## World Poverty A review of trends and prospects

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## Millennium Development Goals

- Adopted by world leaders at 2000 UN summit

   Blueprint for development efforts to 2015
- First MDG

Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day

# Trends in poverty headcount rate 2005 revisions

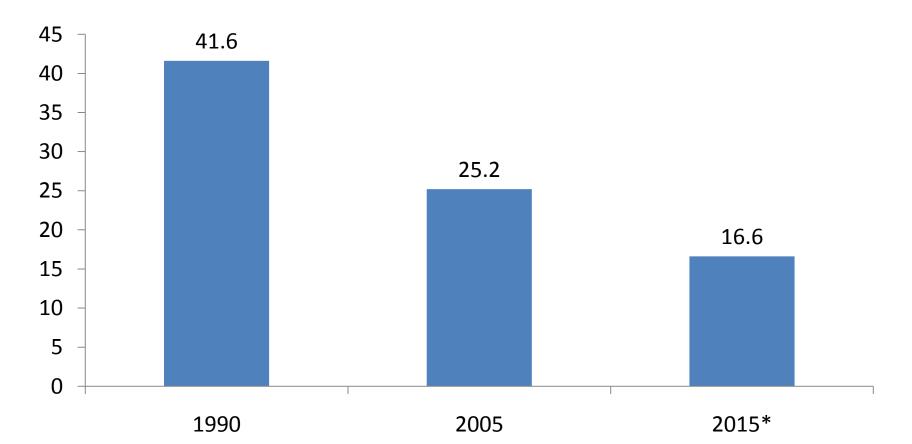
|                 | 1981       | 1984       | 1987 | 1990 | 1993 | 1996 | 1999 | 2002 | 2005 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| (a) Aggregate f | for develo | ping world |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Old estimates u | using 1993 | 3 ICP      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| \$1.08 (1993)   | 40.6       | 33.0       | 28.7 | 28.7 | 25.6 | 22.8 | 22.3 | 20.4 | 17.2 |
| New estimates   | using 200  | 5 ICP      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| \$1.00          | 41.4       | 34.4       | 29.8 | 29.5 | 27.0 | 23.1 | 22.8 | 20.3 | 16.1 |
| \$1.25          | 51.8       | 46.6       | 41.8 | 41.6 | 39.1 | 34.4 | 33.7 | 30.6 | 25.2 |
| \$1.45          | 58.4       | 54.4       | 49.9 | 49.4 | 47.2 | 42.6 | 41.6 | 38.1 | 32.1 |
| \$2.00          | 69.2       | 67.4       | 64.2 | 63.2 | 61.5 | 58.2 | 57.1 | 53.3 | 47.0 |
| \$2.50          | 74.6       | 73.7       | 71.6 | 70.4 | 69.2 | 67.2 | 65.9 | 62.4 | 56.6 |

<u>Note</u>: The headcount index is the percentage of the relevant population living in households with consumption per person below the poverty line.

## Trends in number of poor 2005 revisions

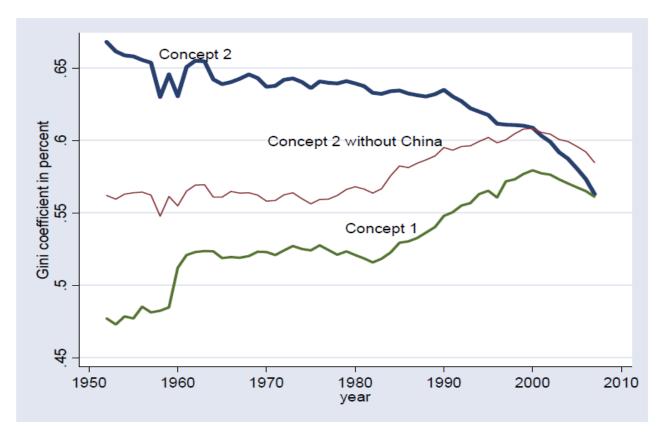
|               | 1981  | 1984   | 1987   | 1990   | 1993   | 1996   | 1999   | 2002   | 2005   |
|---------------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| (a) Aggregate | (a) Aggregate for developing world  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Old estimates | using 199   | 3 ICP  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| \$1.08 (1993) | 1488.5  | 1281.4 | 1178.5 | 1247.5 | 1172.4 | 1092.9 | 1119.8 | 1067.1 | 931.3  |
| New estimates | New estimates using 2005 ICP (number in millions below each line at 2005 PPP) |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| \$1.00        | 1515.0  | 1334.7 | 1227.2 | 1286.7 | 1237.9 | 1111.9 | 1145.6 | 1066.6 | 876.0  |
| \$1.25        | 1896.2  | 1808.2 | 1720.0 | 1813.4 | 1794.9 | 1656.2 | 1696.2 | 1603.1 | 1376.7 |
| \$1.45        | 2137.7  | 2111.5 | 2051.7 | 2153.5 | 2165.0 | 2048.1 | 2095.7 | 1997.9 | 1751.7 |
| \$2.00        | 2535.1  | 2615.4 | 2639.7 | 2755.9 | 2821.4 | 2802.1 | 2872.1 | 2795.7 | 2561.5 |
| \$2.50        | 2731.6  | 2858.7 | 2944.6 | 3071.0 | 3176.7 | 3231.4 | 3316.6 | 3270.6 | 3084.7 |

