



A rights-based approach to delivering on the MDGs

Governance Workshop

Cairo

June 2009

Eitan Felner
Independent Consultant

Purpose of Presentation

1

Synergy
between Human Rights
and empirically-based
Socioeconomic Analysis



Assessing governance-related
issues on MDGs

2

High deprivation
and inequality
In HD outcomes

Gov't public policies

Root causes → Lack of political will

Progress on MDGs...

Like a Tango Dance





Deprivations and Disparities in MDGs

“Most countries are off track to meet most MDGs”

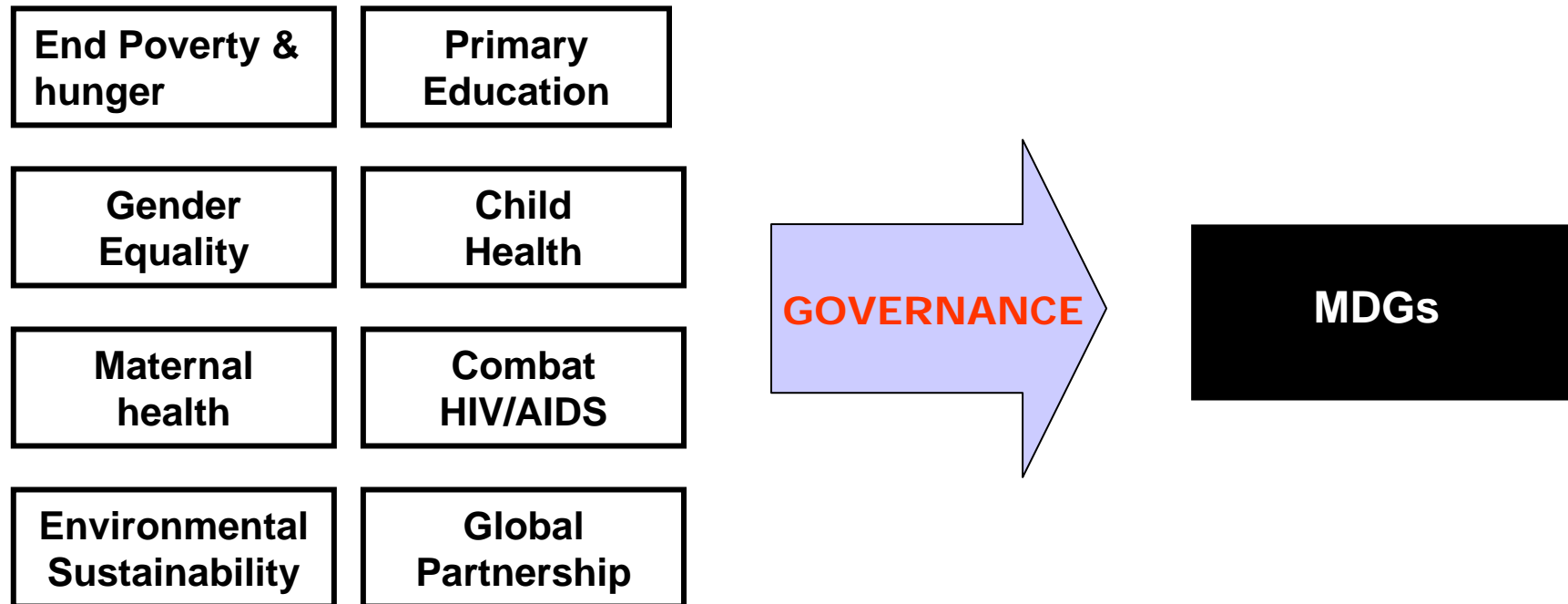
World Bank, Global Monitoring Report 2008

“Many countries with good average performance on the Goals contain population groups — and sometimes entire areas — being left behind.

UNDP, Human Development Report 2003

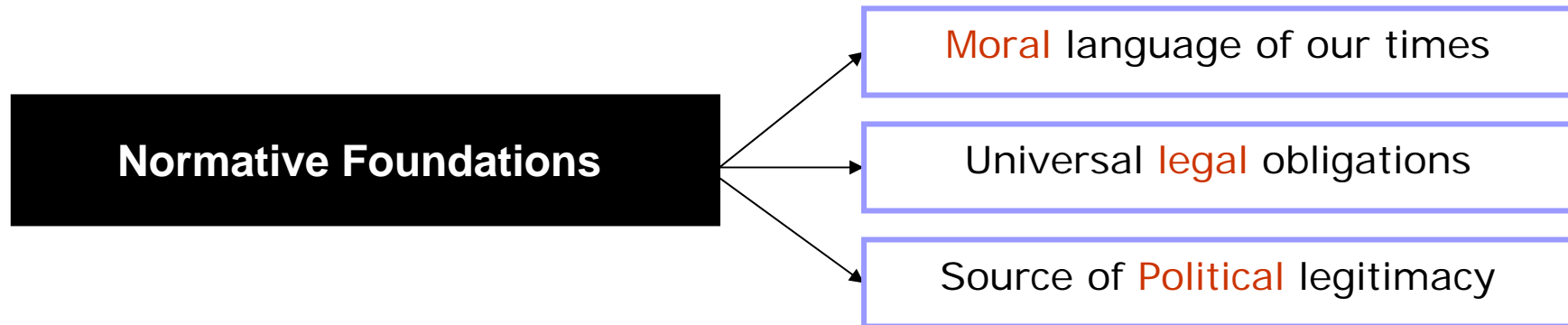


Good Governance: A crucial element for attaining the MDGs





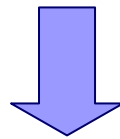
The role of human rights in governance assessments of MDGs





Basic challenge to make governments accountable for insufficient progress in MDGs

Deprivations and disparities in progress in MDGs are result of multiple reasons, only some of which can be attributed to government actions or inactions



“Health” [...] is influenced by a range of factors – including health-related behaviour, prenatal factors, early childhood, social status, support, living conditions, education, health services, nutrition, and stress.”

WHO and UNFPA, **National-level monitoring of the Achievement of universal access to reproductive health**, 2008



Focus of human rights approach: avoidable deprivations

- Calls attention to the fact that widespread deprivations and disparities are all too often not inevitable
- Rather: frequently generated, perpetuated or exacerbated by lack of political will of governments

