

Leaving no one behind in Asia and the Pacific

*Addis Ababa,
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Outline

1. Outline
2. Context
3. Poverty in Asia and the Pacific
4. Inequality in Asia and the Pacific
5. Identification of those “left behind”
6. Average progress conceals those left behind
7. Policy options

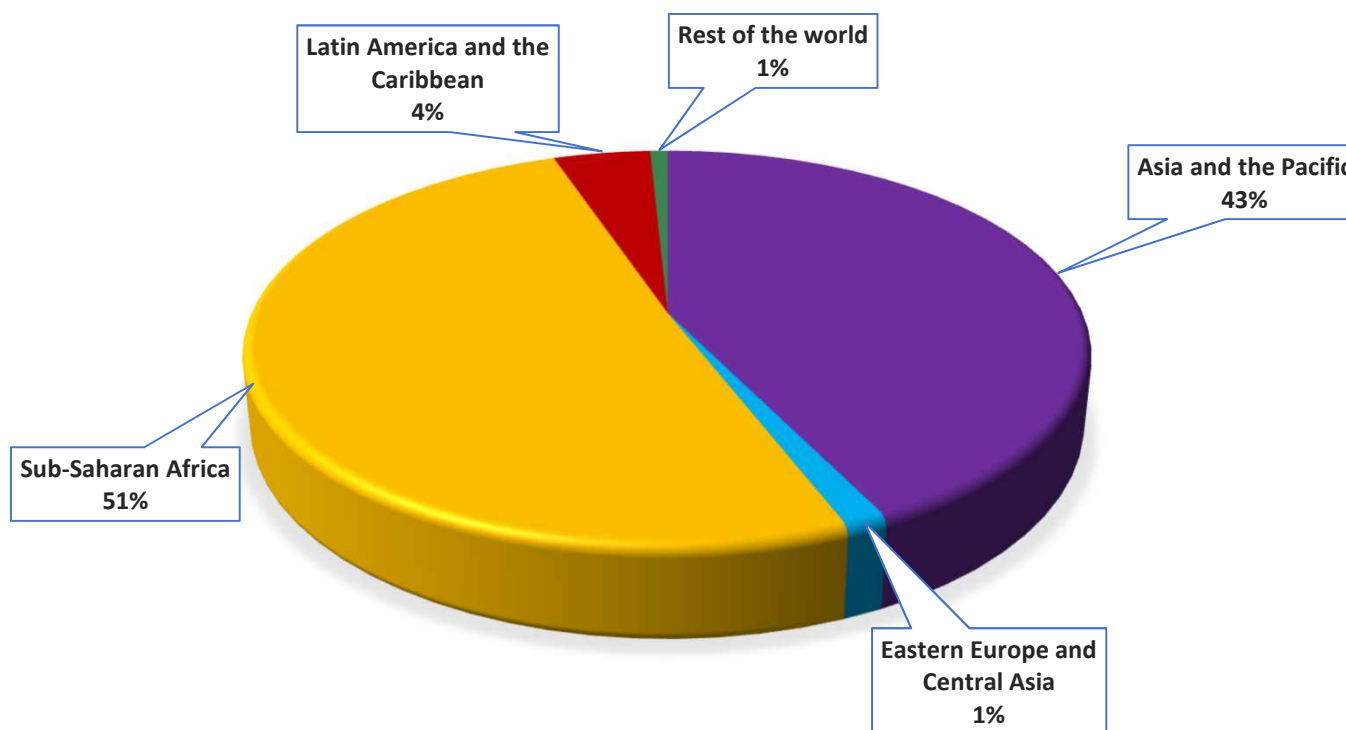
Context

- “Leave no behind” a rallying cry of the Sustainable Development Goals and a critical part of Agenda 2030
- Relevance for the Third UN decade for the Eradication of Poverty Plan of Action Matrix (Thematic Areas 1, 3, 5, 7, 8)

Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

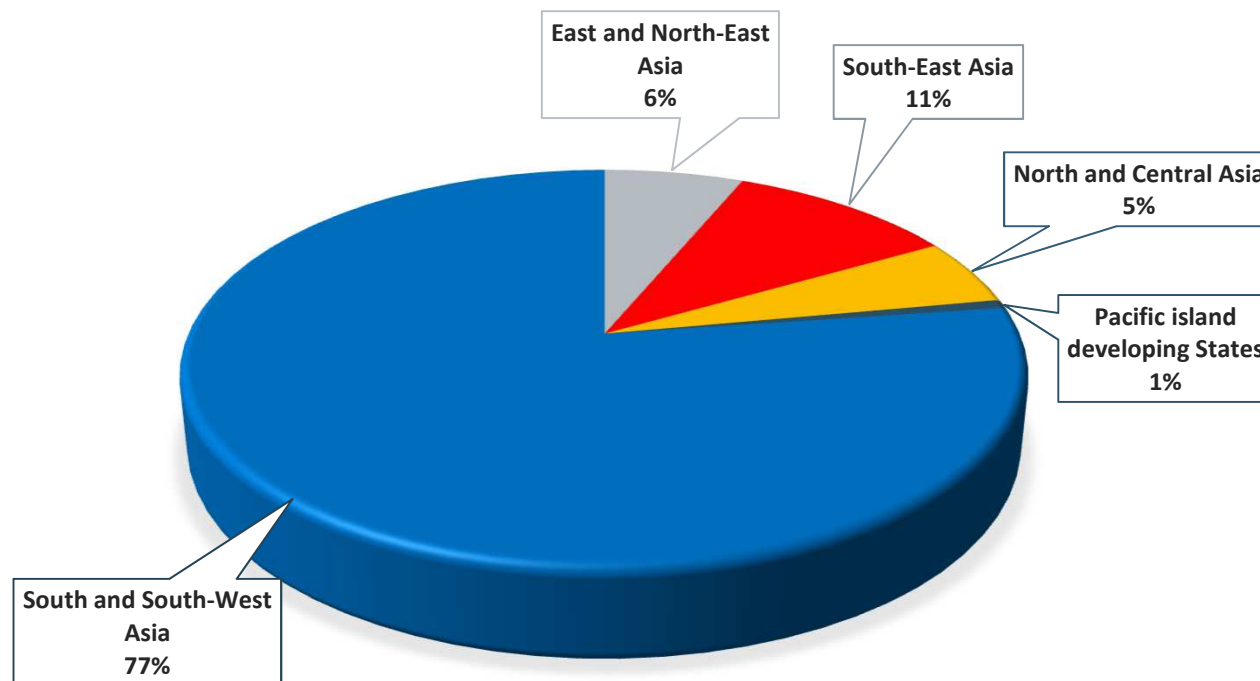
ESCAP region still home to almost half of the worlds poor

