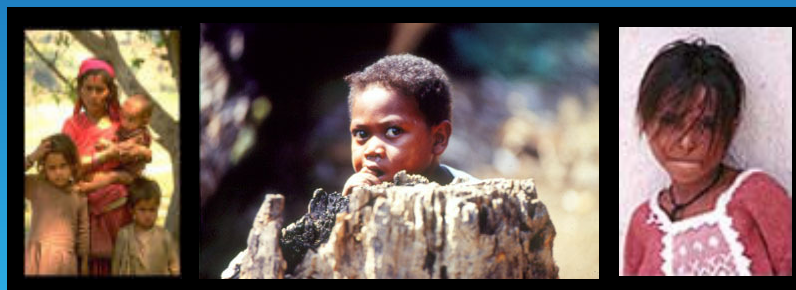




# **Eradicating Extreme Poverty in Malaysia**

## *A Human Rights Perspective*



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**UNDP Resident Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei**

**UNFPA Representative**

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Kuala Lumpur

# Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

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- **Millennium Declaration contains 8 mutually reinforcing time-bound goals (MDGs)**
  - MDGs an **accountability framework** and a **global partnership** for progressively eradicating poverty in all its dimensions
- **MDGs synthesise and re-specify goals of 1990s global UN conferences**
- **MDGs are international community's commitment to eradicate poverty by 2015**
  - at forefront of global development agenda
  - in addition to income, non-income dimensions include health, education, women's empowerment, access to information, clean water, sanitation and electricity