## Estimates suggest that MDG-1 will be met Projected trend in poverty headcount rate



2005 revisions. Headcount using \$1.25/day poverty line. 2015 estimate based on projection of 1981-2005 trend. Source: Chen and Ravallion (2008)

## Inequality trends, 1952-2006



Concept 1 inequality is Gini coefficient of unweighted GDPs per capita of all countries. Concept 2 inequality weights GDP per capita by population of country. Source: Milanovic (2009)

## Number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day by region, 1981-2005

| Region                | 1981   | 1984   | 1987   | 1990   | 1993   | 1996   | 1999   | 2002   | 2005   |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| East Asia and Pacific | 1071.5 | 947.3  | 822.4  | 873.3  | 845.3  | 622.3  | 635.1  | 506.8  | 316.2  |
| Of which China        | 835.1  | 719.9  | 585.7  | 683.2  | 632.7  | 442.8  | 446.7  | 363.2  | 207.7  |
| Eastern Europe and    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Central Asia          | 7.1    | 5.7    | 4.8    | 9.1    | 20.1   | 21.8   | 24.3   | 21.7   | 17.3   |
| Latin America and     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Caribbean             | 42.0   | 52.3   | 52.3   | 42.9   | 41.8   | 52.2   | 54.8   | 58.4   | 46.1   |
| Middle East and North |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Africa                | 13.7   | 11.6   | 11.9   | 9.7    | 9.8    | 10.6   | 11.5   | 10.3   | 11.0   |
| South Asia            | 548.3  | 547.6  | 569.1  | 579.2  | 559.4  | 594.4  | 588.9  | 615.9  | 595.6  |
| Of which India        | 420.5  | 416.0  | 428.0  | 435.5  | 444.3  | 441.8  | 447.2  | 460.5  | 455.8  |
| Sub-Saharan Africa    | 213.7  | 243.8  | 259.6  | 299.1  | 318.5  | 355.0  | 381.6  | 390.0  | 390.6  |
| Total                 | 1896.2 | 1808.2 | 1720.0 | 1813.4 | 1794.9 | 1656.2 | 1696.2 | 1603.1 | 1376.7 |

