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BHUTAN ACADEMY

Do more with less

Prioritizing with cost-benefit analysis

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How do we often prioritize?

- Overwhelming number of good causes
- For governments, donors and SDG investors
  - **Often about what gets the attention**
  - **The causes with the strongest advocates**







That is not how to prioritize

We can do better

To prioritize, you need a menu

- With prices and sizes


Todays Specials!
7AM-8PM
$9.99
create your own pizza
$11.99 each
chicken Marsala
asparagus, soup of
the day, mashed potatoes


Todays Specials!
7AM-8PM
create your own pizza
Chicken Marsala
asparagus, soup of
the day, mashed potatoes


Todays Specials!
7AM-8PM
$.99
create your own pizza
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Todays Specials!
7AM-8PM
$999.99
create your own pizza
chicken Marsala
asparagus, soup of
the day, mashed potatoes




Wreckless Eating

Where do you think a million dollars saves the most lives?

Build urban sanitation



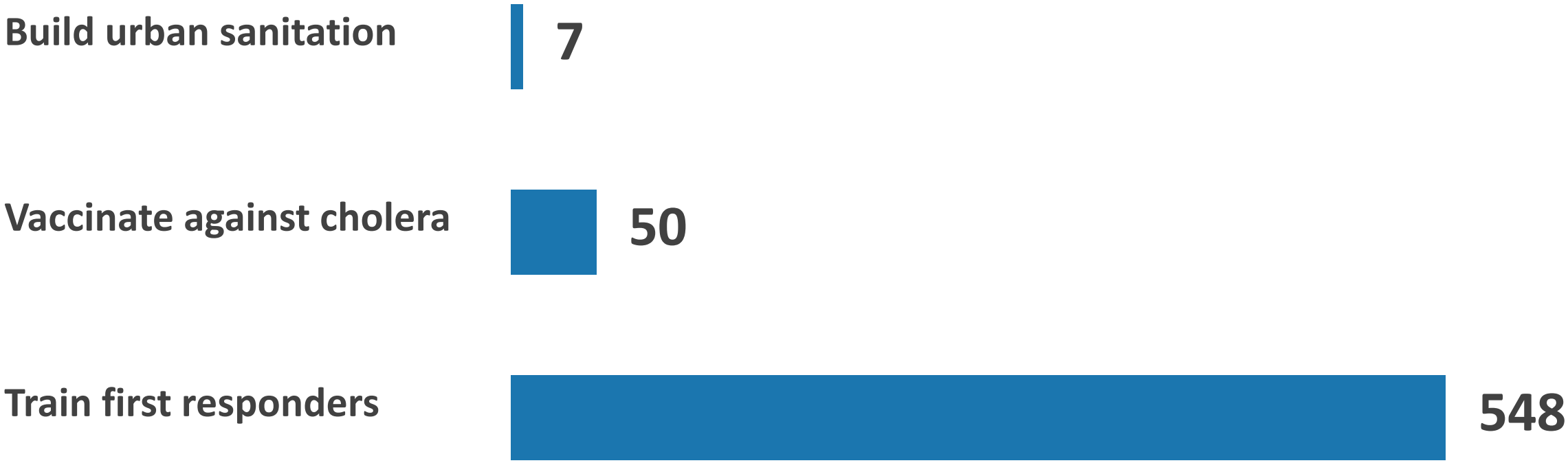


Train first responders


Vaccinate against cholera


Build urban sanitation
Train first responders
Vaccinate against cholera

How many lives saved for $1 million?



Source: Haiti Priorise

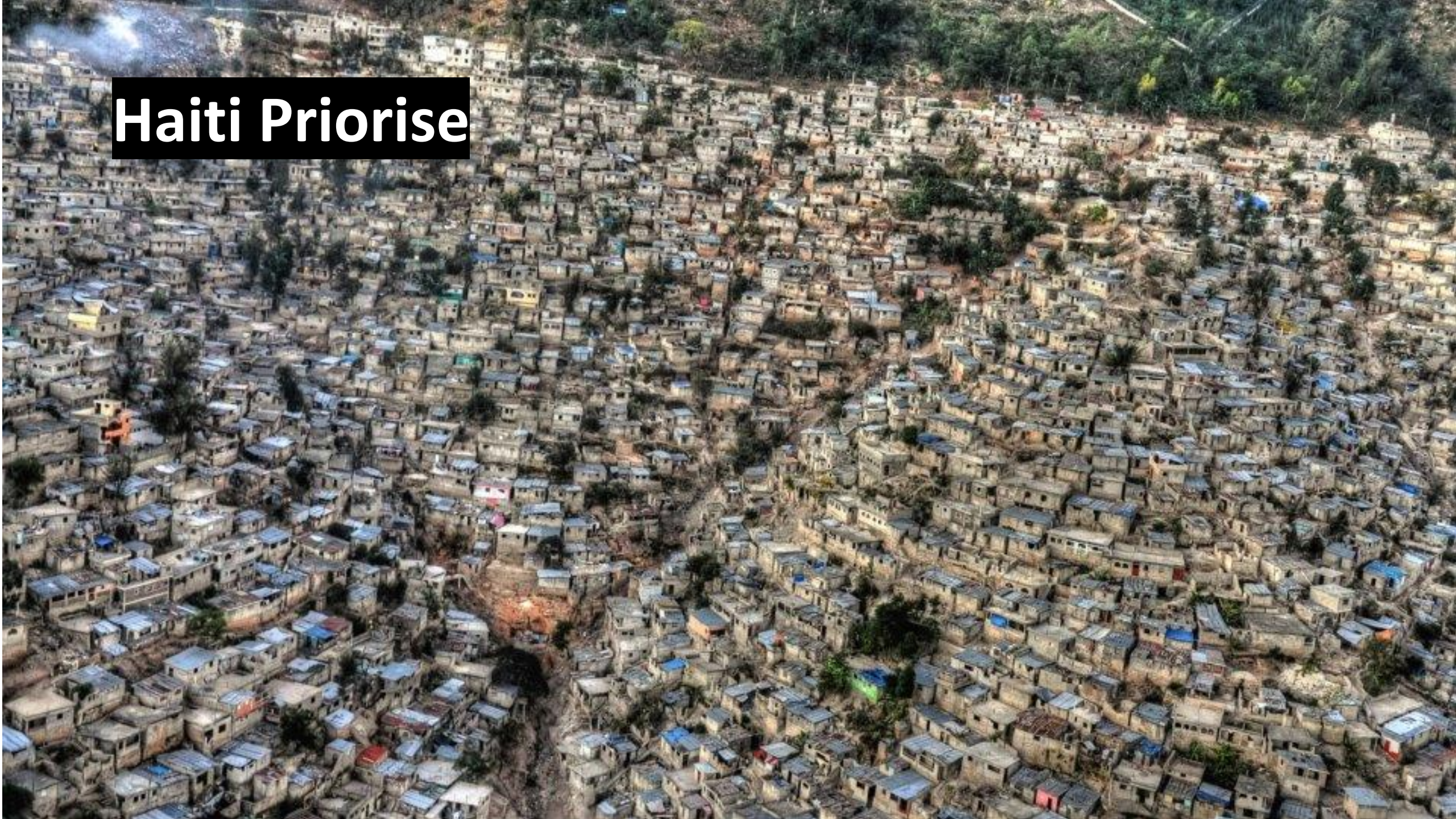
Why don’t we prioritize?

