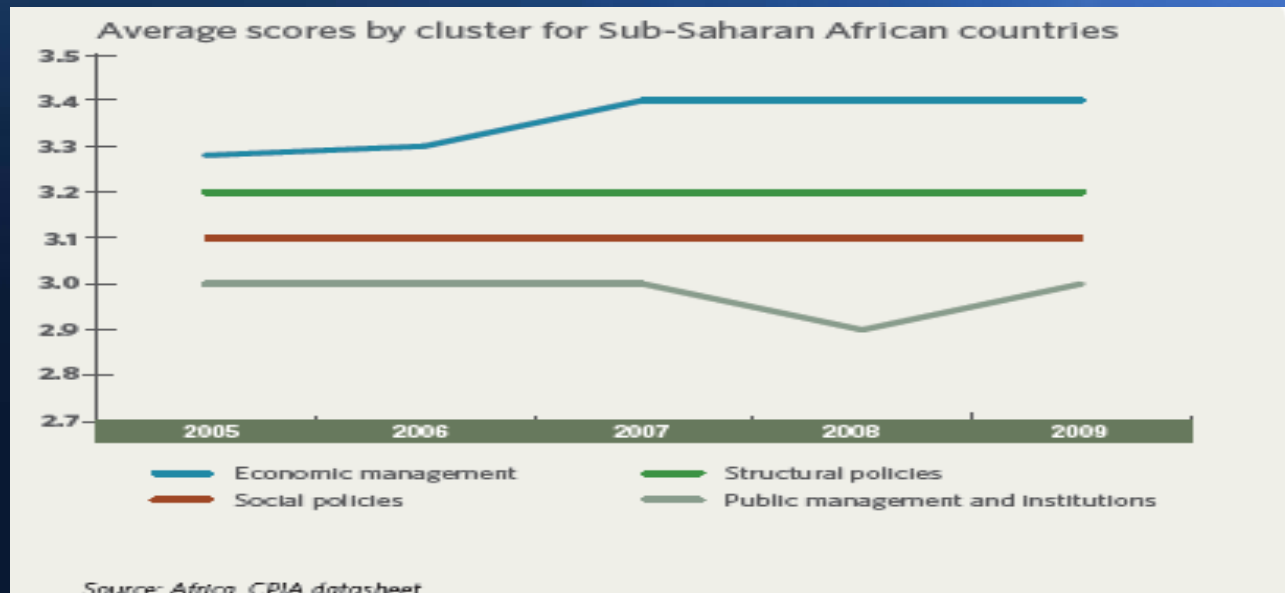


Source: Development Prospects Group, World Bank

# What happened since 2000?

- Improvements in institutions and governance

Many indicators – example, Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) scores

