

Human Rightsto Water and Sanitation

*Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe
drinking water and sanitation*



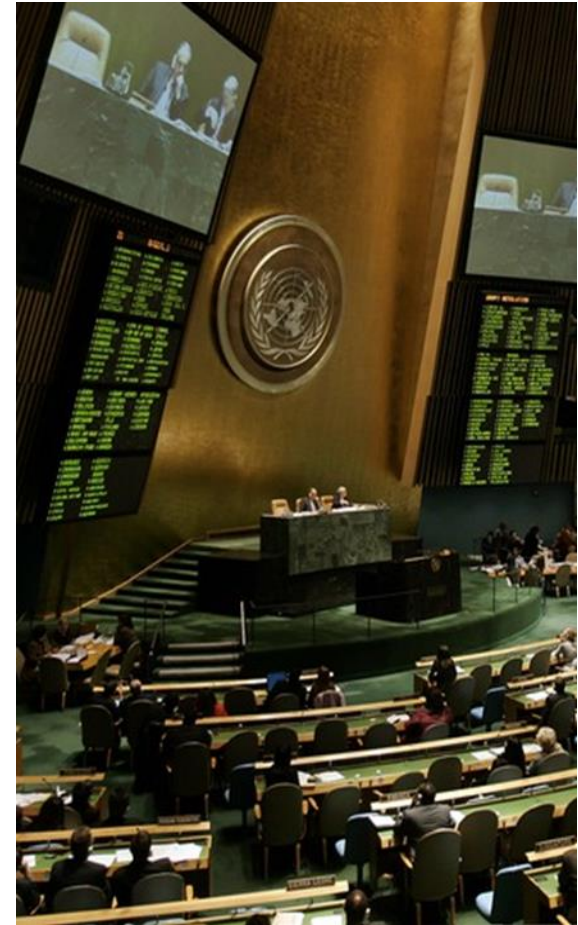
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Legal basis for the human rights to water and sanitation

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 25(1))
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 11)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 24(2)(h))
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (art. 14(2)(h))
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 18 (2)(a))
- UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions 292/64 and 15/9, respectively
- Human Rights Council resolution 24/41 affirmed the normative content of the HR to water and sanitation



Human rights-based approach: key elements

Equality and non-discrimination:

Everyone is equal before the law; prohibition of arbitrary differences of treatment

Participation and inclusion:

Every person is entitled to active, free and meaningful participation in and contribution to decision-making processes affecting them

Accountability:

State and other duty-bearers should be accountable for the fulfilment of their obligations



What is the Human Right to Water?

The human right to **water** entitles everyone to available, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses.



What is the Human Right to Sanitation?

The human right to **sanitation** entitles everyone, without discrimination, to available, safe, socially and culturally acceptable, accessible and affordable, sanitation in all spheres of life, which provides privacy and dignity.



MDG target on water

In 2010, the MDG target on water had been reached.



But ... Still 663 million people worldwide (9%) lack access to an improved drinking water source.

- Piped water into dwelling
- Piped water to yard/plot
- Public tap or standpipe
- Tubewell or borehole
- Protected dug well
- Protected spring
- Rainwater

MDG target on water

But ...

- Water quality?
- Water quantity?
- Continuity?
- Affordability?
- Schools and health facilities?
- Gender issues?



MDG Target on Sanitation

Sanitation is one of the most off-track targets of the MDGs.

- ✓ 2.4 billion people (32%) do not have access to improved sanitation, 70 per cent of which live in rural areas.
- ✓ Around 1 billion people practice open defecation.
- ✓ 1.6 million people, mostly children under the age of 5, die each year from water and sanitation-related diseases.