SHARE OF GLOBAL POPULATION LIVING ON LESS THAN \$1.90 PER DAY, 2013

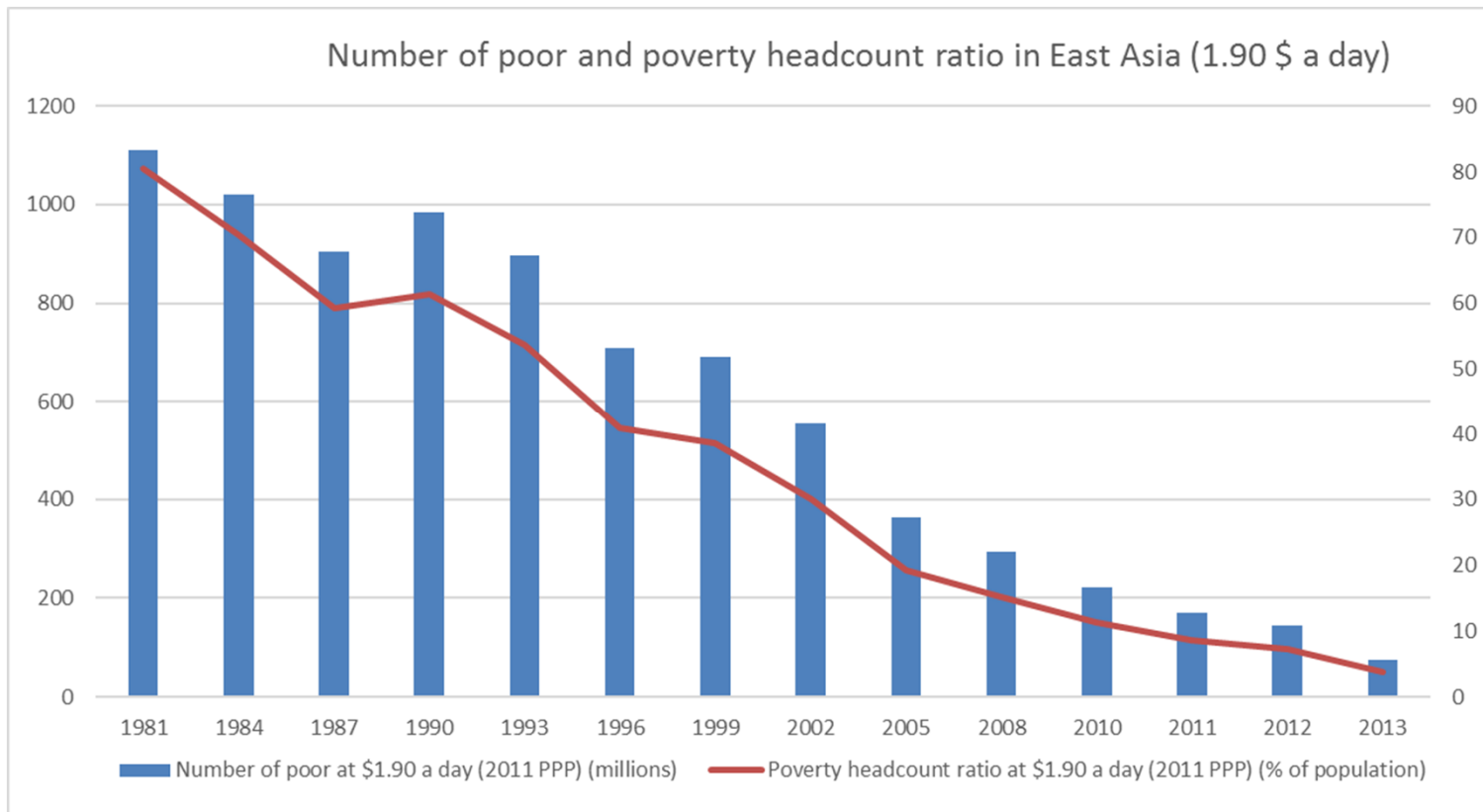


Where do the poor live in Asia and the Pacific?

