

Health In South Asia:

Leaping into the Future or Stuck in the Mud



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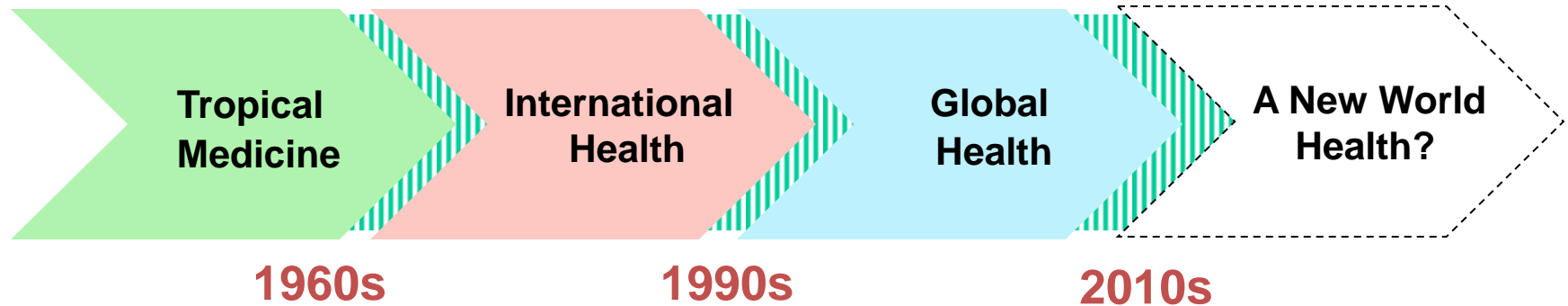
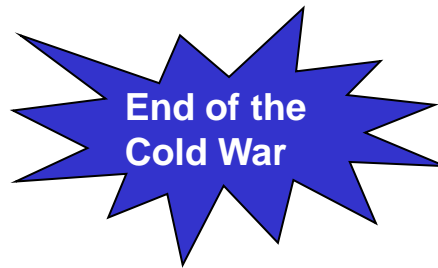
South Asia Center, Atlantic Council,
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Today's presentation

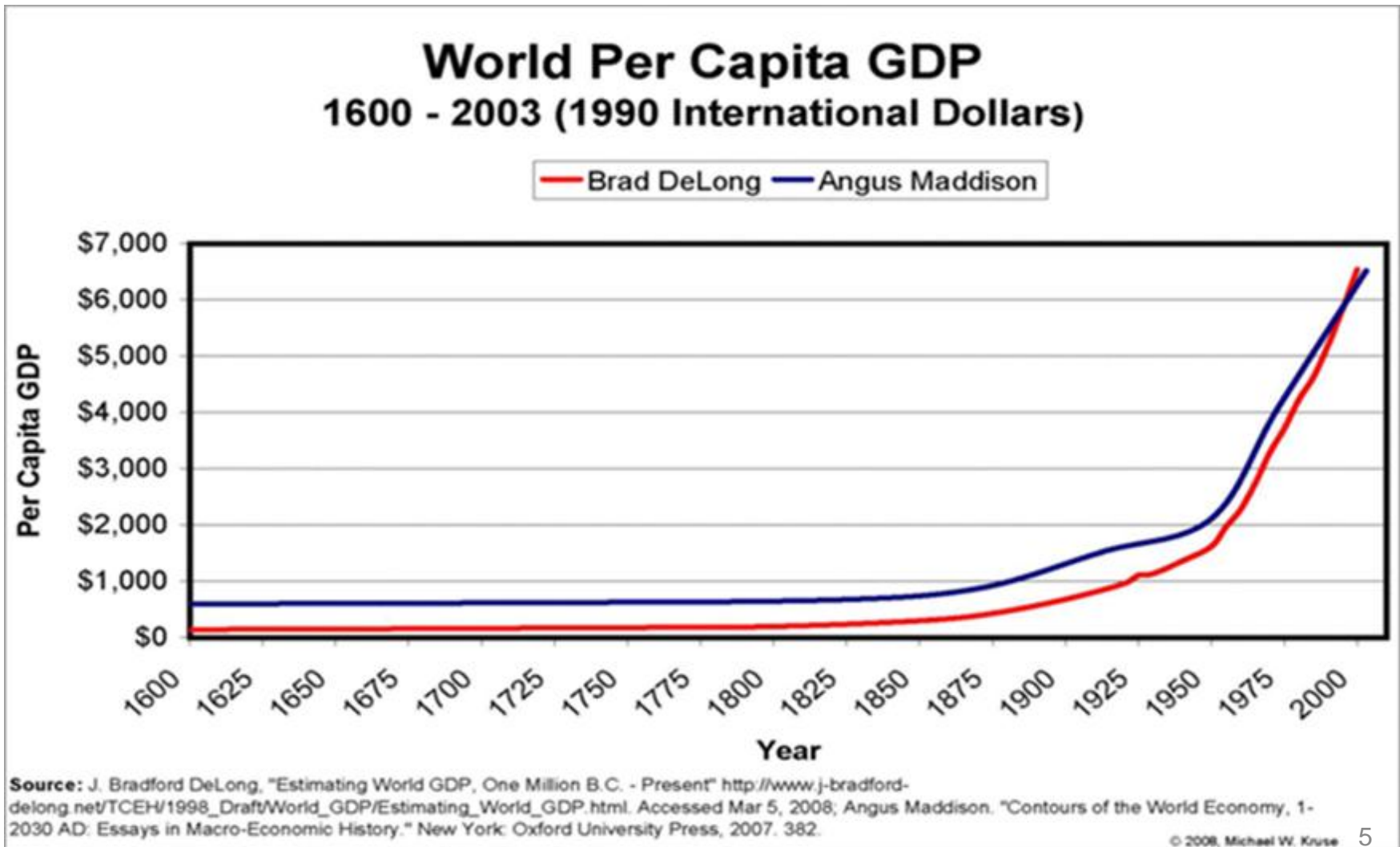
1. Introduction/Background
2. South Asia Today
3. Key Public Health Challenges
4. US Government's Engagement in South Asia
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 - » Opportunities
5. Conclusion
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Introduction/Background