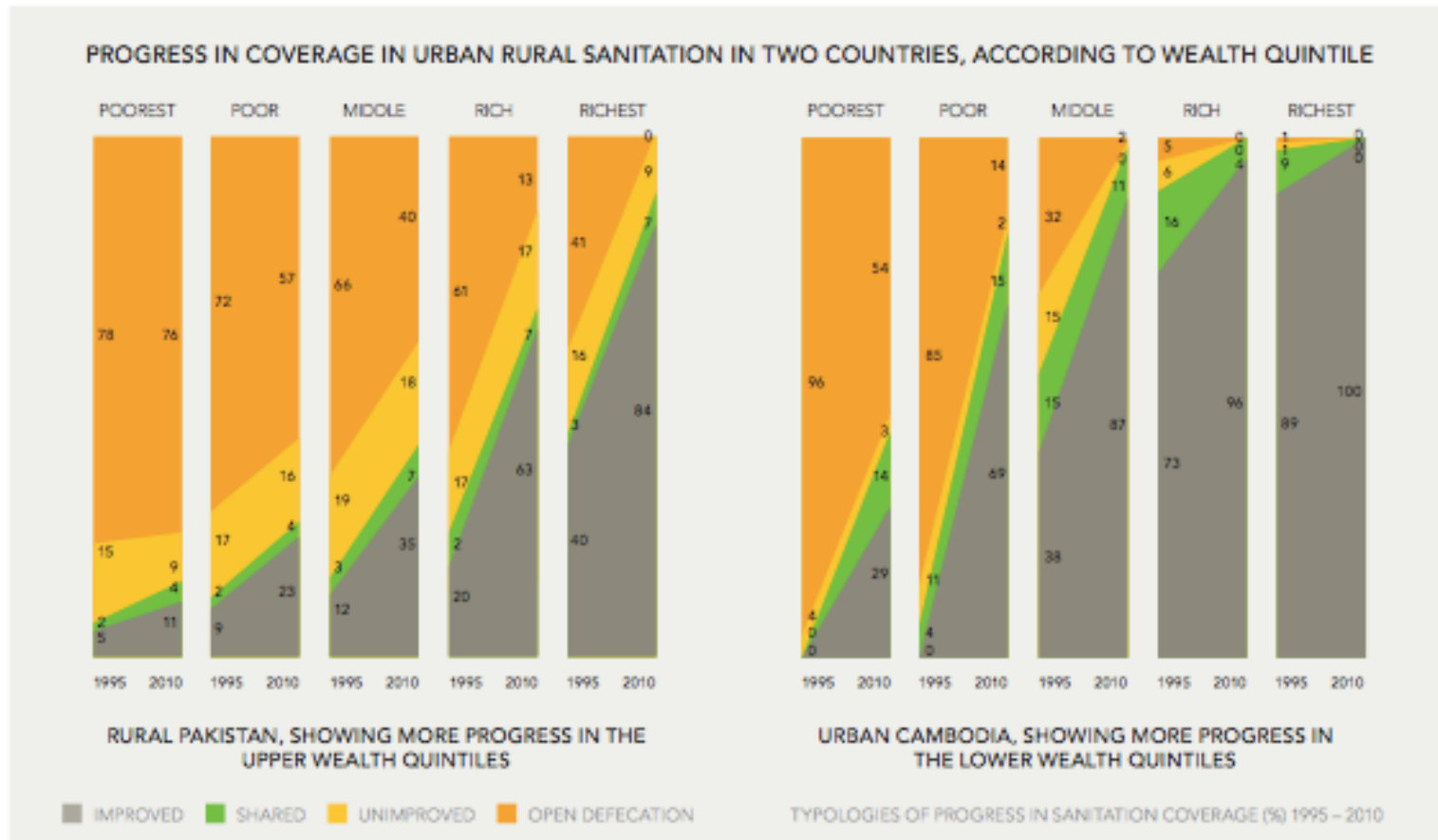


MDG Target on Sanitation

- **Improved sanitation**
 - Flush toilet
 - Piped sewer system
 - Septic tank
 - Flush/pour flush to pit latrine
 - Ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP)
 - Pit latrine with slab
 - Composting toilet
- Schools and health facilities?
- Disposal?
- Inequalities?



Different approaches to improving access: Entrenching inequalities, or addressing inequalities?



Adapted from source: Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and World Health Surveys 1995 – 2010

Averages mask inequalities

Access to piped water on premises depends on location and wealth, as shown in Kazakhstan

