



Expert Group Meeting to support the advancement of the Post-2015 UN  
Development Agenda  
New York, 27-29 February 2012

# Monitoring the implementation of the post 2015 UN Development Agenda

Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG  
Indicators



# What have we achieved with the monitoring framework?

- Advantages of having an agreed framework for monitoring the development agenda:
  - ✓ Strong partnership between the international statistical systems and countries for the development of statistics for MDG indicators
  - ✓ Improved coordination within countries for reporting at the national and sub-national level
  - ✓ Increased attention to the need for strengthening statistical capacity
  - ✓ Improved data availability
  - ✓ Promoted a dialogue between national and international statistical systems on statistical capacity building and other important issues
  - ✓ Promoted the adoption of internationally agreed statistical standards and helped resolve inconsistencies between national and international data sets



# Experience with monitoring the MDGs

- The **IAEG** has initiated work to assess its experience in monitoring the MDGs in order to provide the necessary technical inputs to guide the formulation of a possible post 2015 monitoring framework
  - ✓ Testing proposals for a set of criteria for the selection of indicators (prepared by countries member of the IAEG)
  - ✓ Doing the analytical work necessary for the formulation of targets (based not only on global trends, but for different groups of countries)



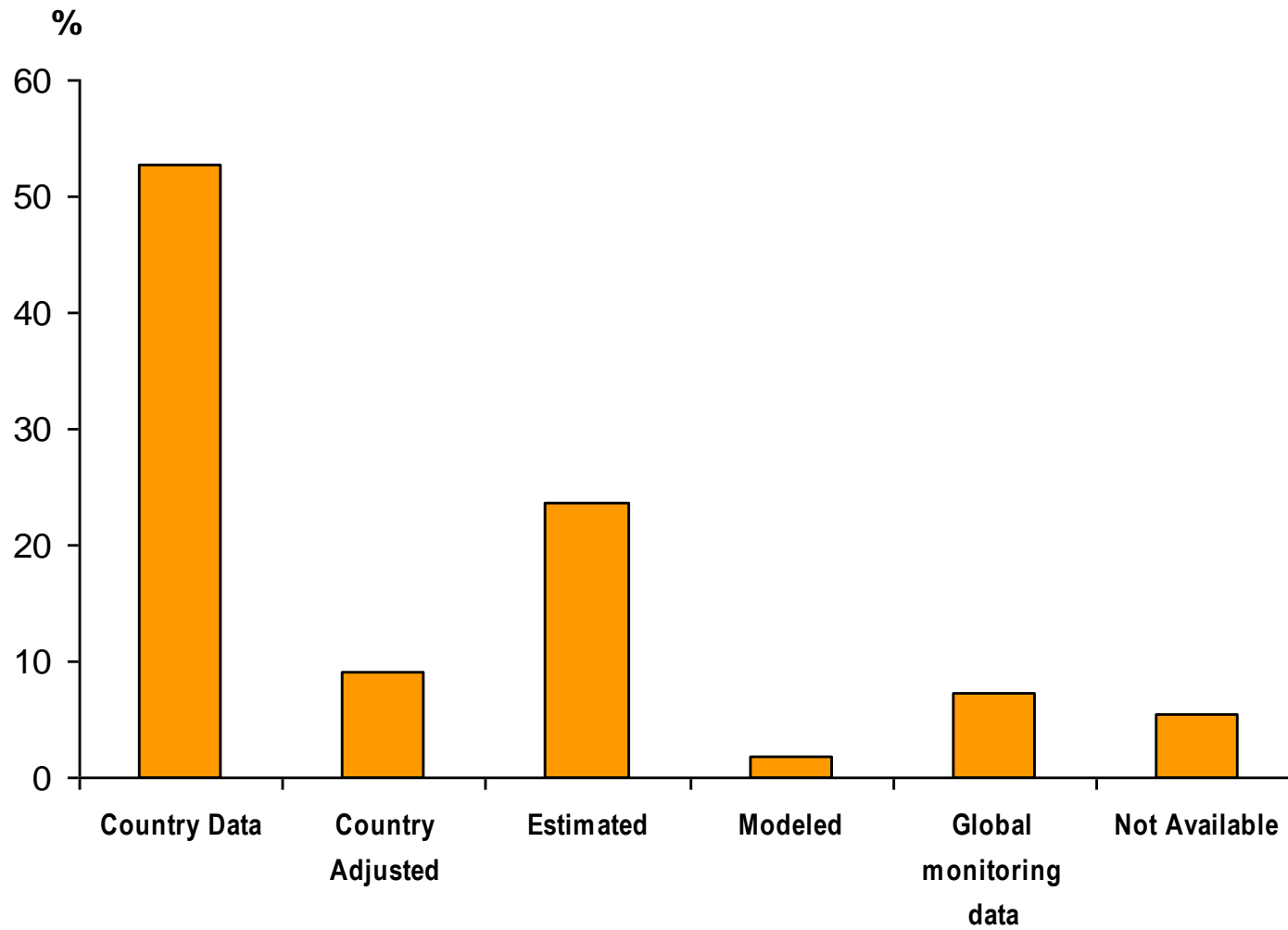
# On the monitoring: what have we learnt?