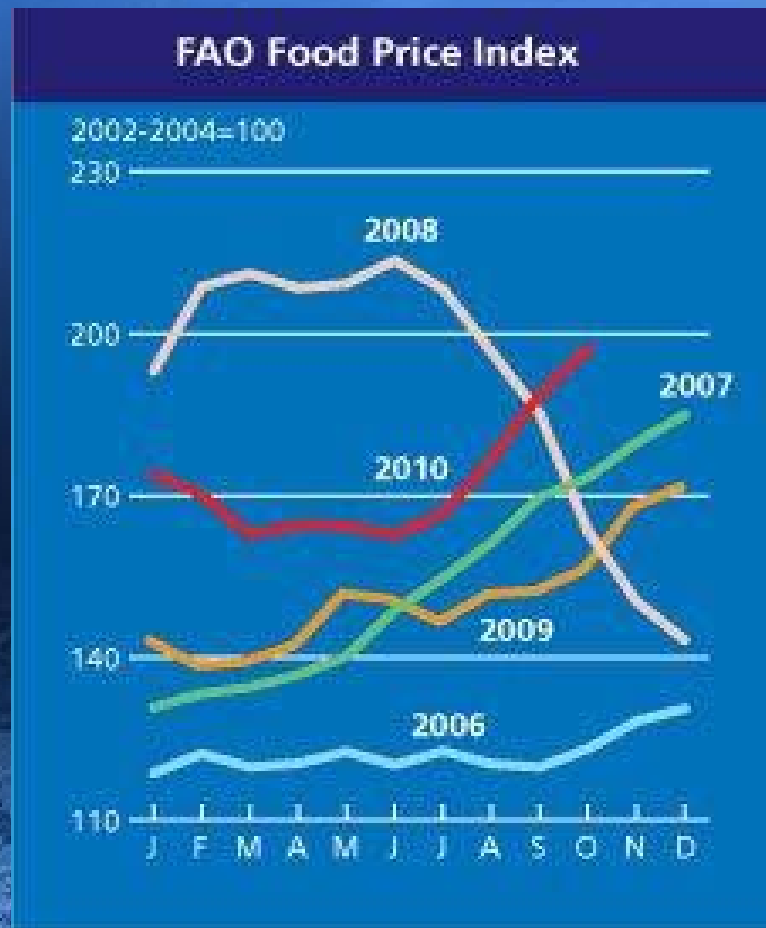


- Greater global connectivity

- Technology innovations (anti-malarials, mobile phones)
- Remittances
- Learning and sharing knowledge

# What happened since 2000?

- Global and regional shocks