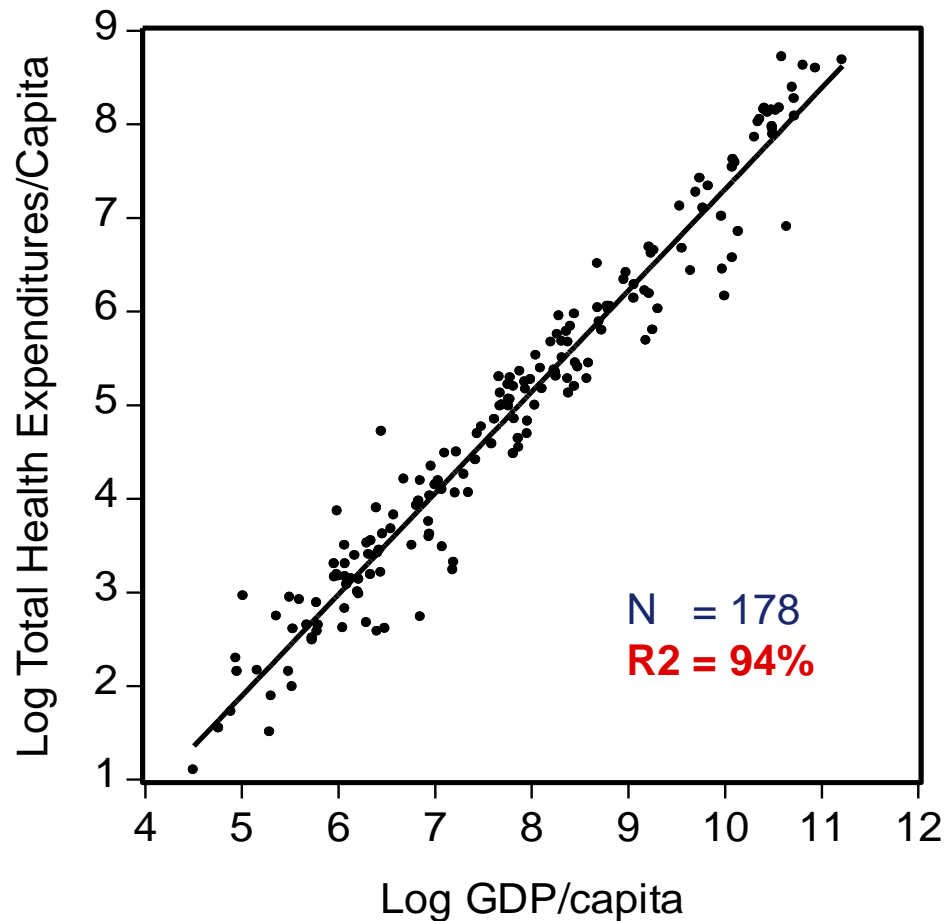
A new chapter in global health history



Unprecedented economic growth across the globe



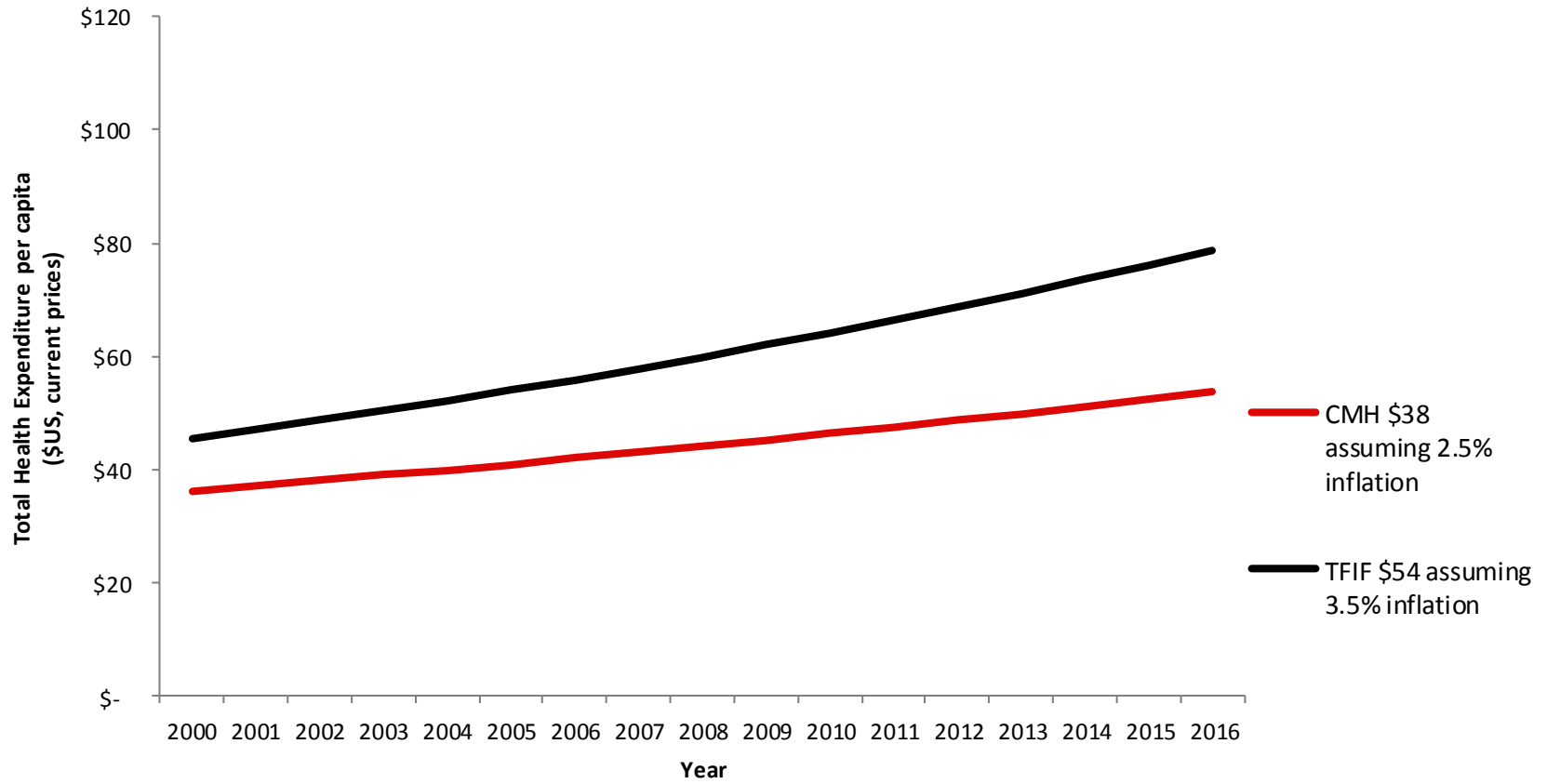
“The first law of health economics”



