

# Connecting the Dots

## Analytical Uses of ICT Statistics

Third Workshop on  
Information Society Measurement  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

George Sciadas, IDRC

Panama, November 22-24, 2006

# Information Society statistics and analysis

No miracle framework but...

clear building blocks

## Information economy

- supply side (ICT sector etc.)
- demand side (people, business...)
- prices, investment, trade etc.
- labour, skills, training...

## Social outcomes and impacts

# National, regional and global processes

Awareness and anecdotes

Evidence-based decision making

- the policy (and regulatory) front(s)
- business strategies

Research, analysis and evaluation

Statistical data and indicators

- core and beyond

# Post-WSIS environment

## Mainstreaming ICTs - everywhere

- A time to question, agonize, convince, believe  
(tell “them” it’s important and why, how it links to policy etc.)
- A time to solidify basic measurements and move beyond - to focused investigation  
(how best to measure, with a view to identify and exploit analytical linkages)

# The power of story-telling

Micro, macro, sectoral and thematic

(e.g. education, health and e-government,  
flows of information, knowledge management etc.)

Cross-sectional and time-series data

Outcomes and impacts, with emphasis on

- stage of national context
- the time dimension (or dynamic impacts)

# The power of story-telling

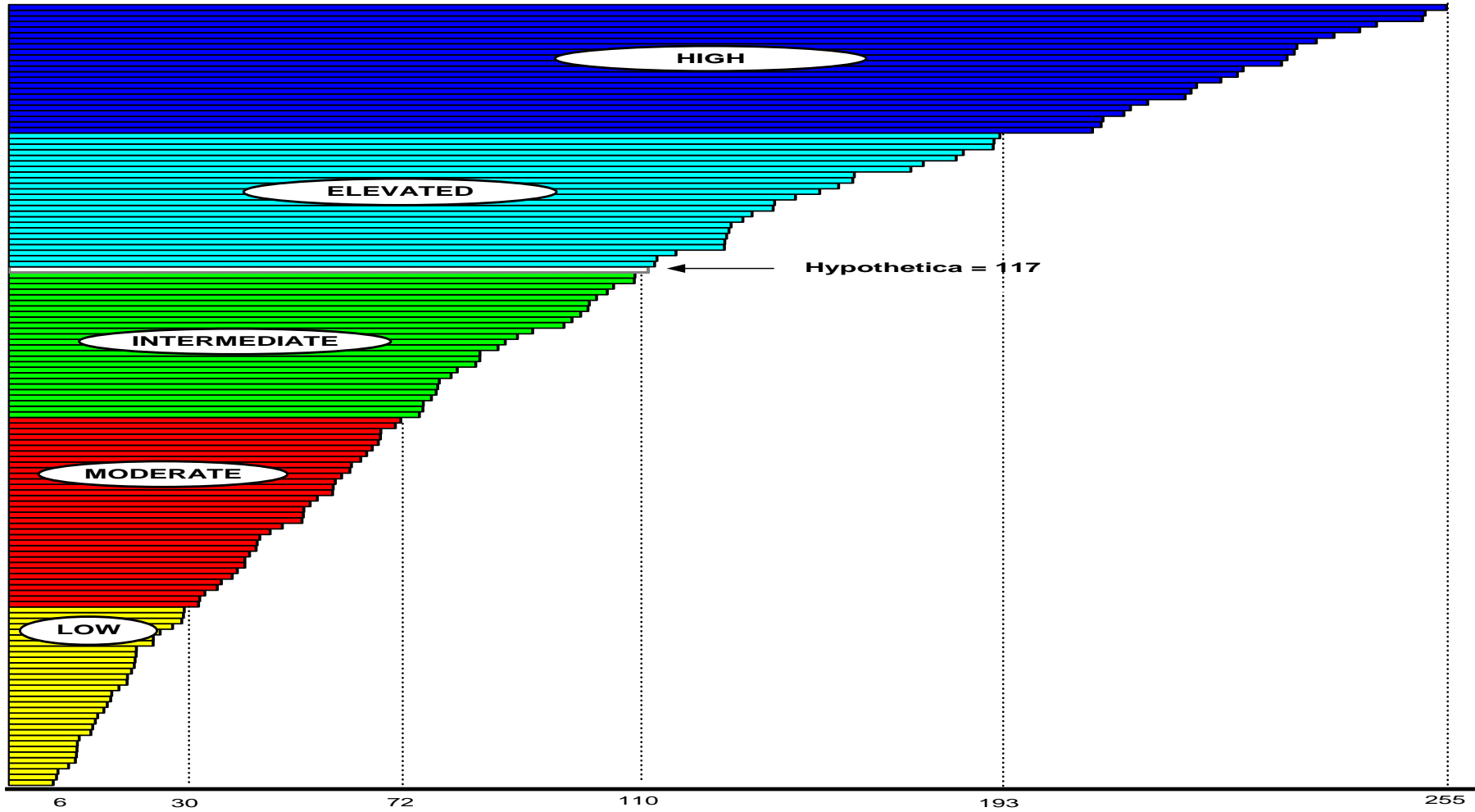
Analytical journalism?

