



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF UNDP IN SUPPORT OF THE MDGs (2002-2014)

UNEG Webinar on “Lessons from the MDG Era”

# Objective and Scope of the Evaluation

- ❑ Executive Board noted the potential to inform the post-2015 development agenda.
- ❑ Scope focused on UNDP “roles” in support of all the MDGs  
*(campaigning, monitoring, research, planning and programing, MAF, trust funds)*
- ❑ Sectorial programmes not reviewed

# FINDINGS



1

ERADICATE EXTREME  
POVERTY AND HUNGER



2

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL  
PRIMARY EDUCATION



3

PROMOTE GENDER  
EQUALITY AND  
EMPOWER WOMEN



4

REDUCE  
CHILD MORTALITY



5

IMPROVE MATERNAL  
HEALTH



6

COMBAT HIV/AIDS,  
MALARIA AND OTHER  
DISEASES



7

ENSURE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY



8

GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
DEVELOPMENT

# Campaigning for the Goals

- ❑ Two different channels: Millennium Campaign and Country Offices – not connected
- ❑ Millennium Campaign focused on donors, Africa and poor Asian nations, often driven by individual contacts
- ❑ The stand-up campaign reached out to hundreds of millions, but no link to policy: “we stood up, so what?”
- ❑ Some impact on MDG financing by donors, and maintained pre-existing commitments in developing countries

# Monitoring & Reporting

- ❑ National MDG reports produced across the globe with UNDP assistance (~450 reports produced)
- ❑ Helped improved data management, maintain commitment and attract attention to neglected issues
- ❑ Insufficient involvement of UN agencies to strengthen data and interpretation
- ❑ Disconnect between the global and the country levels – the case of the “MDG monitor”

# Planning and Programming

- ❑ Large effort post-2005
- ❑ A generation of PRSPs was “aligned” with the MDGs
- ❑ MDG costing led to “astronomic figures”, but helped convince donors to raise their commitments
- ❑ Strong demand for MDGs in sub-national planning to monitor and address geographic inequalities
- ❑ Clear programmatic impact in *some* cases (e.g. expansion of social sectors outreach)
- ❑ Some UNDP planning support was superficial, without consideration for means of implementation

# Efficiency

- ❑ Products and guidelines were well designed
- ❑ CO leadership was a major performance factor
- ❑ Some trust funds & units were disconnected from the mainstay of UNDP MDG work
- ❑ UNDP quickly rolled out tools to the country level but did not systematically document and learn from country experience

# Developmental Outcomes

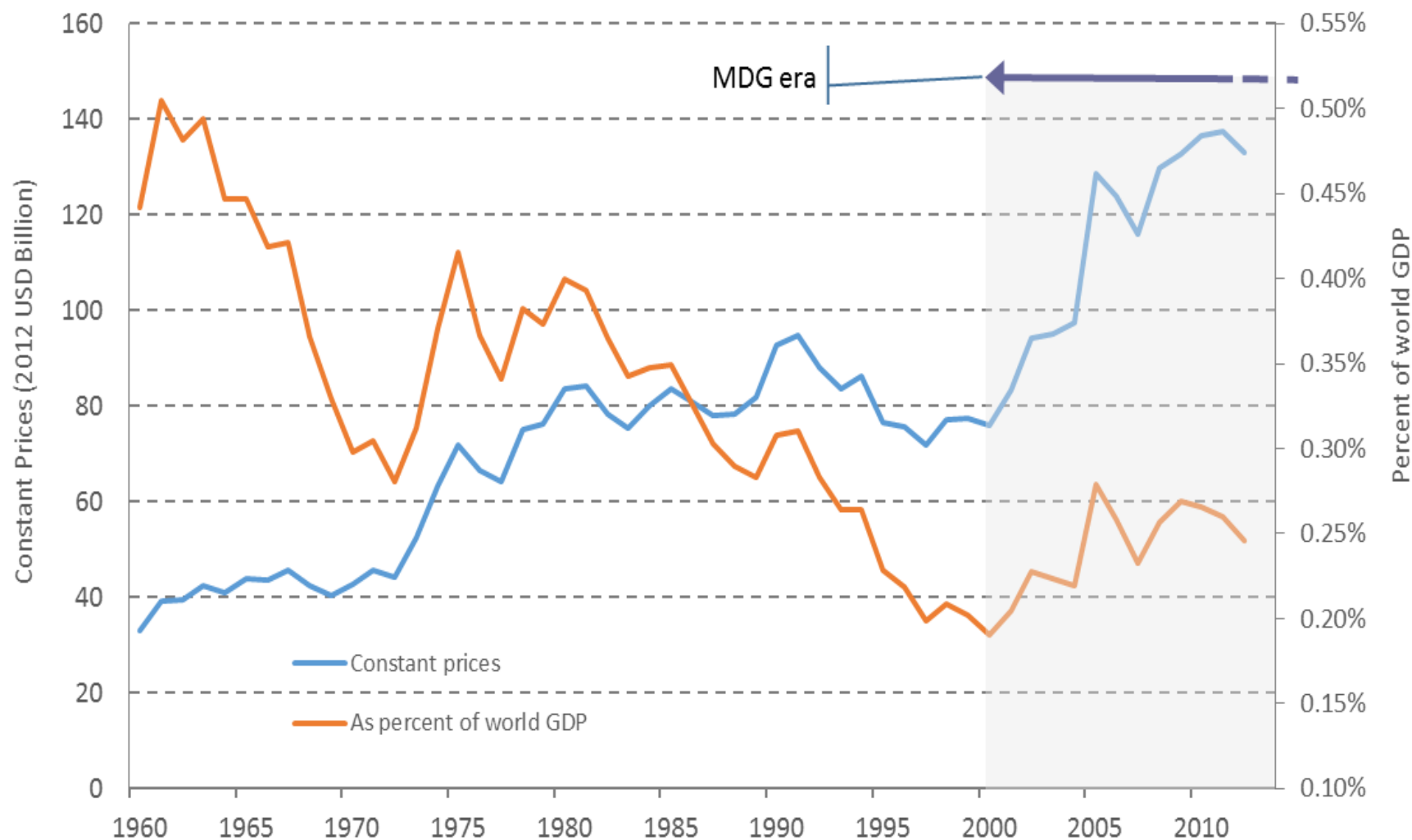
- A common, “safe” language to talk of aid & development
- An agreed, simple metric for development
  - Helped maintain commitment
  - More development data, easier to access
  - Quality may suffer from a ‘rush for numbers’
- Pushed back on a growth-centric view of development → social sectors expansion
  - but MDGs cannot be achieved sustainably without growth