Because it is hard

Copenhagen Consensus

- We've been making evidence-based priorities for 20 years
  - **"Where will the *next* dollar do most good?"**
- Work with 300+ of the world's top economists
  - **Including 7 Nobel Laureates**
- The methodology works everywhere
  - **Haiti, Bangladesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Ghana, Malawi**
  - **How best to solve climate, health, and HIV**
  - **Help the UN set the smartest targets for the world**

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Haiti Priorise

Priorities for Haiti



Priorities for Haiti

- Solutions
  - **Government, academia, businesses, donors, NGOs**
- Economists
  - **Haitian & Int'l**
  - **Do cost-benefit**
- Media
  - **Print & radio**
- Prioritize
  - **Eminent panel**

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Urban Sanitation in Haiti



Photo: Alice Smeets

Urban Sanitation in Haiti

- Costs
  - **Pit latrine/Person, 15 yrs**
    - **$43.9**
  - **Emptying 4.5 yrs**
    - **$33**
- Total annualized cost @5%
  - **$8.93 per person per year**

- Benefits
  - **Save lives**

3,132 diarrheal deaths in Haiti

1,096 deaths in urban Haiti

254 avoided with pit latrines

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Source: Haiti Priorise

Urban Sanitation in Haiti

- Costs
  - **Pit latrine/Person, 15 yrs**
    - **$43.9**
  - **Emptying 4.5 yrs**
    - **$33**
- Total annualized cost @5%
  - **$8.93 per person per year**

- Benefits
  - **Pit latrines avoid 254 deaths**
  - **Value of avoiding death?**
    - **Life-year valued at 3xGDP/cap**
    - **Each 19.4 life years @5%**
    - **Worth 3 x $820 x 19.4 x 254**
    - **$12.1m**
- For each of the 3.7m people
  - **Death avoided: $3.28**

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Source: Haiti Priorise

Urban Sanitation in Haiti

- Costs
  - **Pit latrine/Person, 15 yrs**
    - **$43.9**
  - **Emptying 4.5 yrs**
    - **$33**
- Total annualized cost @5%
  - **$8.93**

- Benefits
  - **Death avoided: $3.28**
  - **Disease avoided: $1.12**
  - **Health care savings: $1.13**
  - **Productivity gain: $1.81**
  - **Education gain: $0.24**
  - **Environmental gain: $0.03**
- Total annual benefit
  - **$7.61 per person per year**

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Source: Haiti Priorise

Urban Sanitation in Haiti

- Costs
  - **$8.93**
- Benefits
  - **Social, economic and environmental**
  - **$7.61**
- Benefit-Cost Ratio
  - **0.9**

Source: Haiti Priorise

Cholera in Haiti



Cholera in Haiti

- Cholera introduced by UN forces in 2010
- 900,000 sick
- 9,000 dead
  - **Now about 40,000 new cases/year**
  - **400 deaths/year**

- Cost of vaccine
  - **$1 purchase**
  - **$1 delivery**
  - **$0.08 time to receive dose**
- $2.08 per vaccine

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Source: Haiti Priorise

Full 2-dose vaccination across Haiti

- Costs per household
  - **$2.08 twice for 4.65 people, every three years for 65% of population**
  - **$0.37 per month per household @5%**
- Benefits per household
  - **65% will die 94% less**
    - **157 deaths avoided per year**
  - **35% will die 86% less (herd immunity)**
    - **90 deaths avoided**
  - **$0.80 per month per household @5%**

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Source: Haiti Priorise

Cholera in Haiti

- Costs
  - **$0.37**
- Benefits
  - **$0.80**
- Benefit-Cost Ratio
  - **2.1**

Source: Haiti Priorise



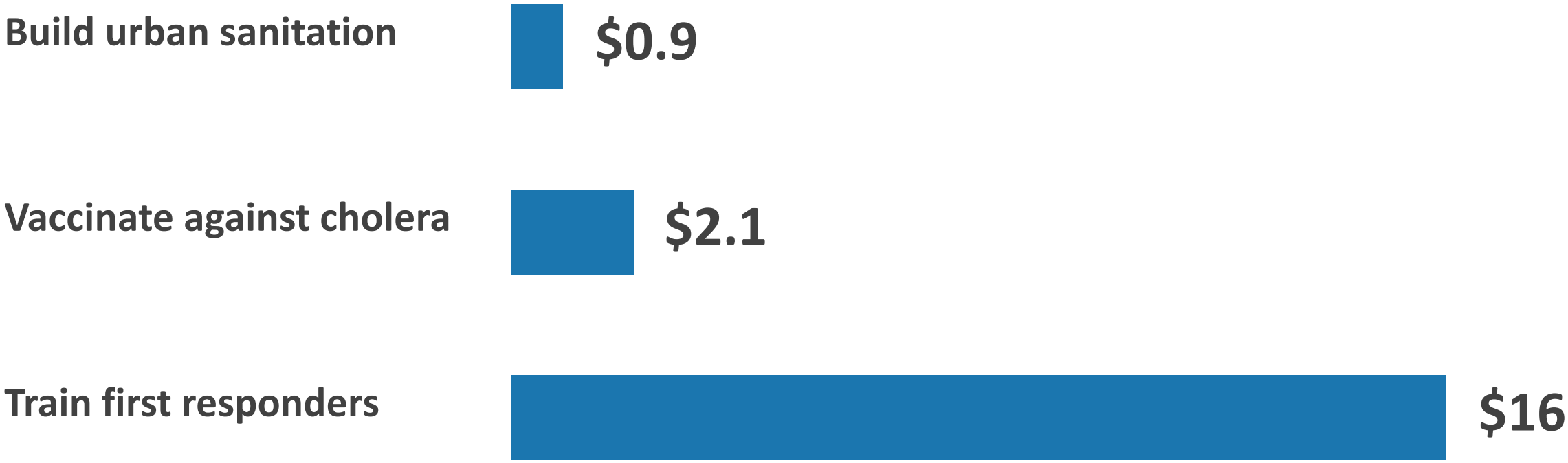
Ambulance network

Ambulance network

- National ambulance network
  - **$36.8m, saves 3,968 people or $104m** **BCR=2.8**
- Urban ambulance network
  - **$8.9m, saves 2,539 people or $70m** **BCR=8**
- Train first responders
  - **$1.3m, saves 716 people or $20m** **BCR=16**

