Using data in evidence-based decision-making
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MDG monitoring at regional level

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MDG indicators

8 Goals

21 targets

60 indicators

80 official indicators series

http://mdgs.un.org/

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (targets - 3, indicators - 9, ds - 9)
2. Achieve universal primary education (target - 1, indicators - 3, ds - 3)
3. Promote gender equality and empower women (target - 1, indicators - 3, ds - 5)
4. Reduce child mortality (target - 1, indicators - 3, ds - 3)
5. Improve maternal health (targets - 2, indicators - 6, ds - 7)
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (targets - 3, indicators - 10, ds - 17)
7. Ensure environmental sustainability (targets - 4, indicators - 10, ds - 15)
8. Develop a global partnership for development (targets - 6, indicators - 16, ds - 21)

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MDG monitoring at regional level

Measures achievements towards MDGs and identifies policy options

- *show progress, status and affected populations at national and regional levels*
- *allow countries to compare their progress with that of other countries*
- *help donors to focus their resources*

Complements monitoring at global and national levels:

- MDG global report compares progress between (sub-)regions
- MDG national report shows progress for a single country

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Comparing between sub-regions…

Asia-Pacific was on track to eradicate extreme poverty, provide universal access to primary education and reduce gender inequalities in education… but progress had been too slow in many areas

Goal	1		2			3			4		5		6			7					
	$1.25/day poverty	Underweight children	Primary enrolment	Reaching last grade	Primary completion	Gender primary	Gender secondary	Gender tertiary	Under–5 mortality	Infant mortality	Antenatal care, at least once	Births by Skilled Professional	HIV prevalence	TB incidence	TB prevalence	Forest cover	Protected area	CO2 emissions	ODP substance consumption	Water, total	Sanitation, total
Asia–Pacific	▲	■	▲	■	■	●	▲	●	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	▼	●	▼	●	●	■
Excluding China and India	▲	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	▼	●	●	▼	●	▼	●	▲	■
South–East Asia	●	▲	▲	■	●	●	●	●	▲	■	■	■	●	●	●	▼	●	▼	●	●	▲
South Asia	■	■	▲	■	■	●	▲	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	▼	●	●	■
Excluding India	▲	■	■	■	■	●	▲	▲	■	■	■	■	▼	●	●	▼	●	▼	●	■	■
Pacific Islands					▼	▼	▼	▼	■	■	▼	▼	▼	●	●	▼	●	▼	●	▼	▼
Excluding Papua New Guinea			▼	▼	▼	●	●	●	■	■		■		●	●	▼	●	▼	●	▼	▼
North and Central Asia	▼	▲	●	●	●	●	●	●	■	■		▲	▼	●	●	▼	●	▼	▼	▲	■
Excluding Russia	▼	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	▲	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	●	▼	●	■	■
LDCs Asia–Pacific	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	▼	●	▼	●	■	■

