



# Sustainability Check 2015

**Bjorn Lomborg**

[COPENHAGENCONSENSUS.COM](http://COPENHAGENCONSENSUS.COM)  
[LOMBORG.COM](http://LOMBORG.COM)

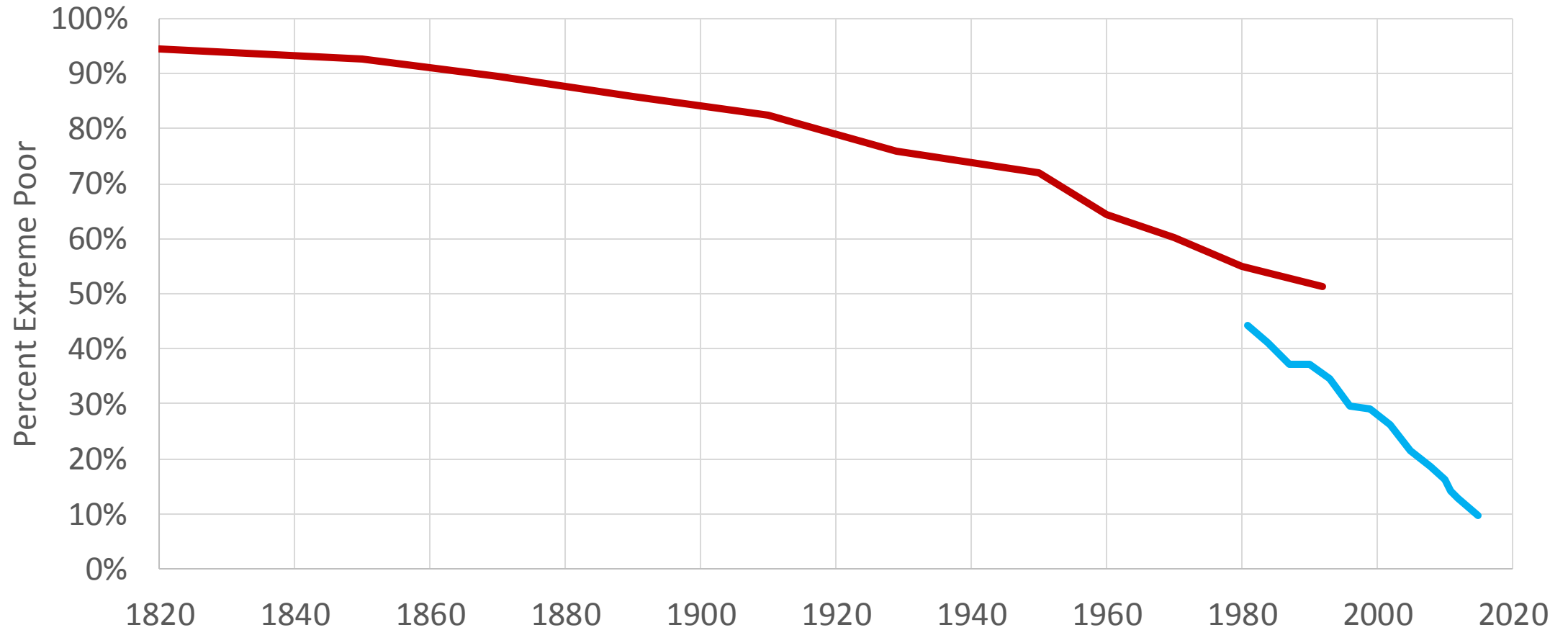