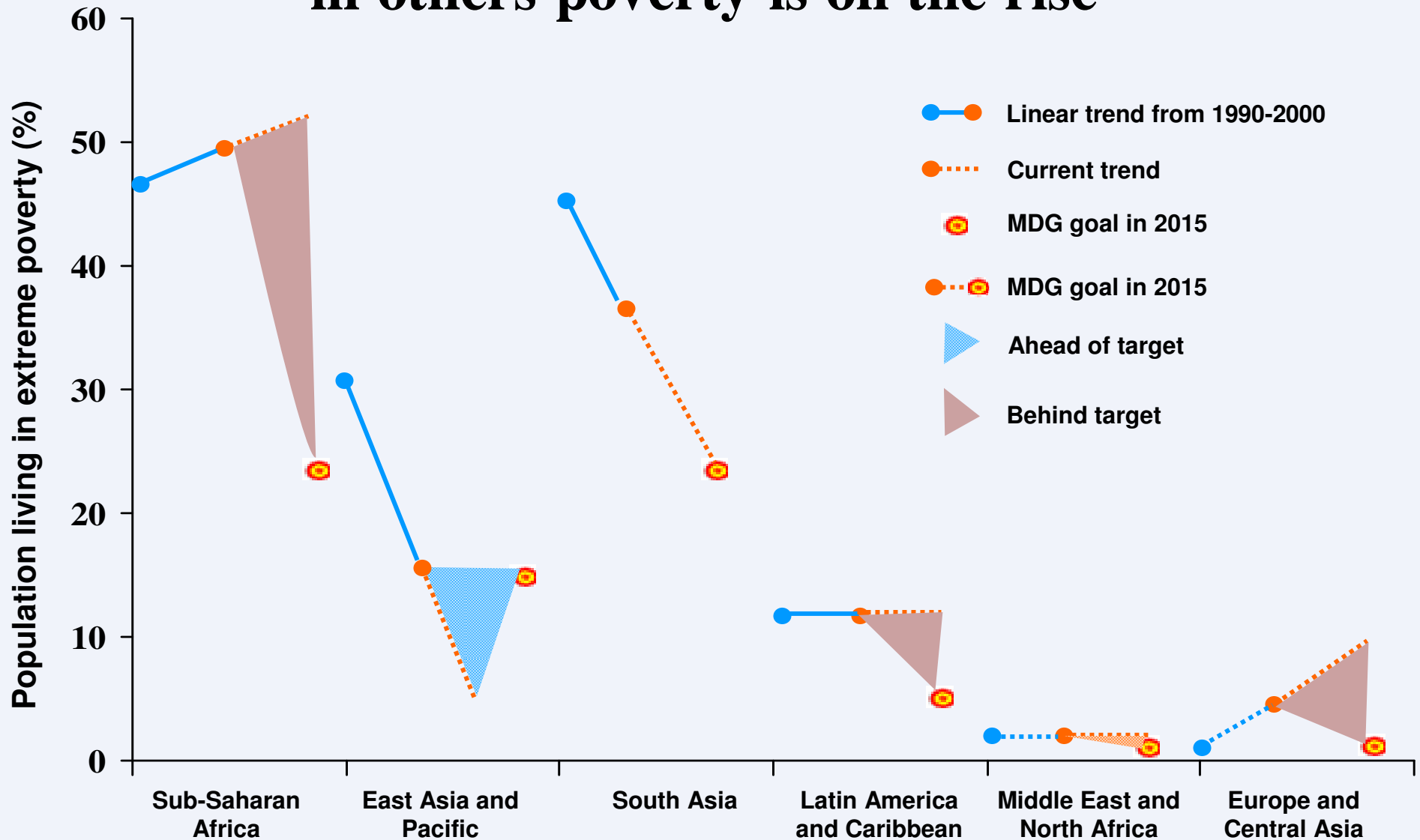
# Human Rights (HR) and Development

## *Two sides of same coin*

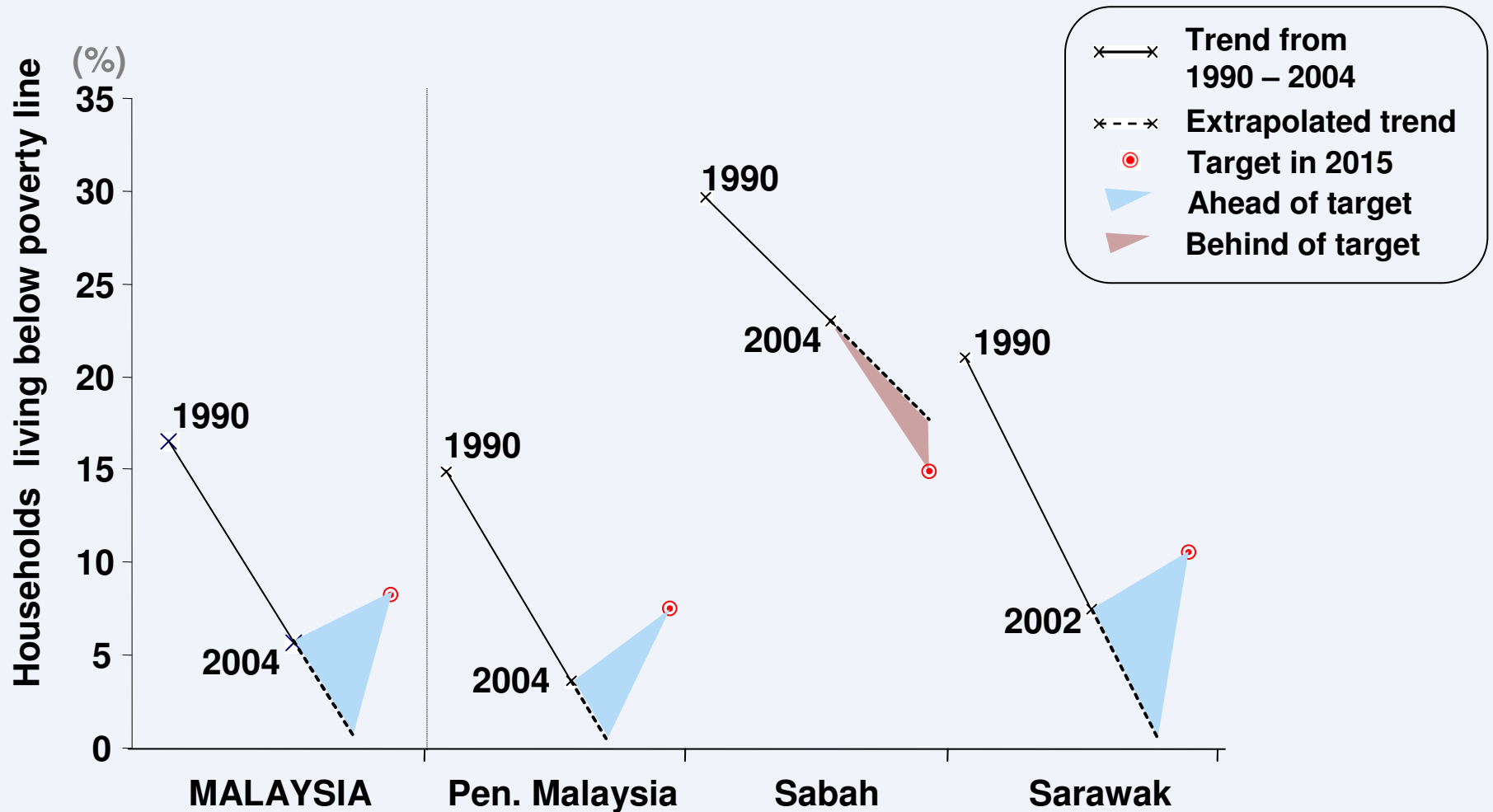
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- United Nations aims to achieve cooperation in solving international economic, social, cultural or humanitarian problems. In so doing, promotes, encourages and respects HR and fundamental freedoms  
*(UN Charter, 1945)*
- In September 2000, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration containing, *inter alia*, a set of development goals.  
Headline goal:
  - **MDG 1** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger  
**Target 1** Halve % of people whose income <US\$1 a day
- Policies and institutions of poverty reduction based on norms and values of H/R law
  - progressive realisation
- Generally poorest whose rights are ignored and who lack access to information and services
  - H/R a means of empowering the poor

