



Global Equity Gauge Alliance

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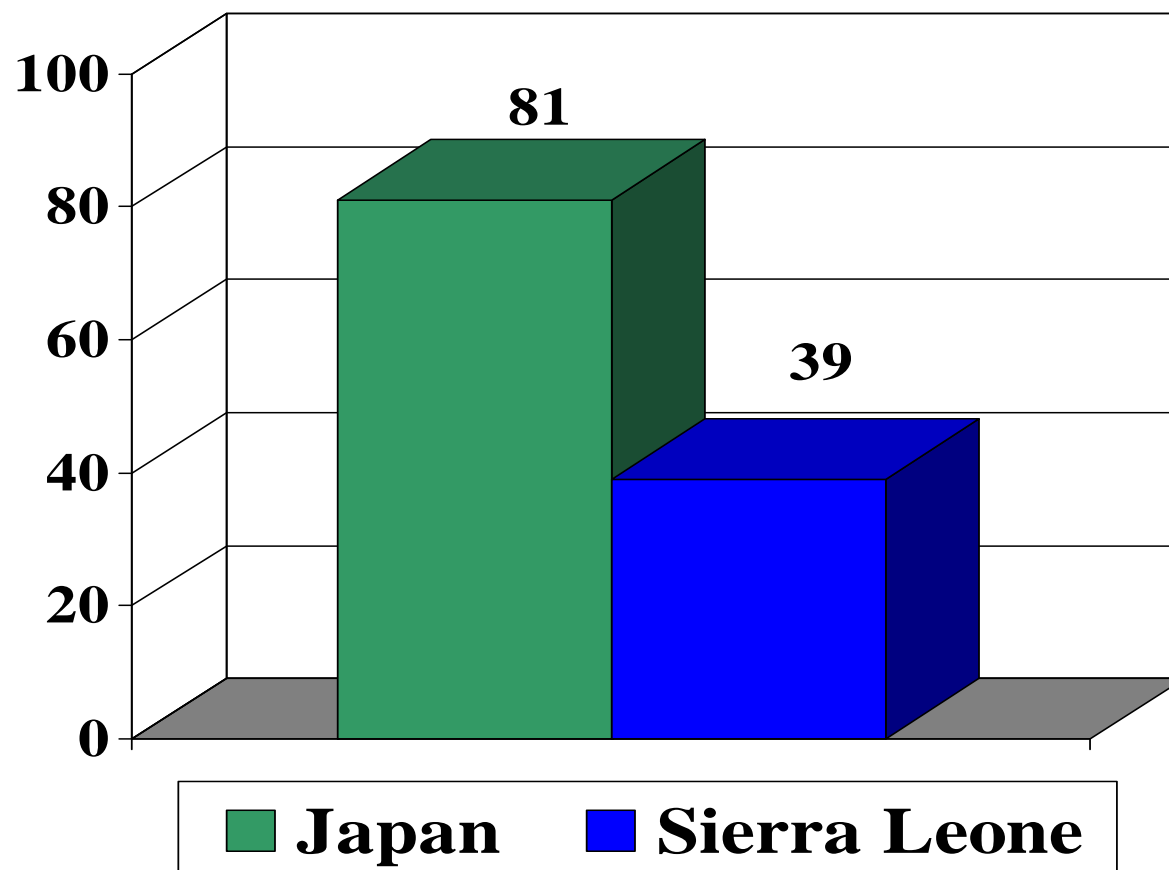


Overview of presentation

- Background: Health Inequities
- Global Equity Gauge Alliance
- The Equity Gauge Strategy
- Country, Regional, and Global work
- Successes and Challenges