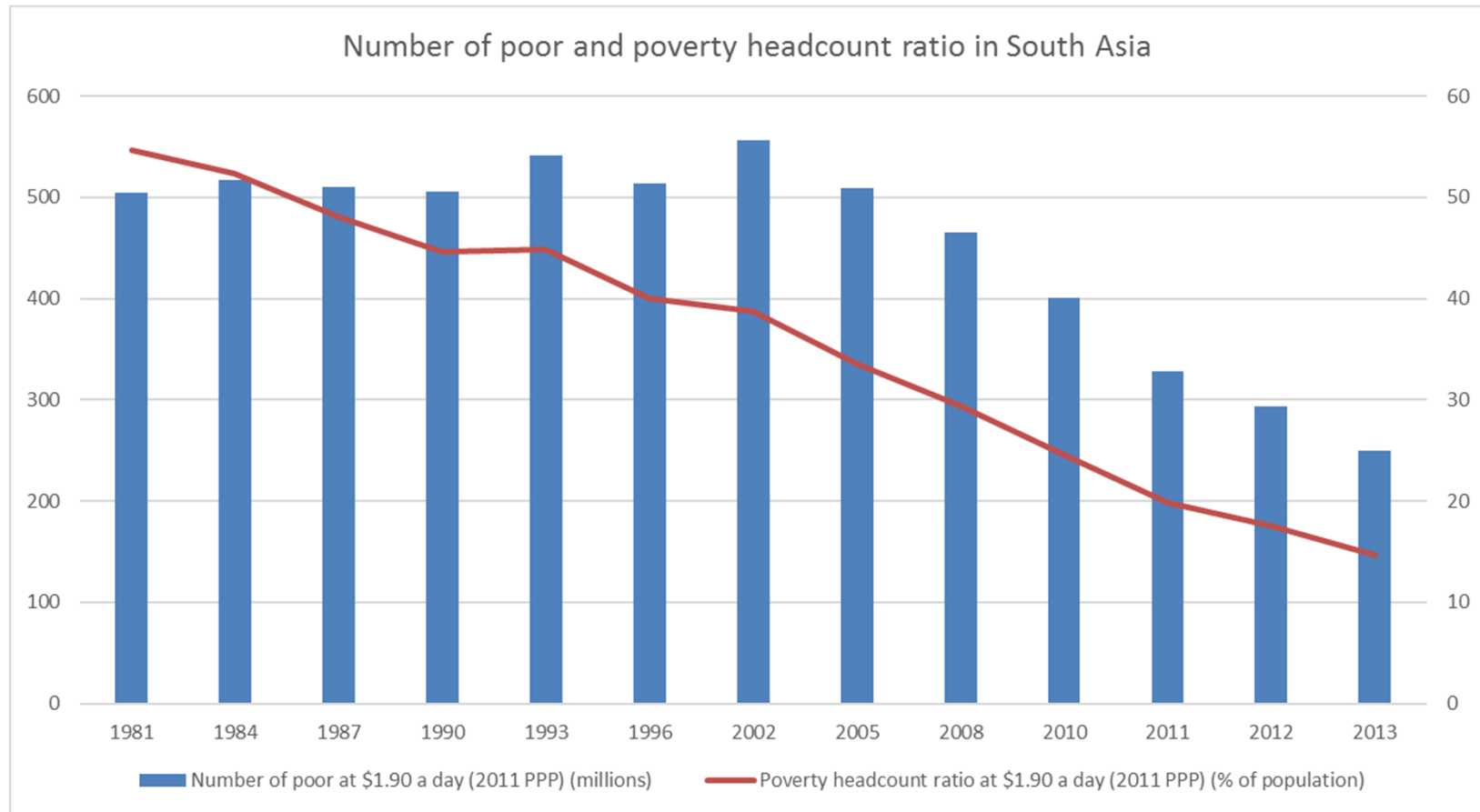
SHARE OF ASIA-PACIFIC POPULATION LIVING ON LESS THAN \$1.90 PER DAY, 2013