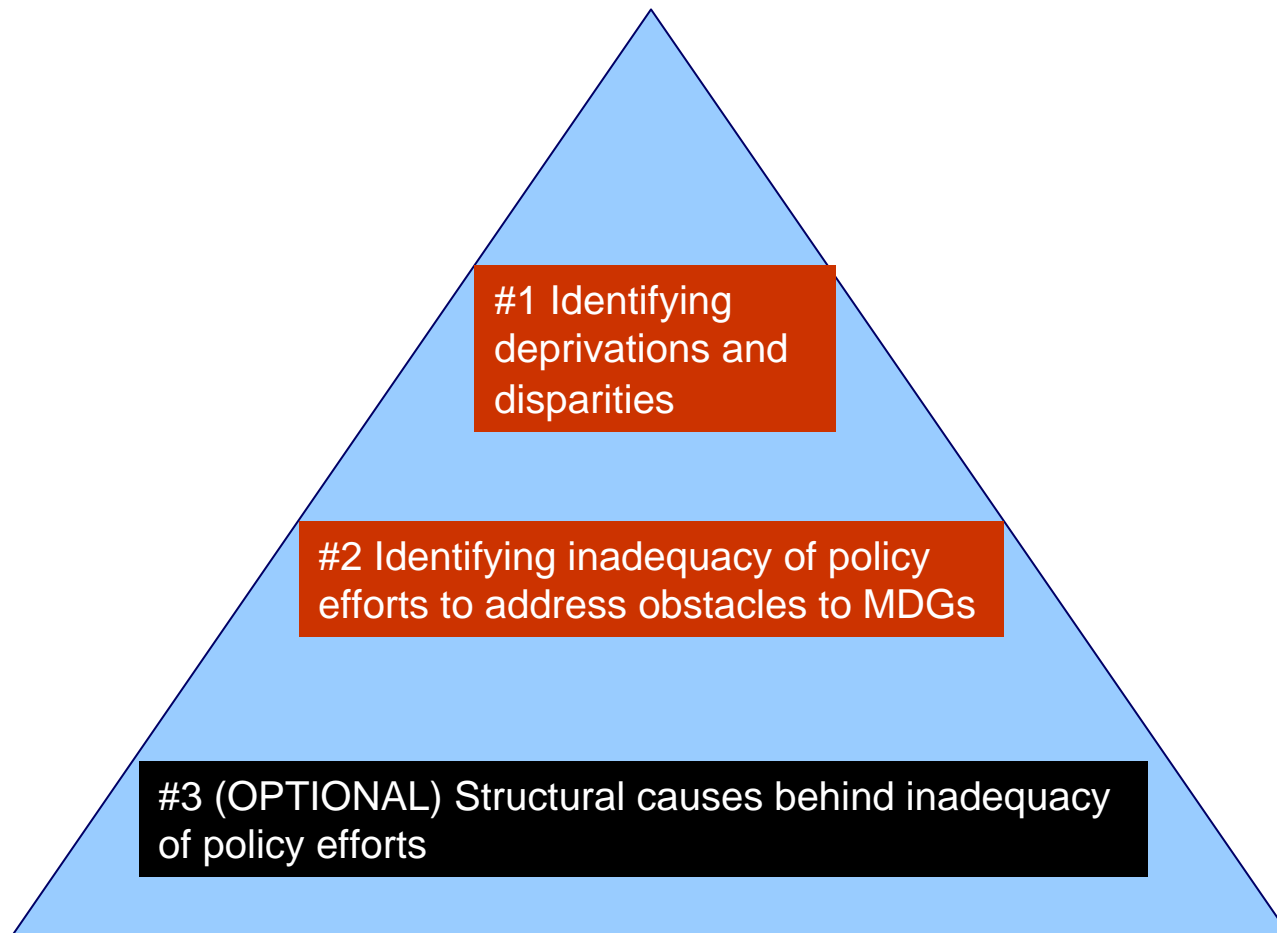


What is needed...

Simple tools to assess to what extent deprivations, disparities and lack of progress in MDGs can be traced back to failures of government policy

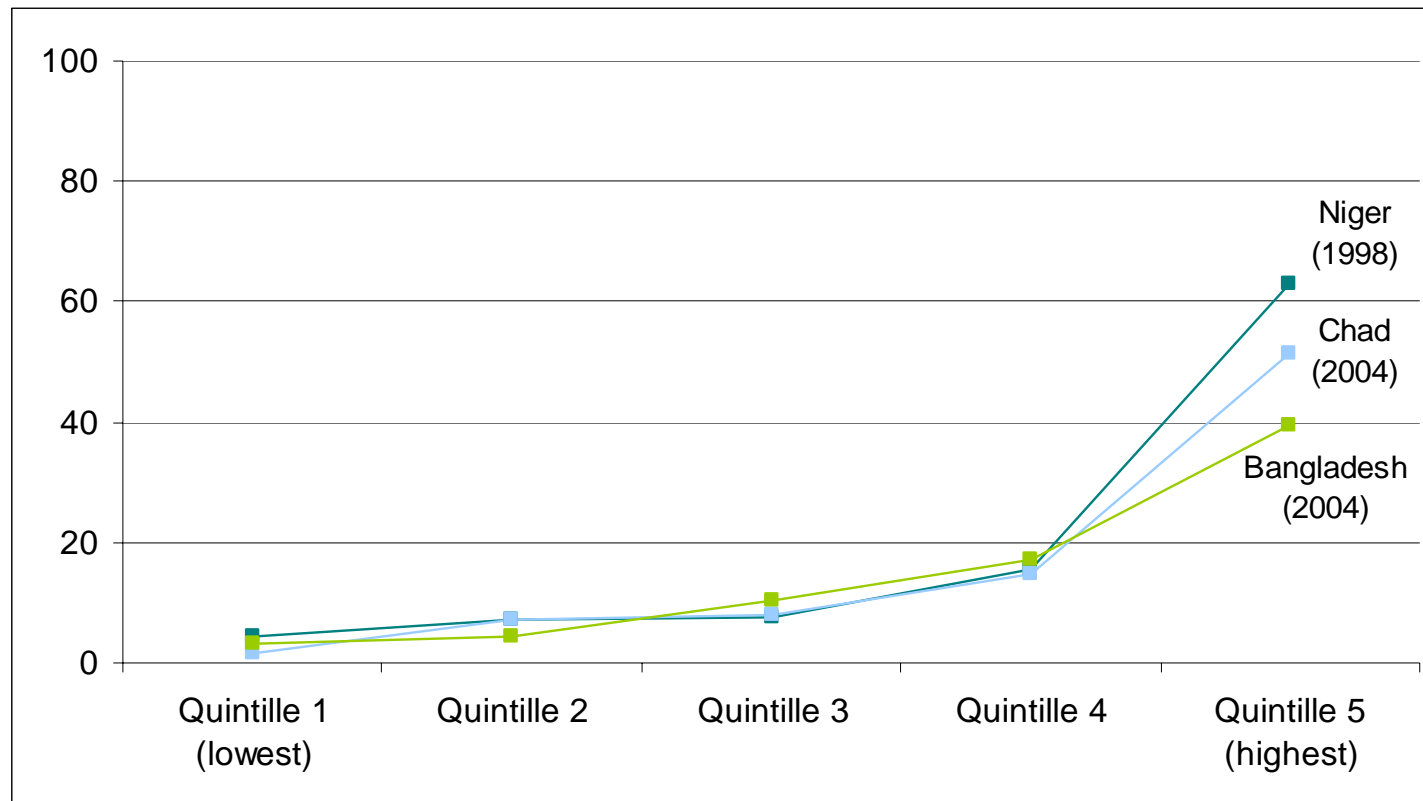


3-step Methodological framework



Step #1 - Identifying deprivations and disparities in MDGs

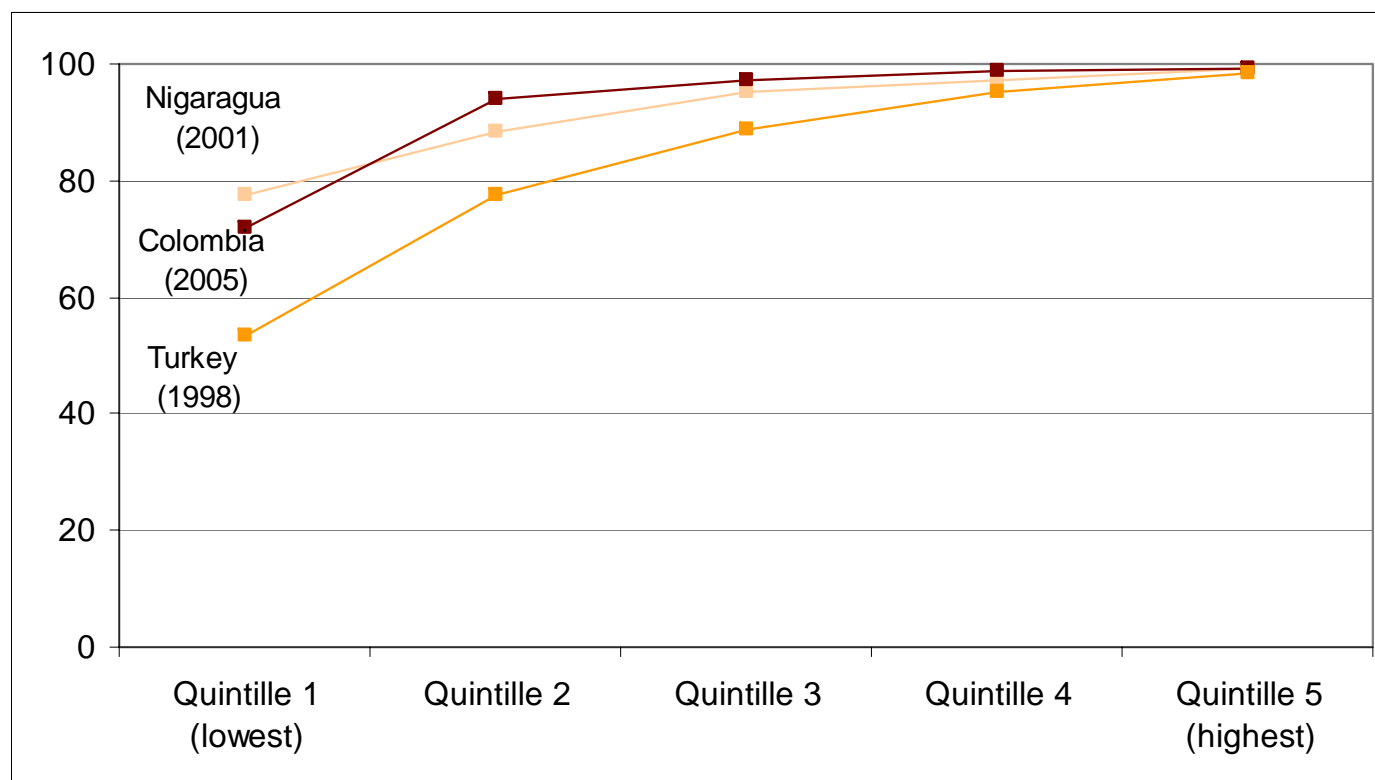
Pattern of Massive Deprivation



WHO 2008, based on data from Gwatkin et al, 2007

Step #1 - Identifying deprivations and disparities in MDGs (continued)