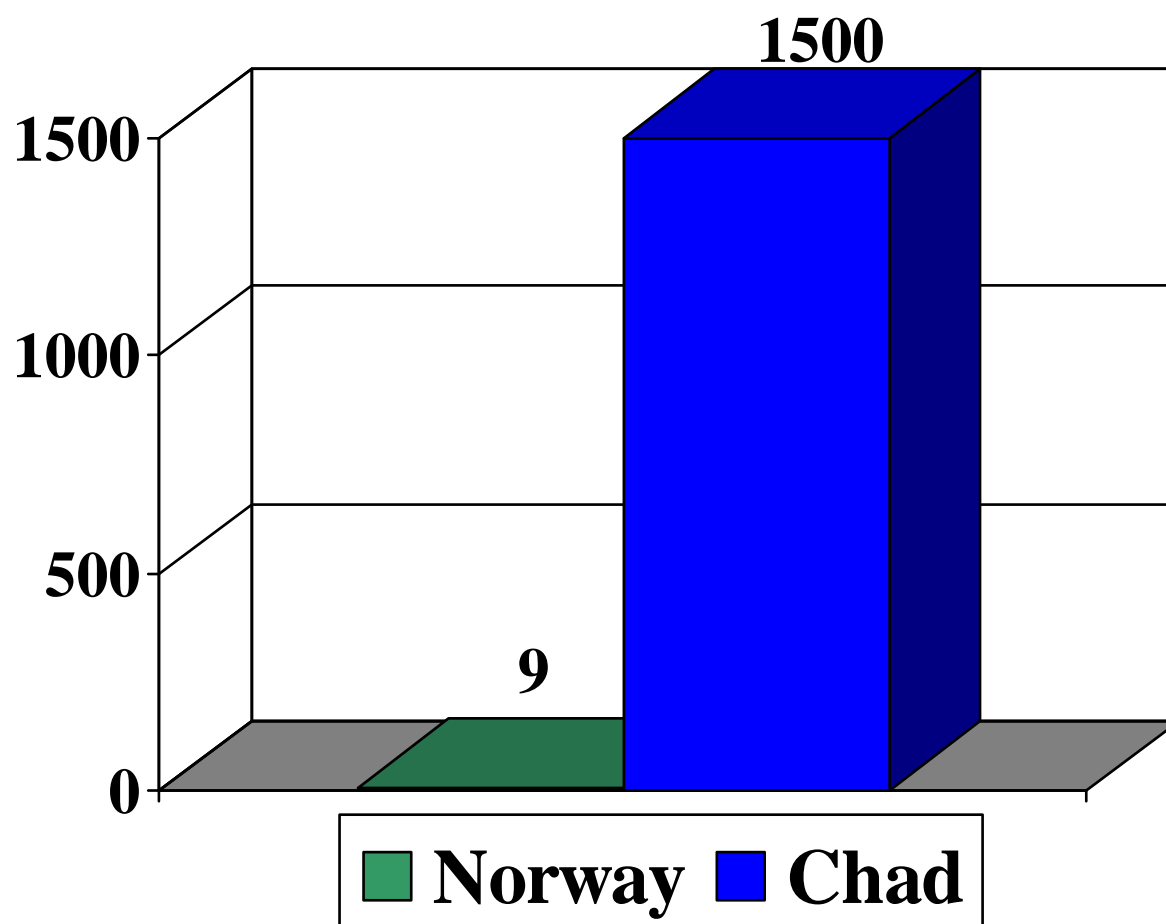


Health inequalities between countries: life expectancy, 2000



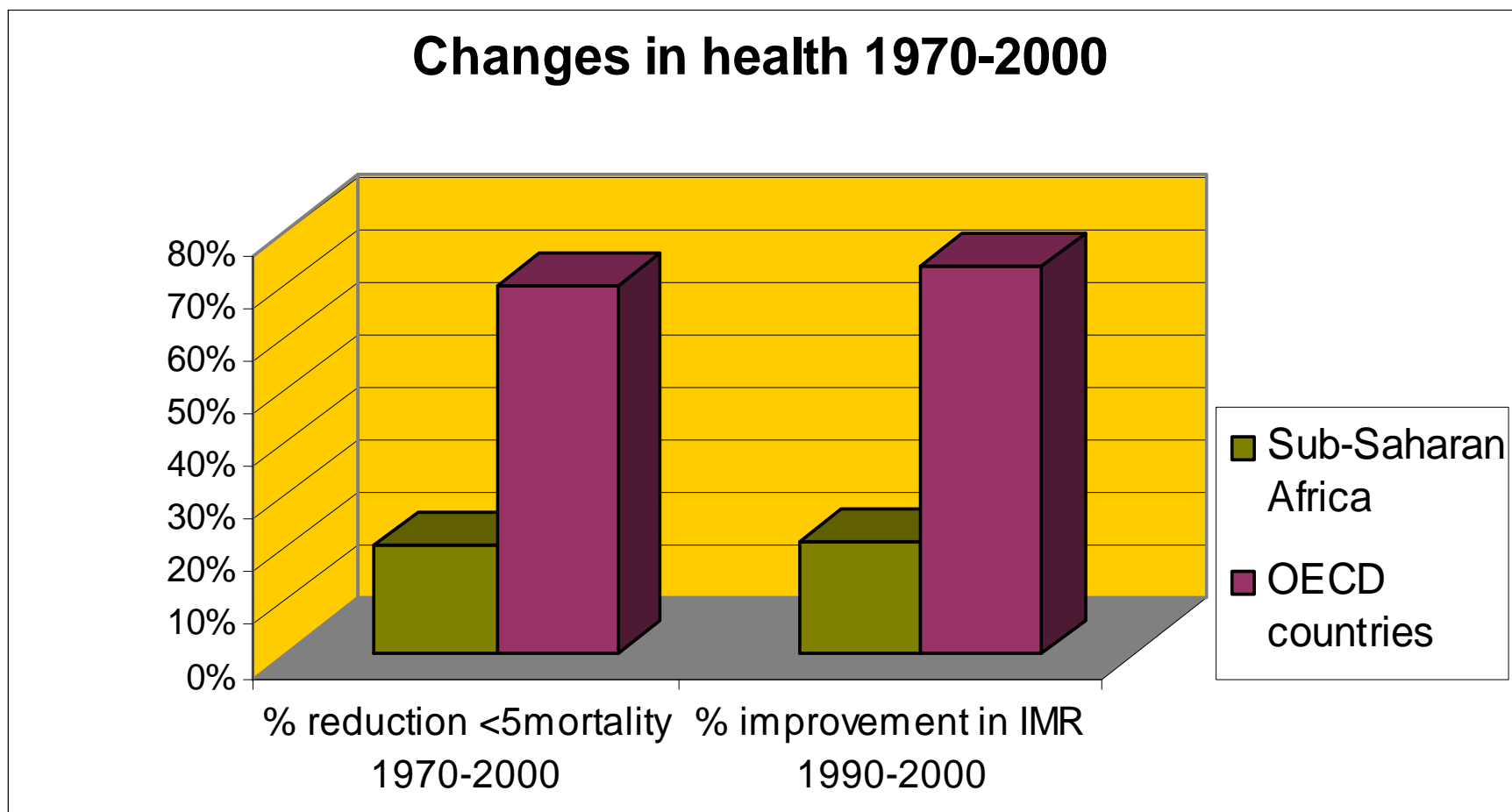


*Health inequalities countries:
maternal mortality, 1991-1997*





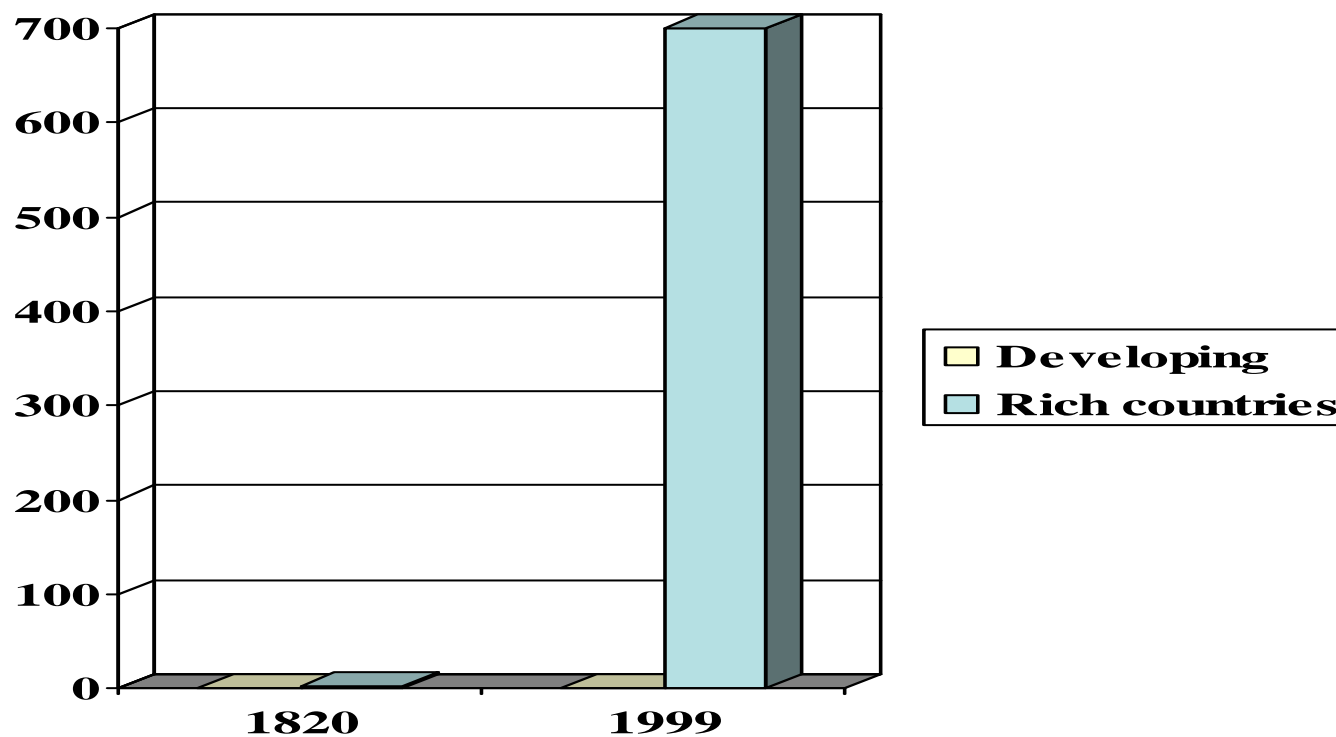
Global health changes in the last century



Source: World Bank 2003



Difference of income between the rich and the 'developing' countries 3:1(1820) and 700:1(1999)



(Source: Poverty, Health & Development AIFO)



Disparities by SES: lower-income countries

- Venezuela (1994): poor municipalities in a city had infant mortality rates 3 times those of non-poor municipalities
- Immunization coverage correlates with wealth—Africa, Asia, Latin America (Gwatkin 99)
- Zambia (1996): infant mortality among the poorest nearly 2 times that among the least poor (124/ vs 70/1000)



Gender disparities

- India (Das Gupta 1987): girls twice as likely to die by age 2 as boys, probably due to family behavior
- India, Bangladesh, Pakistan (UN 1989): 1/6 girls died from neglect and discrimination
- Large differences in immunization and nutritional status of girls vs boys
- Chile (Vega 2001): Women pay more for private health insurance and more out-of-pocket for public services



Collaboration to address Inequities

● GEGA

- ❑ Alliance of country initiatives around the world concerned with health related inequities
- ❑ In the beginning (2002) – 11 countries; now – 15 countries