East Asia – 1981 -2013

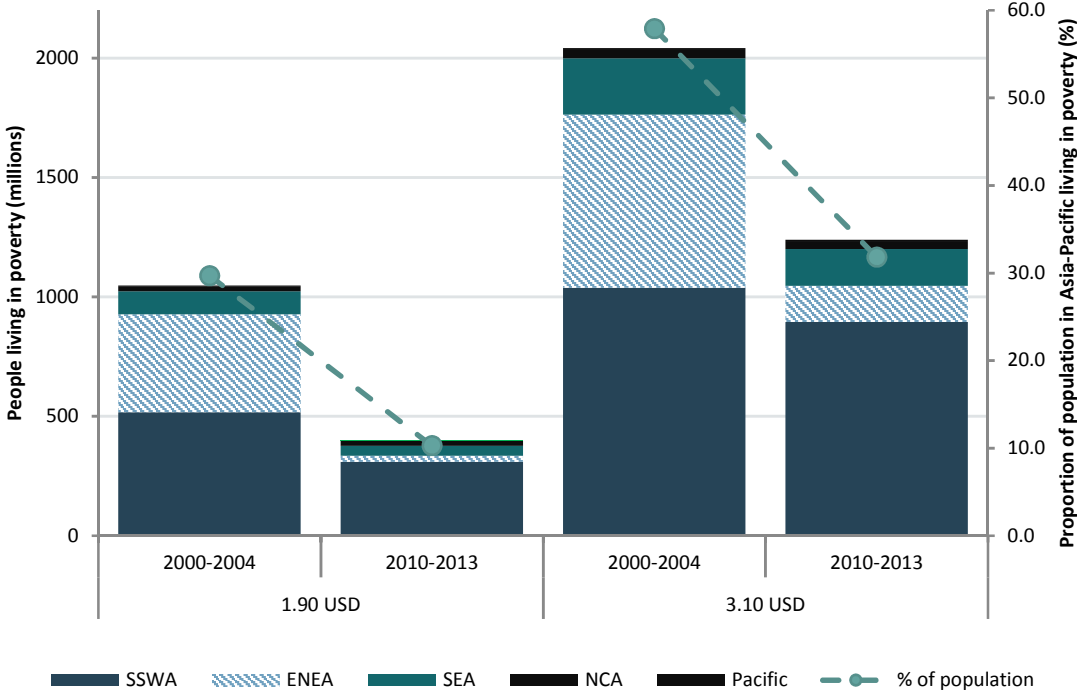


South Asia – 1981 -2013



Asia and the Pacific – poverty

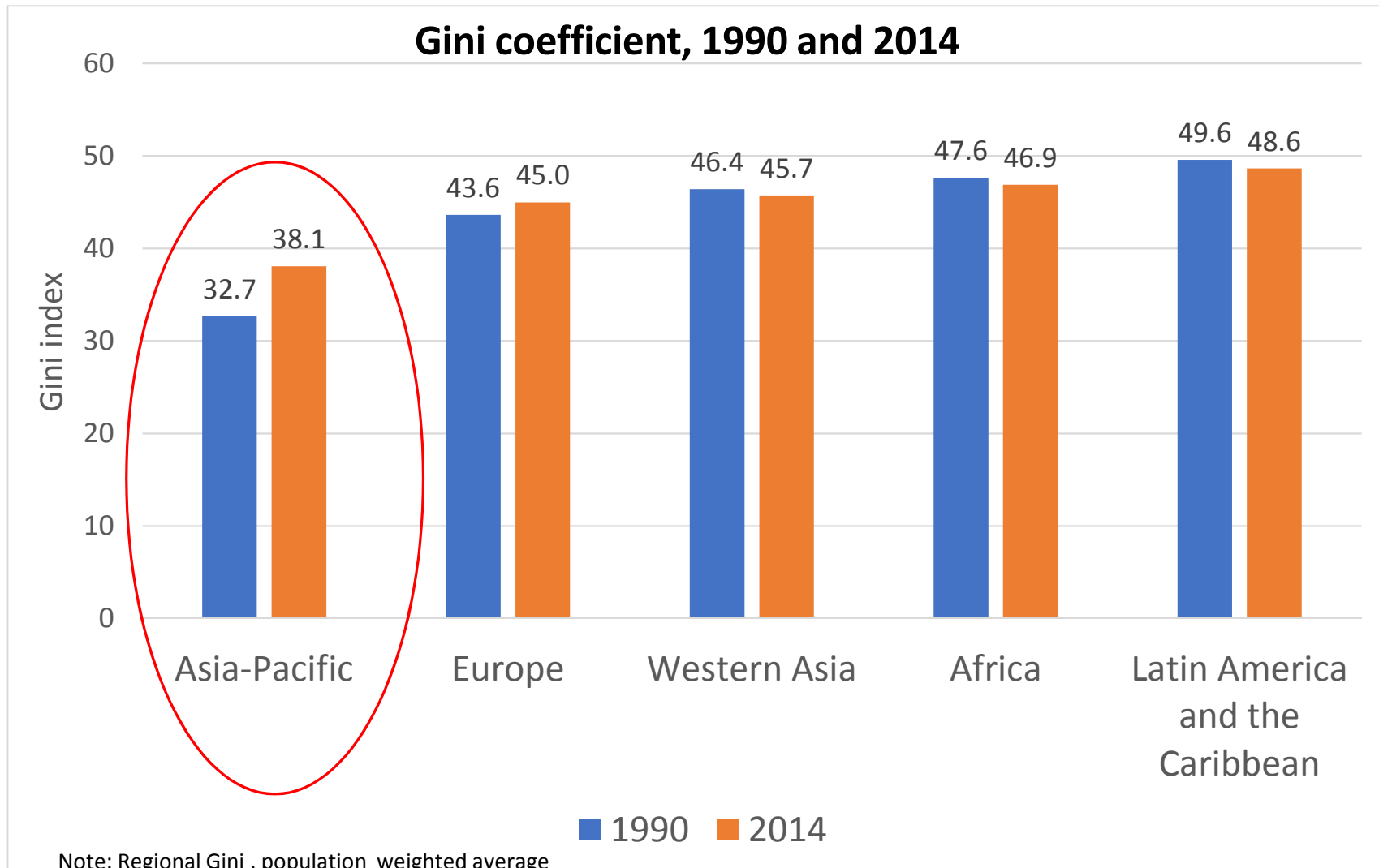
Shifts in poverty in Asia and the Pacific