Source: Haiti Priorise

Value of all benefits for each $1 spent



Source: Haiti Priorise

Break
20 minutes

The SDGs
Sustainable Development Goals

Promise everything to everyone

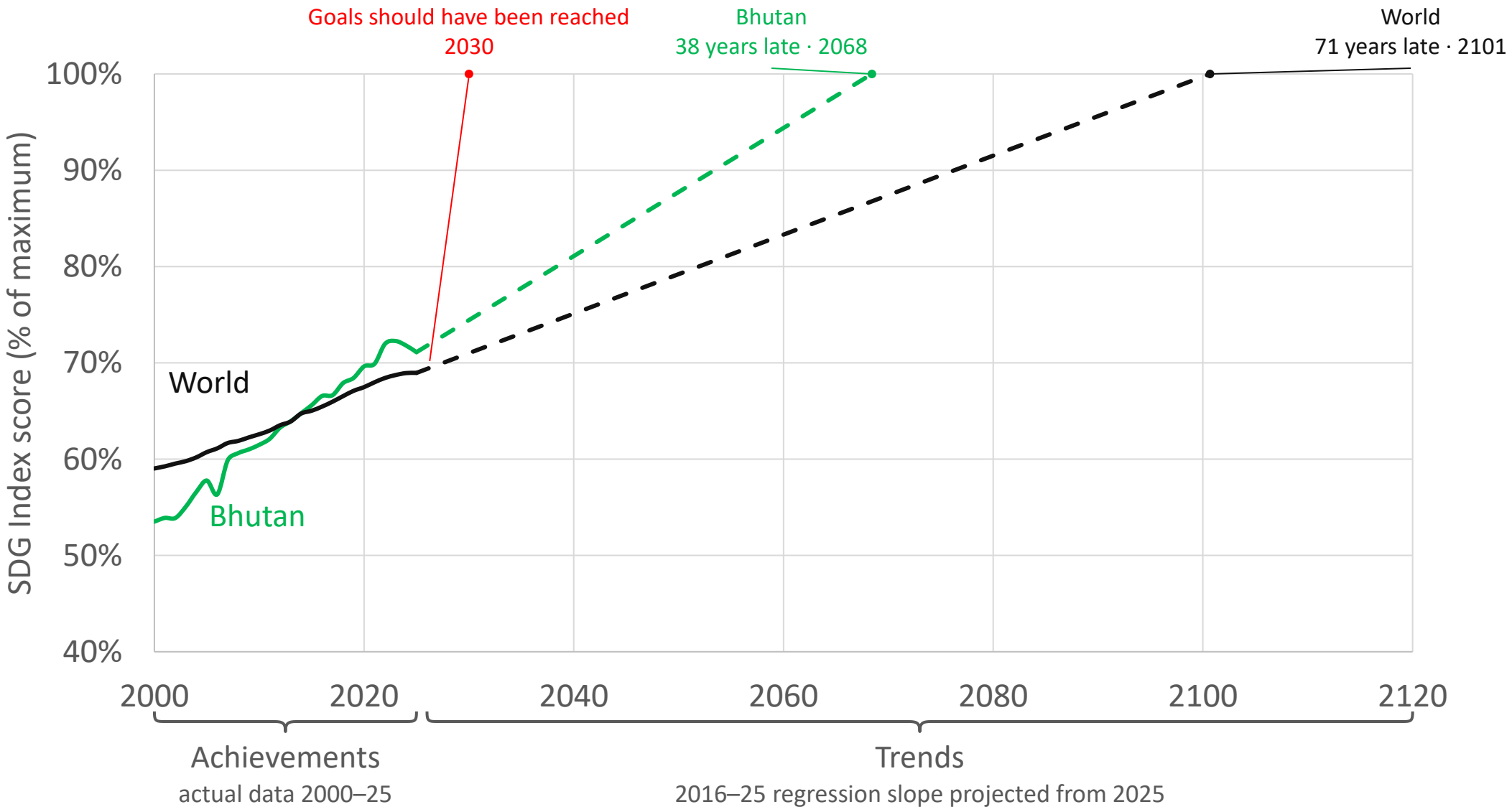
The Sustainable Development Goals
— everything for everyone

- SDGs
  - **169 targets**
  - **Many hundreds of promises**
  - **End poverty everywhere**
    - **And full social protection systems**
  - **End hunger**
    - **And organic apples**
  - **End communicable disease**
    - **And drug and alcohol abuse**