● GEGA Organizational Structure

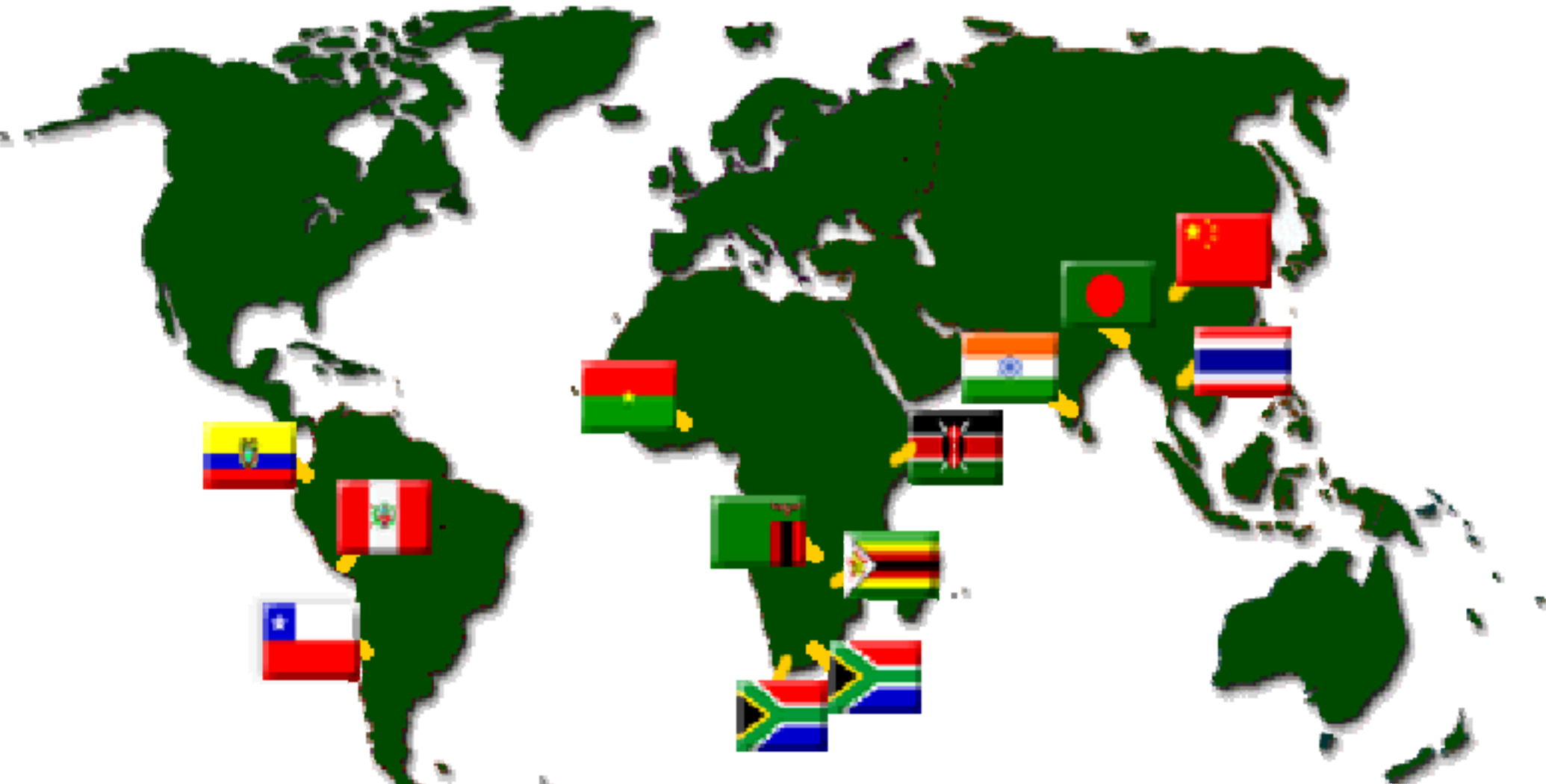
- ❑ Country groups – Equity Gauges
- ❑ Secretariat – based in South Africa
- ❑ Coordinating Committee

● Gauges

- ❑ Initiatives around the world that are self financed
- ❑ Oriented towards needs of country
 - socio-political determinants of health inequalities
 - Inequities associated with health care system



Equity Gauges





What is an Equity Gauge ?

