

# **MDGs: Differential Progress and Persistent Disparities in Asia-Pacific Region**

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# The context

- Asia-Pacific region has made significant strides in attaining MDGs in the last one and half decade
- But it hides two types of persistent disparities
- First, there is differential progress across countries. 'Business as usual approach' may widen the gap between MDG+ and MDG- countries
- Second, even if countries achieve at national level, the national averages hide persistent intra-country (provinces) disparities

# Objectives of the Study

- To examine inter-country variations in progress towards MDGs in Asia-Pacific Region
- To look at intra-country variations in few countries
- Policy Suggestions particularly on improving institutions and service delivery for achieving MDGs

# Methodology

- Nearly 50 countries of the Asia-Pacific region and 25 indicators are used in the study.
- Computed two growth rates
- What is the Required Compound Growth Rate to achieve for each indicator of goal? 1990 to 2015 growth rate
- What is the actual compound growth rate? 1990-2001 or latest data
- If MDG is already achieved, we call it Fast Track
- If MDG is to be achieved by 2015, we call it on-track
- If it can not be achieved by 2015, we call it off-track.

# Data Base and Indicators

- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) data sets for the years 1990 and latest year 2000 to 2004 are used
- Goal 1. Poverty, Undernutrition, Underweight
- Goal 2. Net Enrolment (primary), Completion Rates, Literacy
- Goal 3. Gender: Primary, Secondary, Literacy  
Parliament seats
- Goal 4: Under 5 mortality, Infant mortality  
Immunization
- Goal 5: Maternal Mortality Rate

# Indicators

- Goal 6: HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB
- Goal 7: Forest Cover, Protected Area, Energy Use, CO2 Emission, Water Supply (R), Water Supply (U), Sanitation (R), Sanitation (U)

# Results: Goal 1. Reducing Poverty and Hunger

- Significant decline in poverty in Asia including South Asia. 252 million out of poverty
- However, out of 22 countries, 10 are off-track countries based on UNDESA data and \$ a day poverty line. It includes Bangladesh and India. Poverty increased in countries like Armenia, Georgia and Uzbekistan
- Another worry is the level of poverty is high at 30% in half track countries.
- Poverty based on national level poverty lines give different picture for some countries (e.g. Pakistan)
- Undernourishment and underweight: 15 out of 30 for undernourishment (calorie) and 9 out of 17 countries for underweight are off-track. Level of underweight in off-track is 45% which is much higher than 30% of poverty.

# Goal 2: Achieving Universal Primary Education

- Indicators in this goal are doing well
- 21 fast track and 6 on track out of 37 countries. Net enrolment 90% and rising
- Some countries are slipping (Central Asia). 10 off-track countries.
- For completion and literacy also no. of off-track countries is low

# Goal 3: Gender Equality

- Indicators in this goal also have done well.
- Girls enrollment is faster than boys.
- In girl-boy ratio for primary, 32 out of 42 countries are on fast track, 5 on –track
- However, 5 are off-track.
- Of course, the indicator on proportion of parliamentary seats held by women will not be achieved in almost all the countries

# Goal 4: Reducing child mortality

- No. of off-track countries are high: 30 out of 46 countries for under five mortality, 37 out of 46 countries for infant mortality are off-track
- In one group with few countries child mortality is low.
- In another group with off-track, progress is slow and levels are high: Under five mortality 61 in off-track. Also 45 in on-track

# Goal 5 Improving Maternal Health

- 83% of Asia-Pacific population living in off-track countries with high levels of maternal mortality
- 22 out of 37 are off-track with level of 274. 11 on track with a level of 256. 4 fast track with a level of 33.
- Up to 250,000 mothers die annually
- South Asia: over two-thirds of deaths

# Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS

- **HIV/AIDS:** Off-track countries low but reverse process is yet to begun. People living with HIV/AIDS: over 9 million
- 15-49 age group: region is off-track
- **Malaria:** 9 out of 31 off-track; 3.3 million infections; 73,000 deaths
- **TB :** 11 out of 55 off-track; South-East & South Asia: serious; Central Asia: **emerging**

# Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- Massive deforestation: 18 are off-track
- CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels rising rapidly: 25 off-track
- Very high proportion of people without access to improved water sources & sanitation
- 17 for rural water supply and 13 for rural sanitation are off-track
- 670 million lack rural safe drinking water
- Overall, rural prospects are worse. For example, in India 87% do not sanitation in rural areas.

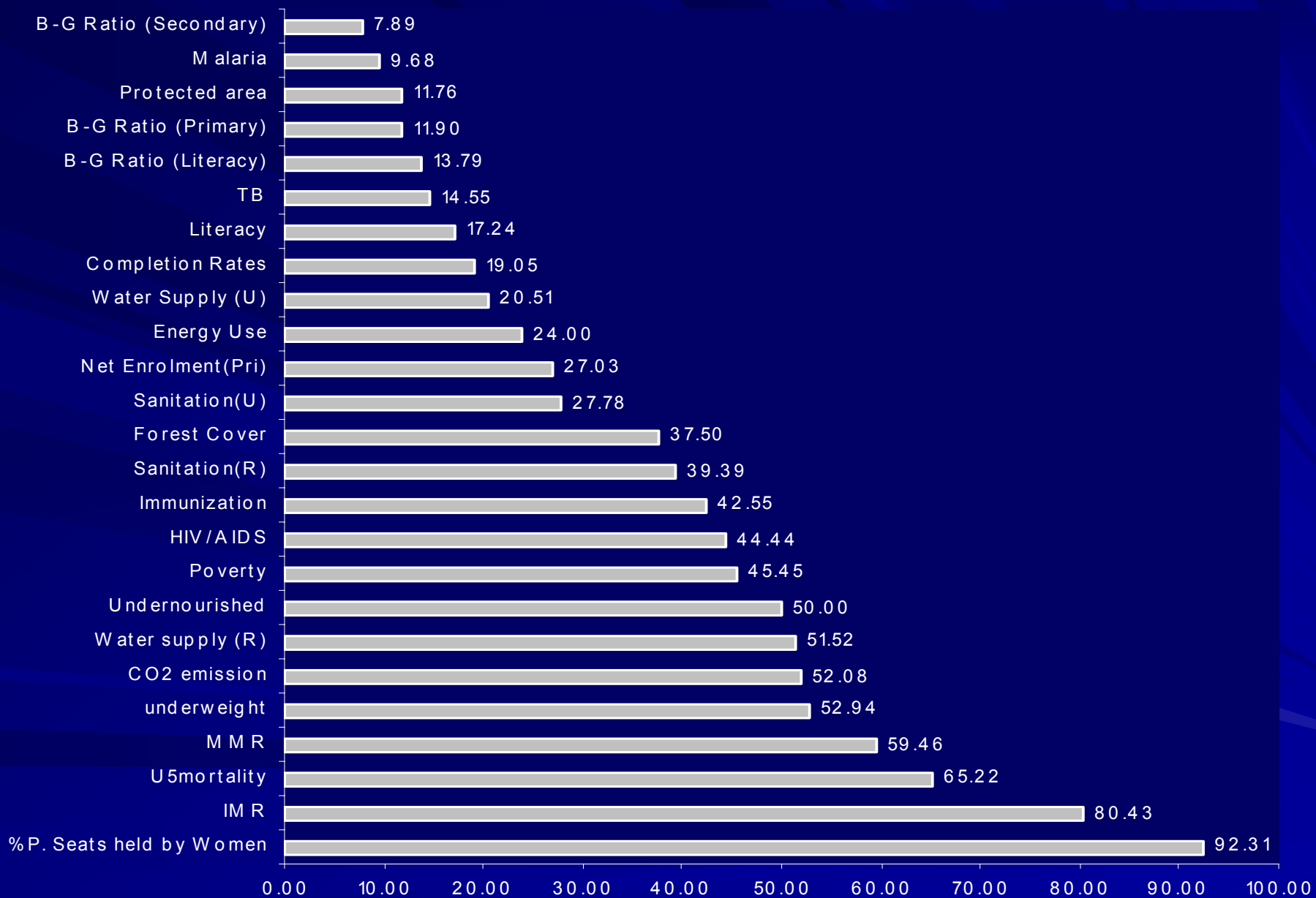
	Number of countries	Number of countries			Population-weighted average Indicator Level		
Indicators		Fast-track	On-Track	Off-track	Fast-track	On-Track	Off-track
Poverty	22	10	2	10	6.08	16.58	30.32
Undernourished	30	9	6	15	4.65	11.93	22.85
Underweight	17	1	7	9	1.9	14.64	44.65
Net Enrolment (Primary)	37	21	6	10	93.98	86.4	83.38
Completion Rates	21	7	10	4	98.04	85.2	65.09
Literacy Rate	29	23	1	5	98.56	94.4	54.77
Girl-Boy Ratio (Primary)	42	32	5	5	0.99	0.85	0.93
Girl-Boy Ratio (Secondary)	38	28	7	3	1.02	0.75	0.69
Girl-Boy Ratio (Literacy)	29	24	1	4	0.99	0.9	0.67