  - Food Prices
    - Global and regional differences
  - Financial crisis
  - HIV/AIDS (earlier)
- Early impacts of climate change
  - Natural disasters
  - Prolonged droughts





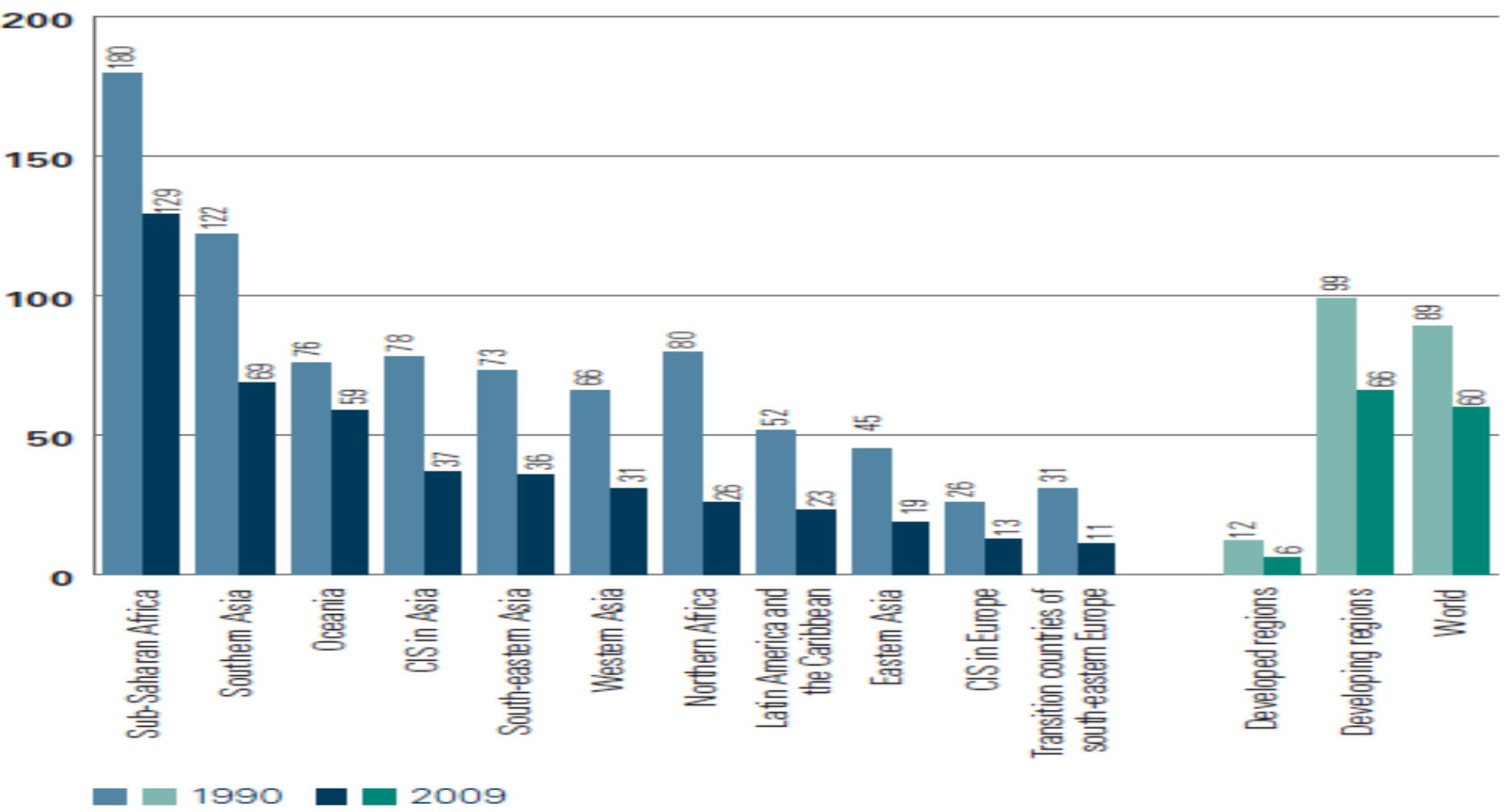
# Some impressive gains...