# Sustainability not just environment

- Sustainable
  - **Economy**
  - **Society**
  - **Environment**

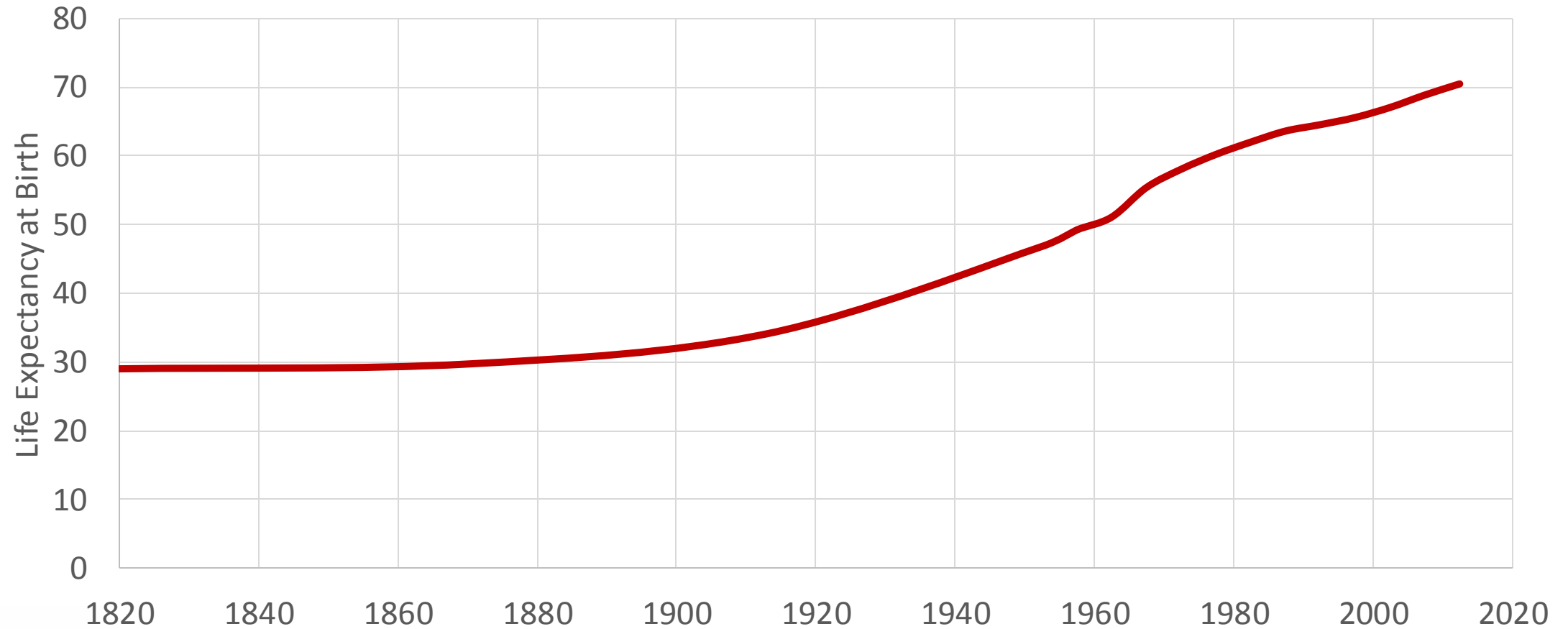
# Things are getting better