**Table 1: Number of Countries, Population Shares and Levels of Indicators by Clusters (Continue..)**

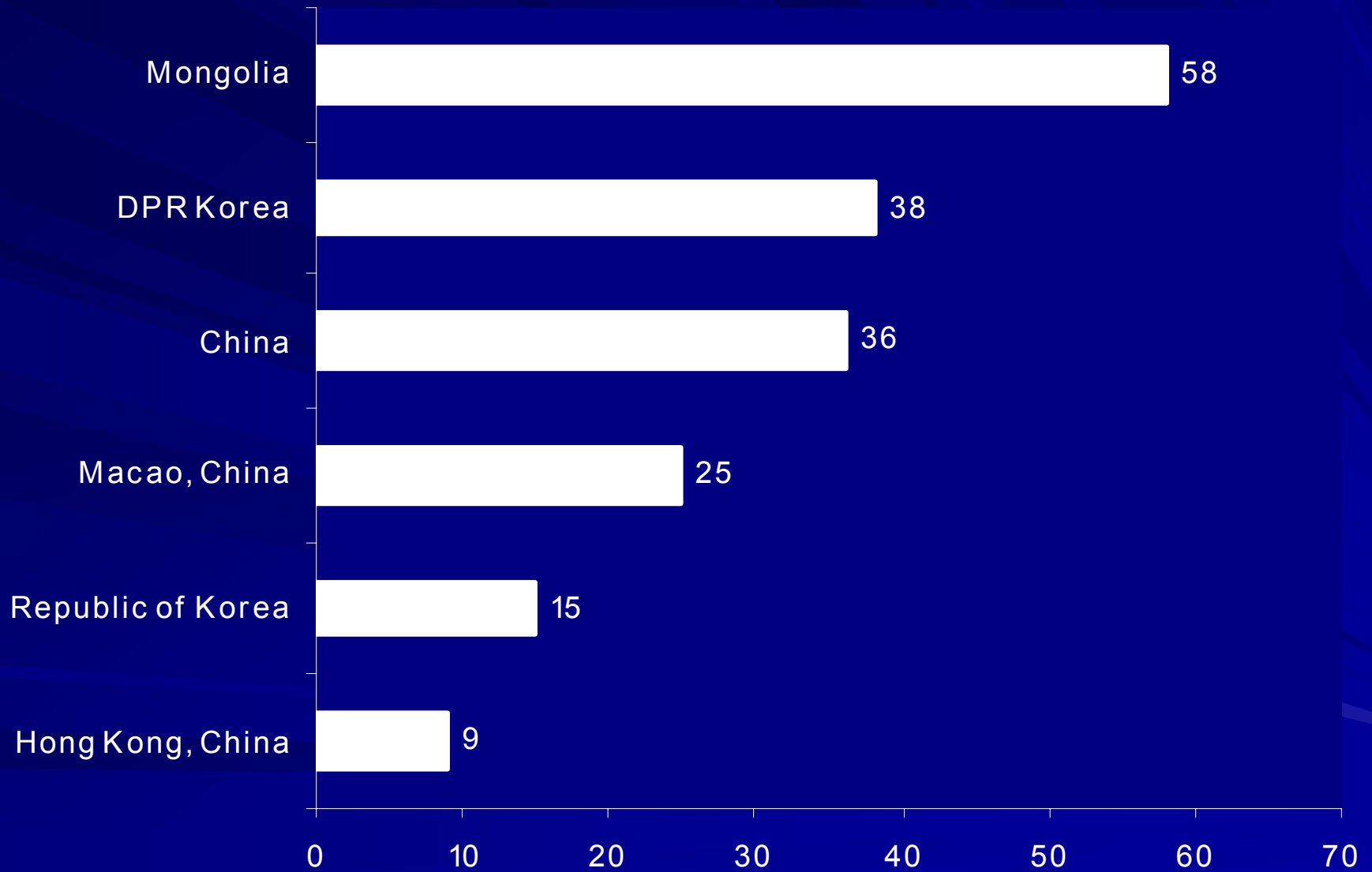
Indicators	Number of countries	Number of countries			Population-weighted average Indicator Level		
		Fast-track	On-Track	Off-track	Fast-track	On-Track	Off-track
% Parliament Seats held by women	39	0	3	36		15.32	13.43
Under-five Mortality	46	4	12	30	5.52	44.48	61.05
Infant Mortality	46	4	5	37	5.52	32.65	45.65
Immunization (Measles)	47	18	9	20	97.32	86.41	79.51
Maternal Mortality	37	4	11	22	33.4	256.8	274.28
HIV/AIDS	18	7	3	8	0.1	1.75	0.05
Malaria (Prevalance)	31	19	9	3	11.46	658.14	1478.8
TB (Prevalance)	55	36	11	8	162.6	306.62	155
Forest Cover	48	13	17	18	20.4	45.38	37.5
Protected area	51	20	25	6	0.17	0.06	0
Energy Use	25	6	13	6	182.72	228.39	628.62
CO2 emission	48	21	2	25	7.1	0.63	2.03
Water supply (R)	33	12	4	17	83.88	85.19	71.42
Water Supply (U)	39	29	2	8	94.32	93.85	88.15
Sanitation(R)	33	13	7	13	92.12	26.65	50.54
Sanitation(U)	36	22	4	10	93.59	61.12	72.25