- *.....an active approach to monitoring and addressing inequity in health and health care*
- *....goes beyond description of inequity to actions and solutions*
- *....aims for real and sustained policy change*



The Global Equity Gauge Alliance



**Assessment and
Monitoring**

Advocacy

**Community
Empowerment**



3 Pillars

- *Assessing and Monitoring* to provide evidence of the current dimensions of health inequity, as well as changes over time
- Actively supporting *community empowerment* in developing projects, advocacy campaigns, and interventions
- *Advocating* for health equity through:
 - Influencing decision makers through an 'expert role'
 - Raising public awareness and shaping public discourse
 - Influencing decision makers through a campaign or by social action



Global and Regional Work

- Global Health Watch
- South Asia - Equity and Health Systems course
- Latin America
- Africa
- Southern and Eastern African Parliamentary Committees on Health



Local (Country and City) Level Work

- **Zimbabwe and Cape Town** – Resource Allocation Formulas
– support government
- **Zambia** – monitoring of equity in 4 districts, drama, testimonies of users
- **Chile** – Equity sensitive national household survey and equity analysis of social policies
- **China**
 - National Health Data Analysis
 - rural < 10% insurance, out of pocket
 - MEDICAID for rural poor with subsidy from government



South African Equity Gauge

- Part of HST – catalyst for formation of GEGA
- Strengthening oversight function of parliamentarians
- Soul City
- HIV Gauge – community based M&E tool
- Governance



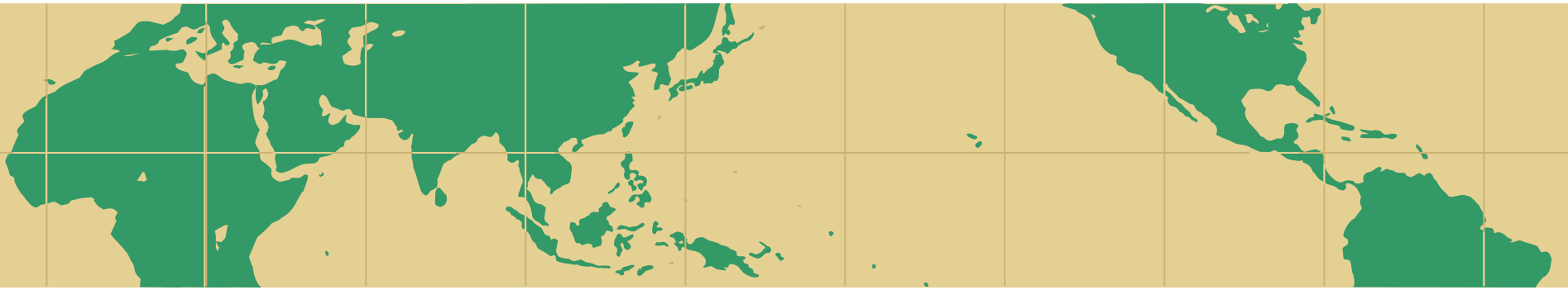
Successes

- Assembling a constituency of diverse stakeholders
- Institutionalization of equity-sensitive indicators in on-going monitoring
- Publications in peer reviewed journals
- Policy effects achieved by many Gauges; marked differences in the positioning of “equity” in public discussion and debate
- Improved processes for public and political decision-making



Challenges

- Number and level of public priorities, especially in the poorest countries
- Translating information and evidence into persuasive and effective public arguments
- Swimming against tides of privatisation, global forces



Enkosi!

Gracias!

Thank You!