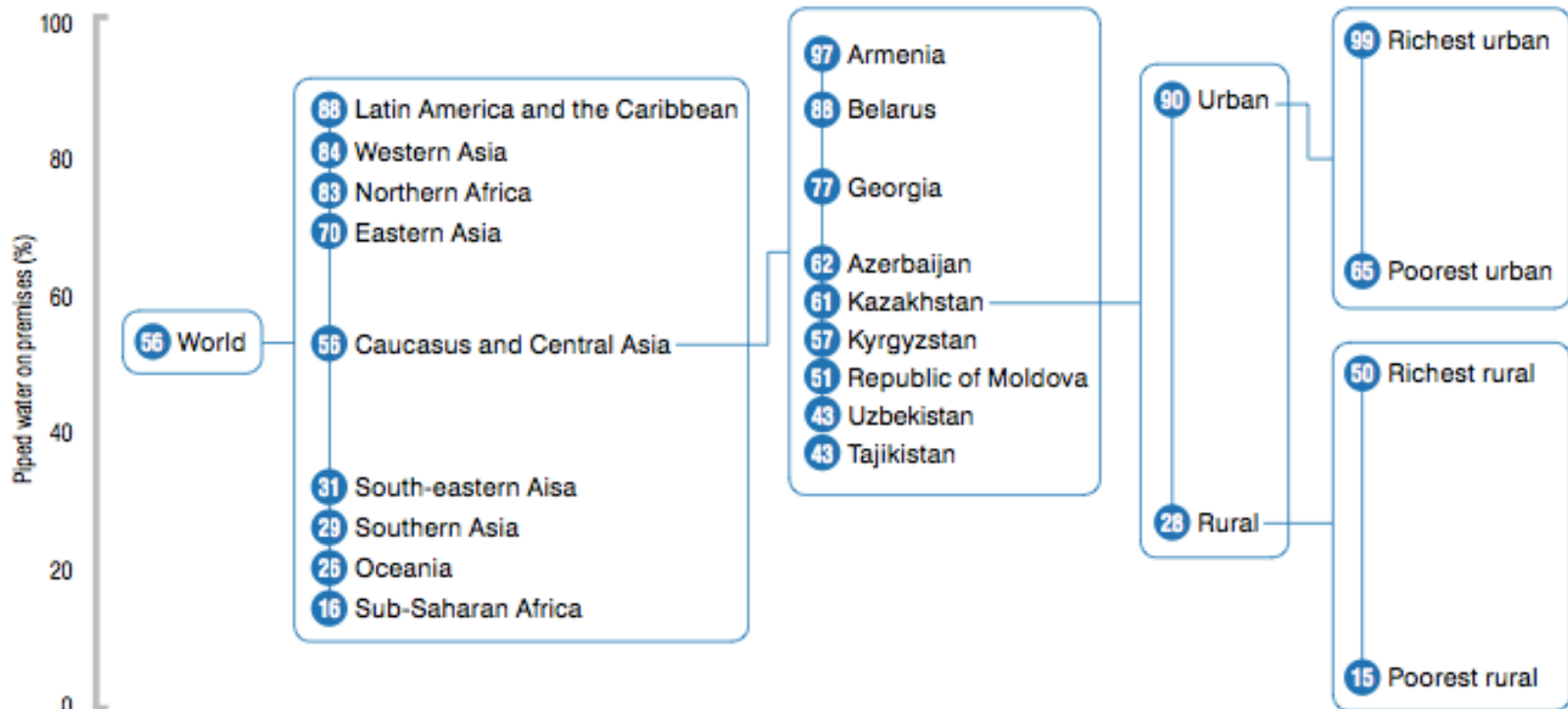
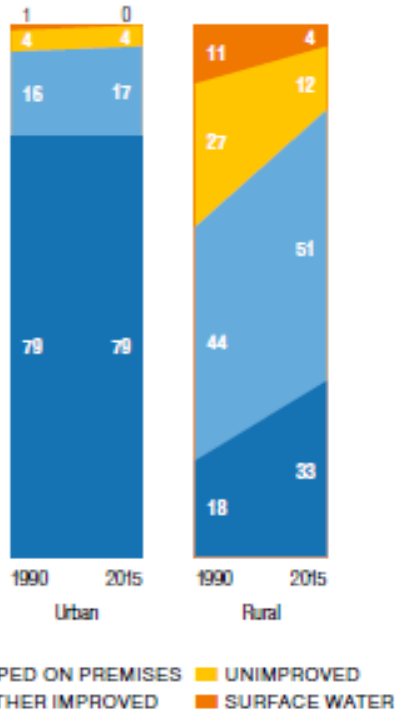


Fig.26 Equity tree for piped water on premises, Kazakhstan 2012

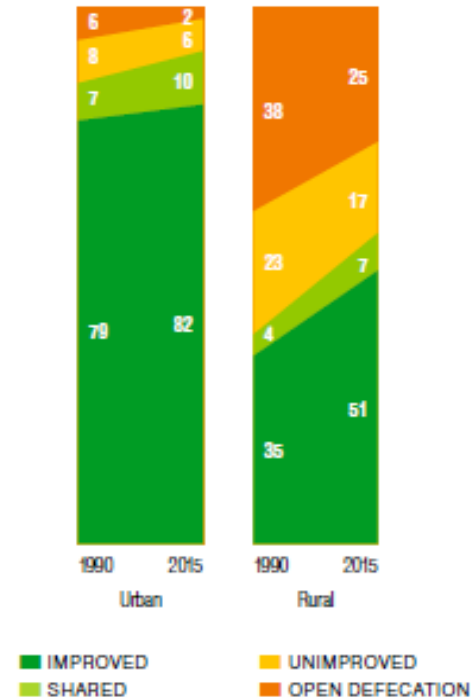
Striking Inequalities in Access: Urban-Rural

Global rural-urban disparities have decreased, but large gaps remain



Water

Despite progress, sanitation coverage in rural areas still lags behind urban areas



Sanitation

Urban-Rural disparities (2015) (source WHO-UNICEF)

Improved water: 96% vs. 84% Improved sanitation: 92% vs. 58%

Sustainable Development Goals

Before 2030...