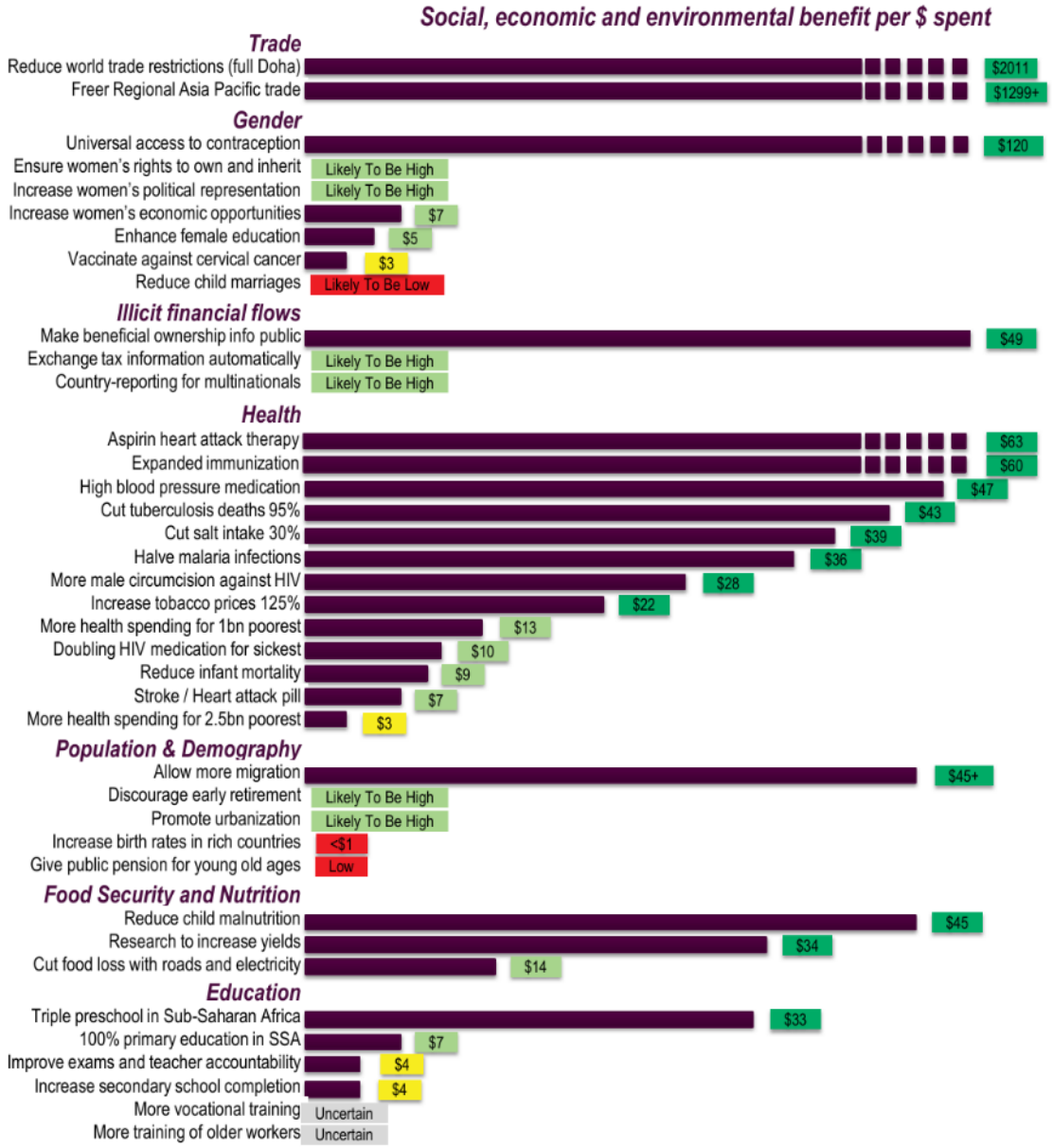
- **Fix war, climate change, pollution, corruption, and chronic diseases,**
- **improve education**
- **save biodiversity**
- **reduce inequality**
- **get jobs for everyone**
- **promote sustainable tourism**
- **promote lifestyles “in harmony with nature”**
- **increase urban parks for the disabled**

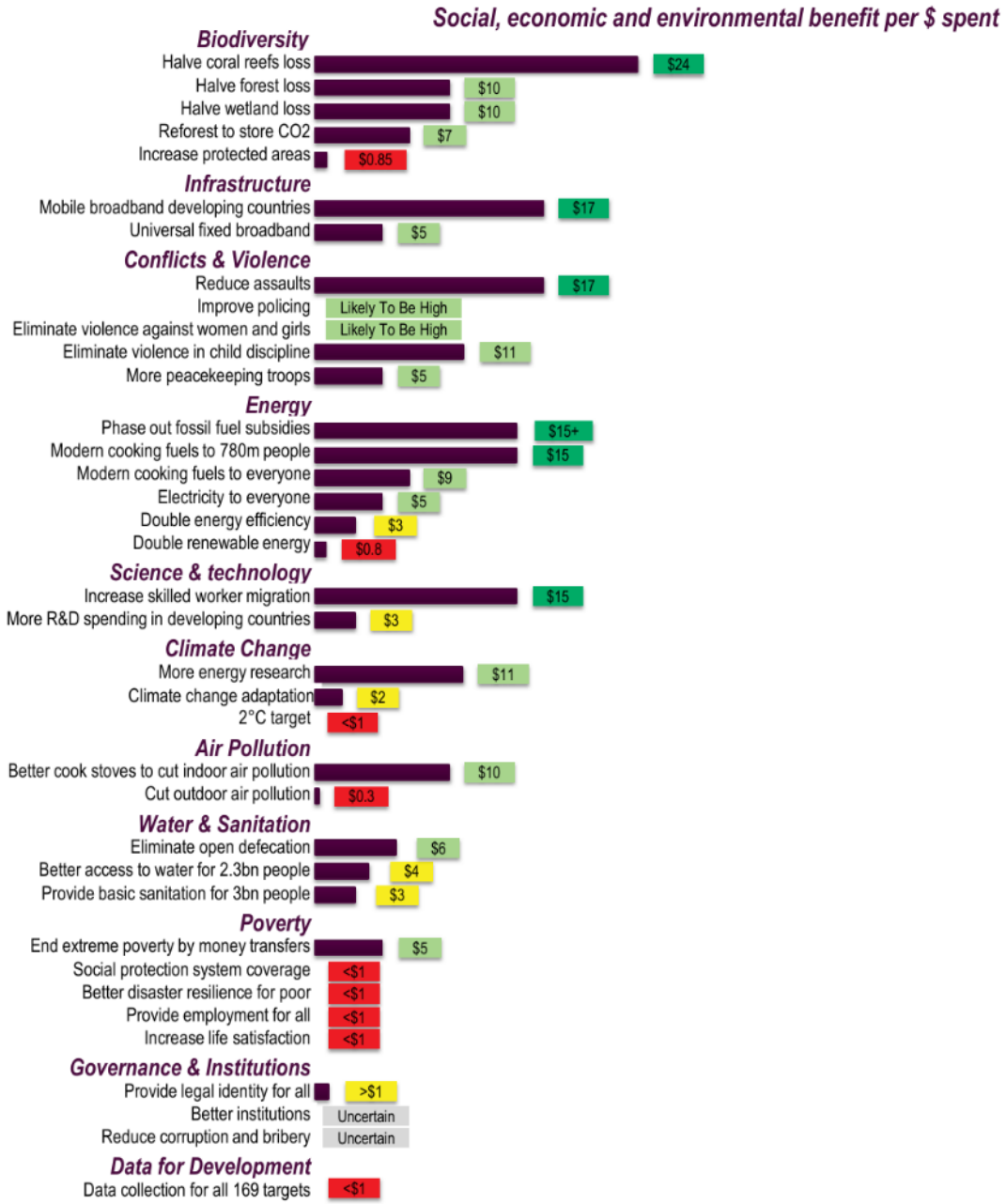
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We are not reaching the goals