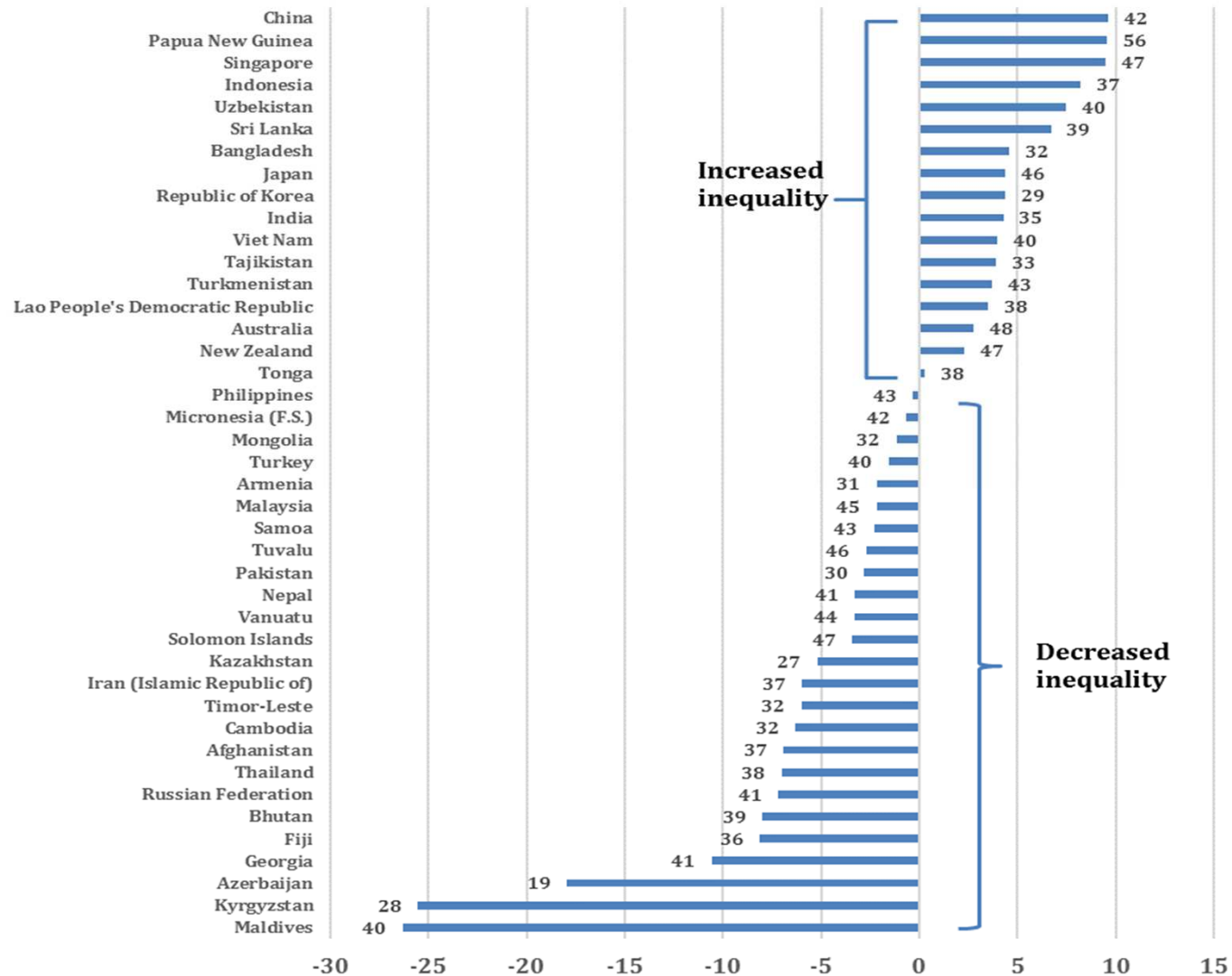
Source: United Nations ESCAP Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2015.