- World on track for halving poverty by 2015 (with a 1990 benchmark):
  - 120 million people out of poverty between 2000 and 2005, or 2.4 per cent annual drop
  
- Between 2000 and 2005:
  - 2 million lives saved through reduced child mortality
  - 30 million additional 6-12 children going to school
  - 30 million additional families having access to drinking water
  - Boys and girls in equal numbers in primary school

# Progress, but at different rates

**FIGURE 4** Under-five mortality declined in all regions between 1990 and 2009

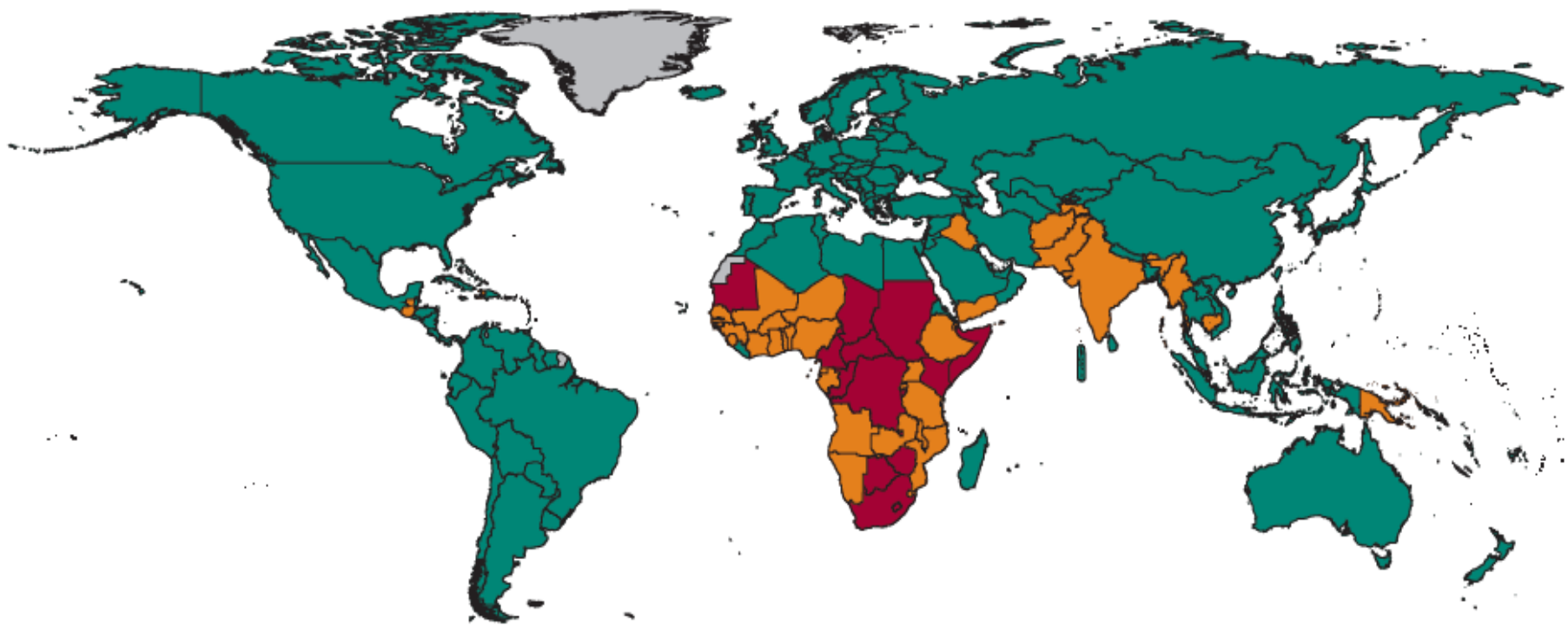
Under-five mortality rate, by region, 1990 and 2009 (deaths per 1,000 live births)