(Sachs et al. 2026)





Source: Post-2015 Consensus brochure



Source: Post-2015 Consensus brochure

Climate and energy

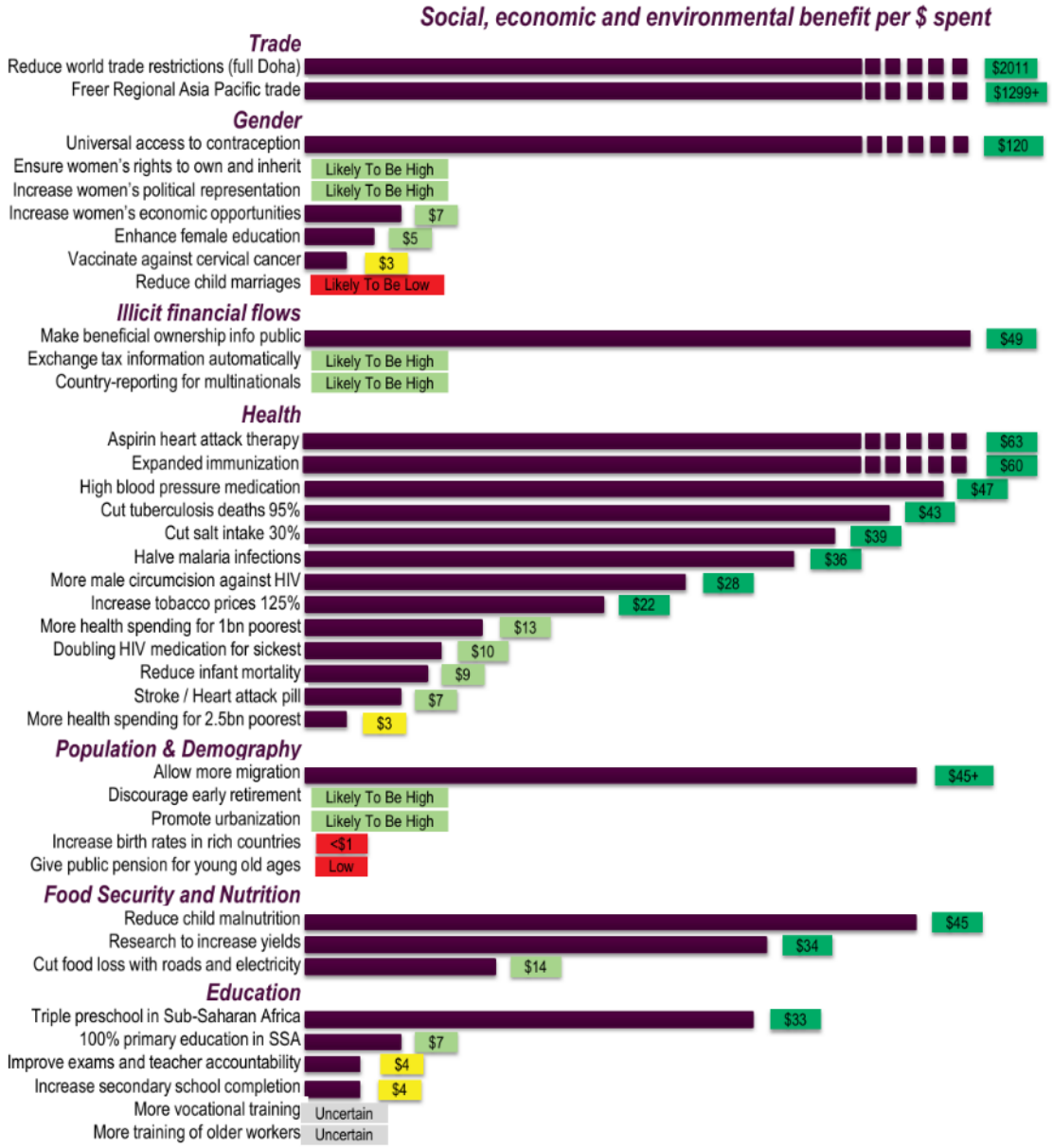


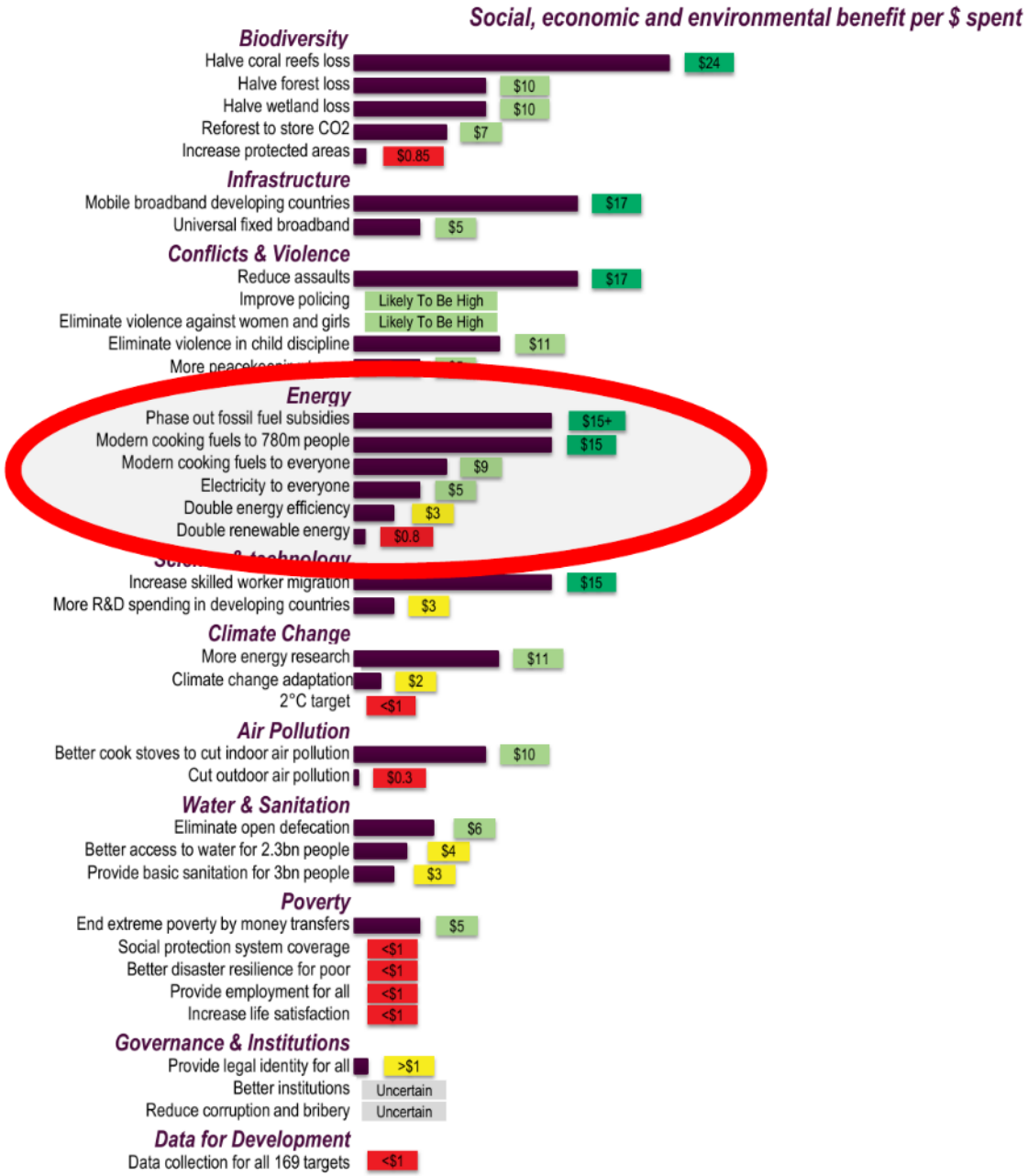
Climate and energy

- 2°C target
  - **Cost across century about $100,000bn**
  - **3°C cost about $40,000bn**
    - **2°C only avoid about $100bn/year extra towards end of century**
- Green energy R&D $100bn
  - **Cost across the century $1,600bn**
  - **Avoided climate impact and climate policy costs $18,000bn**
  - **BCR: 11**

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Source: Post-2015 Consensus