Source: Jacques van der Gaag; WHO/IMF 2004

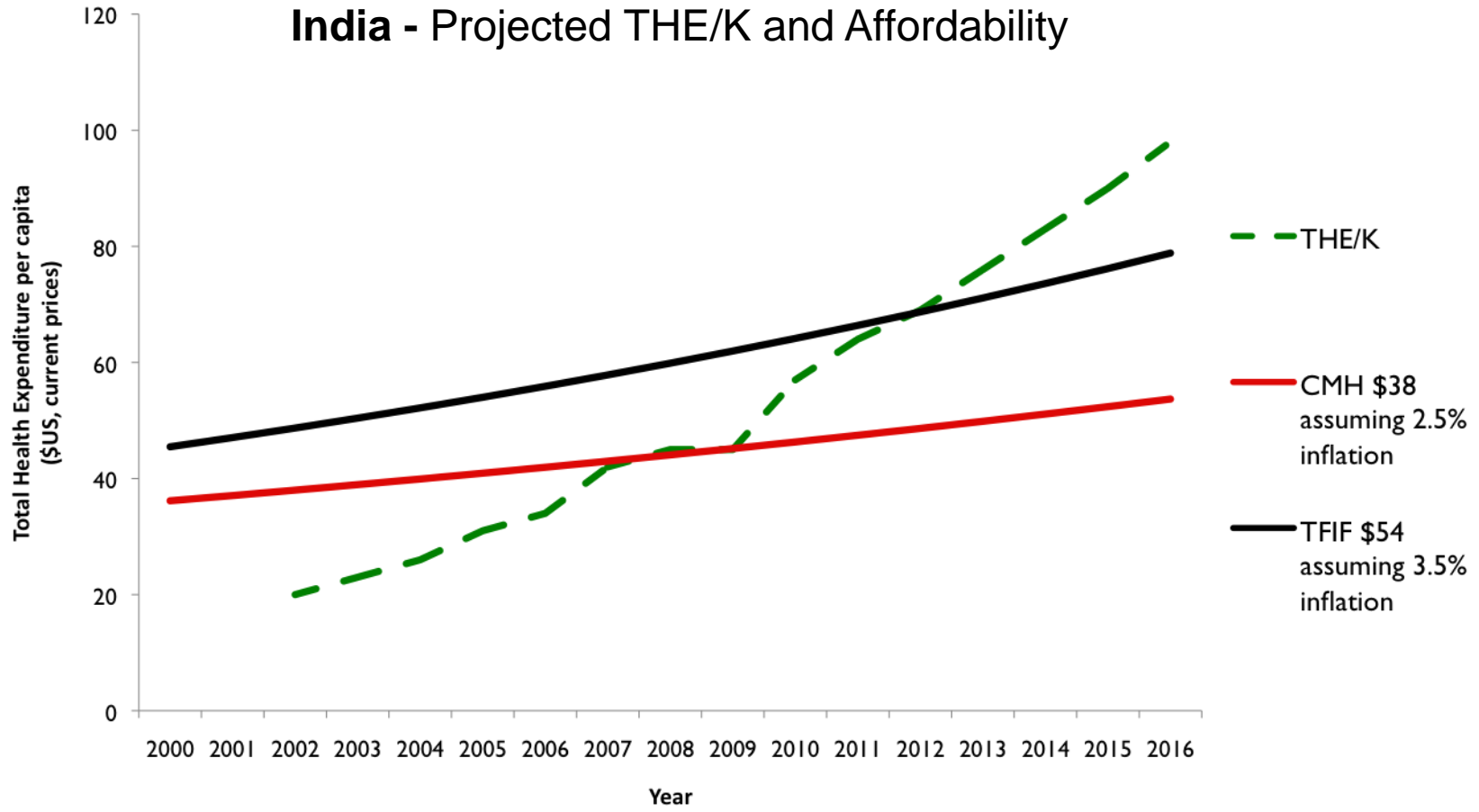
The Cost of Basic Health Services

compared to inflation adjusted CMH target (\$38 in 2002 prices)
and TFIF target (\$54 in 2005 prices)