●Early achiever ▲On track ■Slow ▼Regressing/No progress

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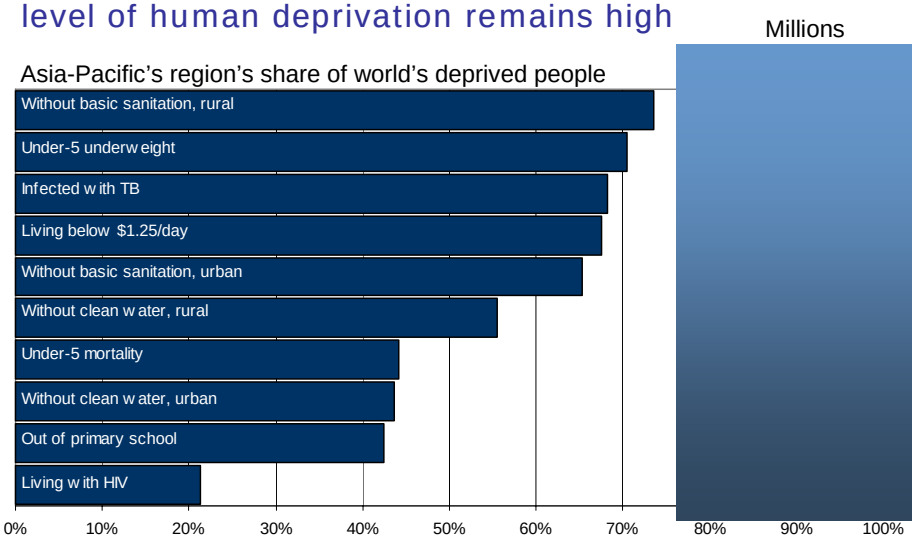
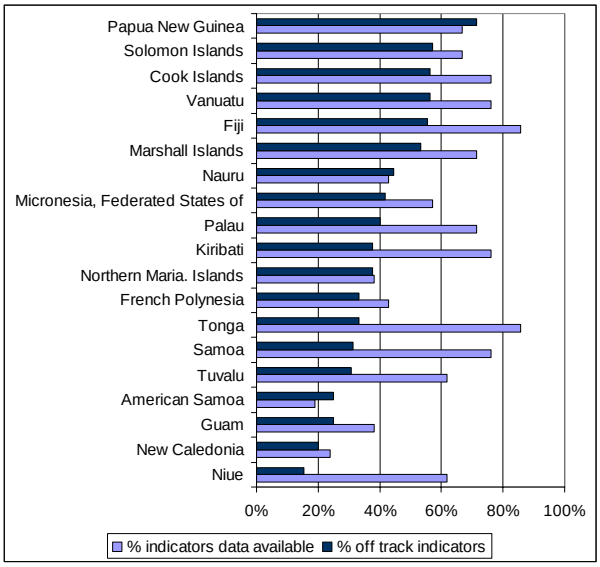
Even in areas where significant progress was made, level of human deprivation remains high

Asia-Pacific's region's share of world's deprived people



Disparities between countries…



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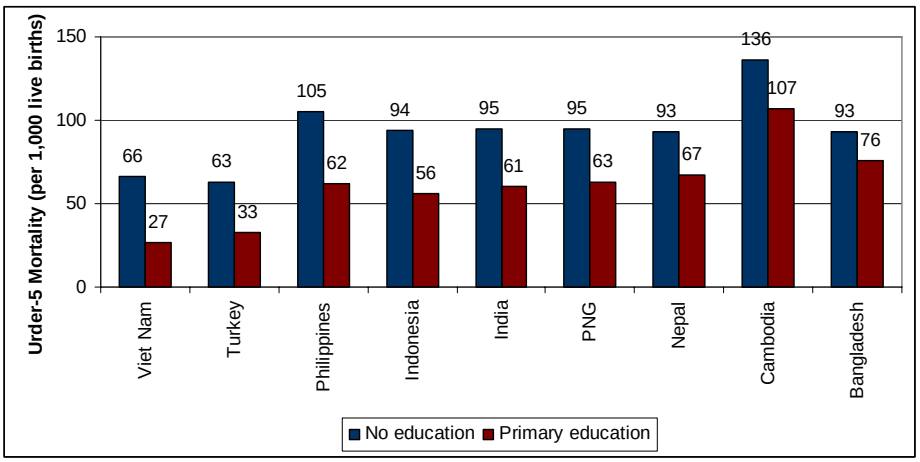
And within countries…

Relationship between a mother's education and child survival



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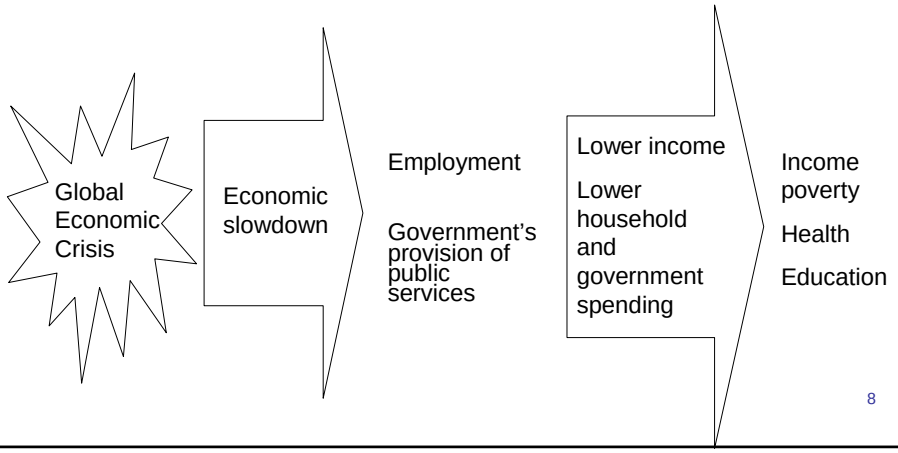
With the occurrence of the global economic crisis, progress towards the MDGs in Asia-Pacific remains fragile