Source: Post-2015 Consensus brochure


Energy

Energy

- Double renewable energy
  - **Benefit $415bn**
  - **Cost $514bn**
  - **BCR $0.80 back on the dollar**

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Source: Post-2015 Consensus

Energy

- Double energy efficiency
  - **Cost $213, benefit $576, BCR: 3**
- Universal energy access
  - **$135bn/year**
  - **Benefits $916bn**
    - **BCR: 7**

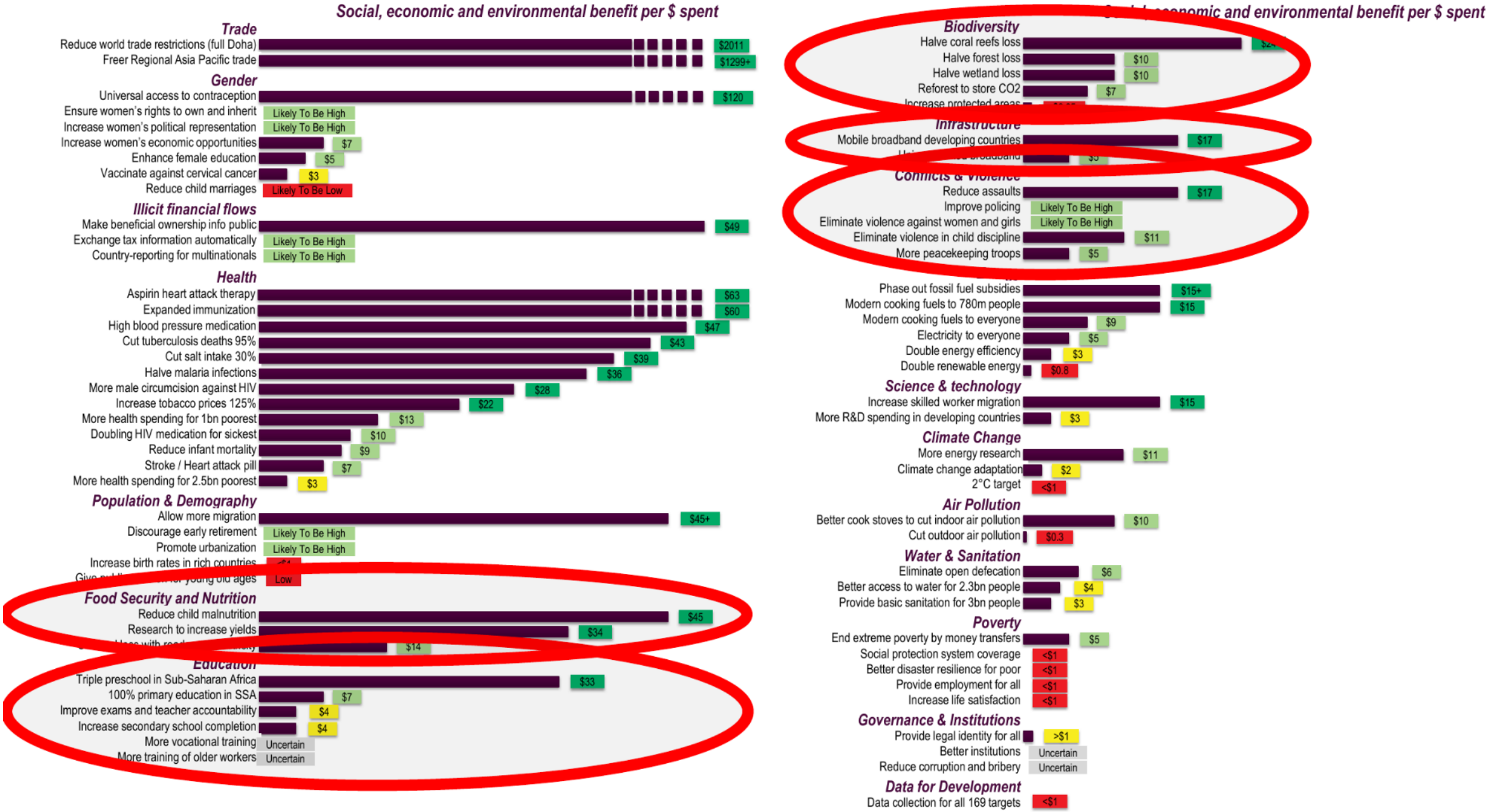
Source: Post-2015 Consensus

Energy

- Indoor air pollution
  - **Cleaner cooking stoves to 30%**
  - **$11bn cost, $161bn benefits, BCR: $15**
- Get rid of fossil fuel subsidies: $15+