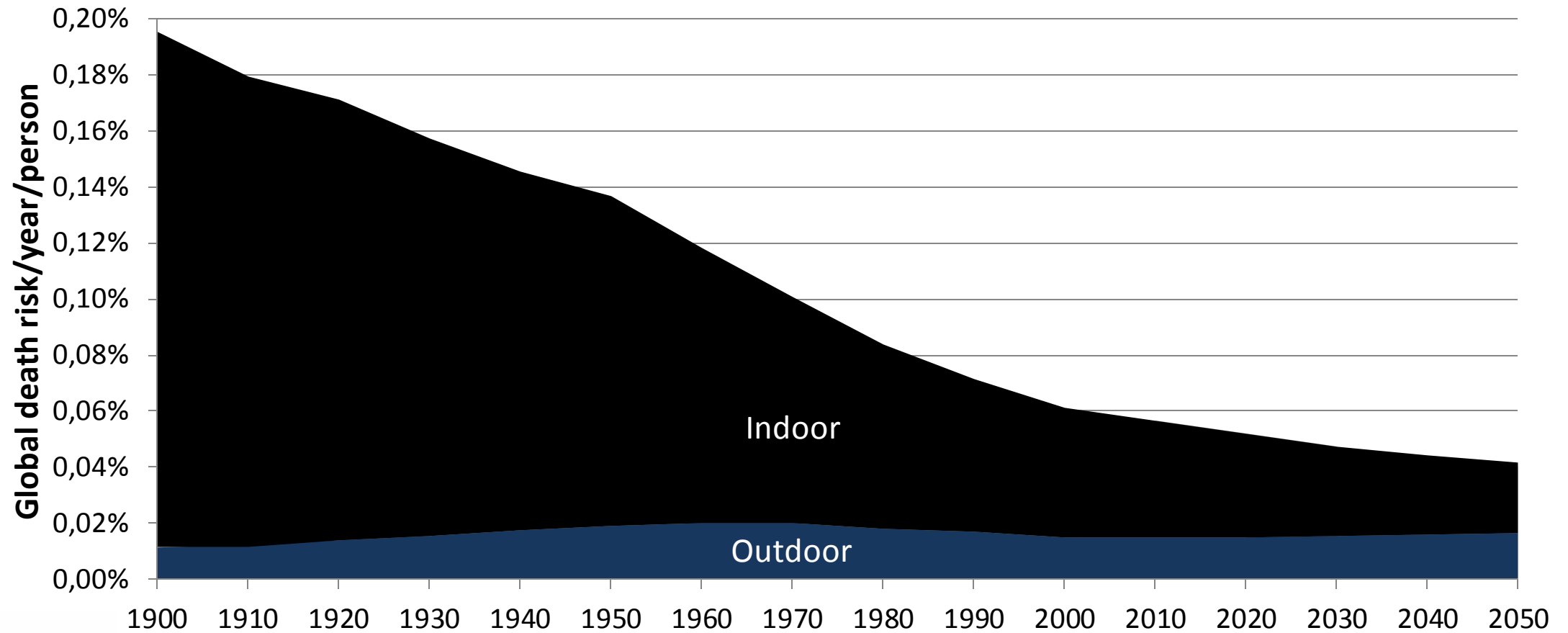
# Economy: % Extreme Poverty 1820-2015



# Society: Global Life Expectancy 1820-2015



# Environment: Air Pollution Death 1900-2050



# Making Things Better