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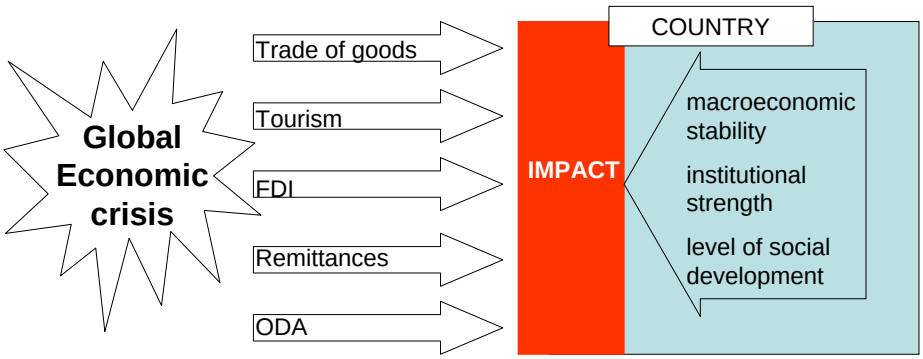
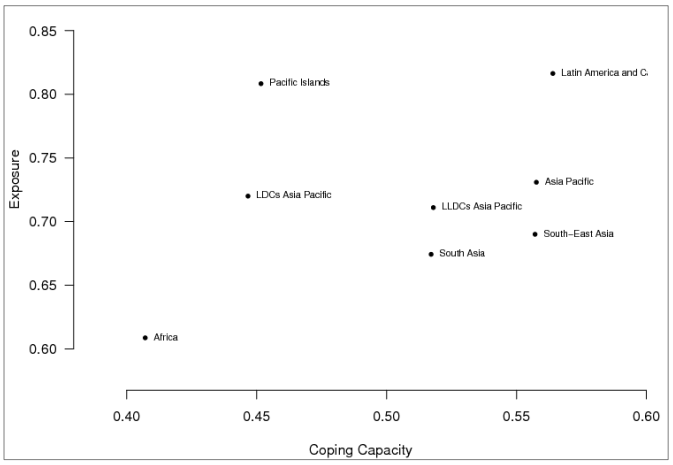
Countries face different risks of being caught by the economic crisis depending on their exposure to the transmission channels and their ability to mitigate its effects



In Asia-Pacific, the Pacific Islands are the most exposed to the crisis and generally have lower coping capacity



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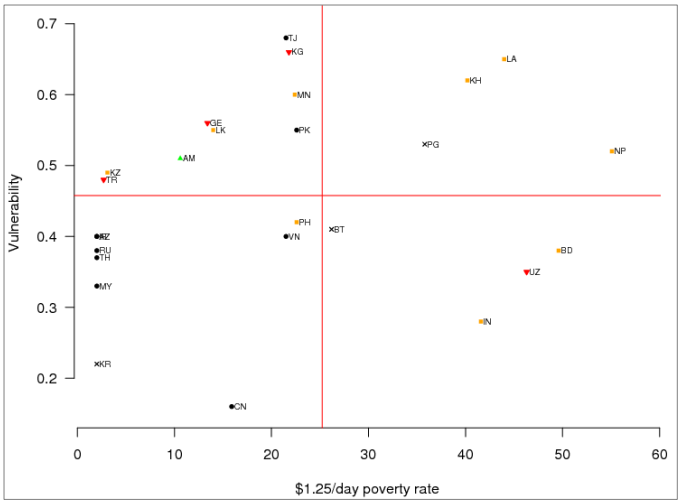
Progress in eradicating poverty and hunger are at greatest risk in LDCs