### Regional breakdown of poverty headcount rates

|                       |      |      | ŞΙ.   | Z5/Udy |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|------|-------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Region                | 1981 | 1984 | 1987  | 1990   | 1993 | 1996 | 1999 | 2002 | 2005 |
| East Asia and Pacific | 77.7 | 65.5 | 54.2  | 54.7   | 50.8 | 36.0 | 35.5 | 27.6 | 16.8 |
| Of which China        | 84.0 | 69.4 | 54.0  | 60.2   | 53.7 | 36.4 | 35.6 | 28.4 | 15.9 |
| Eastern Europe and    |      |      |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |
| Central Asia          | 1.7  | 1.3  | 1.1   | 2.0    | 4.3  | 4.6  | 5.1  | 4.6  | 3.7  |
| Latin America and     |      |      |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |
| Caribbean             | 11.5 | 13.4 | 12.6  | 9.8    | 9.1  | 10.8 | 10.8 | 11.0 | 8.2  |
| Middle East and North |      |      |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |
| Africa                | 7.9  | 6.1  | 5.7   | 4.3    | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.2  | 3.6  | 3.6  |
| South Asia            | 59.4 | 55.6 | 54.2  | 51.7   | 46.9 | 47.1 | 44.1 | 43.8 | 40.3 |
| Of which India        | 59.8 | 55.5 | 53.6  | 51.3   | 49.4 | 46.6 | 44.8 | 43.9 | 41.6 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa    | 53.7 | 56.2 | 54.8  | 57.9   | 57.1 | 58.7 | 58.2 | 55.1 | 50.9 |
| Total                 | 51.8 | 46.6 | 41.8  | 41.6   | 39.1 | 34.4 | 33.7 | 30.6 | 25.2 |
|                       |      |      | \$2.0 | )0/day |      |      |      |      |      |
| Region                | 1981 | 1984 | 1987  | 1990   | 1993 | 1996 | 1999 | 2002 | 2005 |
| East Asia and Pacific | 92.6 | 88.5 | 81.6  | 79.8   | 75.8 | 64.1 | 61.8 | 51.9 | 38.7 |
| Of which China        | 97.8 | 92.9 | 83.7  | 84.6   | 78.6 | 65.1 | 61.4 | 51.2 | 36.3 |
| Eastern Europe and    |      |      |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |
| Central Asia          | 8.3  | 6.5  | 5.6   | 6.9    | 10.3 | 11.9 | 14.3 | 12.0 | 8.9  |
| Latin America and     |      |      |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |
| Caribbean             | 22.5 | 25.3 | 23.3  | 19.7   | 19.3 | 21.8 | 21.4 | 21.7 | 16.6 |
| Middle East and North |      |      |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |
| Africa                | 26.7 | 23.1 | 22.7  | 19.7   | 19.8 | 20.2 | 19.0 | 17.6 | 16.9 |
| South Asia            | 86.5 | 84.8 | 83.9  | 82.7   | 79.7 | 79.9 | 77.2 | 77.1 | 73.9 |
| Of which India        | 86.6 | 84.8 | 83.8  | 82.6   | 81.7 | 79.8 | 78.4 | 77.5 | 75.6 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa    | 74.0 | 75.7 | 74.2  | 76.2   | 76.0 | 77.9 | 77.6 | 75.6 | 73.0 |
| Total                 | 69.2 | 67.4 | 64.2  | 63.2   | 61.5 | 58.2 | 57.1 | 53.3 | 47.0 |

#### \$1.25/day

#### Source: Chen and Ravallion (2008)

### Progress is less impressive when China is excluded Poverty headcount index, 2005 revisions

|                 | 1981       | 1984  | 1987 | 1990 | 1993 | 1996 | 1999 | 2002 | 2005 |
|-----------------|------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Old estimates u | using 1993 | 3 ICP |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| \$1.08 (1993)   | 32.0       | 30.1  | 28.7 | 27.1 | 24.7 | 24.6 | 23.8 | 22.6 | 21.5 |
| New estimates   | using 200  | 5 PPP |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| \$1.00          | 29.4       | 27.6  | 26.9 | 24.4 | 23.3 | 22.9 | 22.3 | 20.7 | 18.6 |
| \$1.25          | 39.8       | 38.3  | 37.5 | 35.0 | 34.1 | 33.8 | 33.1 | 31.3 | 28.2 |
| \$1.45          | 46.6       | 45.5  | 44.5 | 42.3 | 41.6 | 41.4 | 40.8 | 38.9 | 37.0 |
| \$2.00          | 58.6       | 58.1  | 57.2 | 55.6 | 55.6 | 55.9 | 55.6 | 54.0 | 50.3 |
| \$2.50          | 65.9       | 66.7  | 67.3 | 65.4 | 66.0 | 67.9 | 67.4 | 66.0 | 62.9 |

<u>Note</u>: The headcount index is the percentage of the relevant population living in households with consumption per person below the poverty line.