A pattern of Marginalization

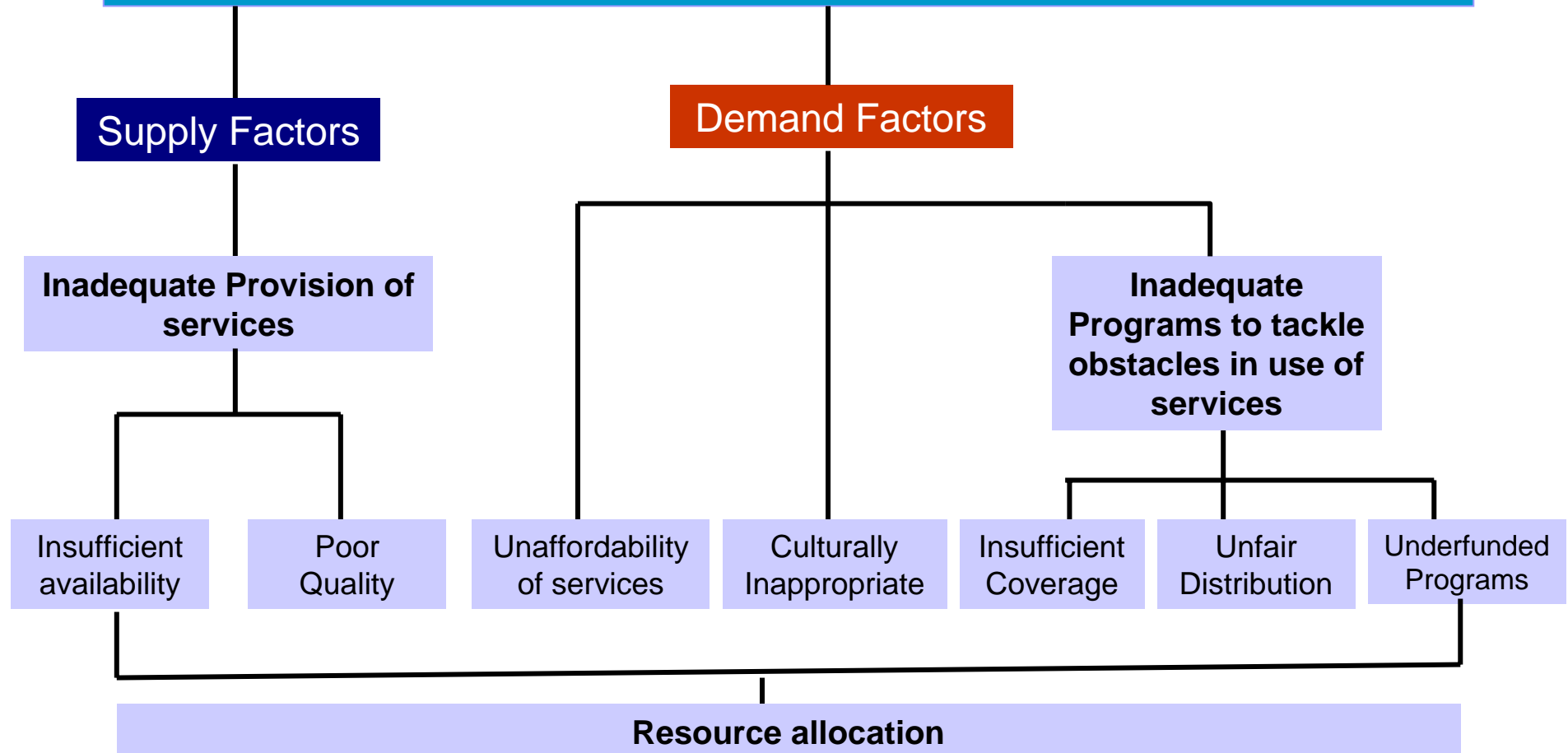


WHO 2008, based on data from Gwatkin et al, 2007

Step #2 -

Identifying inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants

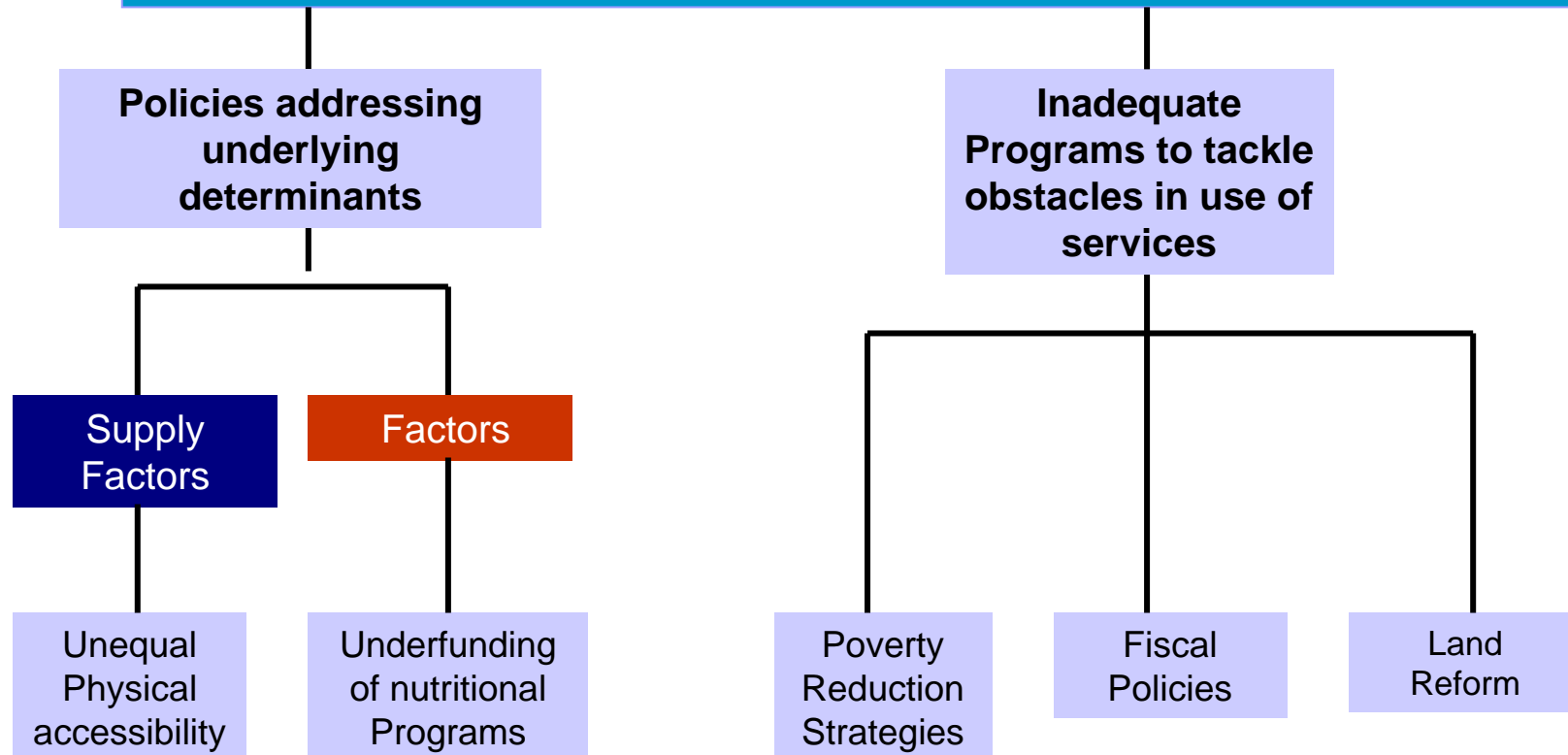
A. Sector related policies



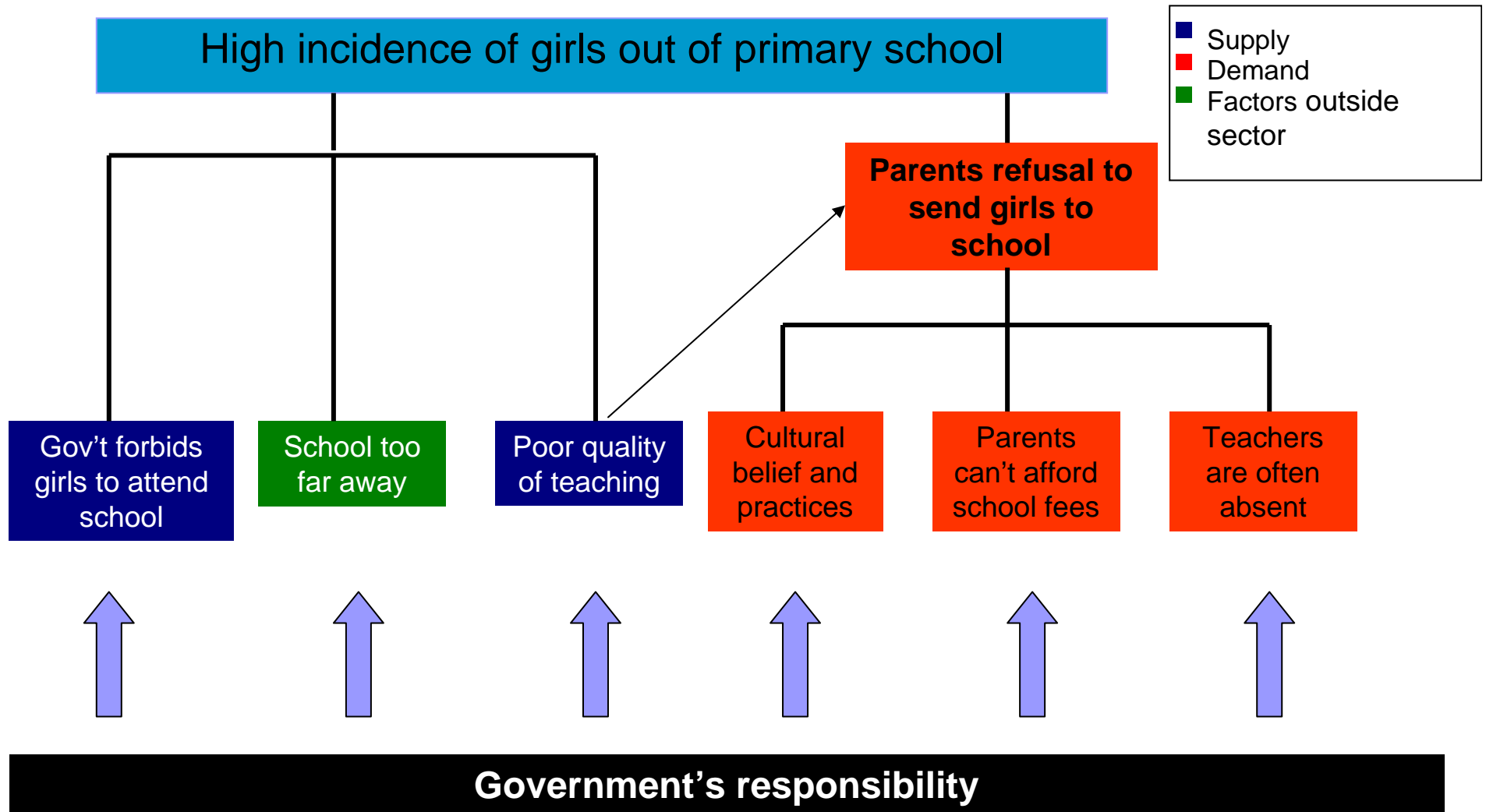
Step #2 -

Identifying inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants (continued)

B. Non-sector related policies



**Step #2 -
Identifying inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants
(illustration)**



Step #3 – Structural causes behind inadequacy of government efforts

Insufficient resources for MDGs (in education, health, nutrition, etc)

Corruption

Elite Capture

Inequity between regions in allocation of resources for MDG programs

Ethnic Discrimination

Political Clientelism

Women's lack of access to basic social services

Discriminatory beliefs and traditional practices condones or promoted by government



Addressing unequal power relations

“The overly technocratic nature of the MDGs and closely associated institutions has been questioned. The MDG project places great emphasis on the mobilization of financial resources and technical solutions, but less on **transforming power relations that are partly responsible for current levels of poverty in developing, and developed, countries.**”