Source: ESCAP estimates based on UNDESA data set available on 15 April 2005

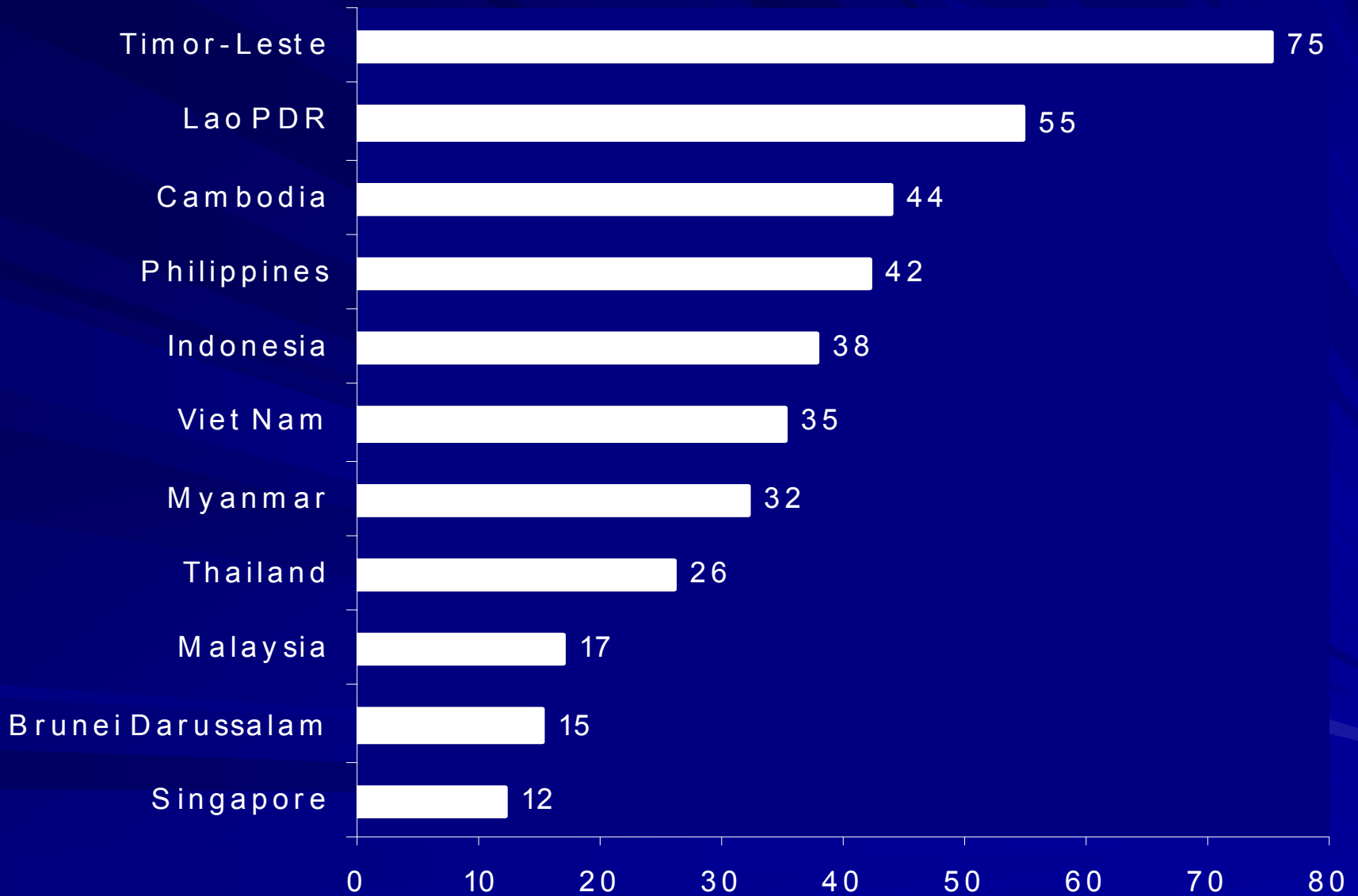
# Figure 2: Percentage of Off-track Countries by MDG Indicators



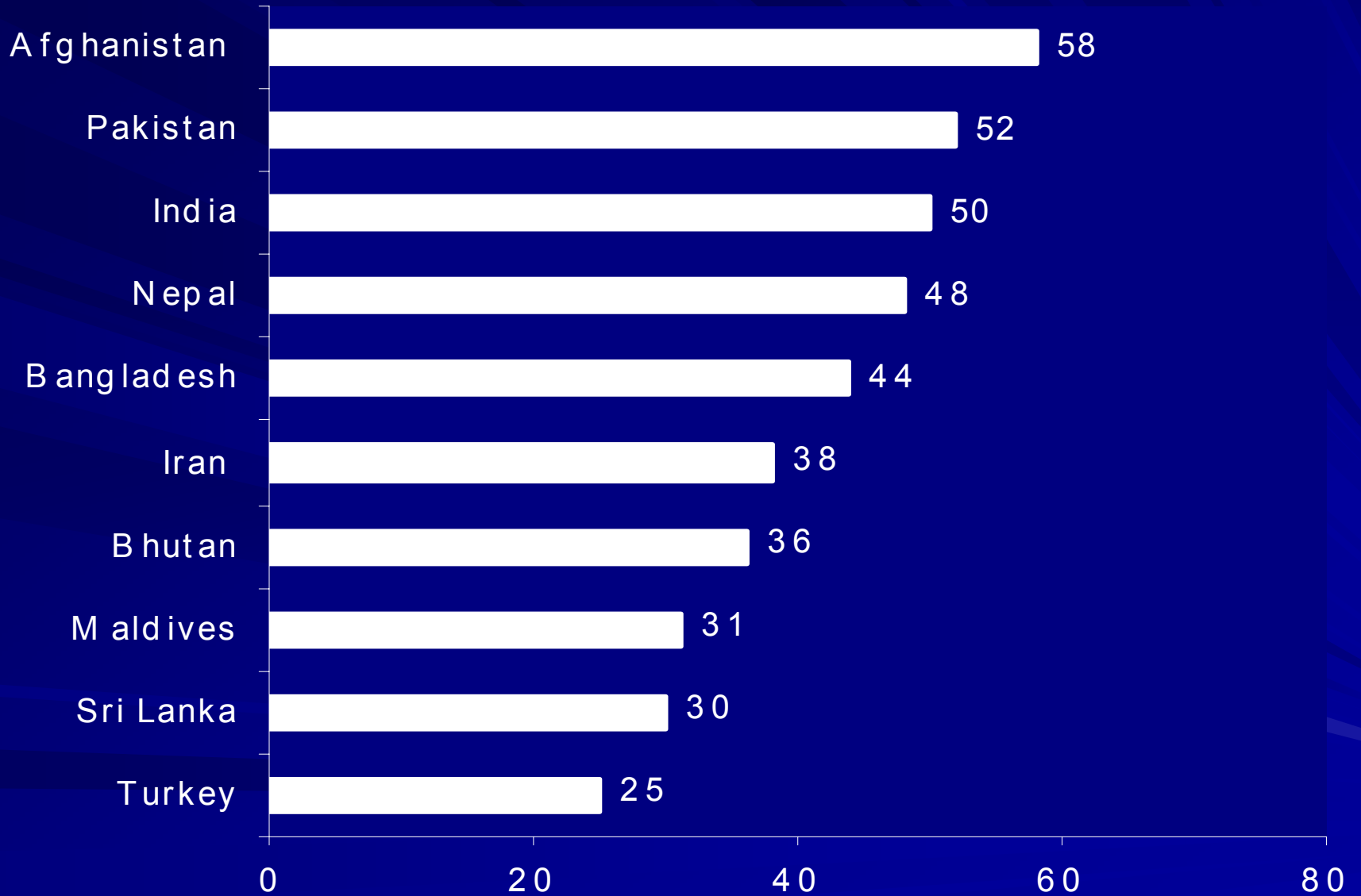
**Figure 3: Percentage of Off-track Indicators by Country by Regions: A. East and North East Asia**