The “other” stories, not told in daily news

- people’s work and economic achievements
- our social lives and changing communities
- shifting landscapes, diversified influences  
and much more...

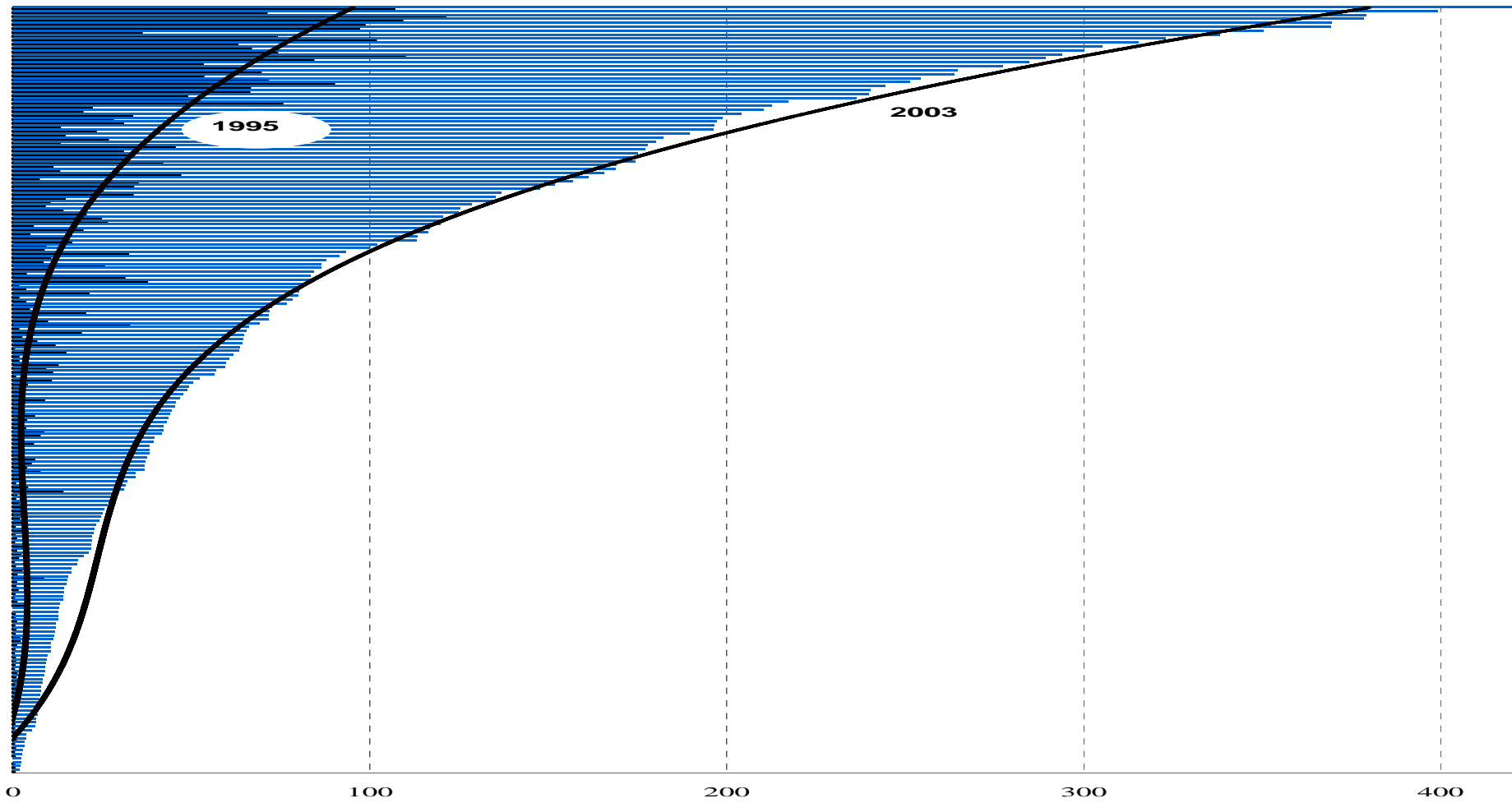


### Infostates 2003





### Networks 2003





## The Digital Divide remains huge

In an overall sense it is narrowing somewhat - very slowly. But being a relative concept, the *evolution* of the Digital Divide needs detailed analysis, which reveals that:

Countries in the middle - especially the upper-middle - of the Infostate scale made good progress against countries at the top;

The progress by low-Infostate countries was not sufficient to close the gap and they were outpaced by most countries - except for those at the top with whom they are separated by huge gaps.

Thus, the Digital Divide between countries with the lowest Infostates and most others is widening.