When China is excluded, the world is not on track to meet MDG-1. Projected poverty rate for 2015 would be 25.1%, well over half of 1990 rate of 35%

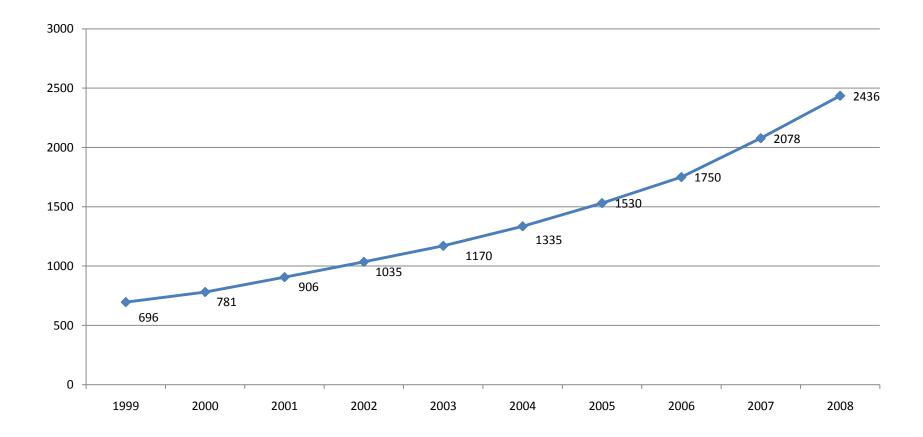
Source: Chen and Ravallion (2008)

## Number of persons below poverty line in China, 1981-2005

|      | Consumption poverty |             |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|---------------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |                     | 2005 PPP    |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | 1993 PPP            | Z=\$1.25    |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | Z=\$1.08            | (with       |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                     | adjustment) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1981 | 638.0               | 838.9       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1984 | 428.0               | 720.9       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1987 | 314.0               | 587.9       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1990 | 377.5               | 693.7       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1993 | 336.1               | 648.3       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1996 | 212.5               | 454.2       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1999 | 223.5               | 448.9       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2002 | 177.2               | 357.3       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2004 | 128.6               | 286.8       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2005 | 71.6                | 204.3       |  |  |  |  |  |

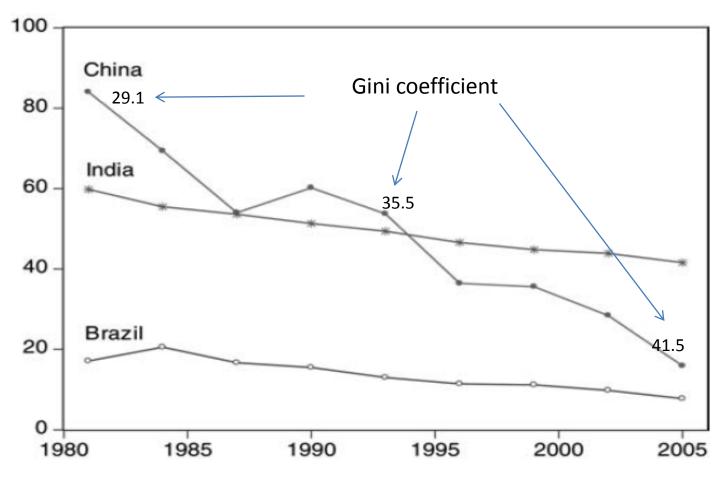
Source: Chen and Ravallion (2008)

### Rising earnings in China Average urban monthly wages (yuan), 1999-2008



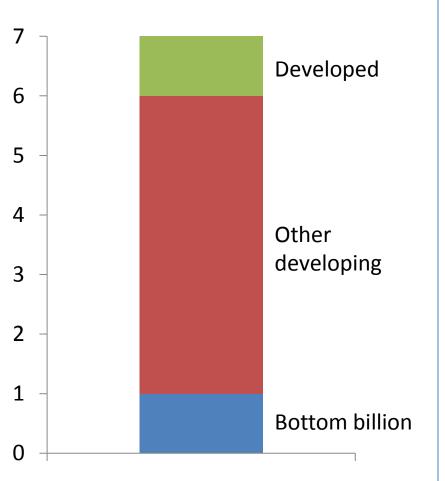
China National Bureau of Statistics

# China's poverty headcount rate and inequality, 1980-2005



Source: Ravallion (2010)

# Collier's bottom billion



- Bottom billion live in 58 countries, most in Africa
- No progress against poverty or human development indicators; absolute decline in living standards
- Countries caught in one or more of 4 traps:
  - Conflict trap
  - Natural resource trap
  - Landlocked with bad neighbours
  - Bad governance

# Overwhelming problem for bottom billion is lack of growth