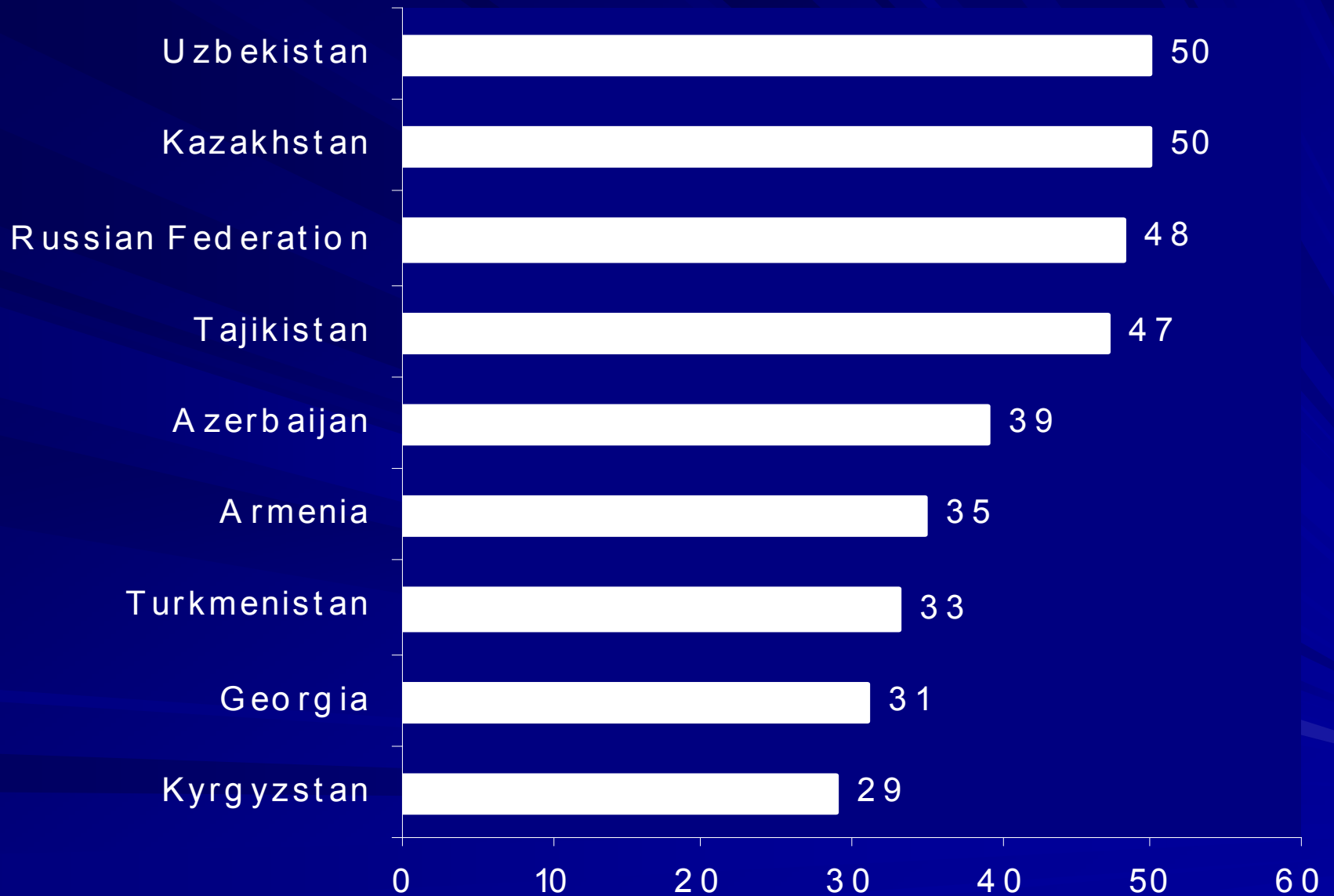
## B. South-East Asia



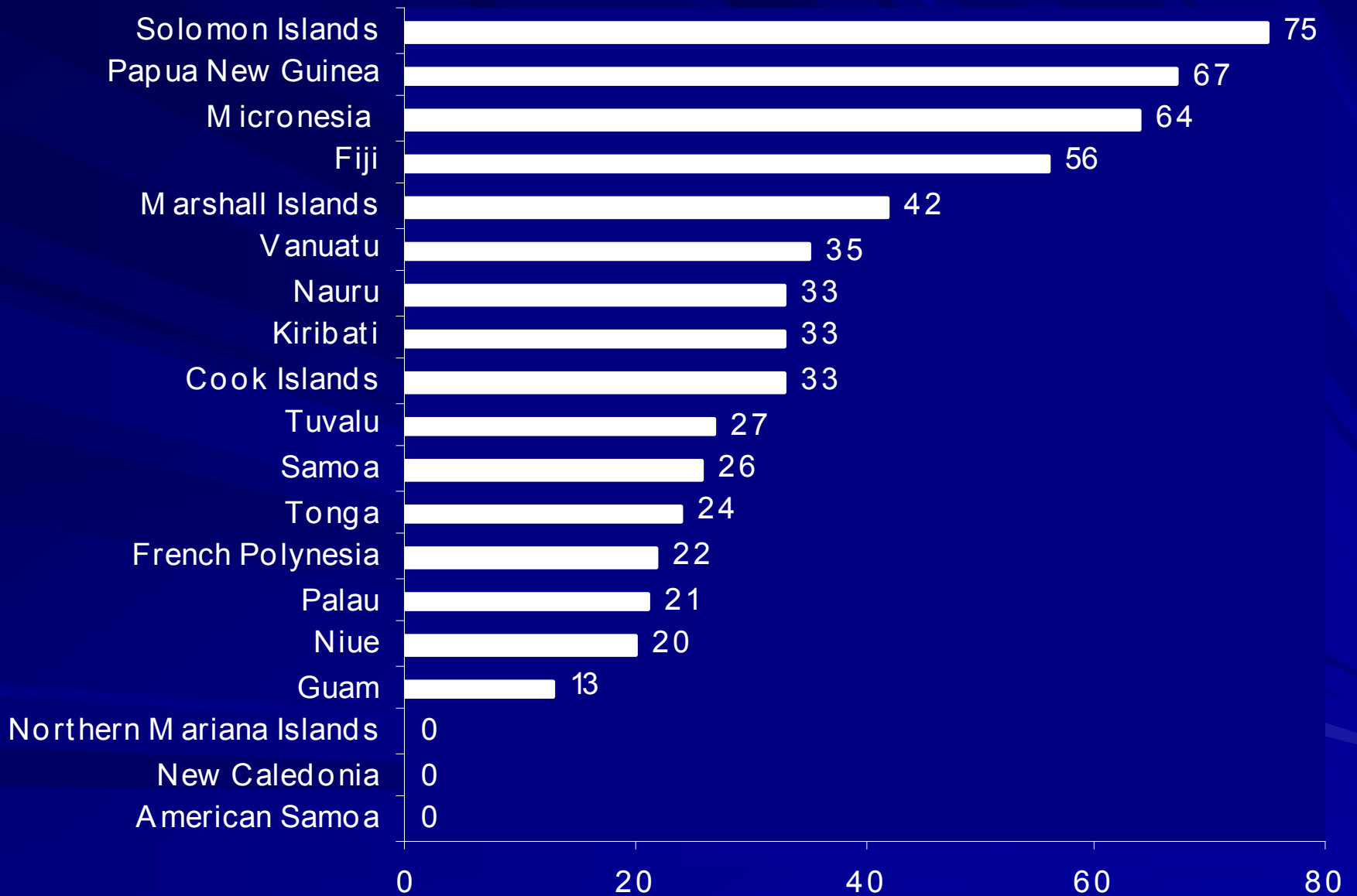
## C. South and South West Asia



## D. North Central Asia



## E. Pacific



**Table 3: Summary of Indicators by *East and North-East Asia* : off-track**

Economies/Areas	Goal1			Goal2			Goal3			Goal4			Goal5			Goal6			Goa7						
	Poverty	Under nutrition	underweight	Enrolment(Pri)	Rates	Literacy	Primary	Secondary	Literacy	P. Seats	U5mortality	IMR	Immunization	MMR	HIV/AIDS	Malaria	TB	Forest Cover	Protected area	Energy Use	CO2 emission	Water supply (R)	Water Supply (U)	Sanitation(R)	Sanitation(U)
<b><i>East and North-East Asia</i></b>																									
China									■	■	■	■	■		■						■	■			■
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		■																							
Hong Kong, China																									
Macao, China				■																	■				
Mongolia	■	■	■	■						■	■	■		■				■				■	■		
Republic of Korea										■								■			■				