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Claiming the MDGs: A Human Rights Approach*

“Inequity in education is linked to wider disparities in the distribution of power, wealth and opportunity. And it is perpetuated by policies that either tolerate or actively exacerbate an unfair distribution of life chances – policies that fuel the transmission of poverty across generations.”

UNESCO, *Education For All Report 2009*

Some illustrations

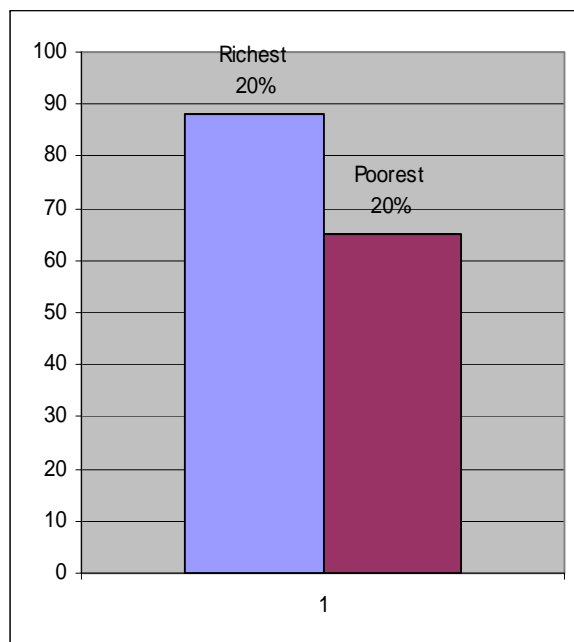
Determinants of MDGs-related deprivations and inequalities

Inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants

Structural causes behind inadequacy of government efforts

Poverty's grip keeps children out of school

Primary school net attendance ratio in Developing countries, richest and poorest Quintile, 2000/2006 (percentage)



UN – *The Millenium Development Goals Report 2008*

Reasons for dropping out of primary school, selected African countries, various years (percentage)

Country	Could not pay School
Cameroon	45.4
Kenya	47.6
Nigeria	33.9
Uganda	75.3
Zambia	43.7
Zimbabwe	73