- ✓ Indicators were perceived by national statistical systems primarily as a “top-down” initiative
- ✓ Having a fixed list of indicators may distort policy priorities
- ✓ The numerical targets were erroneously set (generally too ambitious and based on global trends dominated by a few countries)
- ✓ The framework overlooks inequality and specific population groups
- ✓ Global targets were interpreted as national targets, penalizing the poorer countries
- ✓ There is often no consistency between targets and indicators
- ✓ Some targets are poorly specified
- ✓ Inconsistencies between national and international data created problems at the national level and tension in the international statistical community

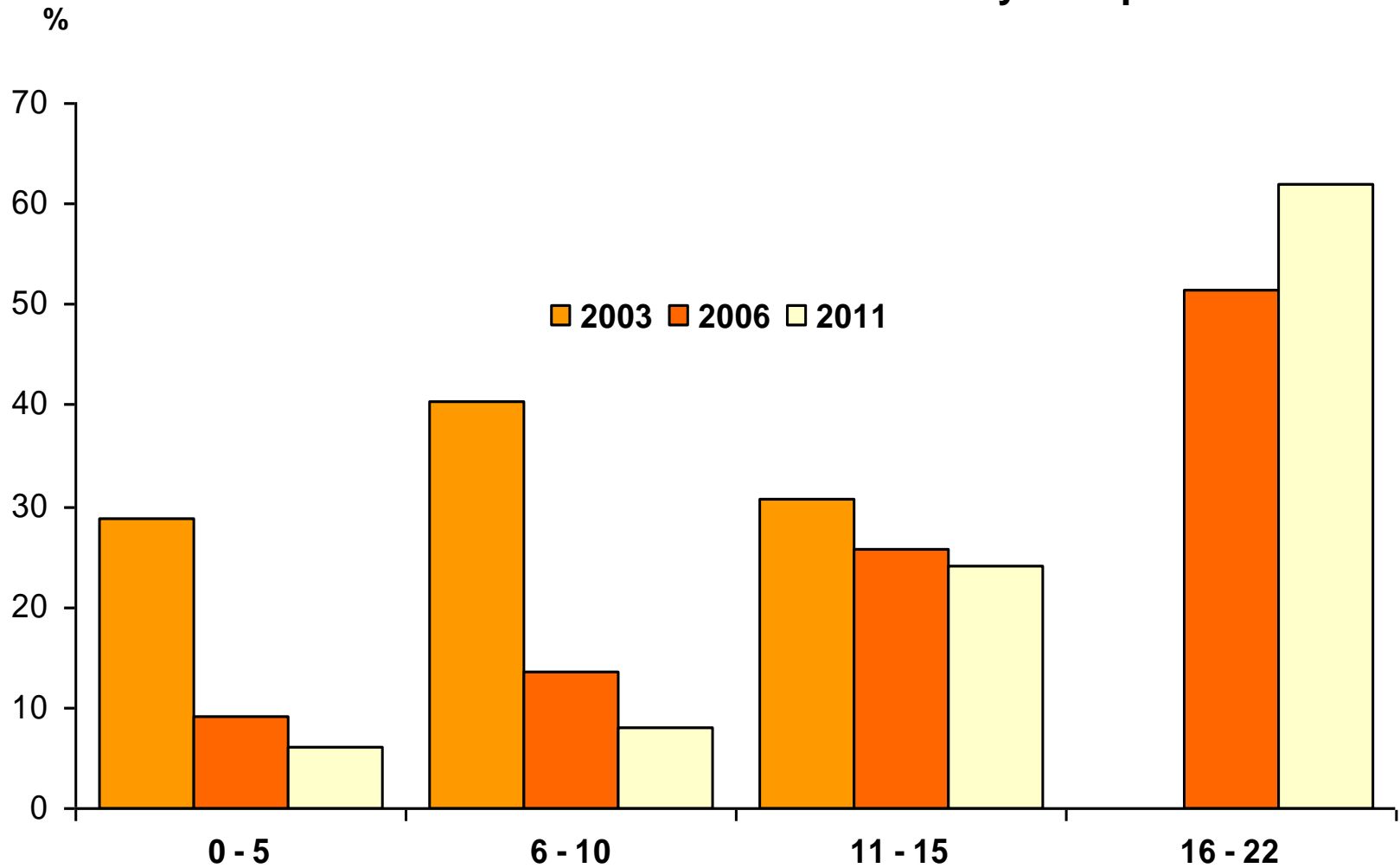
# Setting targets

- Example - Goal 4: Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
  - Only about 25 countries reduced by two-thirds from 1990 to 2010. Among these 25 countries, most of them are high income or middle income countries with relatively low under-five mortality rate (U5MR)
  - If the annual rate of decline over 2000-2010 continues, the world will not reach MDG 4 until 2037

**MDG indicators series by nature of data, as of July 2011**



## Percentage of countries in MDG indicator database, by number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible





# Criteria for the selection of the indicators

The IAEG is working on testing criteria for the selection of the key indicators to be included in the framework. The criteria include principles such as:

- ✓ National statistical systems should be fully involved in the selection of common indicators
- ✓ There should be continuity with the current set of indicators
- ✓ Indicators must have well established metadata and be relevant to most countries
- ✓ Indicators should be based on existing internationally agreed definitions and classifications
- ✓ Indicators should not require ad hoc data collection