Economies/Areas	Goal1			Goal2			Goal3			Goal4			Goal5	Goal6				Goa7							
	Poverty	Under nutrition	underweight	Net Enrolment(Prj)	Completion Rates	Literacy	Primary	Secondary	Literacy	P. Seats	U5mortality	IMR	Immunization	MMR	HIV/AIDS	Malaria	TB	Forest Cover	Protected area	Energy Use	CO2 emission	Water supply (R)	Water Supply (U)	Sanitation(R)	Sanitation(U)
<i>South-East Asia</i>																									
Brunei Darussalam																									
Cambodia		■	■				■			■	■	■						■							
Indonesia									■			■			■			■			■	■	■	■	■
Lao People's Democratic Republic	■	■	■			■	■	■			■	■	■					■			■				
Malaysia									■						■			■			■				
Myanmar			■							■	■	■	■					■			■				
Philippines	■	■							■		■	■	■					■			■	■	■		
Singapore									■			■													
Thailand									■	■	■							■			■	■			
Timor-Leste										■	■							■							
Viet Nam						■			■				■		■					■	■	■	■		

**Table 3: Summary of Indicators by *South and South West Asia: off-track***

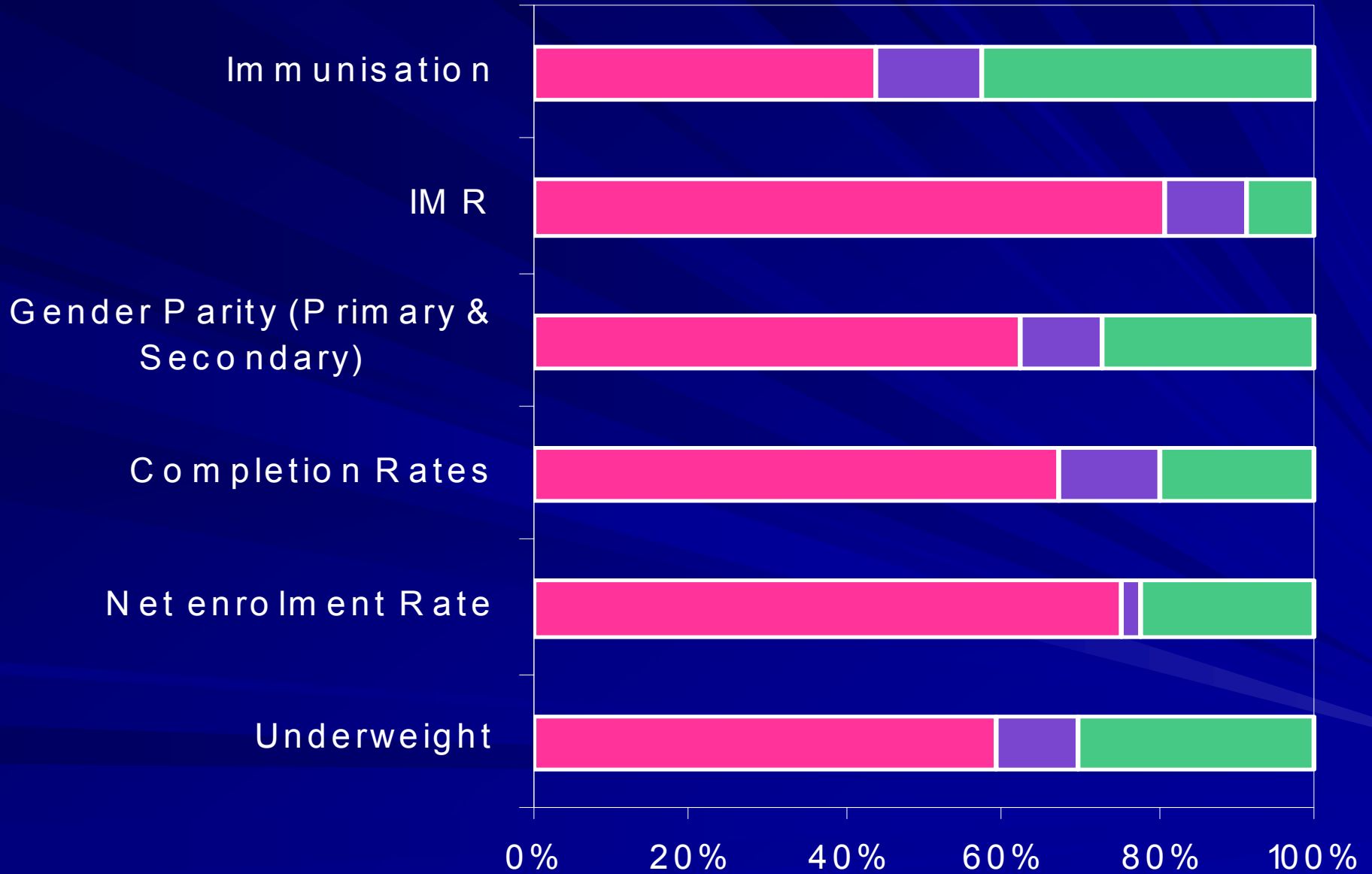
Economies/Areas	Goal1			Goal2			Goal3				Goal4			Goal5	Goal6				Goa7						
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<b><i>South and South West Asia</i></b>																									
Afghanistan		■				■				■	■		■					■						■	
Bangladesh	■	■			■	■			■	■		■									■	■	■		■
Bhutan									■	■	■	■									■				
India	■	■	■	■					■	■	■	■	■		■						■				
Iran (Islamic Republic of)				■					■		■		■								■	■		■	■
Maldives									■	■	■										■	■			
Nepal		■		■		■			■	■	■	■					■						■		■
Pakistan		■	■			■			■	■	■	■	■		■			■			■				
Sri Lanka	■	■							■	■			■			■		■			■				
Turkey				■		■			■			■									■			■	

Economies/Areas	Goal1			Goal2			Goal3			Goal4			Goal5	Goal6			Goa7								
	Poverty	Under nutrition	underweight	Net Enrolment(Prj)	Completion Rates	Literacy	Primary	Secondary	Literacy	P. Seats	U5mortality	IMR	Immunization	MMR	HIV/AIDS	Malaria	TB	Forest Cover	Protected area	Energy Use	CO2 emission	Water supply (R)	Water Supply (U)	Sanitation(R)	Sanitation(U)
North and Central Asia																									
Armenia	■			■					■		■	■	■				■								
Azerbaijan									■	■	■		■				■		■		■				
Georgia	■								■	■			■				■								
Kazakhstan		■		■					■	■	■		■				■		■		■		■	■	
Kyrgyzstan				■						■	■		■				■								
Russian Federation	■								■	■	■		■		■		■		■		■		■	■	
Tajikistan		■					■			■	■	■	■				■		■						
Turkmenistan									■	■	■								■	■	■				
Uzbekistan	■	■							■	■	■						■		■		■		■	■	