- **End poverty and hunger** everywhere
- **Combat inequalities** within and among countries
- **Build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies**
- **Protect human rights** and promote **gender equality**
- **Empower women and girls**



Sustainable Development Goals

- “A world where we reaffirm our **commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation** and where there is **improved hygiene**” (“Transforming Our World”)
 - Human rights approach gives **priority to women, girls and people in vulnerable situations** - an improvement from the MDGs.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and **hygiene for all** and **end open defecation**, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations



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Sustainable Development Goals



Appropriate indicators are key.

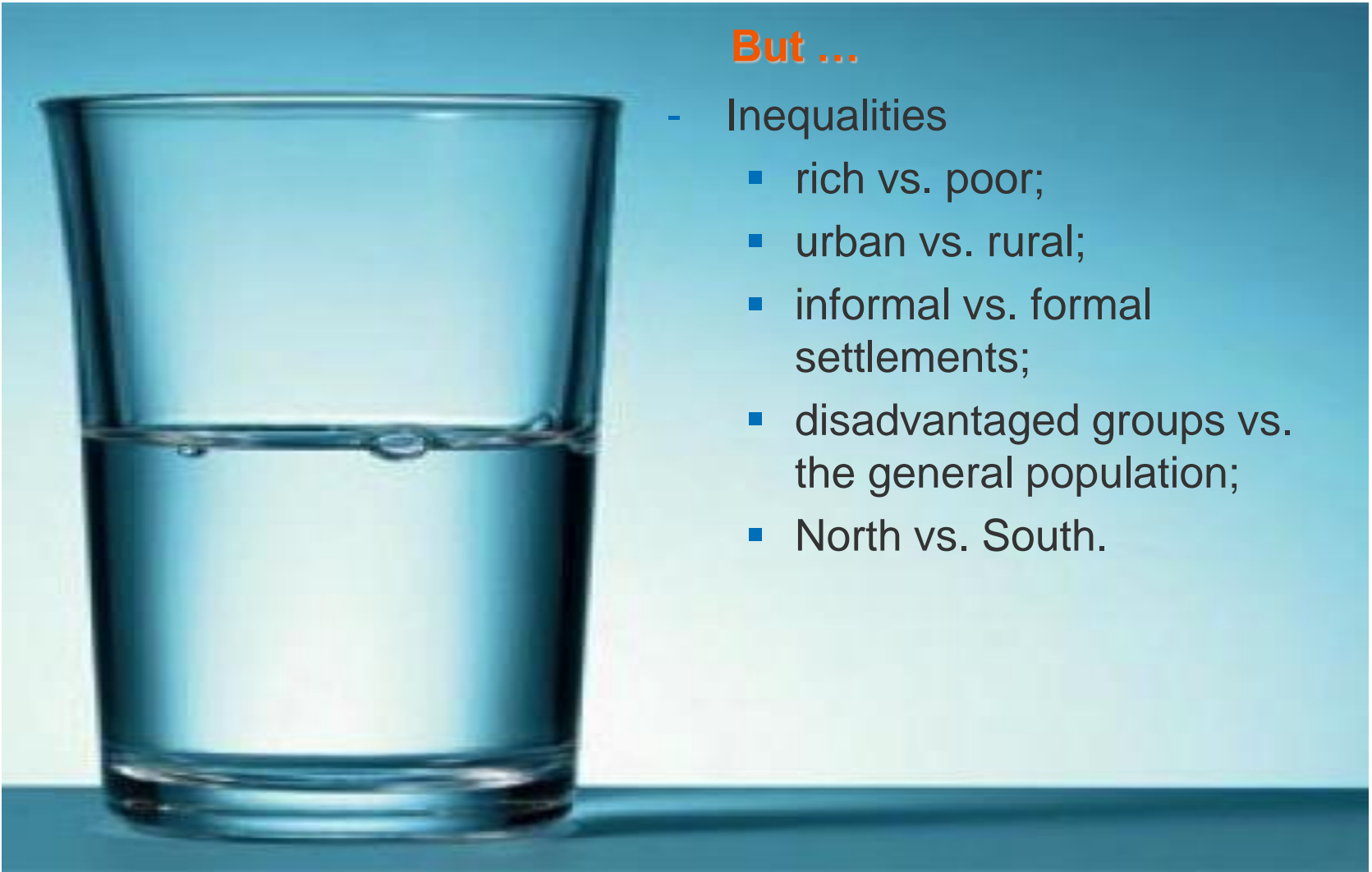
Providing information on...