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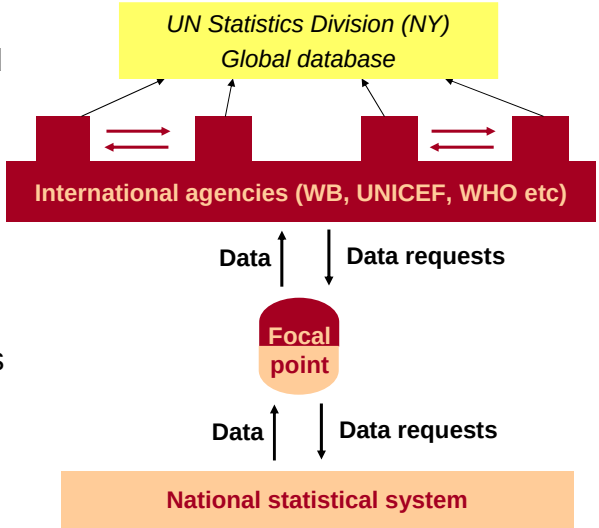
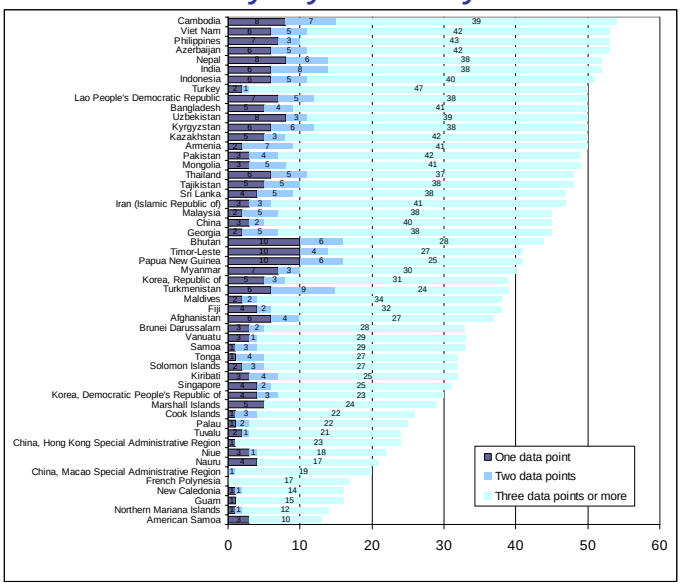
How data gets into international MDG database

Inter-Agency Expert Group:

- Data preparation and analysis
- reviews/defines methods and technical issues in relation to the indicators,
- produces guidelines, and
- helps define priorities and strategies to support countries in data collection, analysis and reporting on MDGs



Data availability by country - 2009



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Data discrepancies

- Inconsistencies (data availability and values) between national and international databases
- Even inconsistencies within countries between NSO, line ministries etc.
- Confuses data user and undermines credibility

ESCAP MDG statcap building (2008)

- Step 1: Problem assessment (joint report with all UN regional commissions, desk research plus national consultants)
- Step 2: Raise awareness, bring together international and national agencies and discuss solutions (regional MDG workshop – funded by UNSD, UNDP)

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Lessons learned on discrepancies

To make data internationally comparable, international agencies

- Use international definitions (e.g. water and sanitation, poverty line)
- Adjust and/or model data (e.g. regressions)
- Use different population data source as denominator (UNPD)

Recommendations

1. International agencies should inform national agencies on data adjustments (mortality,wat&san - regression, education - ISCED)
2. International agencies should use all national data available or give feedback on insufficient data quality, e.g. Pacific (unused surveys)
3. National agencies should improve data quality (including metadata)
4. National agencies should coordinate reporting to international agencies (including national data reconciliation)

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National statistical offices' comments: Current issues in data reporting

- NSOs do not have all available national data
- Better coordination in reporting needed
  - NSS coordination rarely mandated by law
  - Focal points in reporting needed
- Communication with ministries:
  - Delays in getting data from ministries
  - Checking data from ministries difficult
- Centralized database needed (only few with DBs)

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Possible discussion points

- How to set definitions, validate data, maintain the central MDG database, and report to (national and international) data users?
- How to improve the reporting process?
- What is the role of international agencies?

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Thank you

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