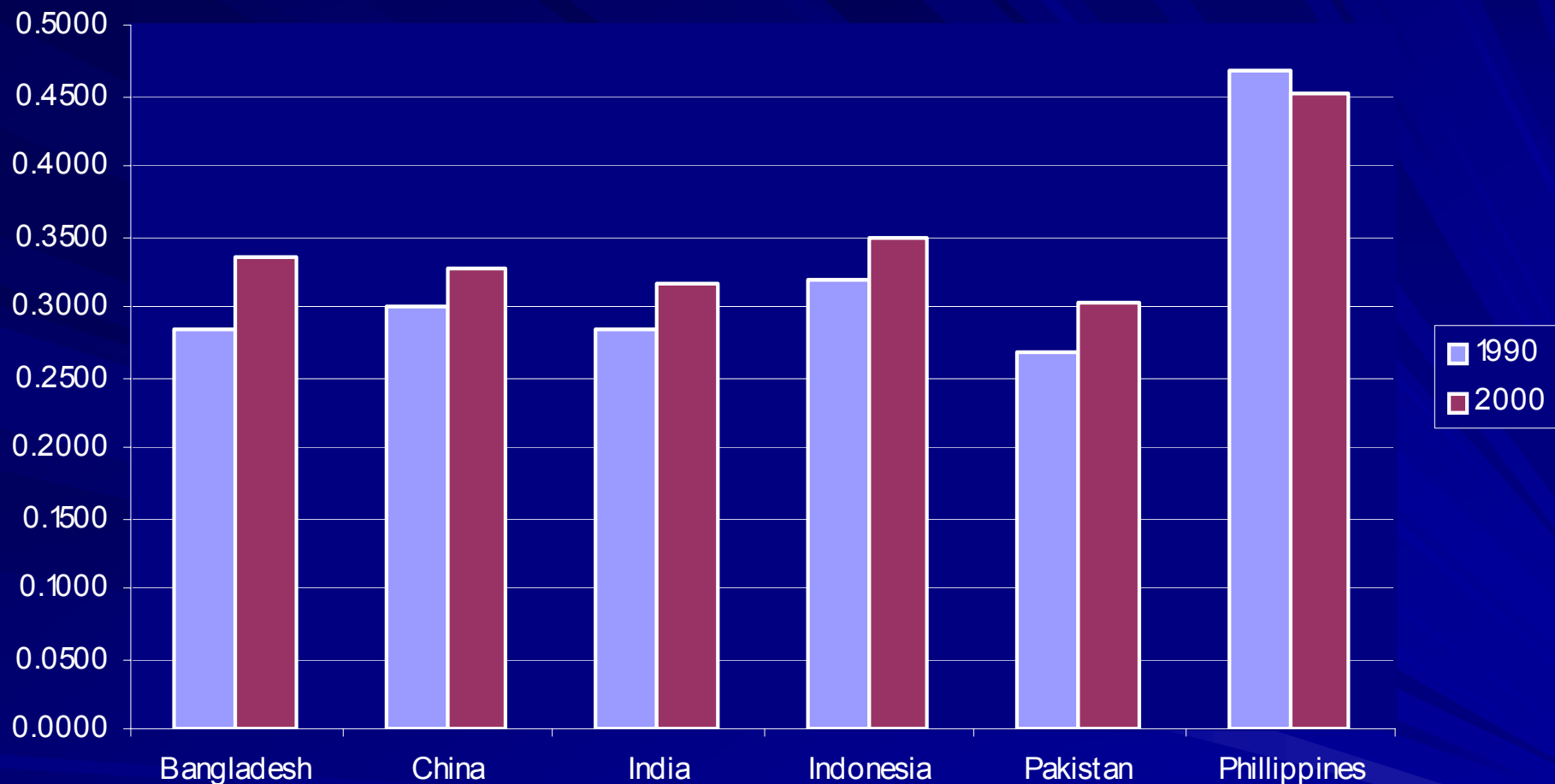
**Table 3: Summary of Indicators by *Pacific*: off-track**

Economies/Areas	Poverty	Under nutrition	underweight	Net Enrolment (Pri)	Completion Rates	Literacy	Primary	Secondary	Literacy	P. Seats	U5mortality	IMR	Immunization	MMR	HIV/AIDS	Malaria	TB	Forest Cover	Protected area	Energy Use	CO2 emission	Water supply (R)	Water Supply (U)	Sanitation (R)	Sanitation (U)
<b><i>Pacific</i></b>																									
American Samoa																									
Cook Islands																									
Fiji																									
French Polynesia																									
Guam																									
Kiribati																									
Marshall Islands																									
Micronesia (Federated States of)																									
Nauru																									
New Caledonia																									
Niue																									
Northern Mariana Islands																									
Palau																									
Papua New Guinea																									
Samoa																									
Solomon Islands																									
Tonga																									
Tuvalu																									
Vanuatu																									
<b>% of off-track Countries</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total Number of Countries</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>

# INTRA-COUNTRY DISPARITIES: INDIA



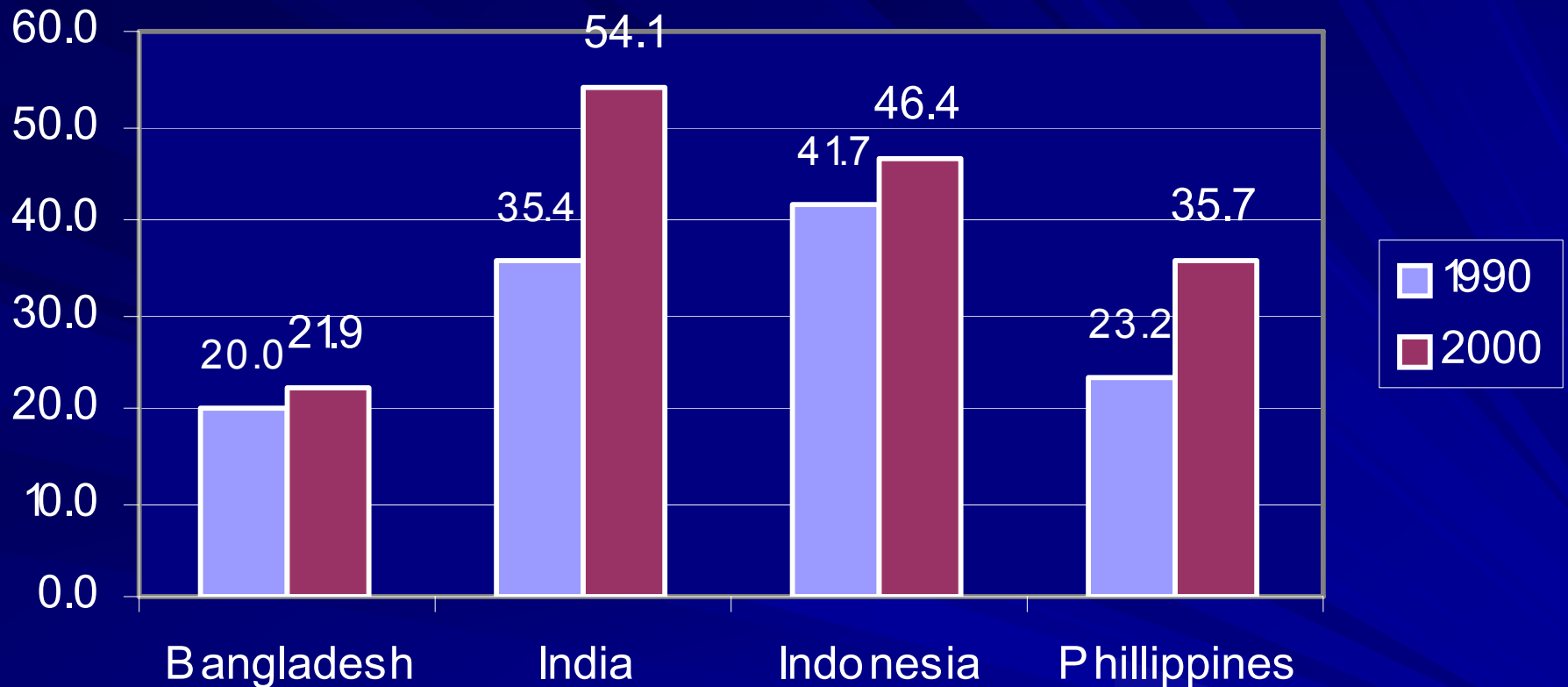
**Figure 5: Changes in inequalities in the six selected countries: Gini coefficients**



Note: Gini coefficient in per cent.

