

Wealth-based inequality in the continuum of maternal health service utilisation in 16 sub-Saharan African countries



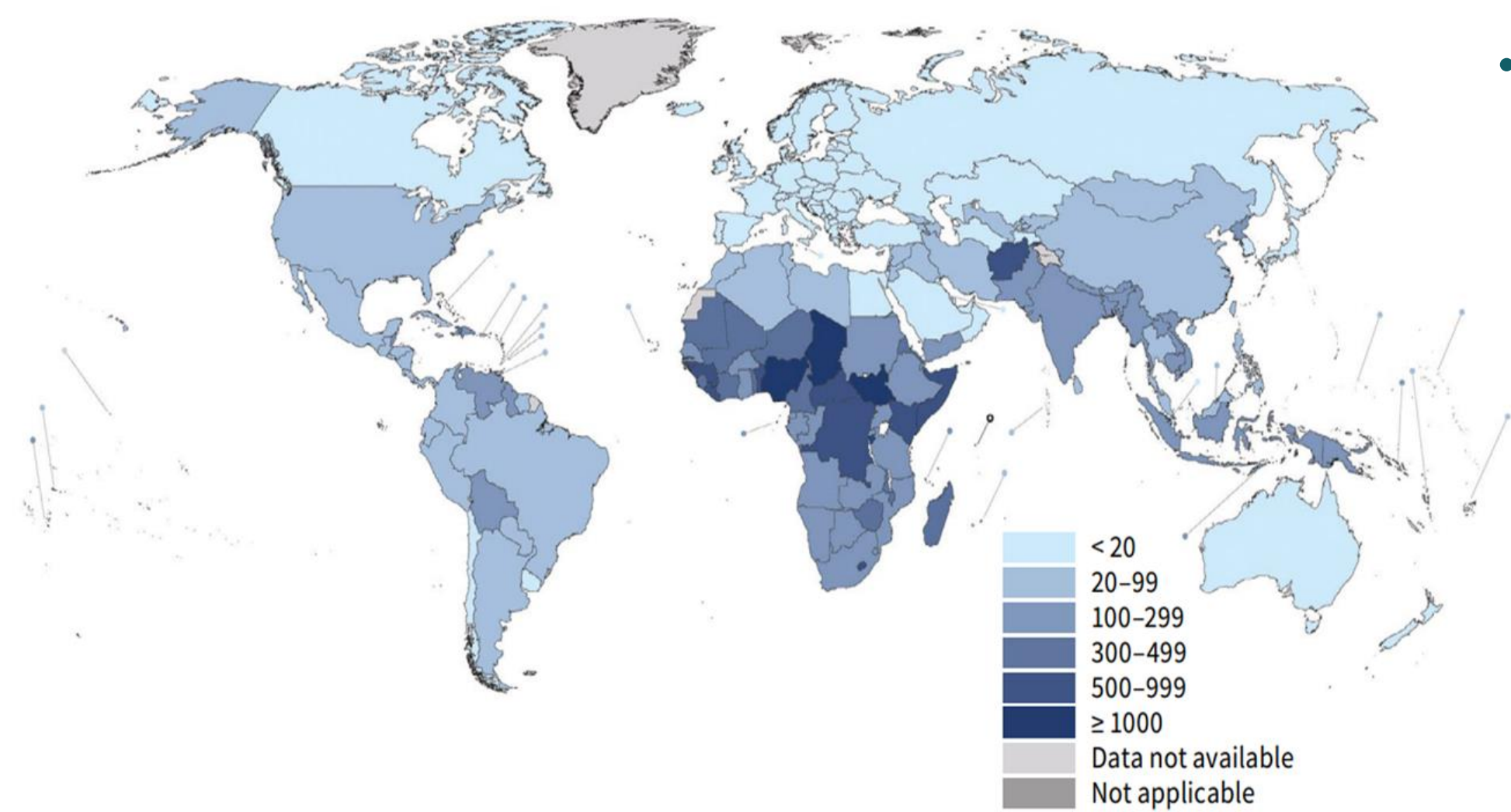
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Background