# ...more needs to be done

MAP 1

Many countries were on track in 2009 to achieve Millennium Development Goal 4, but progress needs to accelerate in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa



**■ On track:** under-five mortality is less than 40 deaths per 1,000 live births, or under-five mortality is at least 40 deaths per 1,000 live births and the average annual rate of reduction is at least 4 percent.

**■ Insufficient progress:** under-five mortality is at least 40 deaths per 1,000 live births and the average annual rate of reduction is at least 1 percent but less than 4 percent.

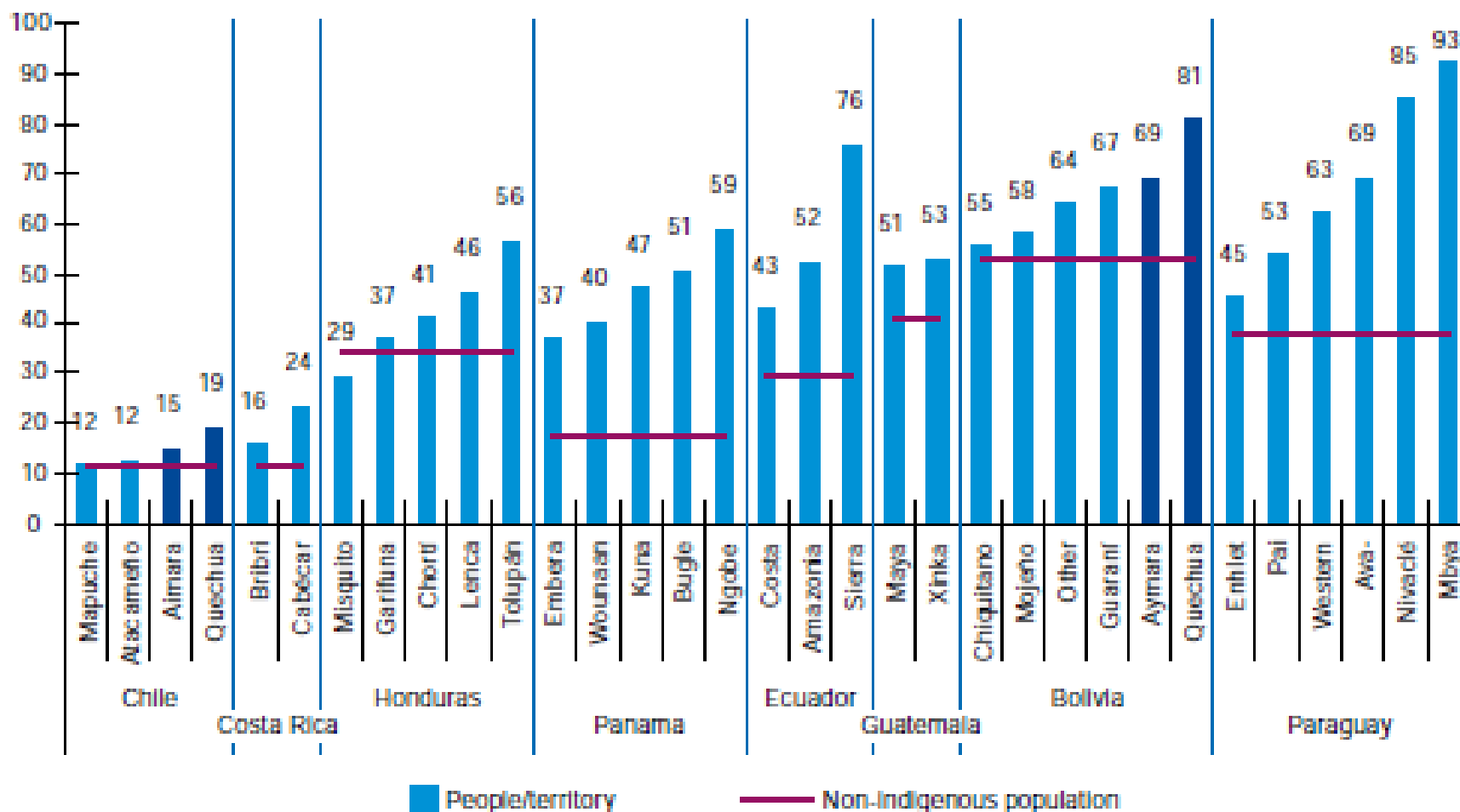
**■ No progress:** under-five mortality is at least 40 deaths per 1,000 live births and the average annual rate of reduction is less than 1 percent.

**■ Data not available.**

*Note:* These standards may differ from those in other publications by Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation members.