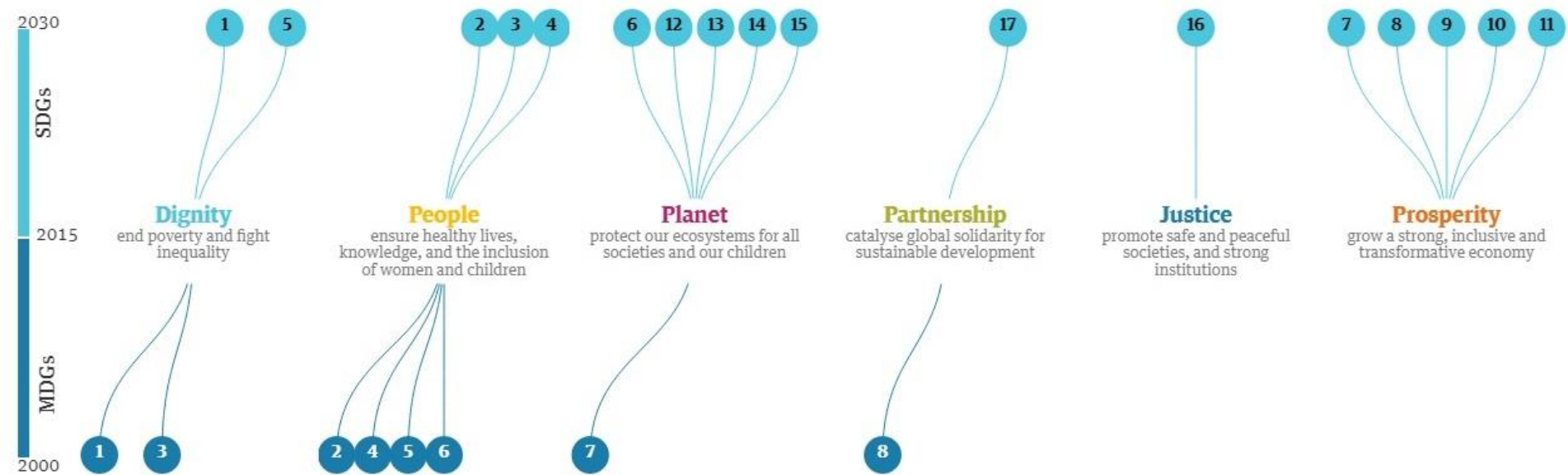


# Developmental Outcomes

- An era of ODA increase
  - More aid to health & education
  - Can't disentangle from the impact of other initiatives
  - Minor role of UNDP in resource mobilization

# Total ODA Disbursements of DAC Members





# CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

# Conclusions

1. The basic concept, strategy and tools for UN support to the MDGs have been largely validated by experience.
2. UNDP has rolled out an impressive set of complementary tools in support of the MDGs, generally of high quality and well timed.
3. The limited involvement of specialized agencies emerged as a weakness.
4. There was an excessive attention to formal planning *per se* without thinking through realistic means of implementation.

# Recommendations

1. UNDP should organise a last round of country reports, and support the 'unfinished MDGs' even after 2015.
2. Provide advice at the level of the entire SDG agenda, in addition to sectorial work.
3. Overall, the 'roles' UNDP played during the MDG era will remain useful in the SDG era, including the MAF, but should be enhanced.
4. Focus planning assistance on processes that have good implementation prospects.
5. Establish and maintain a stable cadre of advisors and document country level work in a more systematic and objective way.