in Future



# Look Across All Three Areas

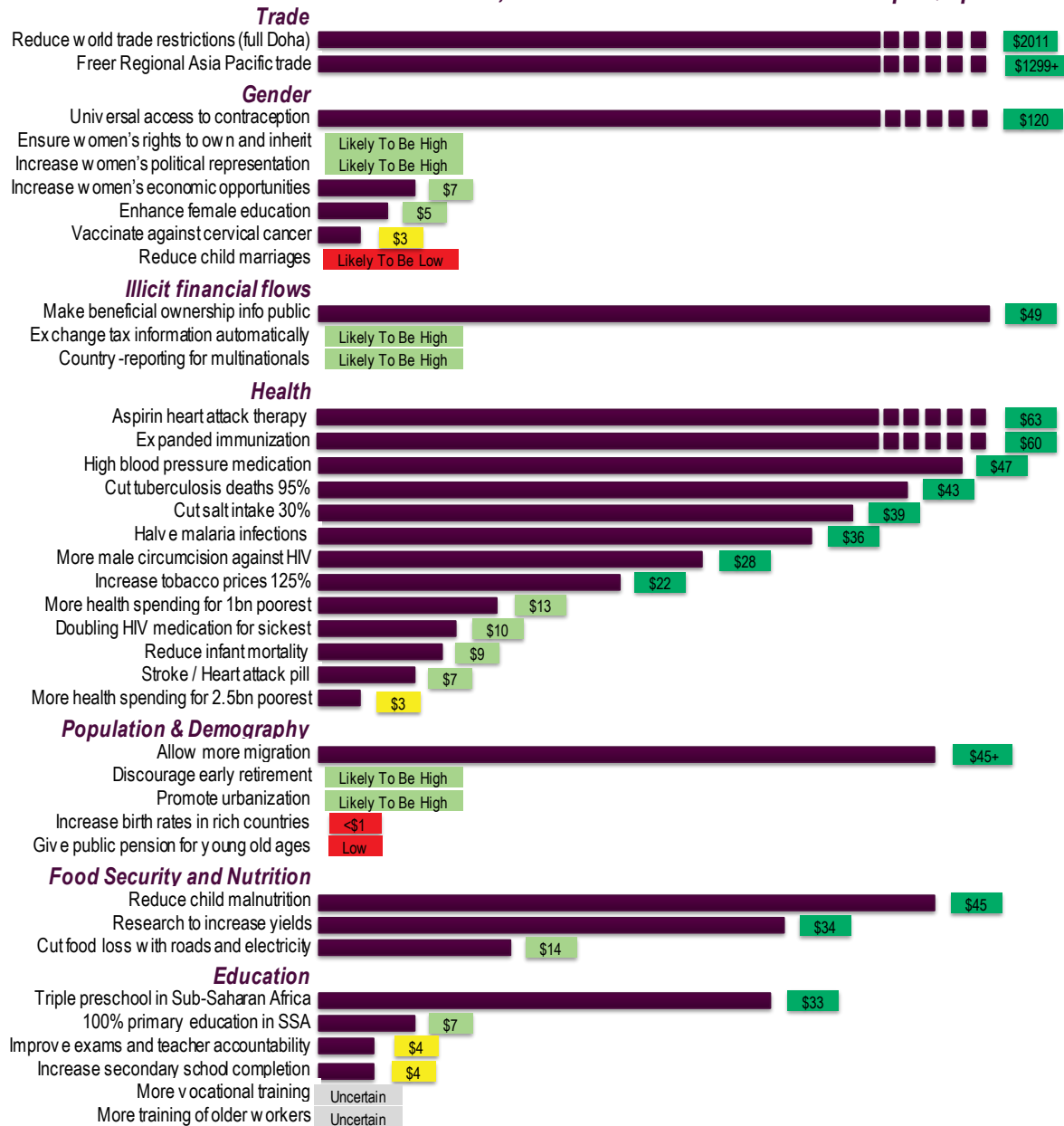
- Sustainable Economy
- Sustainable Society
- Sustainable Environment
  - **And remember trade-offs**