# Averages can mask reality

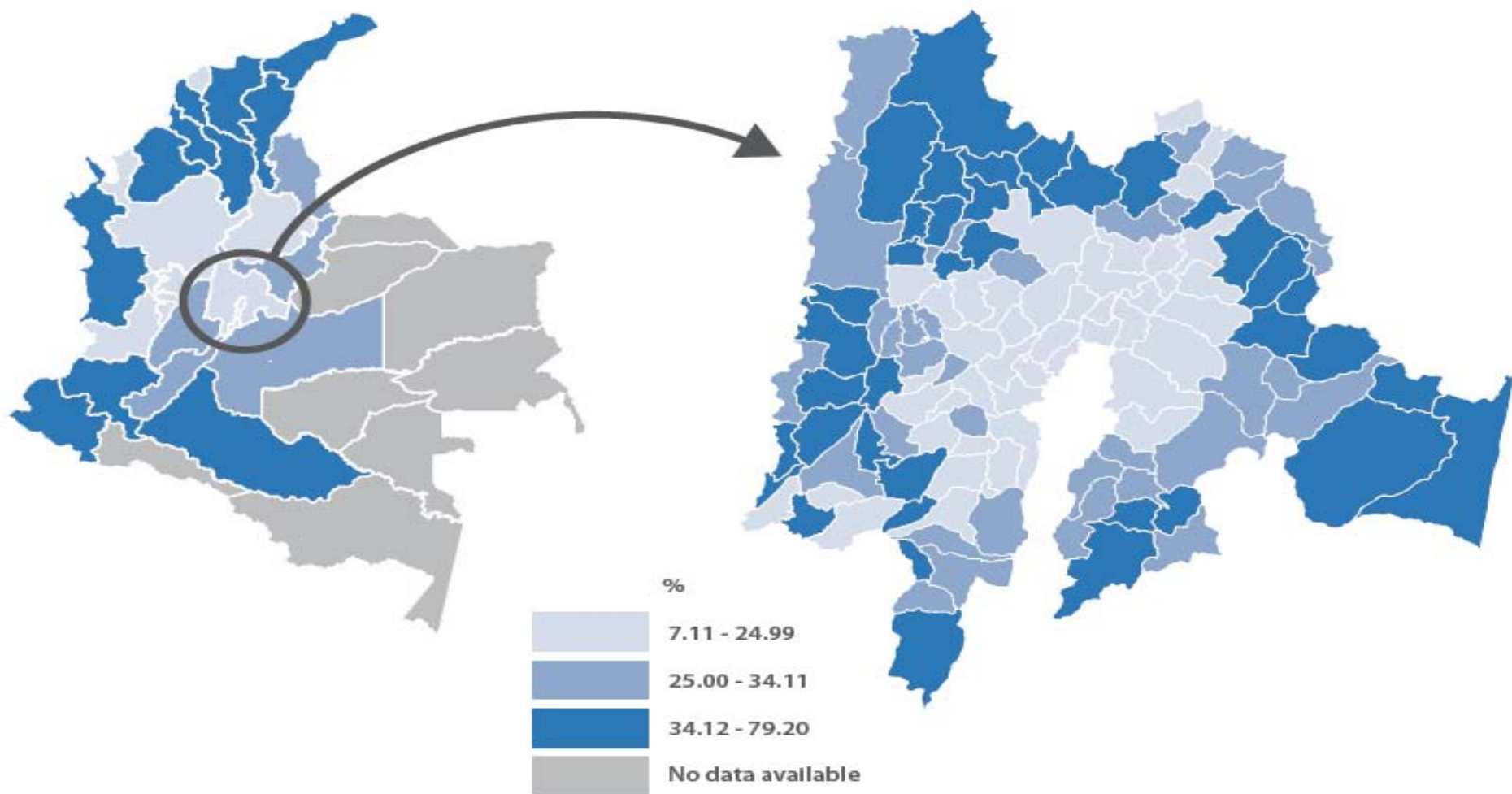
INFANT MORTALITY BY COUNTRY AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE/TERRITORY, 2000 CENSUS, PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Social Panorama of Latin America, 2006 (LC/G.2326-P)*, Santiago, Chile, 2007. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.G.133.