Inequality in Asia and the Pacific

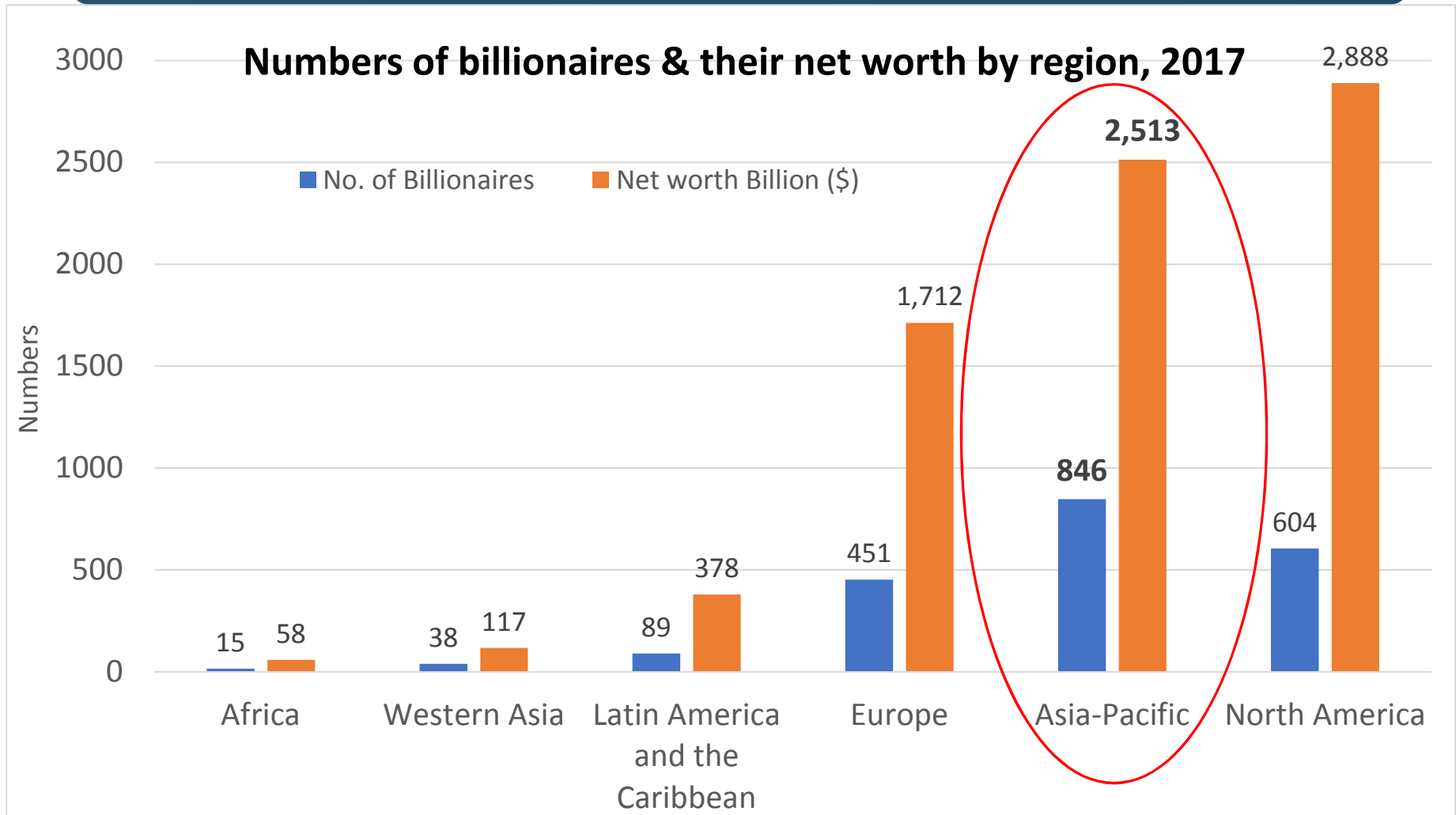
Income Inequality by Region



Income Inequality in Asia and the Pacific



Wealth inequality



Source: ESCAP, based on Forbes online (accessed in January 2018).