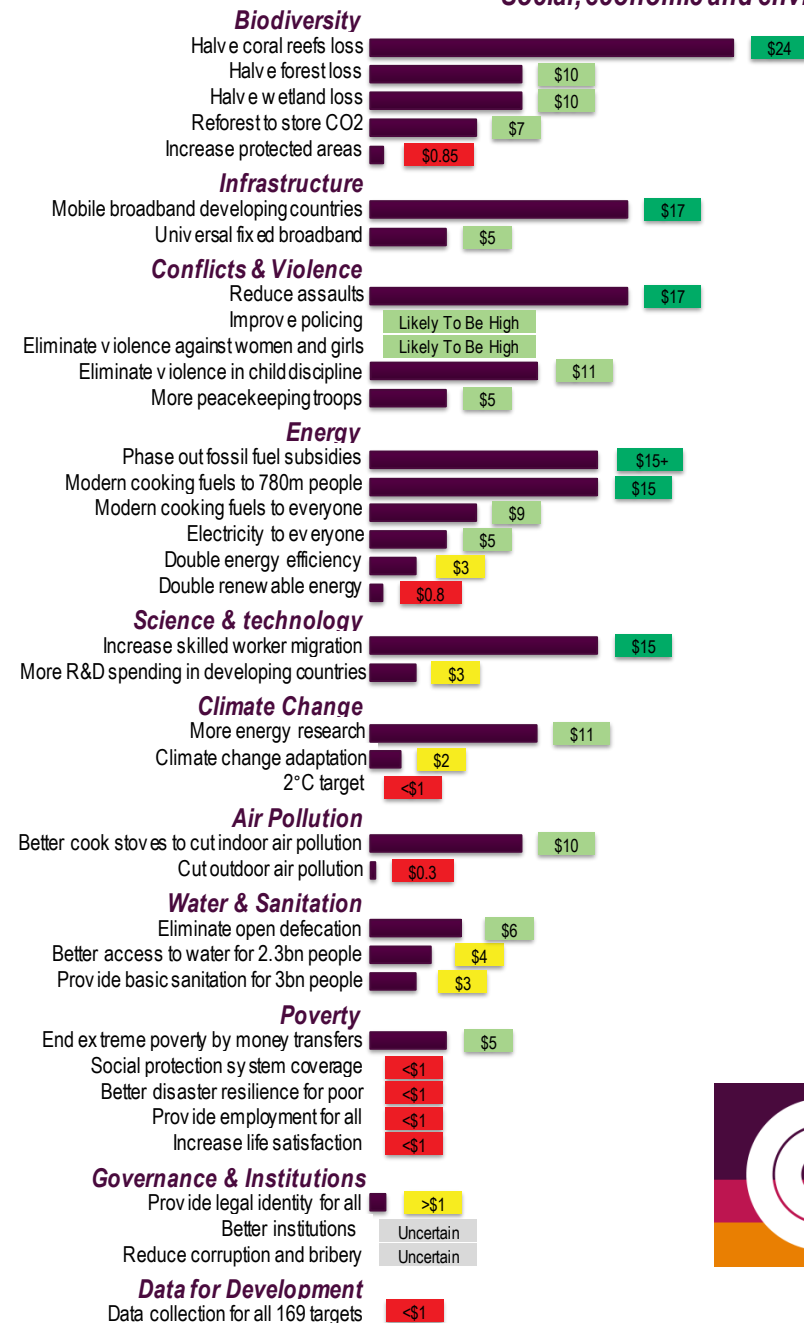
# Feel good vs. do good



## Social, economic and environmental benefit per \$ spent



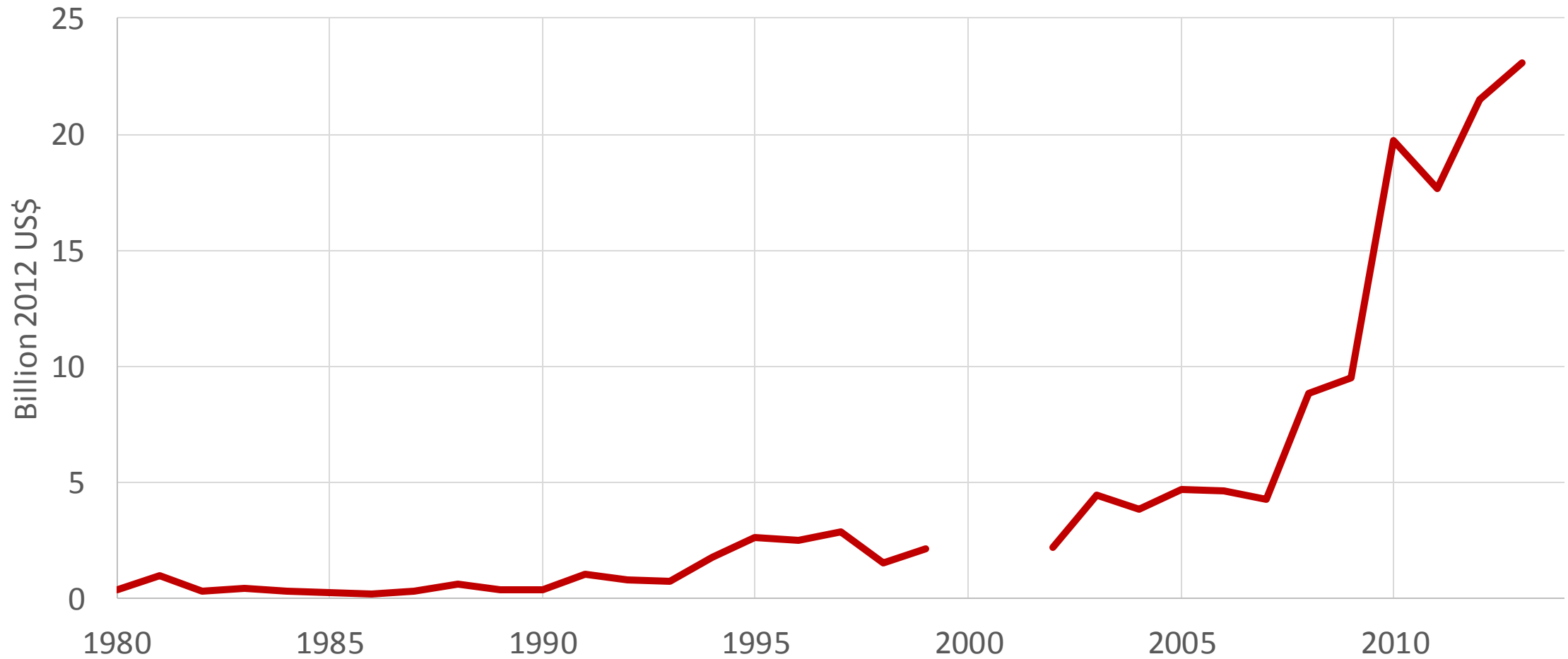
## Social, economic and environmental benefit per \$ spent