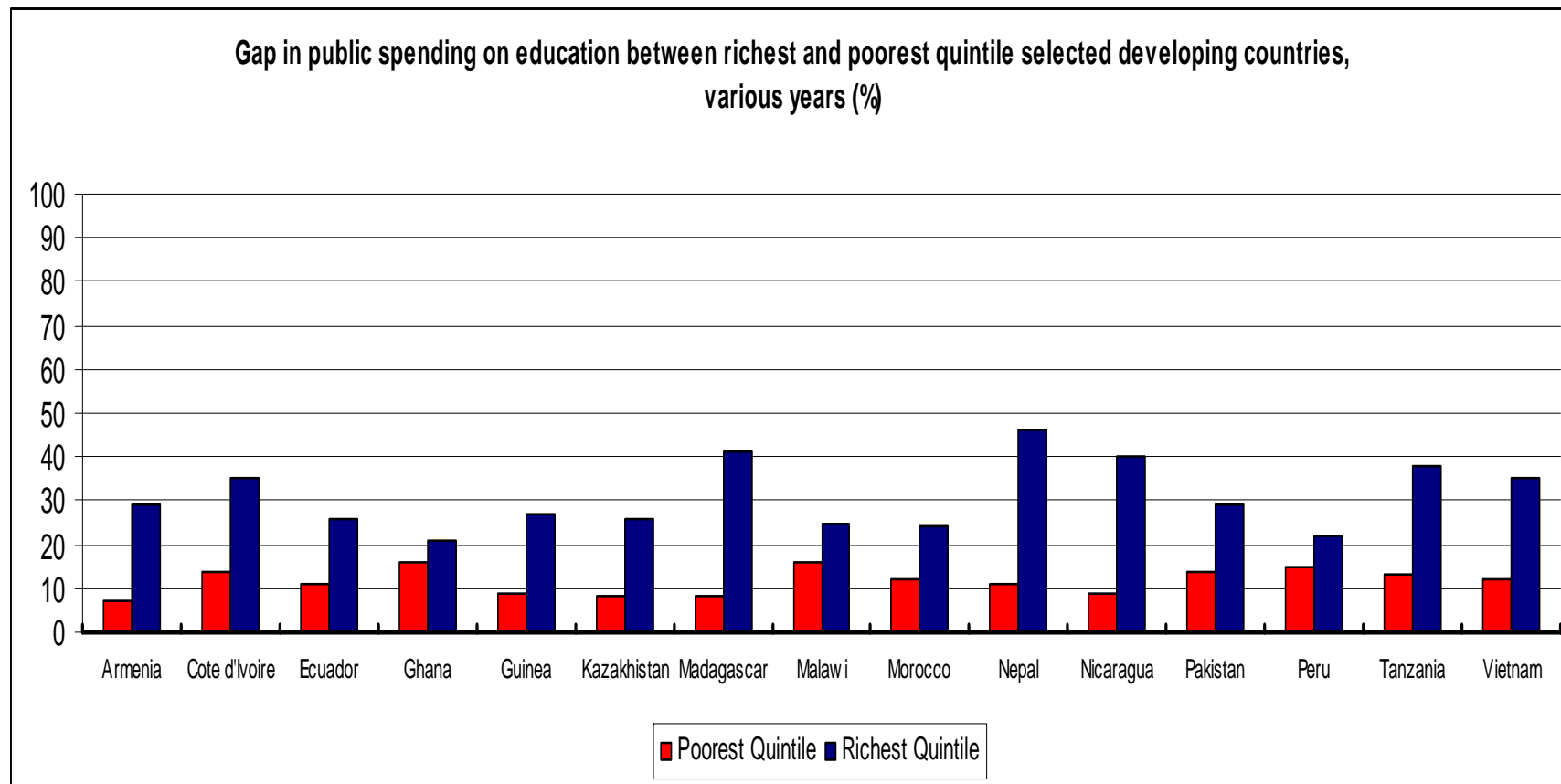
Demographic and Health Surveys

Determinants of MDGs-related deprivations and inequalities

Inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants

Structural causes behind inadequacy of government efforts

Public expenditure on education – skewed against the poor



World Bank, *World Development Report 2000/2001*



Determinants of MDGs-related deprivations and inequalities

Inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants

Structural causes behind inadequacy of government efforts

Why is so little spend on educating the Poor? **Elite capture**

“The underlying cause of unequal public spending is the patron-client relationship—between the affluent elite and the government—that prevails in many countries.

Economic power and the wealth associated with it enable the affluent to buy favourable policies from politicians. In contrast, the poor lack the resources with which to lobby and they are less organized... They are, therefore, in many cases unable to influence the government in their favour.”

Tony Addison et al, ‘Why is so Little Spent on Educating the Poor?’ 2001

“The ruling elites found it convenient to perpetuate low literacy rates. The lower the proportion of literate people, the lower the probability that the ruling elite could be replaced”

Ishrat Husain, *Pakistan: The Economy of an Elitist State*



A rights-based approach to delivering on the MDGs

Governance Workshop

Cairo

June 2009

End of Presentation

Eitan Felner
Independent Consultant

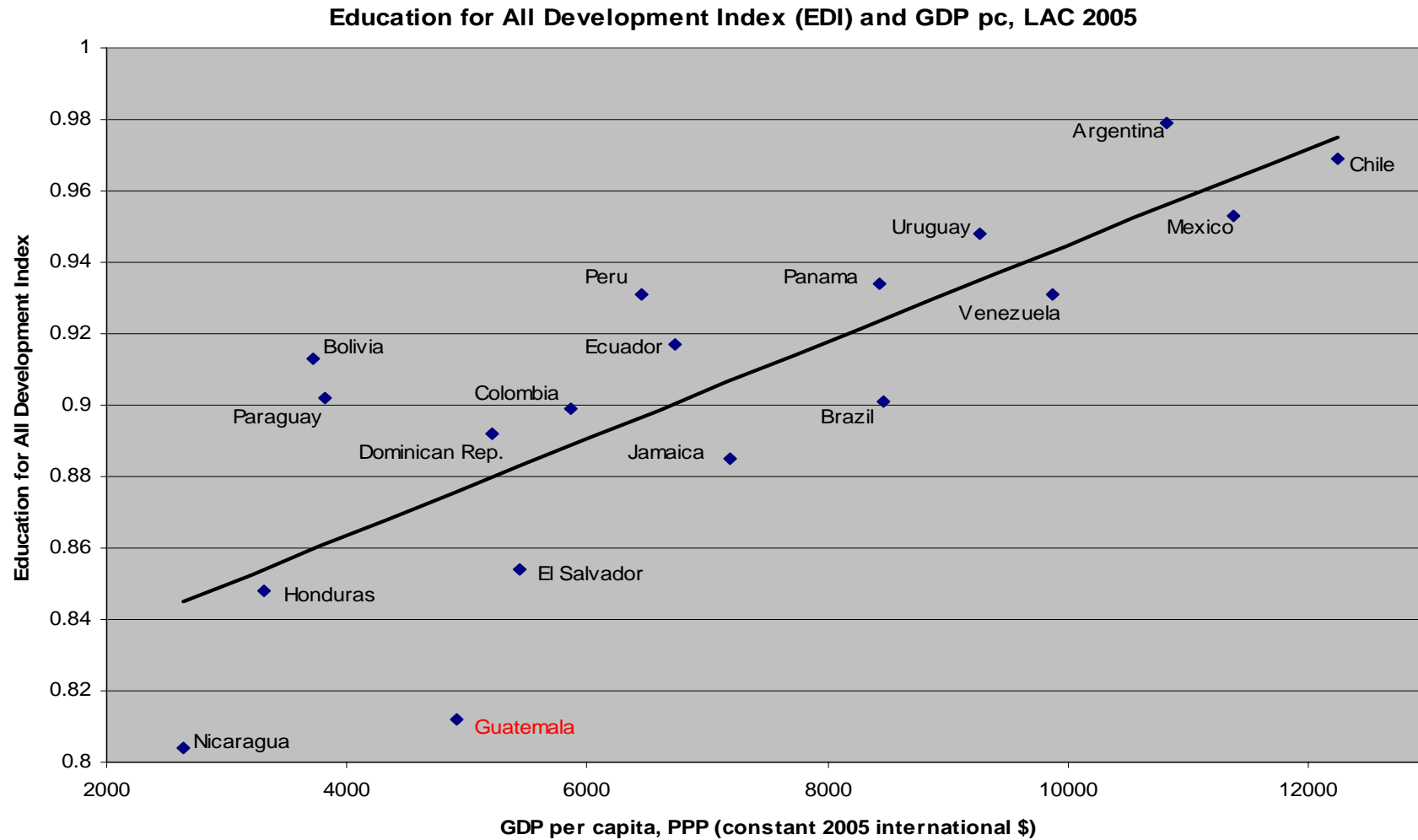


The Right to Education in Guatemala

Determinants of MDGs-related deprivations and inequalities

Inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants

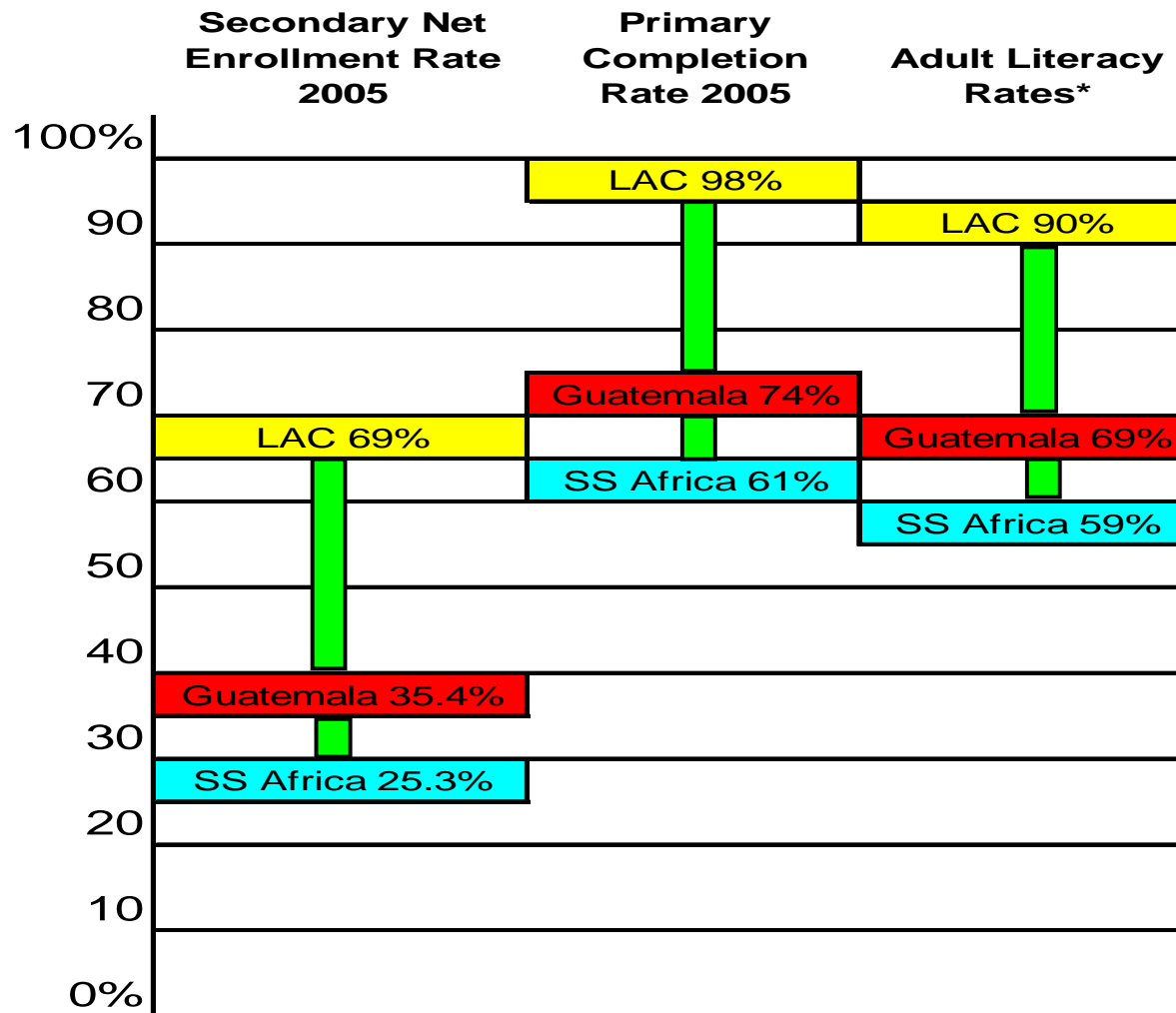
Structural causes behind inadequacy of government efforts