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Source: Post-2015 Consensus



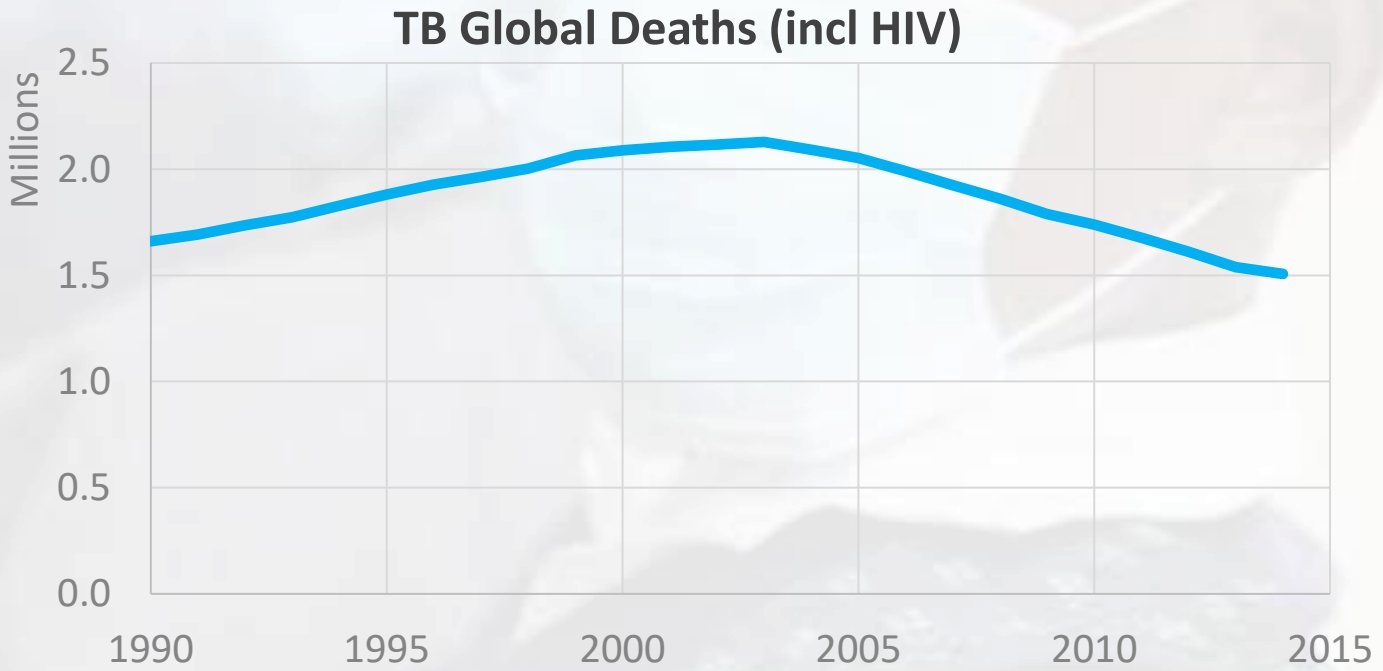
Source: Post-2015 Consensus brochure

Tuberculosis



Tuberculosis

- Biggest infectious killer
  - **1.5m dead, 9m cases**
  - **Great progress: 38% disease burden reduction 1990-2010**



Source: Post-2015 Consensus

Tuberculosis

- Cost
  - **Latent TB screening**
    - **$1,592 per TB found and treated (2.7m cases missing each year) = $4.3bn**
  - **TB treatment drug sensitive**
    - **$387 per person cured (5.8m cases) = $2.2bn**
  - **TB treatment multi-drug resistant**
    - **$3,228 per person cured (0.5m cases) = $1.6bn**
  - **Total cost: $8.1 billion annually or $907 per TB person**

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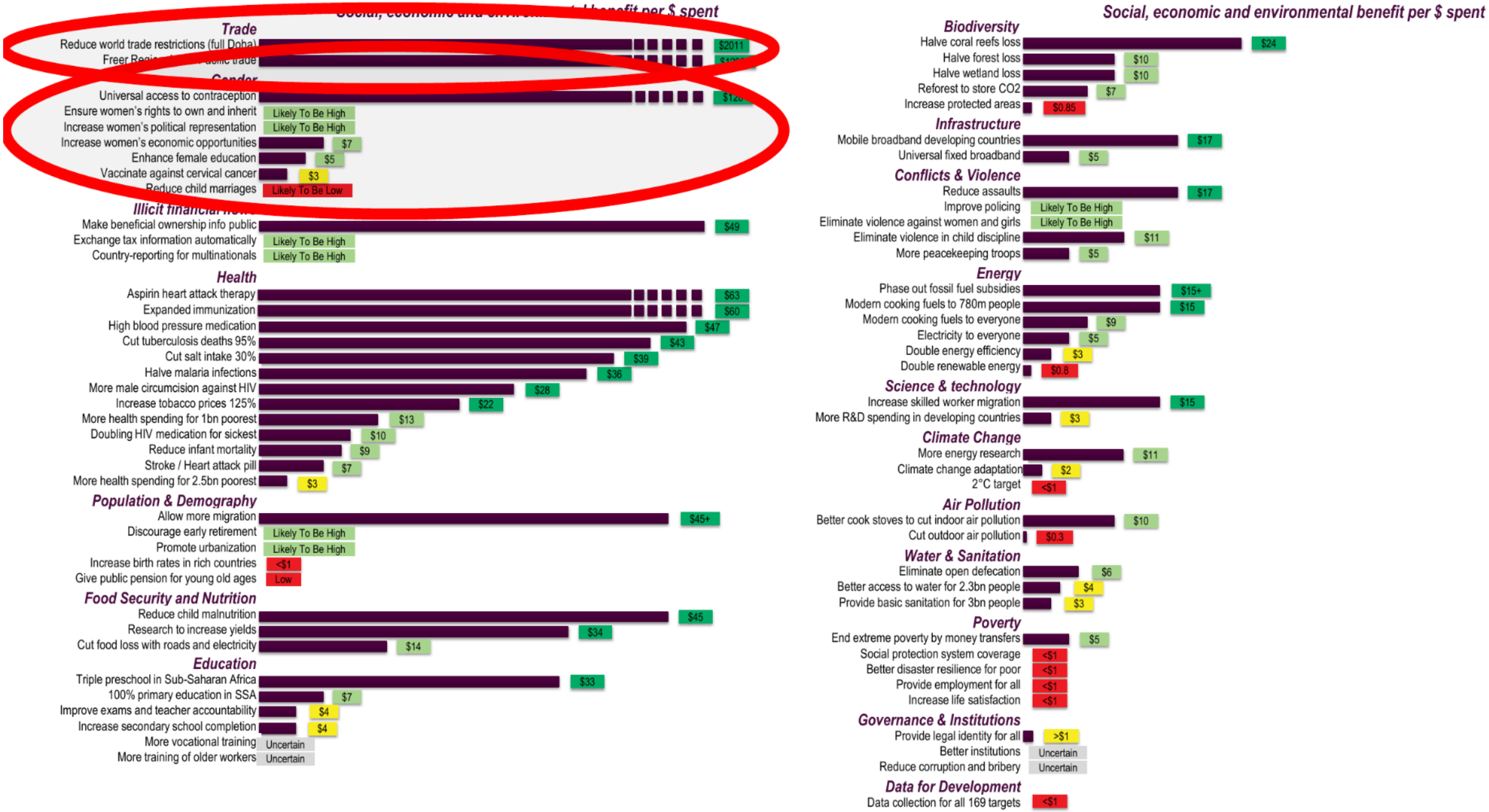
Source: Post-2015 Consensus