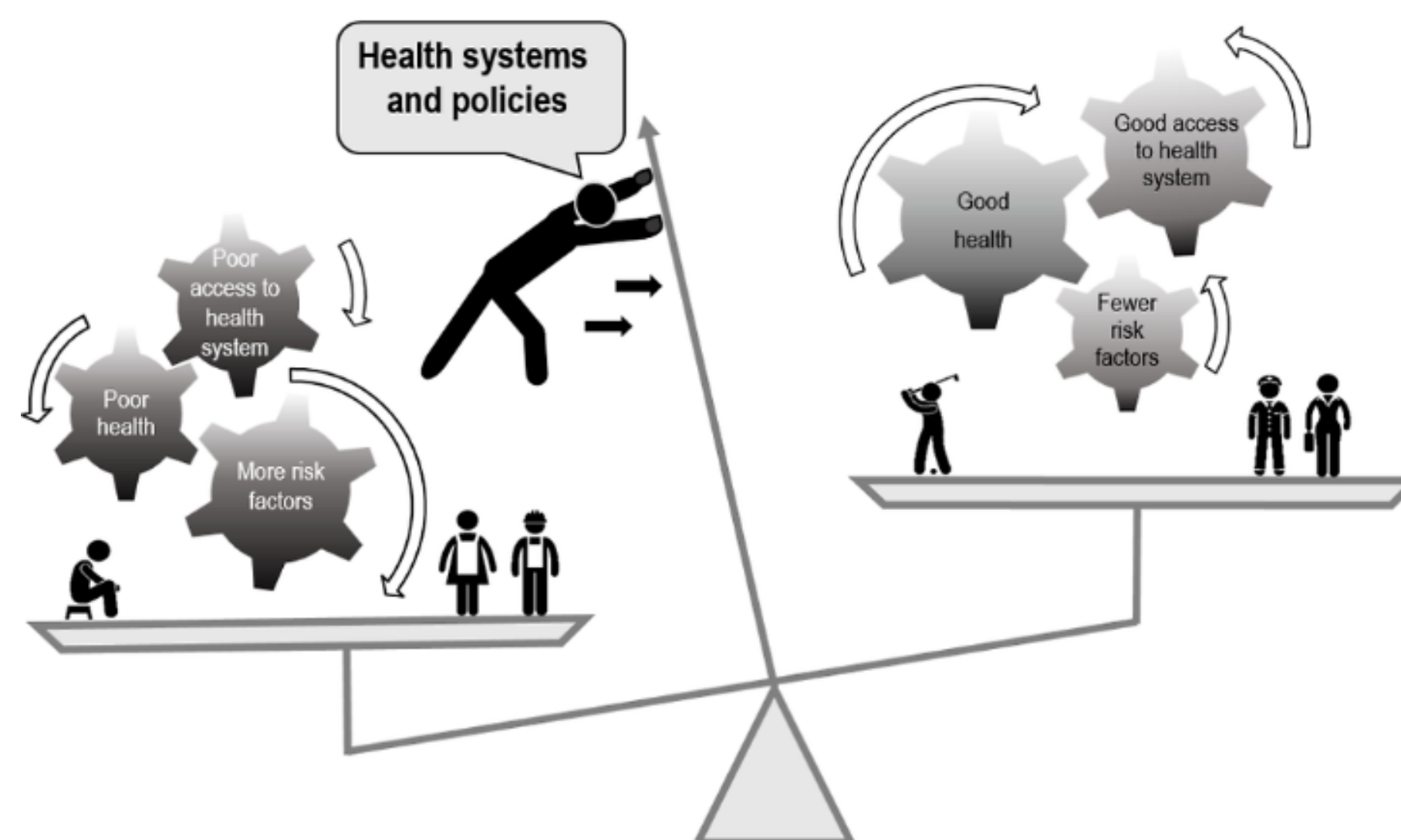
- 290,000 maternal deaths globally in 2020
 - 70% in sub-Saharan Africa