Determinants of MDGs-related deprivations and inequalities

Inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants

Structural causes behind inadequacy of government efforts



Source: UNESCO

Source: WDI

Source: WDI

*LAC and SS Africa: 2005. Guatemala: 2002

Method

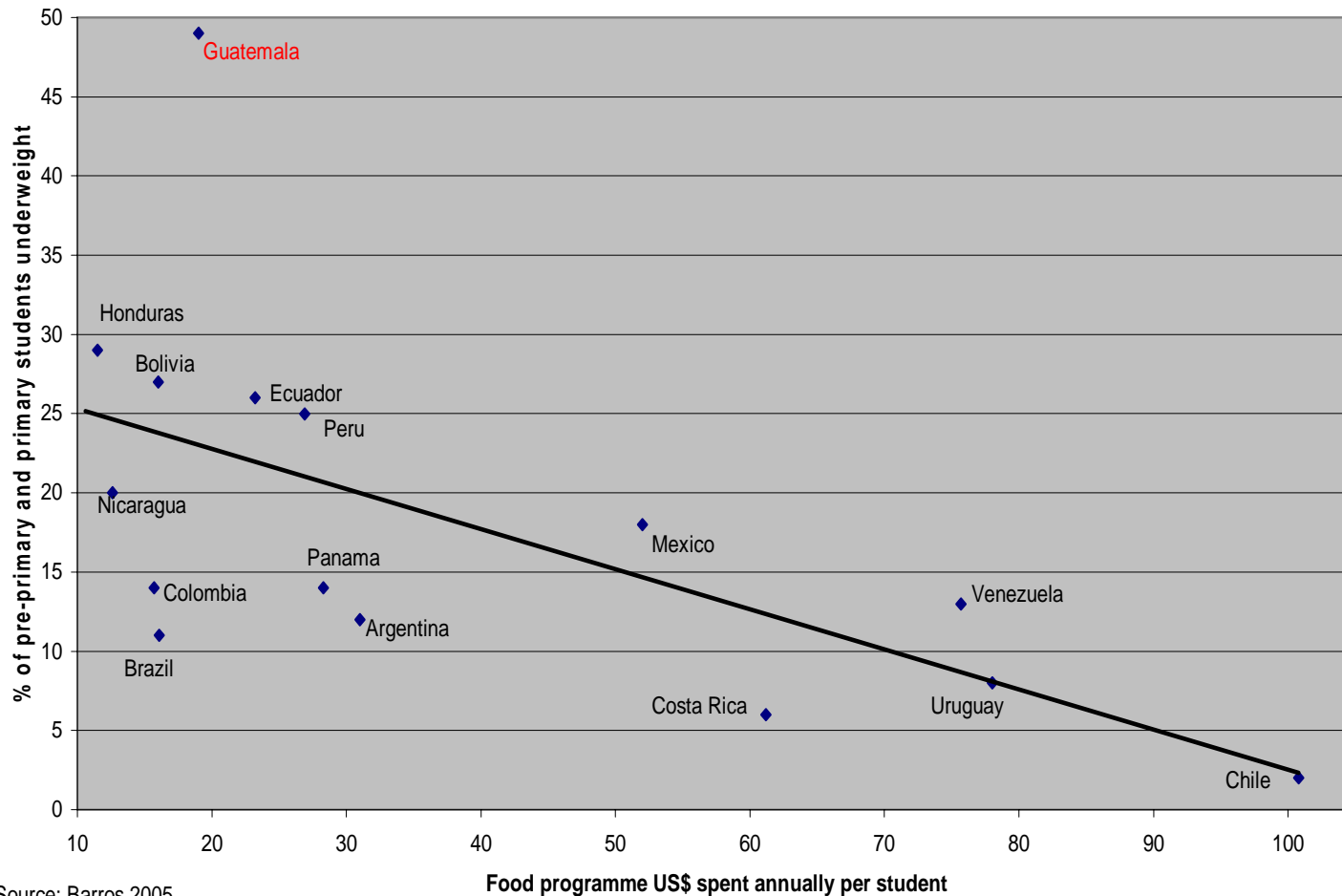
Comparing one country with different regions helps flag underperformance

Determinants of MDGs-related deprivations and inequalities

Inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants

Structural causes behind inadequacy of government efforts

Exposing Chronic Underfunding and Insufficient Coverage of Aid Programs for Poor Children
Food Programme Money Spent Annually per Student and % of Underweight Children, LAC

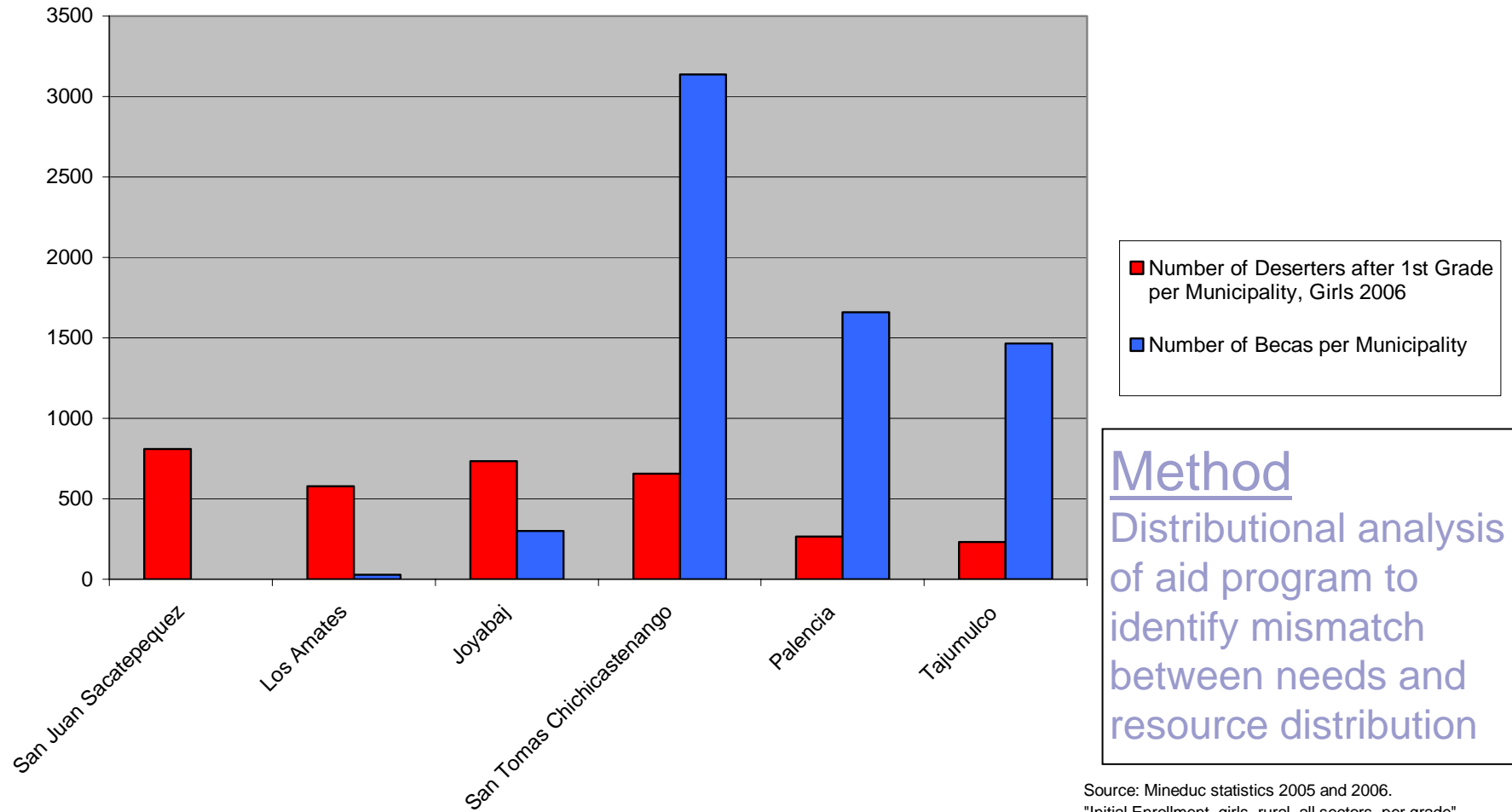


Source: Barros 2005

Method
Cross-country comparison of resource allocation for specific aid programs

Inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants – Comparing needs with resource allocation