Sources: For Bangladesh, China and the Phillipines, the gini coefficients are taken from WIDER series. World Institute for Developing Economies Research (WIDER). The inequality data base of WIDER is available at <http://www.wider.unu.edu/wiid/wiid.htm>; for India, National Human Development Report; for Indonesia, United Nations Support Facility for Indonesian Recovery, Monitoring database: Available from [www.unsfir.or.id/monitoring.php](http://www.unsfir.or.id/monitoring.php); For Pakistan, National Human Development Report 2003.

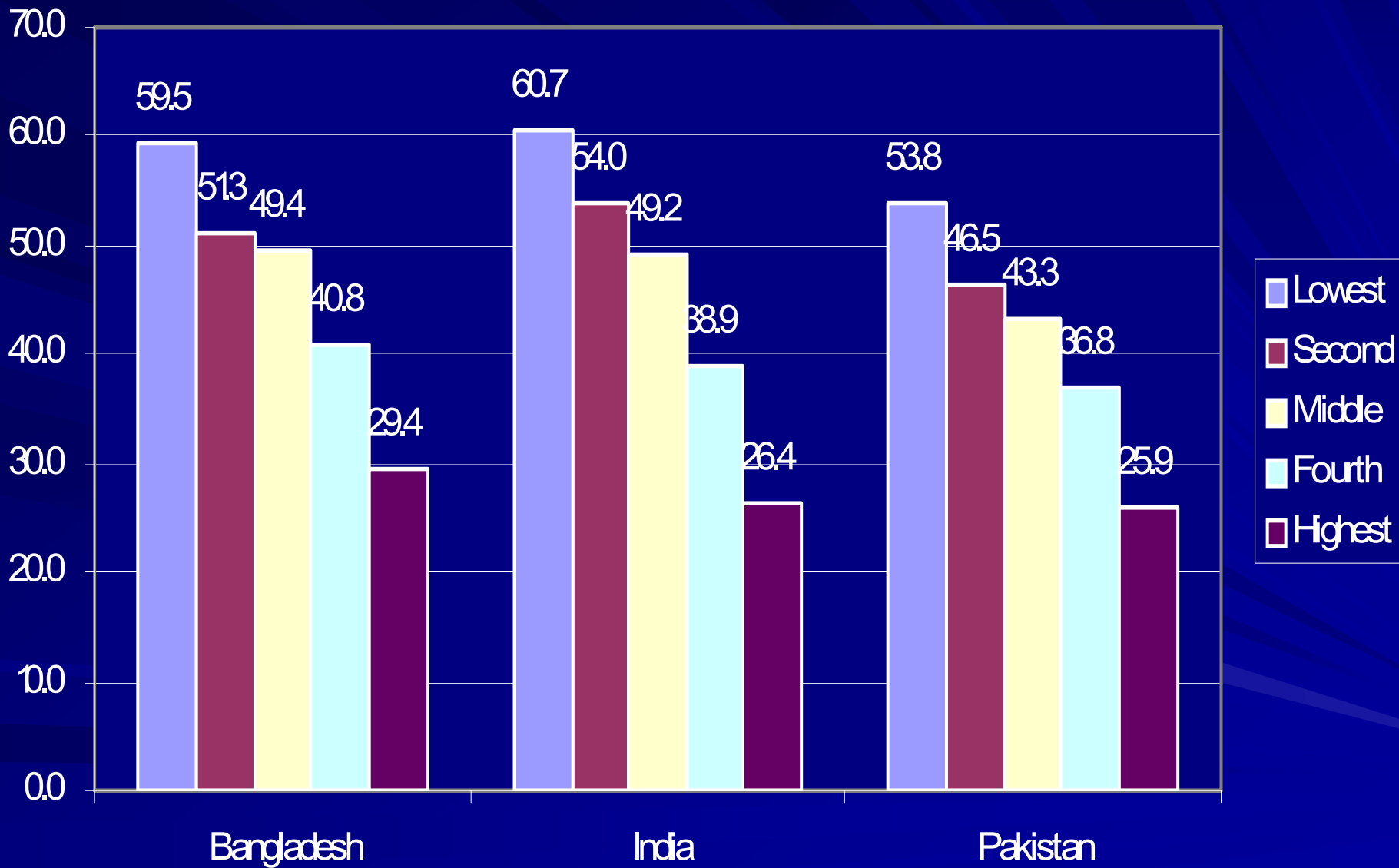
**Figure 6. Changes in Provincial Disparities in Poverty**



Note: Coefficient of Variation in per cent

Sources: World Bank (2005) "Attaining the Millennium Development Goals in Bangladesh" for Bangladesh; Government of India (2002) "National Human Development Report 2001", for India; UNDP (2004), "Indonesia: Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals" for Indonesia; For Pakistan, UNDP (2003), Pakistan Human Development Report 2003; For Philippines, MDG database available at [www.nscb.gov.ph/stats/mdg](http://www.nscb.gov.ph/stats/mdg)