## Some regions are reducing extreme poverty: in others poverty is on the rise



# In Malaysia poverty MDG targets already achieved: projected to be eliminated before 2015



# **How Malaysia Achieved MDG 1**

## ***Sustained economic growth and commitment***

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- 3 strategic poverty-reducing approaches:
  - emphasis on agricultural and rural development to raise income of poor farmers
  - emphasis on labour-intensive export industrialization to absorb poor workers
  - public investment in education, health and infrastructure, especially in rural areas, to raise living levels of poor

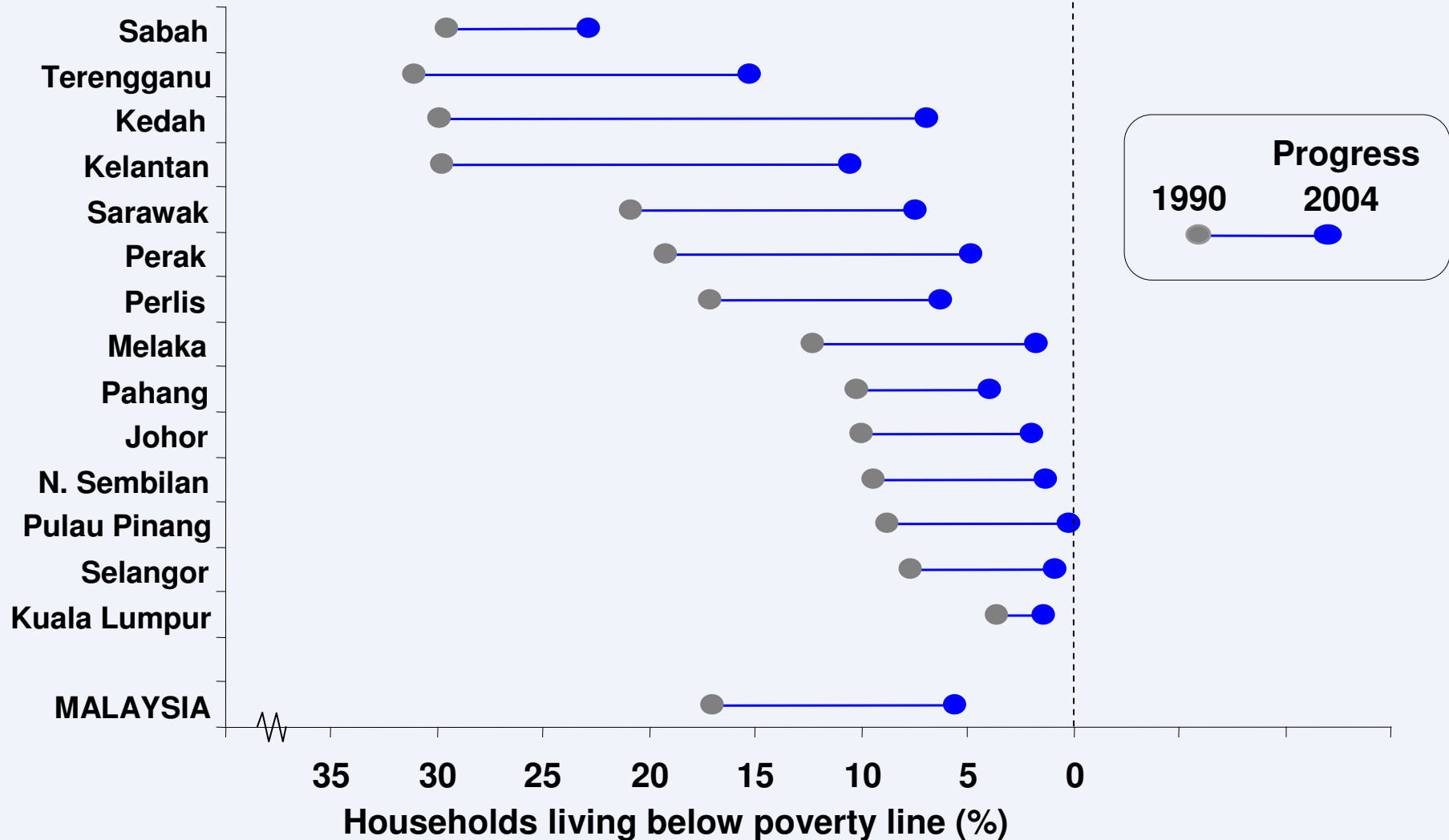
# **Equality and Non-Discrimination**

## ***Basic HR principles***

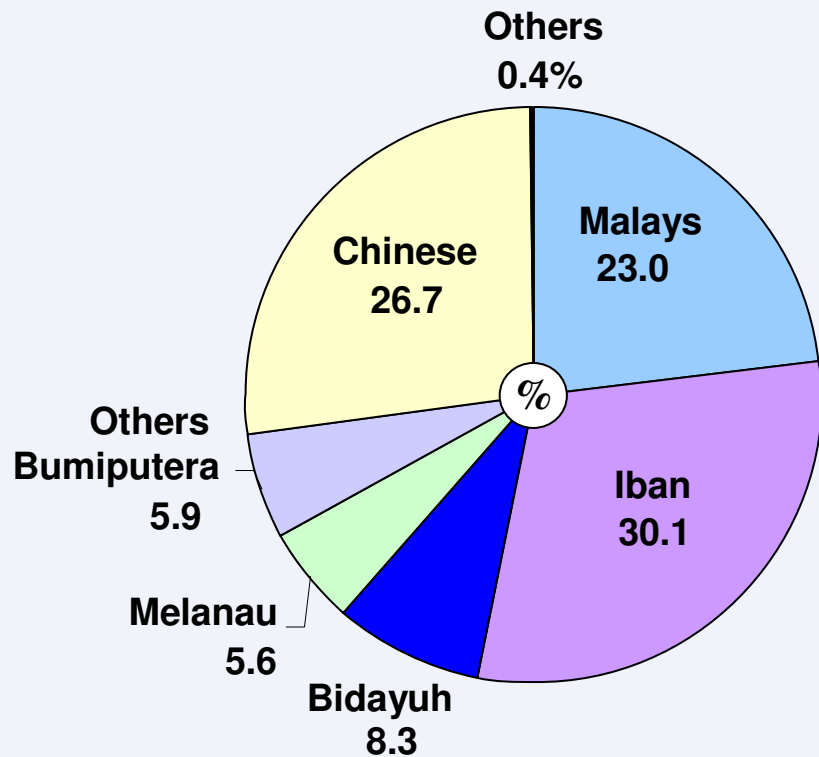
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- Disaggregation of MDG indicators key for targeting pro-poor policies and strategies
  - sex, age, ethnicity, location, income, etc
- Huge poor-rich differentials in social outcomes
  - differentials in access and quality of social services
  - cultural and traditional barriers
  - lack of women's empowerment
- Resource gaps, financial and human, to supply basic social services to poorest