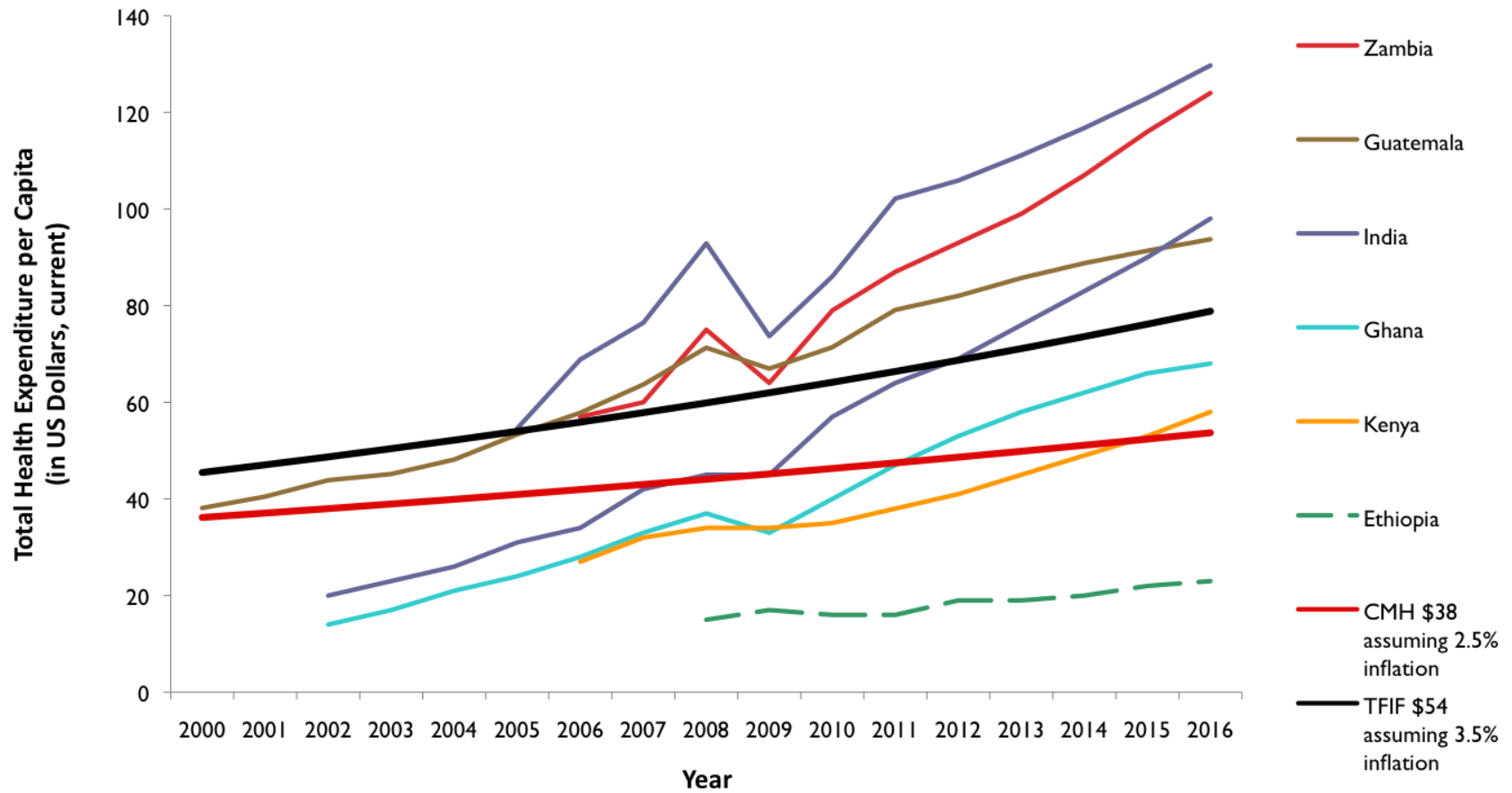
The economic transition of health

India - Projected THE/K and Affordability



USG-assisted countries can now/soon buy essential package of health services

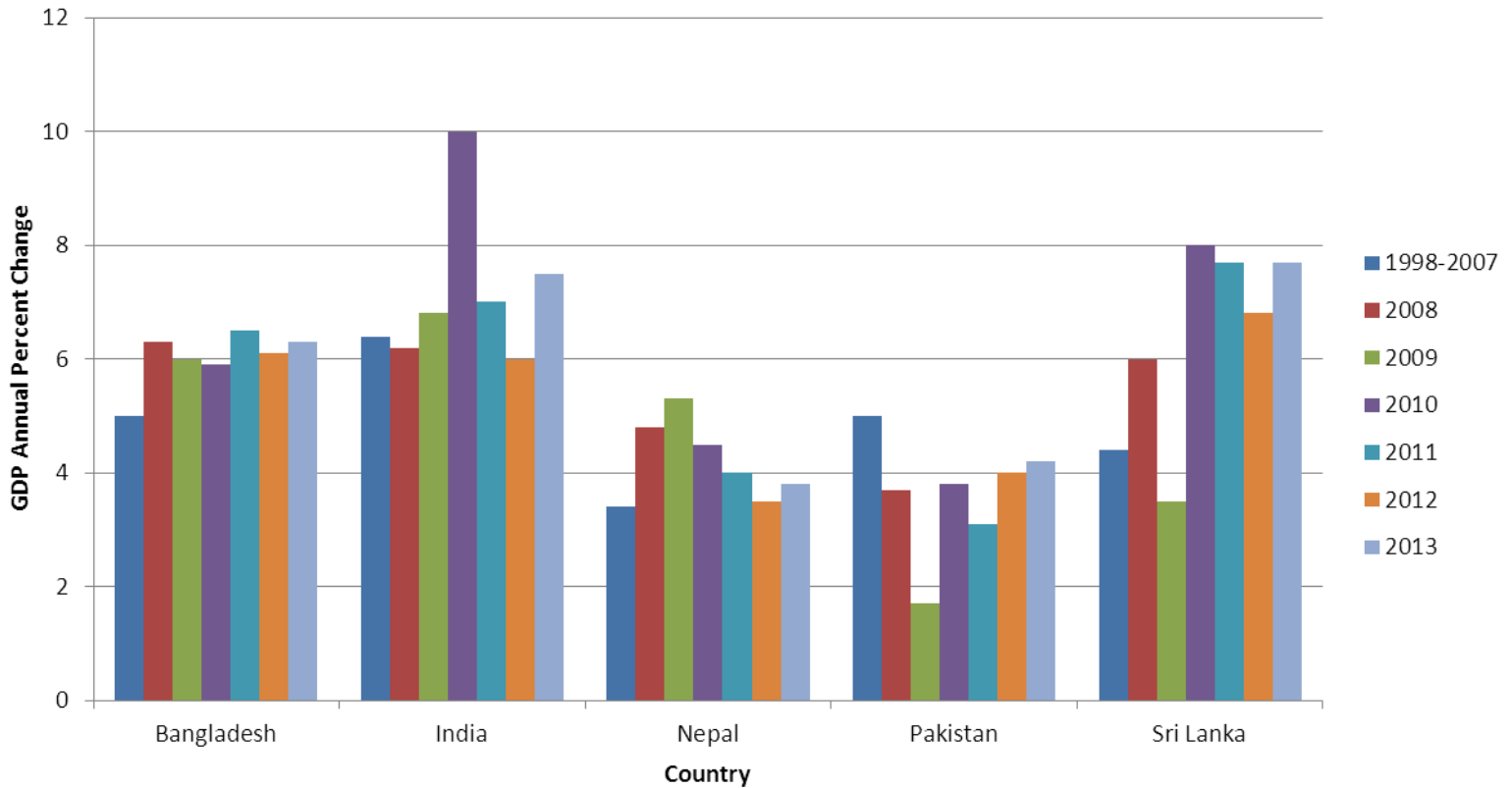
Projected THE per Capita assuming income elasticity = 1.0, compared to inflation adjusted CMH target (\$38 in 2002 prices) and TFIF target (\$54 in 2005 prices), Low- and low-middle income countries