Tuberculosis

- Benefit
  - **20 life years on average saved**
  - **Median benefit: $38,594**
  - **Cost $907**
    - **BCR is 43**

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Source: Post-2015 Consensus



Source: Post-2015 Consensus brochure

Free trade



Maersk, Edith Maersk #6l, 2011 http://bit.ly/2lIB3sv

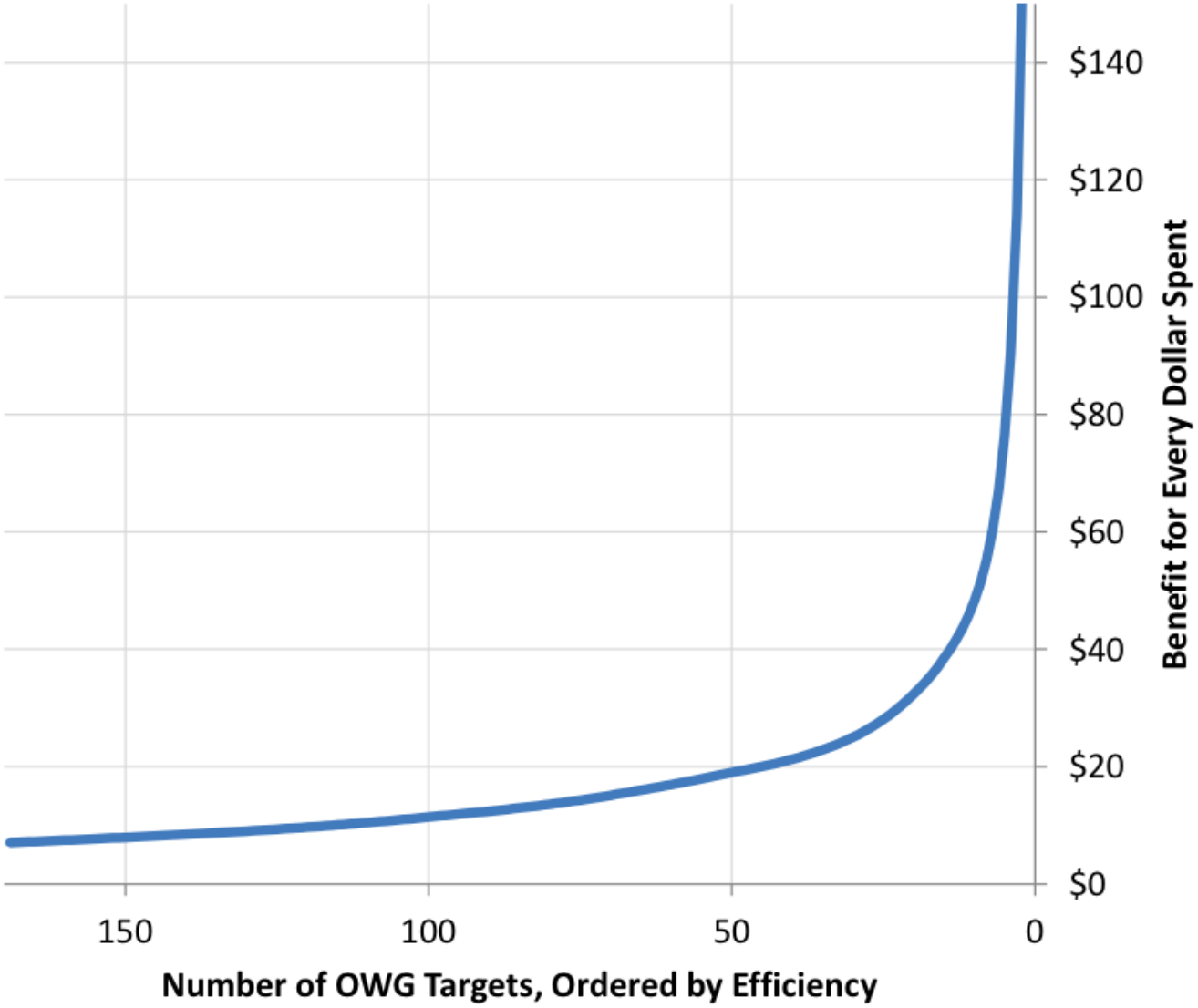
Free trade

- Doha round
  - **Costs $250bn (mostly paying off Western farmers)**
  - **Benefits $500,000bn**
    - **Or $11,000bn by 2030**
    - **$1,000 per person in the developing world**
    - **Lifting 160 million people out of poverty**
  - **$2,000 back on each dollar**

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Source: Post-2015 Consensus

Overall benefit



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Source: Post-2015 Consensus

- But if we prioritize
- She could get
  - **Better nutrition**
  - **Better school**
  - **Better health**
  - **Safer birth**
  - **Higher income**
  - **Less violence**
  - **Less air pollution**
  - **More energy**
  - **More rights**



- Girl from Haiti
  - **She might not get sanitation first**

Source: Post-2015 Consensus