Becas and Deserters per Municipality



Inadequacy of policy efforts to address determinants –

Assessing whether marginalized children are being taught by the least qualified teachers

Poverty Incidence

Dept.	Poverty
Quiché	81
Alta Verapaz	78.8
Sololá	74.6
Totonicapán	71.9
Huehuetenango	71.3
Baja Verapaz	70.4
San Marcos	65.5
Jalapa	61.2
Chimaltenango	60.5
Chiquimula	59.5
Santa Rosa	57.9
Petén	57
Suchitepéquez	54.7
Zacapa	53.9
Retalhuleu	50.4
Jutiapa	47.3
Quetzaltenango	44
El Progreso	41.8
Escuintla	41.4
Sacatepéquez	36.5
Guatemala	16.3

Teachers' Reading Test Scores

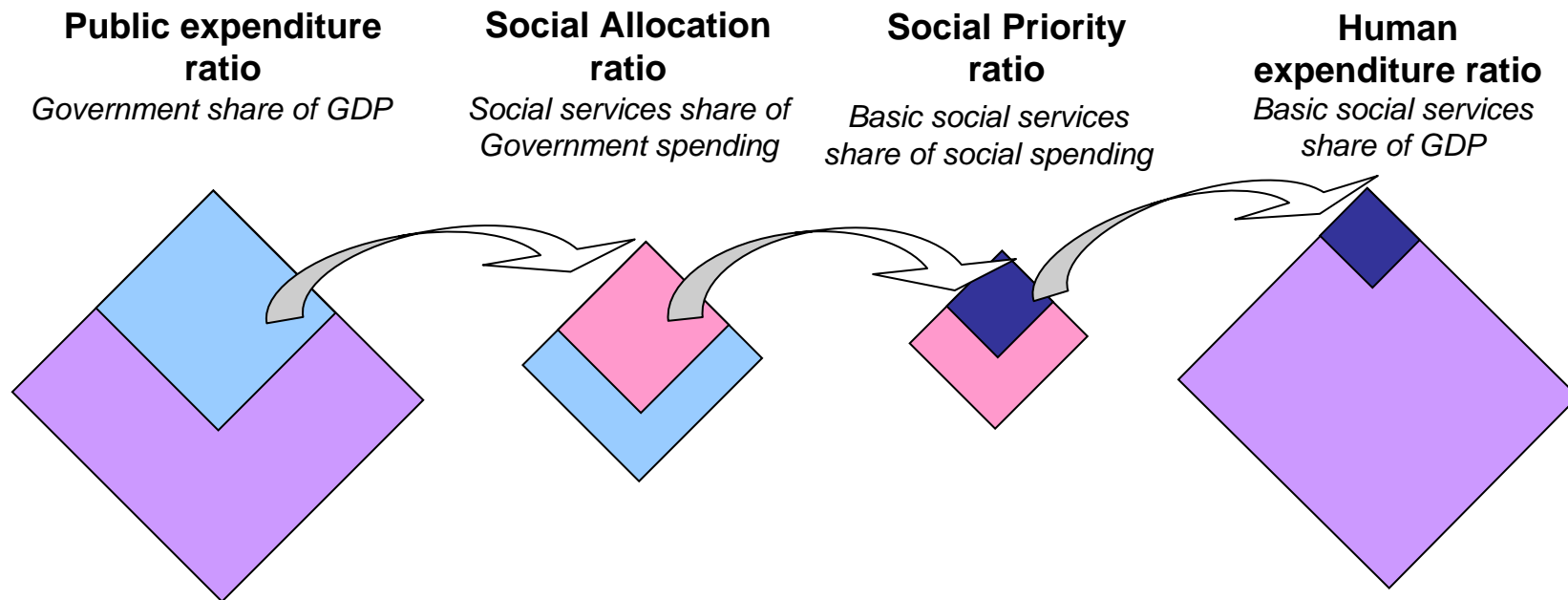
Dept.	Score
Sacatepéquez	72.6
Guatemala	66.5
Chimaltenango	66
El Progreso	61.4
Retalhuleu	60.5
Petén	60.5
San Marcos	60.2
Zacapa	59.9
Jalapa	59.8
Chiquimula	59.3
Escuintla	58.8
Suchitepéquez	57.4
Quetzaltenango	56.8
Baja Verapaz	56.2
Jutiapa	55.6
Totonicapán	54.2
Huehuetenango	53.5
Santa Rosa	52.5
Sololá	51.4
Quiché	51.2
Alta Verapaz	50.9

Concentration of Indigenous People

Dept.	% Pop. Indigenous
Totonicapán	98%
Sololá	96%
Alta Verapaz	93%
Quiché	89%
Chimaltenango	79%
Huehuetenango	65%
Baja Verapaz	59%
Quetzaltenango	54%
Suchitepéquez	52%
Sacatepéquez	42%
San Marcos	31%
Petén	31%
Retalhuleu	23%
Jalapa	19%
Chiquimula	17%
Guatemala	14%
Escuintla	7%
Jutiapa	3%
Santa Rosa	3%
El Progreso	1%
Zacapa	1%

Method
Comparing
multiple
data sets

Analysing resource allocation for core obligations: UNDP social priority spending ratios

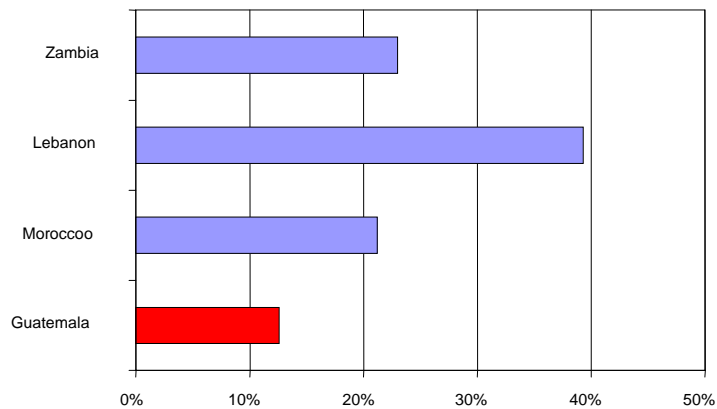


Human expenditure ratio: The product of the previous three ratios:
 $(PE/GDP) \times (SS/PE) \times (BSS/SS)$ The macroeconomic priority assigned to basic social services.