South Asia Today

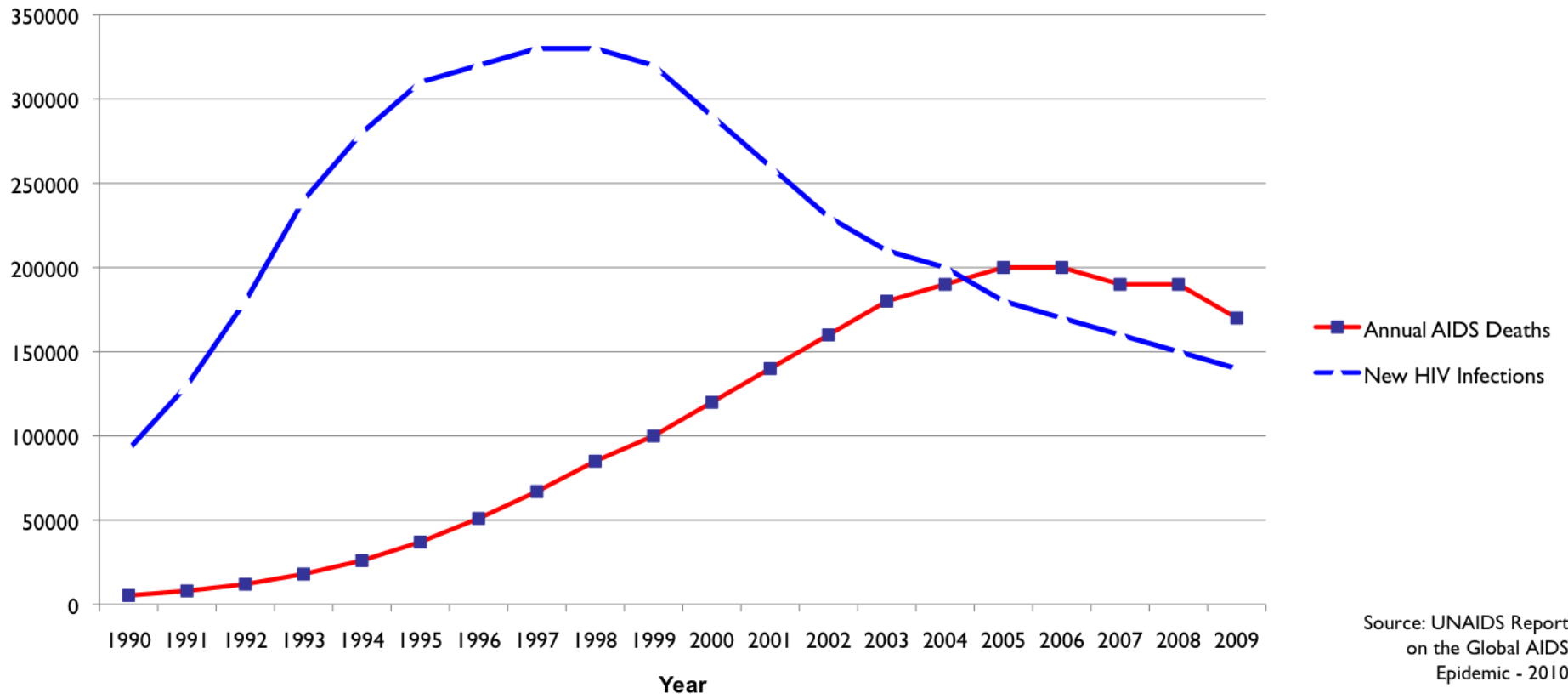
- Spectacular increase in economic performance
- Countries in South Asia are transitioning from low income to middle income countries
- Adult literacy rate (1995-2005) has gone up from 49% to 58%
 - Net Primary enrollment has gone up from 61% to 87% and drop out rate has come down from 43% to 14 %
- Infant and under-five mortality rates have gone down significantly, 80 to 62 per 1000
- Women's economic and political empowerment as captured by the GEM and GDI indices, has recorded higher values

South Asia – GDP Growth and Forecast Summary



India has already turned the tide on HIV

India- New HIV Infections and Annual AIDS Deaths



Source: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic - 2010

Bangladesh

Out of the basket

Lessons from the achievements—yes, really, achievements—of Bangladesh

Nov 3rd 2012 | from the print edition

IN 1976, five years after independence, a book appeared called “Bangladesh: The Test Case of Development”. It was a test, the authors claimed, because the country was such a disaster that if development could be made to work there, it could surely work anywhere. At the time, many people feared Bangladesh would not survive as an independent state. One famine, three military coups and four catastrophic floods later, the country that Henry Kissinger once dismissed as “a basket case” is still a test. But no longer in the sense of being the bare minimum that others should seek to surpass. Now, Bangladesh has become a standard for others to live up to.