# Criteria for the selection of the indicators (2)

- ✓ Indicators should have an unambiguous interpretation: more (or less) is always better (or worse)
- ✓ Indicators should be clearly linked to the target
- ✓ Indicators should be sensitive to interventions/change/progress (short term)
- ✓ Each indicator should have some complementarities to other indicators (helps constitute a monitoring system)



# The way forward

- The IAEG will complete the testing and analytical work by June 2012
- At the October 2012 meeting, the proposals will be reviewed by representatives from national statistical systems
- The Statistical Commission will also prepare a contribution on “key issues that should find their place in the post-2015 agenda”, as requested by the president of ECOSOC and provide its contribution to the Bureau of the Council by the end of December 2012

**THANK YOU**



# The way forward

- Different targets should be set at the national level (the IAEG has agreed to eliminate the on track/off track assessment for countries)
- Numerical targets should be realistically set, based on assessment of trends in regions, sub-regions and/or smaller groups of countries as necessary (a plausible historical/analytical basis -- analytical work by IAEG is ongoing)
- The set of indicators should be developed with a view to keeping the burden to countries to a minimum
- The monitoring framework should include a minimum set of common indicators, supplemented by indicators to measure processes/efforts to be used (including at the national level)



# The way forward (2)

- Indicators should measure both absolute change and relative change
- Changes in population size and structure should be explicitly incorporated in the monitoring tool
- Indicators should regularly be reported for different groups of the population when relevant, and indicators be to the largest extent possible disaggregated by sex, wealth quintiles, and urban/rural residence, and disparities monitored over time