# Mainstreaming ICTs for development

From pro-growth economic policies such as  
competition and trade

to investments in education and health

to specific issues, such as gender

virtually no area is left untouched

## Example: ICTs and gender

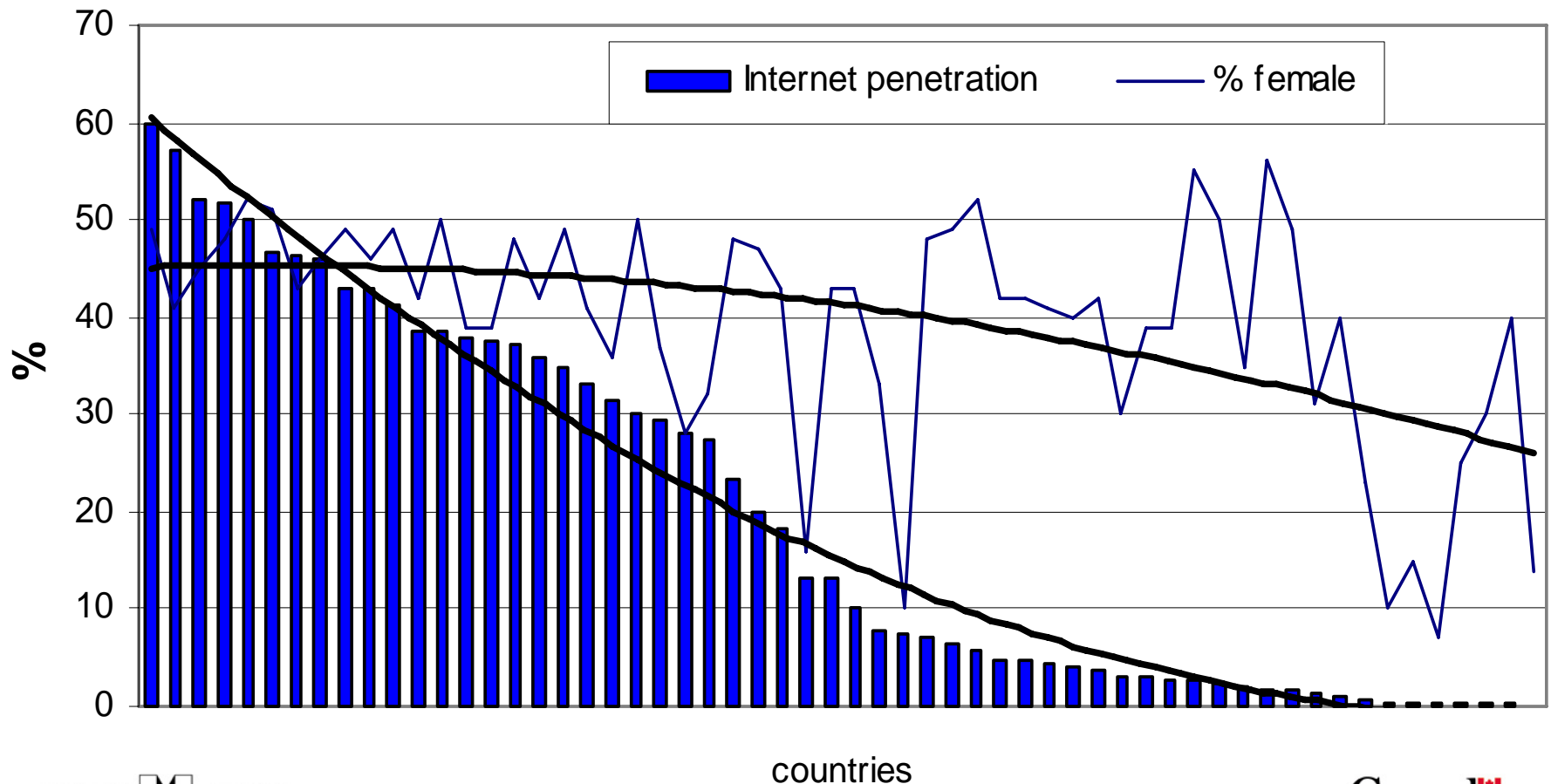
Women's participation in the Information Society, particularly in the developing countries of the world, lags behind that of men

Gender gaps persist even in countries with more developed Infostates

At the same time, some countries with very low overall Internet penetration may not experience a gender divide



## Internet penetration and proportion of female users



# Additional issues to consider

## Analytical uses of statistical information

- All sources, multiple ICT and non-ICT sources
- integration with existing data structures

## Purpose-driven capacity building and training to:

- leverage resources effectively
- showcase and entice
- really learn

## Our country, our region

Cross-country benchmarking vs. specific local contexts

- National (and sub-national) needs
- Yes, but start...then you (may) find

Partnerships, cultivation of demand and  
two-way interaction with

- policy makers
- major users

Thank You

George Sciadas  
gsciadas@idrc.ca

[www.idrc.ca](http://www.idrc.ca)