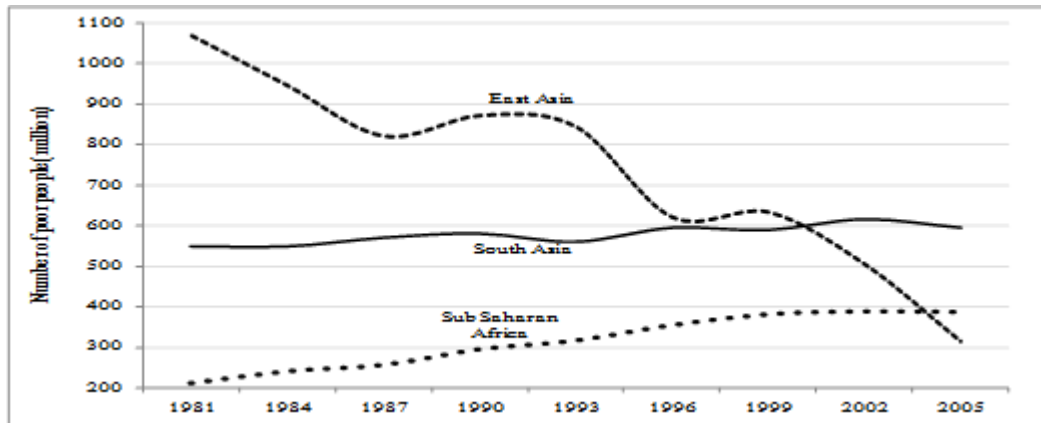


Strategic shifts and Regional Challenges

- India
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan
- Pakistan

Has the Economic Growth translated into Social Progress/better health outcomes?

Number of poor people increased in South Asia



Source: World Development Indicators, World Bank 2009. Note: Number of people living on less than US\$1.25 a day at 2005 international prices. South Asia includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Demographic Dividend and East Asia

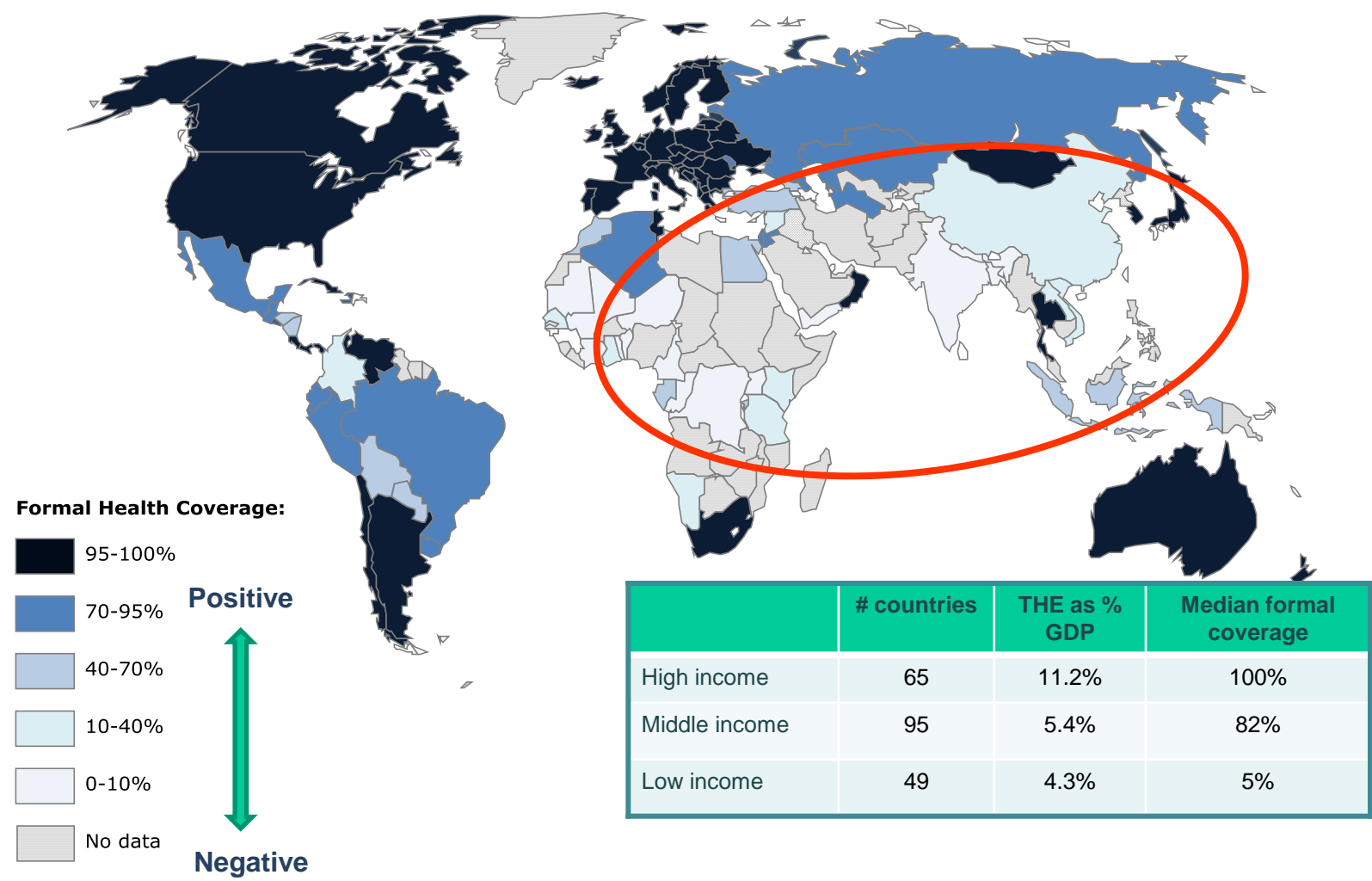
Will South Asia take advantage and reap the benefits of the Demographic Dividend?