- Inequalities
- Hygiene
- Regional differences
- Social groups
- Affordability
- Quality and safety

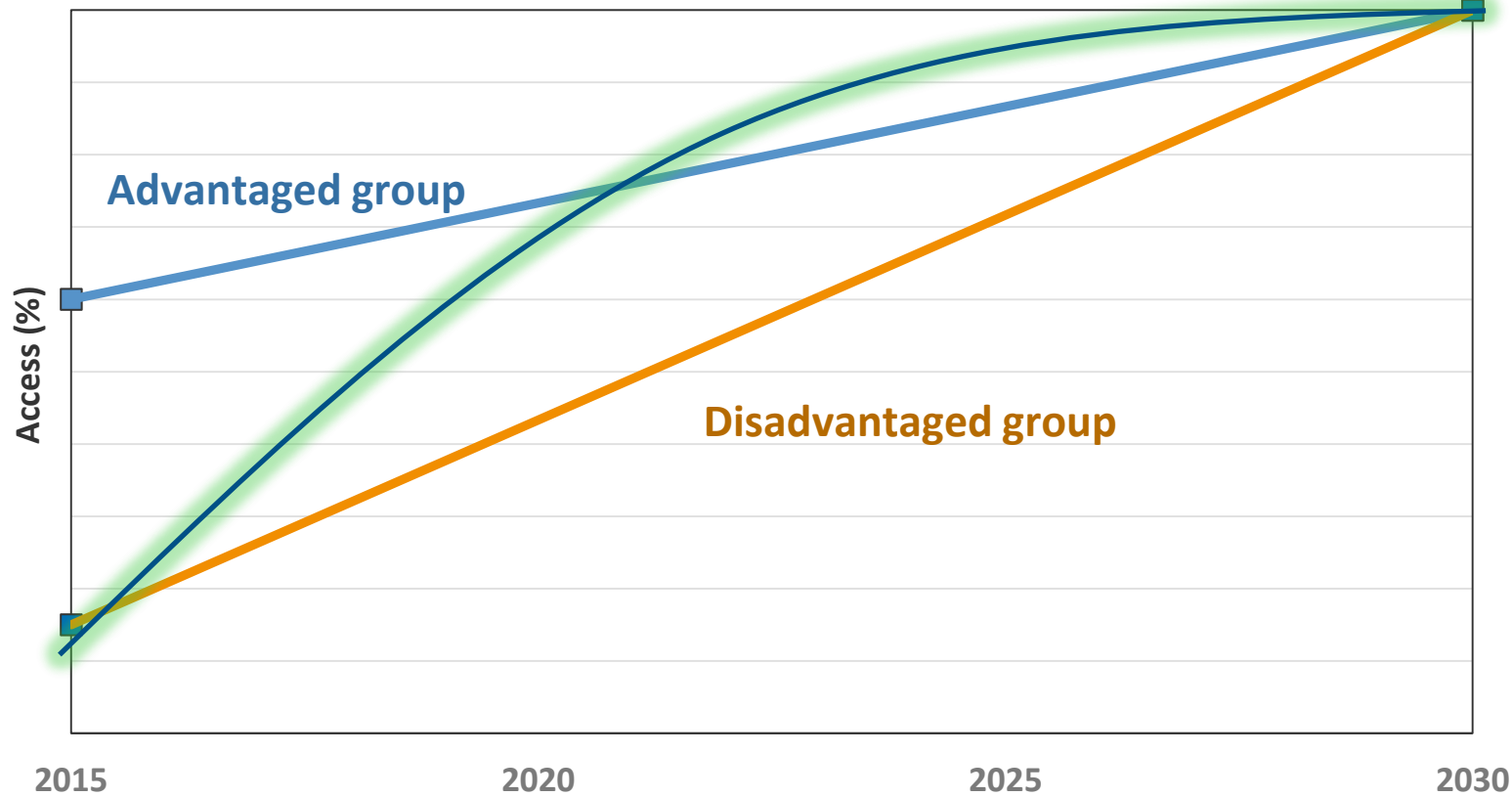
Monitoring inequalities

But ...

- Inequalities
 - rich vs. poor;
 - urban vs. rural;
 - informal vs. formal settlements;
 - disadvantaged groups vs. the general population;
 - North vs. South.



Progressive elimination of inequalities



For further information

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWater/Pages/SRWaterIndex.aspx>