Maternal mortality ratio in 2020 - Source: WHO 2023

Maternal health interventions coverage and inequalities in sub-Saharan Africa

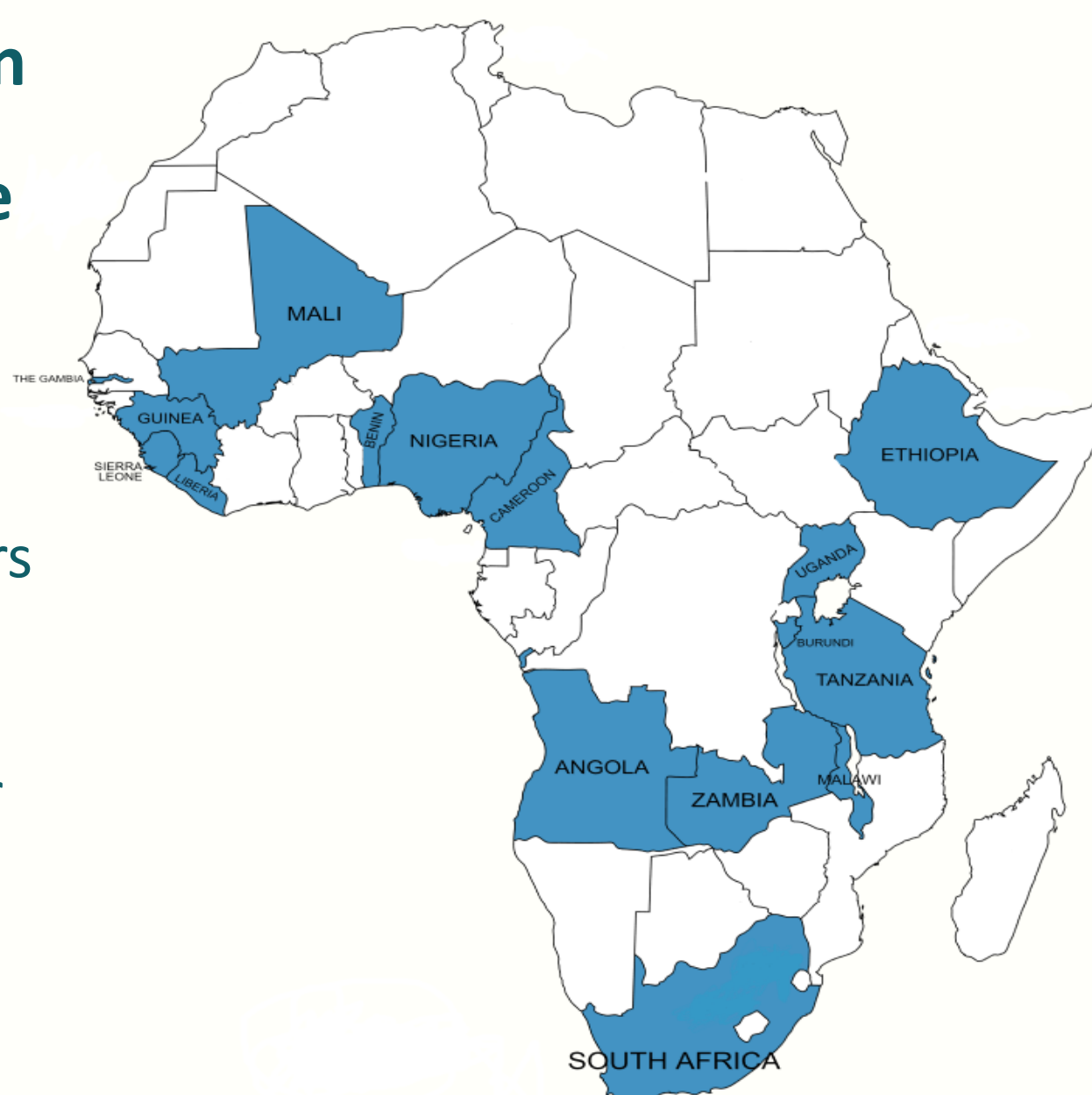
- Widening inequality gaps in some countries
- Completion of maternal continuum of care - 36%



Objectives and Methods

To estimate wealth-based inequalities in coverage of maternal continuum of care

- At least one antenatal care (ANC) visit and birth in a health facility and postnatal care (PNC) visit within 48 hours of childbirth
- In 16 SSA countries which accounted for 45% of global maternal deaths in 2020
- Using data from Demographic and Health Surveys



Inequality Measurement

- Main independent (ranking) variable: household wealth status (poorest, poorer, middle, richer, and richest)
- Erreygers normalised concentration index
- Decomposition of inequalities – Wagstaff decomposition