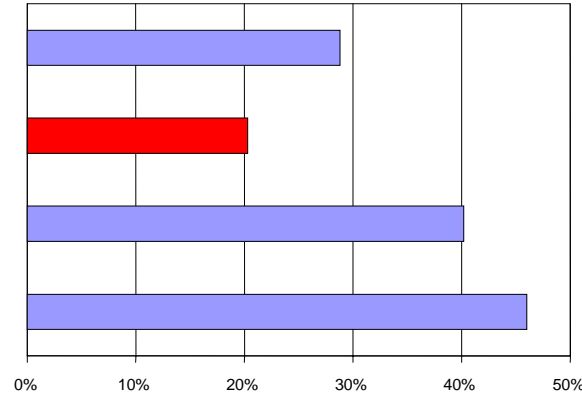
Source: UNDP 1991

Social priority spending

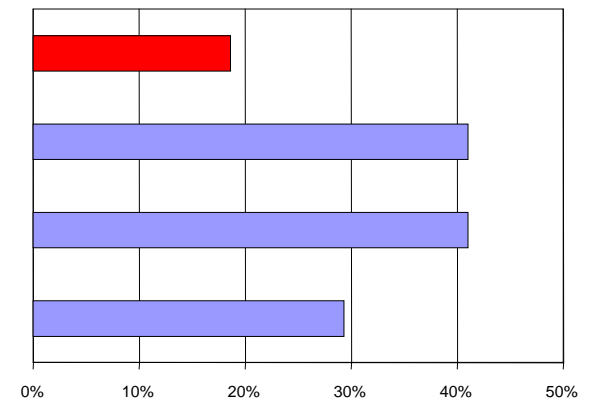
Public expenditure ratio



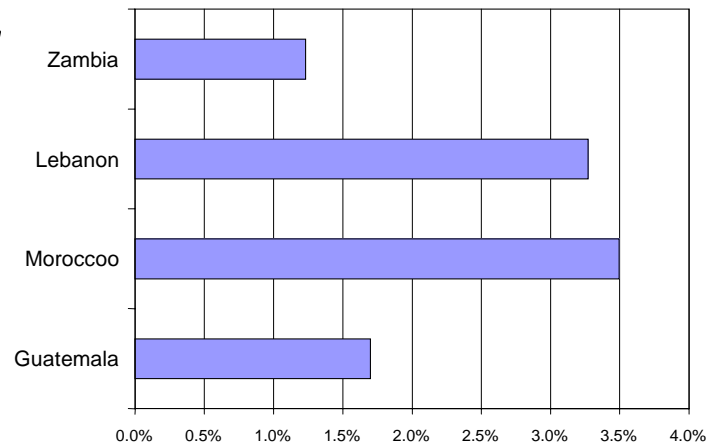
Social allocation ratio



Social priority ratio

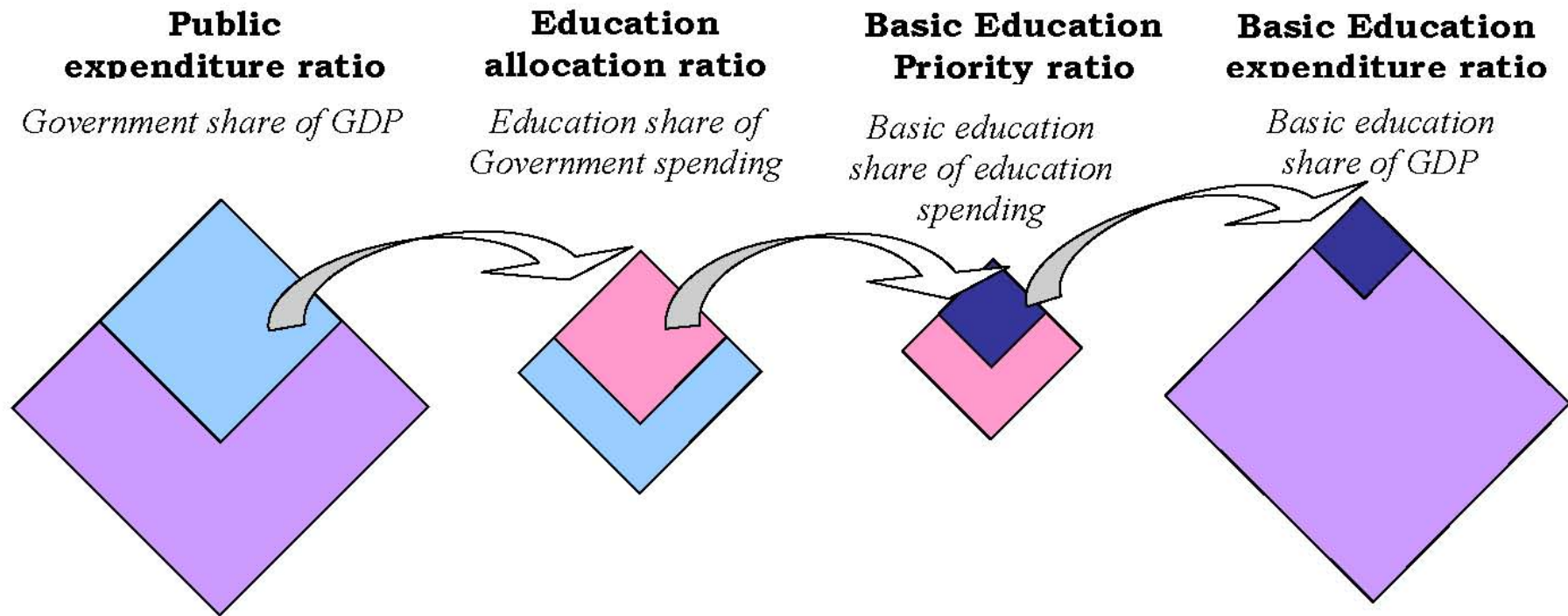


Human expenditure ratio



Source: Harrington et al., 'Financing basic social services'

Basic education expenditure ratio



Definitions:

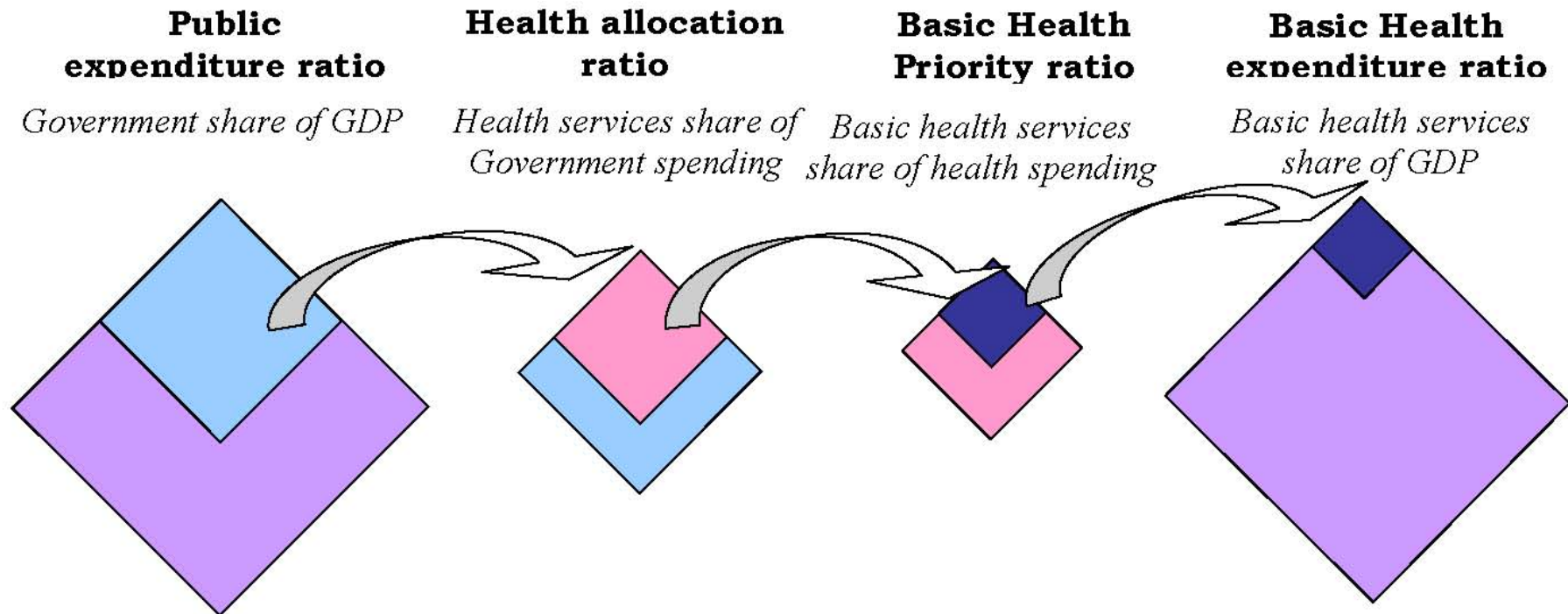
Public expenditure ratio: Public expenditure (PE) divided to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Education allocation ratio: Education (ED) expenditure relative to PE. Measures the fiscal priority of education expenditure.

Basic education priority ratio: Basic education (BED) expenditure relative to ED.

Basic education expenditure ratio: The product of the previous three ratios: $(PE/GDP) \times (ED/PE) \times (BED/ED)$. The macroeconomic priority assigned to basic education.

Basic health expenditure ratio



Definitions:

Public expenditure ratio: Public expenditure (PE) divided to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

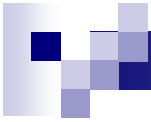
Health allocation ratio: Health services (HS) relative to PE. Measures the fiscal priority of health expenditure.

Basic Health priority ratio: Basic health services (BHS) expenditure relative to HS.

Basic health expenditure ratio: The product of the previous three ratios: $(PE/GDP) \times (HS/PE) \times (BHS/HS)$ The macroeconomic priority assigned to basic health services



**Why human rights can help hold gov't
accountable?**



**Why human rights can help hold gov't
accountable?**