Key Public Health Challenges

- South Asia is a diverse region, home to 1.6 billion people and 1/4 of the world's population
- Health continues to remain neglected sector in the region. South Asia spends less than 1 percent of its GDP on health – with the exception of Nepal, spending on health has fallen or stagnated
- Infant mortality rate in the region remains the one of the highest in the world, second to Sub-Saharan Africa
- 185,000 women in South Asia die annually due to pregnancy and birth related causes, largest numbers of deaths occurring in India and Pakistan
- South Asia continues to be the most malnourished region in the world, half of the children under the age of five are malnourished.

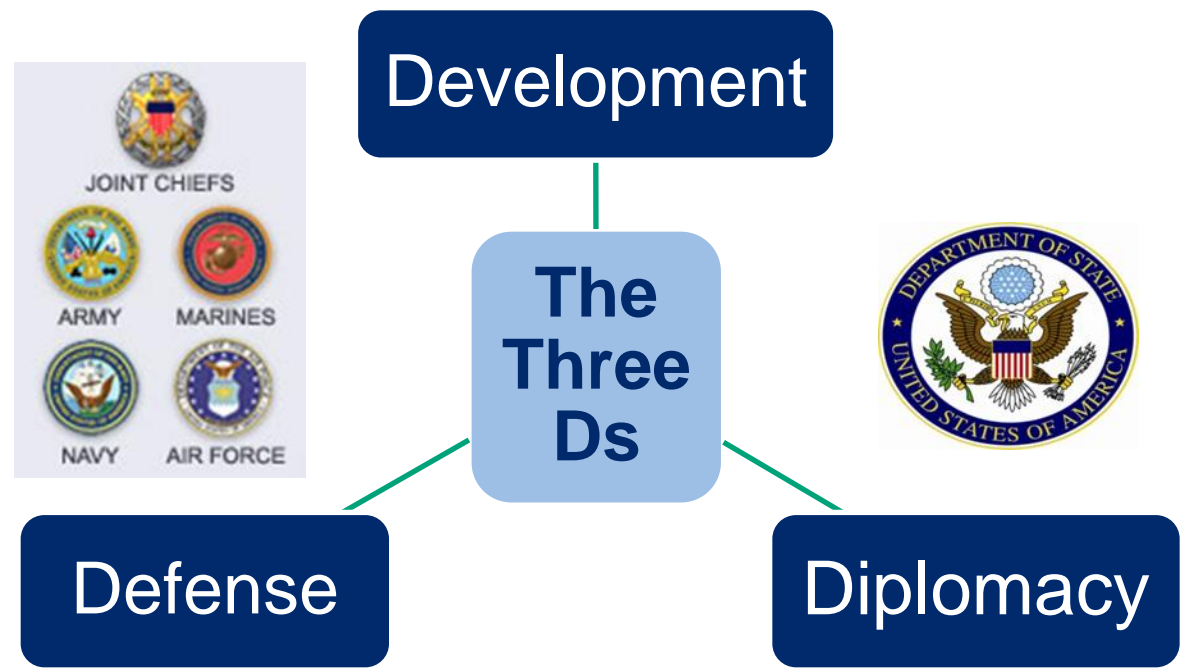
- One fifth of the population in South Asia is between the ages of 15 and 24. This is the largest number of young people ever to transition into adulthood, both in South Asia and in the world as a whole
- Surge in the share of non-communicable diseases and a decline in the share of communicable diseases in the total number of deaths
- Explosion of unregulated private sector which further pushes people into poverty
- Conflict and Gender-based violence

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE: A new frontier for global health



Source: *Lancet* 2009 (ILO data 2008; map by R4D.)

US Government's Engagement in South Asia



USG Programs in South Asia



USG Priorities in South Asia

- Addressing persistent hunger and malnutrition, helping countries like Bangladesh and Nepal scale-up agricultural production
- Tackling health challenges and monitoring disease outbreaks, combatting and fighting preventable maternal and child death
- Harnessing the region's growing scientific and technological developments, so countries like India can channel innovation and economic growth to benefit its vulnerable populations



USG Priorities in South Asia

- Partnering with emerging economies in South Asia to help former aid recipients take on new roles as donors (e.g. India)
- Developing a shared vision for addressing security and stability issues in the region
- Supporting democratic transition occurring throughout the region



USG Historical Successes in South Asia - Health (just to name a few...)

India

- Green revolution
- Evergreen revolution

Bangladesh

- Oral rehydration therapy (ORT)

Nepal

- Malaria eradication

Conclusion

Asia Pacific Strategic Rebalancing

“The Asia Pacific is critical to achieving my highest priority, and that's creating jobs and opportunity for the American people.

As President, I have, therefore, made a deliberate and strategic decision -- as a Pacific nation, the United States will play a larger and long-term role in shaping this region and its future, by upholding core principles and in close partnership with our allies and friends.”

President Barack Obama, Remarks to the Australian Parliament, November, 2011