# Climate eats up aid



# Climate Related Development Aid 1980-2013

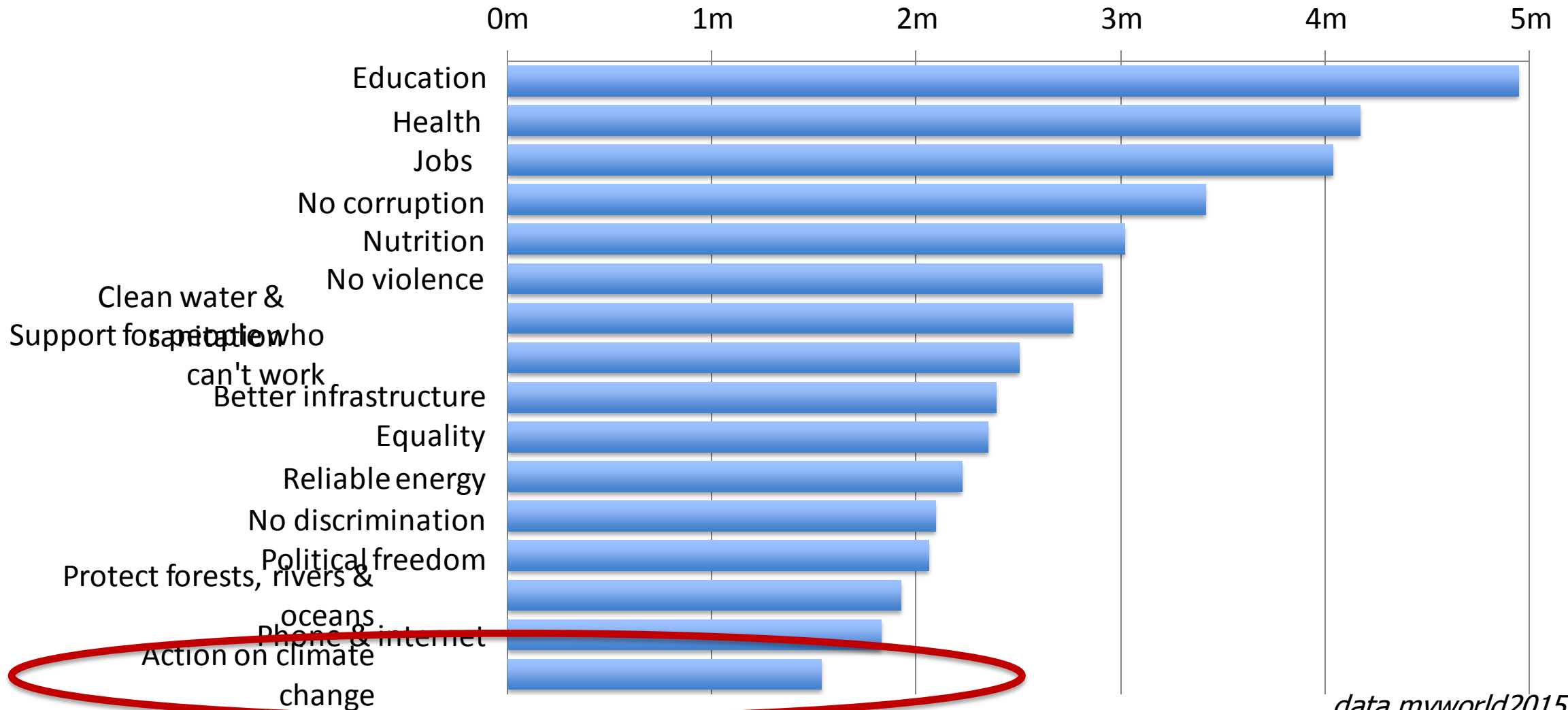


# Climate Change

- Real problem
- But often costly to do little good
- Only one of many problems we need to tackle

# The World's Most Important Problems?

*8.5 million real people from across the world*



# 25% Aid Is Now Climate-Related

- Spend most on cutting CO<sub>2</sub> that will help *nothing* by 2030
- Spend against what we have promised
- Spend against what poor people want
- Spend on what is often least effective
- Feel-good spending
  - **Which can't be spent on doing good**

# Dharnai, First Fully Powered Solar Village

- Greenpeace
  - “First village in India where all aspects of life are powered by solar”
  - Set up as “a demonstration of our solution to India’s energy access problems”



THE WEEK

SOLAR POWER!

**A village in India now runs entirely on its own solar power grid**

theguardian

India's climate pledge rests on green growth story

year. Dharnai became India's first solar-powered village in July last year, lighting up the lives of people here who only knew life in the dark.

**REneweconomy**  
Tracking the next industrial revolution

**India village claims a first – 100 storage micro-grid**

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

First Fully Solar-Powered Village in India: Dharnai's Story Begins after 33 Years of Darkness [Video]

indiatoday 



THE PROJECT

TRANSFORMATIONS

BIHAR SOLAR VILLAGE











Today children are studying well and women are able to cook late in the evening



# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

## Coal Trumps Solar in India

Activists hope for a renewable energy future but dirty coal remains cheapest

# Mail Online India

## Bihar village rejects solar-powered micro-grid and demands 'real' electricity

Villagers lined up to protest, chanting, "We want real electricity, not fake electricity!"

At present, solar power in Dharnai costs at least three times as much as grid power.



# The Very Real Choice

- Obama: \$3bn for climate
  - **If invested in current solar**
  - **Postpone global warming by the end of the century**
    - 28 minutes
- \$3bn for vaccines
  - **Save 3 million kids today**

**What is best?**

# Sustainability 2015

Economy ✓

Society ✓

Environment ✓



# Sustainability 2015

Do the smart  
stuff first ✓