Figure 8. Underweight children by income groups



**Figure 10. Changes in Provincial Disparities In Underweight Children**

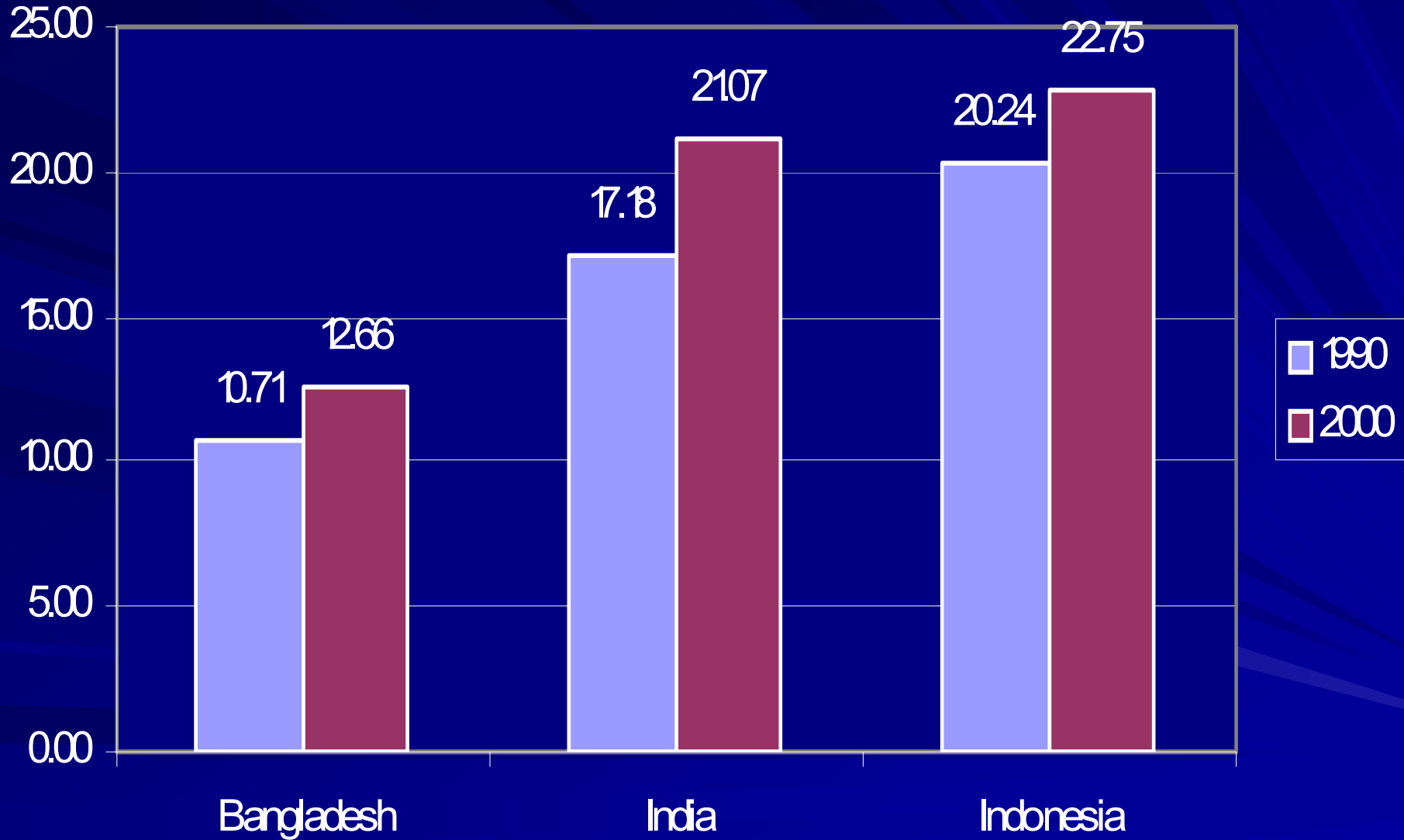
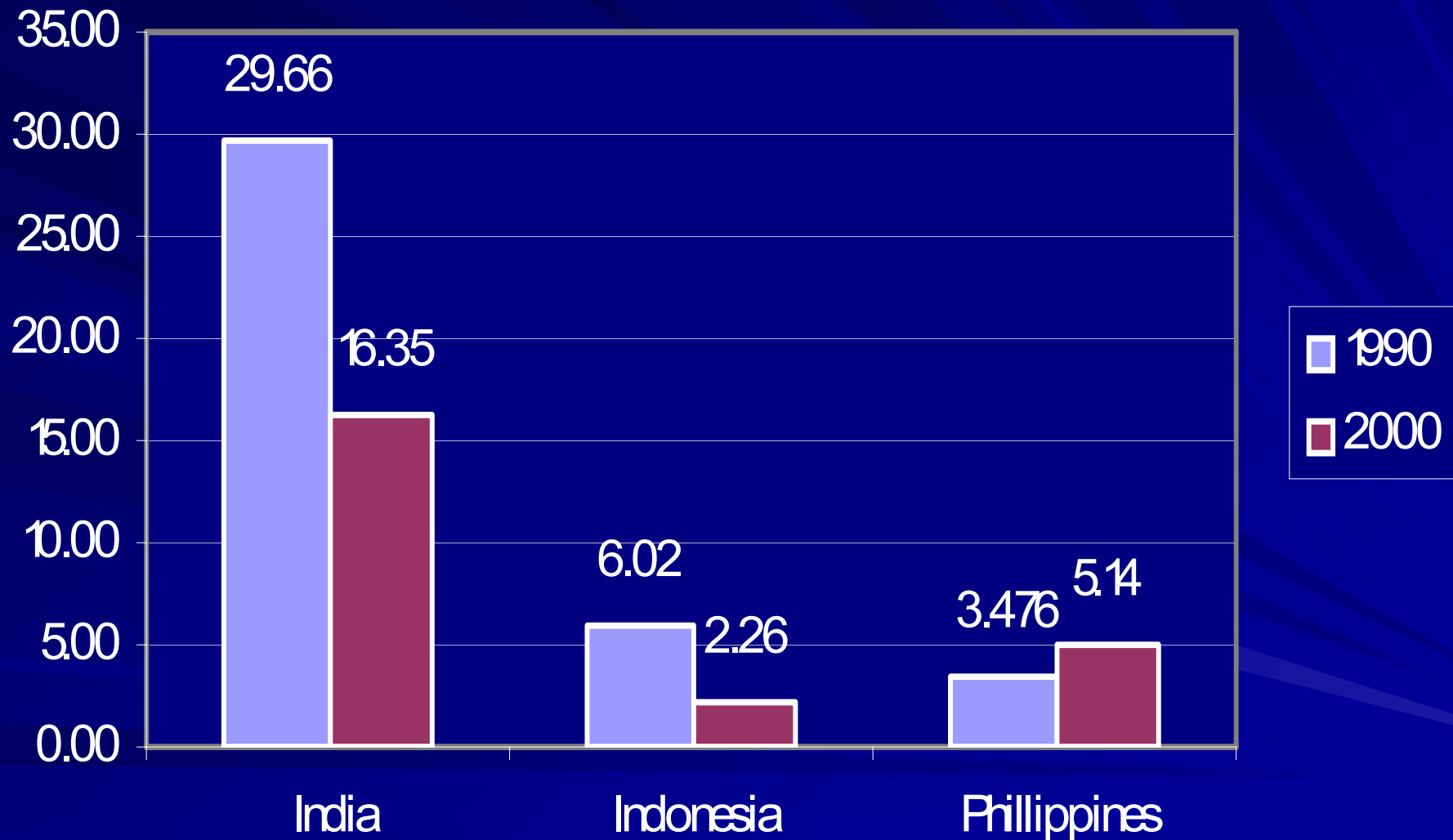


Figure 12. Changes in provincial disparities in net enrolment ratio



# Map 1: Human Development Map by Provinces: China



# Policy Suggestions

## ■ Five Suggestions

- Pro-poor growth
- Gender Issues
- Focus on backward regions and vulnerable groups
- Sector Specific Interventions
- Improve institutions for better service delivery

# 1. Pro-poor Growth

- Income poverty has significant links with economic growth and income distribution.
- The data for 51 developing countries: increase in 1% increase in growth associated with 1.5% decline in poverty.
- For developing Asia 1% increase in growth with 2% decline in poverty. Inequality low in Asia.
- Macro policies have to be pro-poor
- Agriculture growth
- Rural non-farm employment

## 2. Gender Issues

- Focusing on gender issues it self will improve MDGs in a big way.
- It is estimated that overall child mortality would drop by 20% if girls had the same mortality rate as boys in some countries.
- Likewise, overall school enrolment would improve, dropout rates and malnutrition would decline by concentrating on girls.

# Gender Issues (contd.)

- Female education is identified with improvements in child's education, health and malnutrition.
- Discrimination of women in labour market
- Land rights for women
- Involving women in natural resource management.
- Services – women use more, health services, drinking water, inadequate sanitation is more problem for women.

### 3. Focus on backward regions and social groups

- At the country level, three-quarters of all the out-of-school children aged 6-11 years are concentrated in only 20% of the country's villages in India.
- Similarly, one-fifth of the villages and districts account for about one-half of all the infant deaths and underweight children in India
- Similar concentrations in Bangladesh
- Also vulnerable groups (Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in India)

# 4. Sectoral Interventions

- Economic growth alone will not improve many MDGs. There is a need for sectoral interventions.
- For instance, a package consisting of expanded child and maternal immunization, antenatal care coverage, nutritional supplementation, neonatal services, drinking water and sanitation is likely to bring significant reduction in both infant mortality and malnutrition.

# Case of Malnutrition

- Though Antenatal Care is by and large universal, quality of Care is important
- About 68% of pregnant women make first ANC visit after 4<sup>th</sup> Month of pregnancy
- One third of them visit after sixth month of pregnancy
- About half of the deliveries take place at home

# Education- Concerns

- High dropout ratios at primary and middle school level
- High Child Labor
- Quality of School infrastructure
- High concentration of Child Labor among the poor
- Female Education has significant influence on enrolment and dropout rates

# Case of Child Mortality

- Close determinants
  - More than two thirds of IMR due to neonatal mortality
  - Immunisation
  - Sanitation and safe drinking water

# 5. Institutions and Service Delivery

- Related to sectoral interventions are institutions and service delivery.
- There is a feeling that institutions have collapsed at aggregate and grass root level in some countries
- Public expenditure in health and education are important. But resources are not the main problem. Service delivery is the problem.

# Rethinking Service Delivery

- Making services available to all.
- Quality
- Economic barriers
- Legal barriers
- Sociocultural barriers
- Political barriers

# Services

- Making services appropriate to local needs
- Empowering users
- Decentralization and local governance
- Rights based approach, right to information

**Thank You**