# Progress of poverty reduction in all states, 1990-2004, but some still lagging



# Poverty rates vary markedly among Sarawak's diverse communities

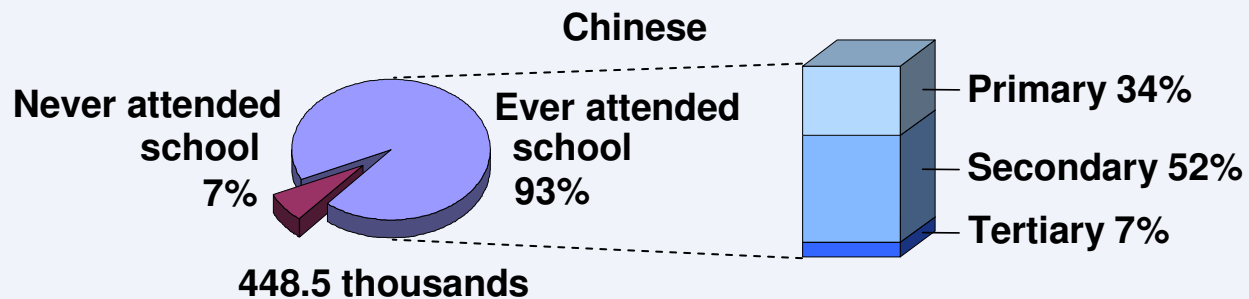
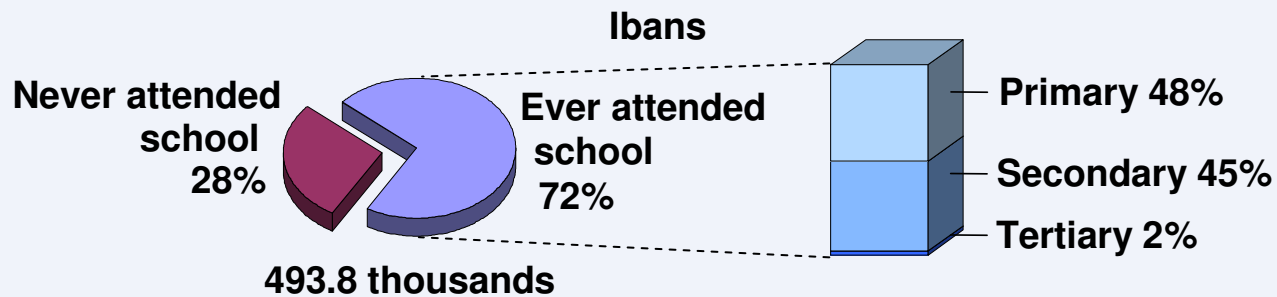
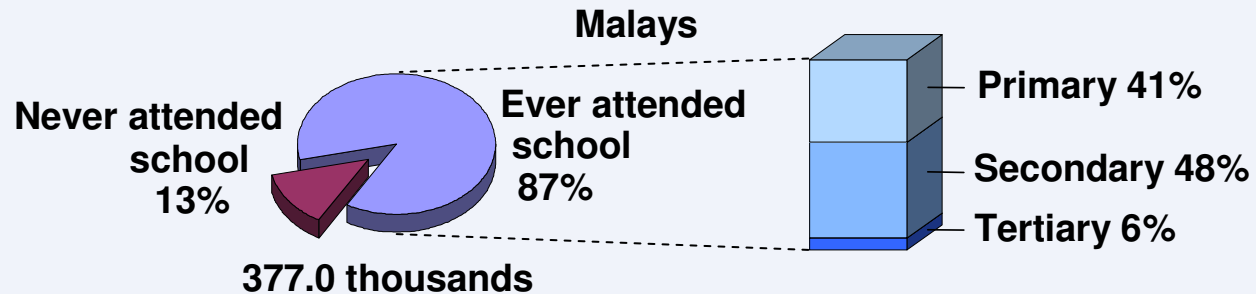