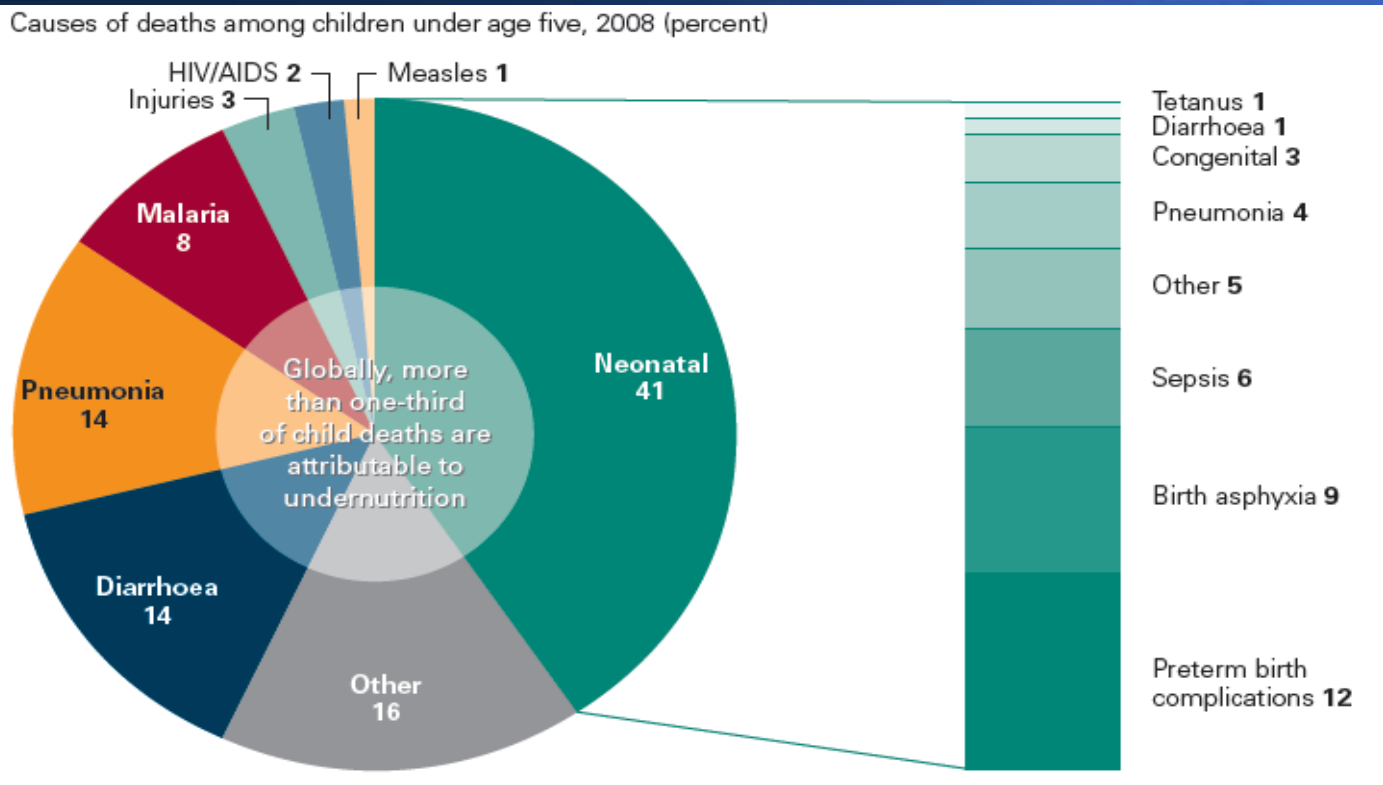
# Regions *within* countries can vary

Poverty measured by households with basic unmet needs (NBI) for the departments of Colombia (left map) and for the municipalities in the department of Cundinamarca (right map)



# Accelerating to 2015...

- Climate change adds urgency
  - MDGs improve resilience and adaptation
  - Climate change will make it harder to escape poverty
- Knowledge helps focus acceleration efforts





# Boosting the pace

- Some resources could be less
  - Slower growth
- But stronger partnerships and individual actions will help
  - Stronger commitment at all levels – September Summit
  - Mobilizing support
  - Keeping policy and efforts on track
  - Helping, individually and together





# What can you do for the MDGs...Now?



[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=U5HOVSPEN74](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5HOVSPEN74)







# What you *can* do for the MDGs ...Now!

- Show your support by wearing the white band
- Speak up within your community. Talk to people about the MDGs and why they matter.
- Think. Has the Millennial war on poverty touched more lives than the World Wars? What stops us from keeping it going? Write a letter or an op-ed. Make a video.
- Volunteer. Teach. Work to empower people.
- Write code. Figure out a cheap way to purify water. Help monitor schools and clinics...

# References

"African Can . . . End Poverty," by Shanta Devarajan of World Bank, *Africa Pulse*, Vol. 2, 2010 (slides 6, 7)

FAO Food Price Index, by Food and Agricultural Organization, November 2010 (slide 8).

*Levels and Trends in Child Mortality*, by United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organization, World Bank and UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs, 2010 (slides 10, 11, 14)

*Unlocking Progress: MDG Acceleration on the Road to 2015*, by United Nations Development Programme, 2010 (slide 13)