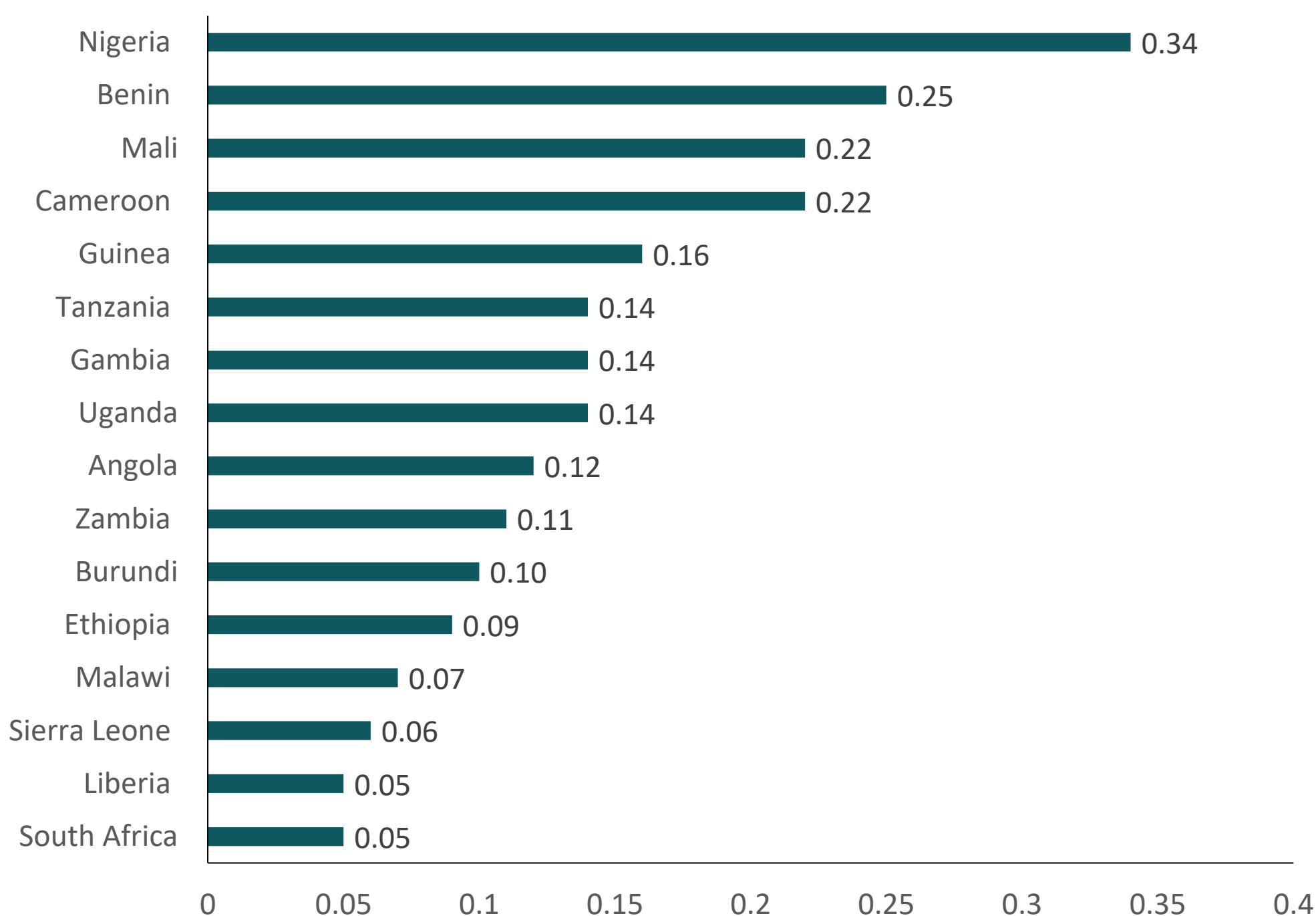
Results and conclusions

- Pro-rich inequalities in all countries, the highest in Nigeria
- Wealth – the largest contributor to inequality in all countries except Malawi

Targeted and whole population intervention approaches are required

- Pro-poor publicly funded or subsidised health services
- Provision of free or reduced-fee health services to the poor
- Incentivising health workers to work in underserved communities
- Task-shifting of maternal health services
- Incentivising women to use health services
- Financial protection
- Quality improvement

Concentration indices of primary maternal continuum of care



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