**Population 2000 = 2,008.8 thousands**

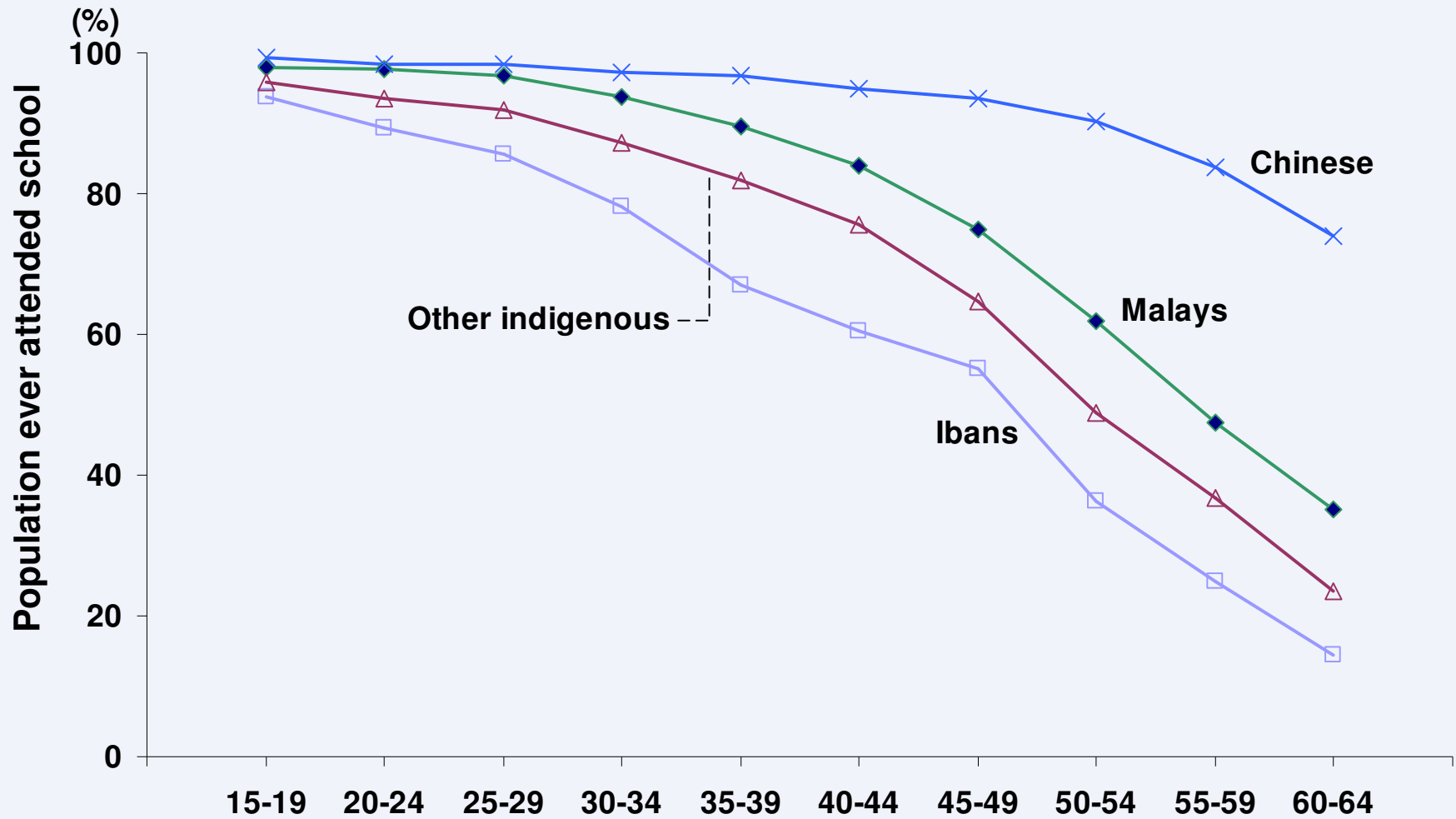
## Poverty rates 2002

<b>Sarawak</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Bumiputera</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Malays</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Ibans</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<b>Chinese</b>	<b>1.0</b>

## Educational attainment lagging among some of Sarawak's communities in 2000



# Age and community group associated with lack of education in Sarawak in 2000



# Conclusions

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- HR and MDGs mutually supportive agenda to eradicate poverty in all its dimensions
- Need policies and programmes that put equity at core and contribute to reducing inequities
  - involve participation of relevant stakeholders, especially the poor
  - address issues of access to social services
  - target interventions, and budgets, towards poorest areas and groups, especially rural women
  - entail accountability of duty bearers
- Improve data collection to allow for better identification of vulnerable groups, consistent with HR approach