Who are those left behind?

Background

- 21 countries in Asia and the Pacific
- 1991- 2015
- For 11 countries, surveys available in two points in time
- Nationally representative household surveys:
 - DHS – Demographic and Health Survey
 - MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

Background

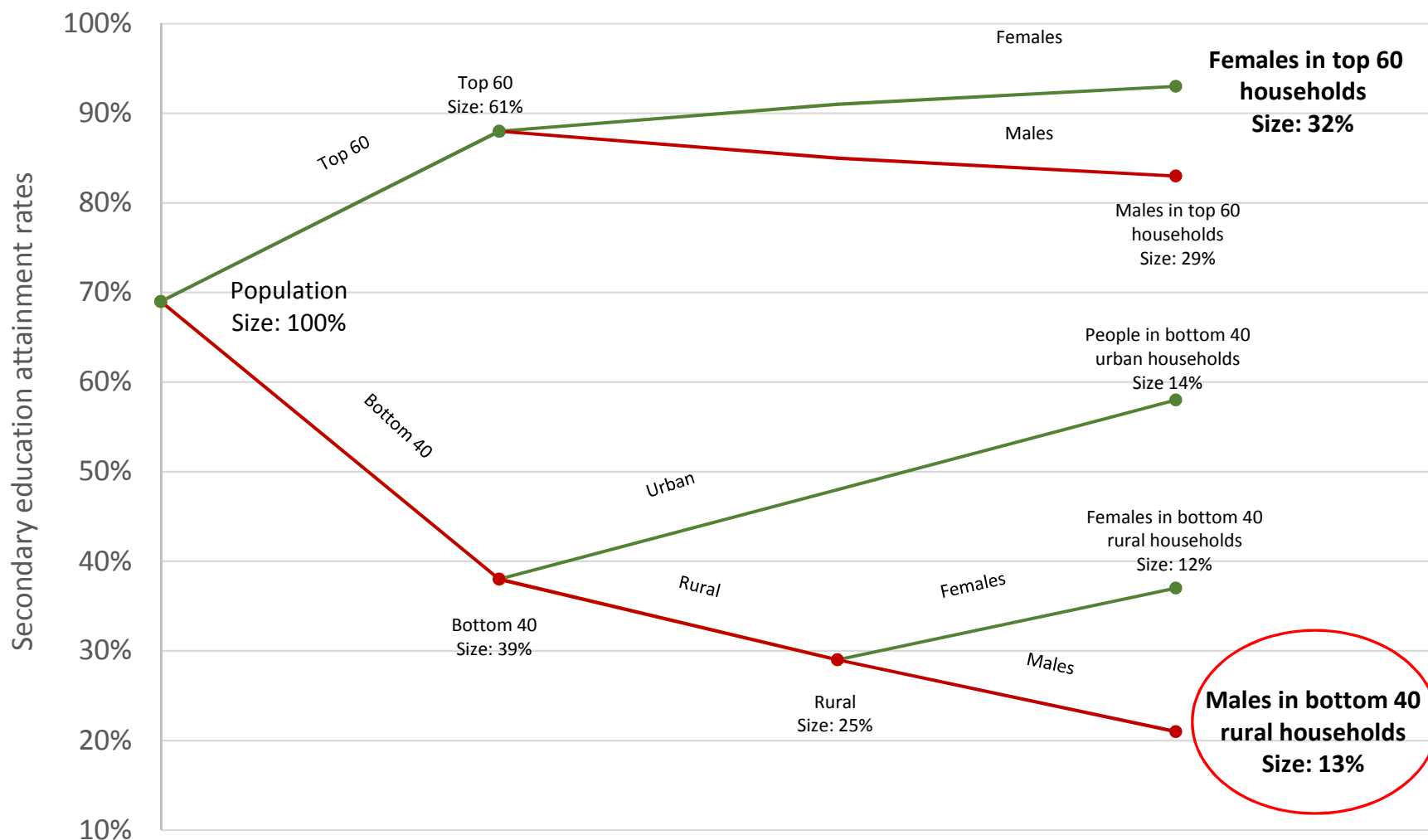
- **15 Opportunities** - Access to a good or service, which society accepts should be universal.
- **Circumstances** used to determine groups of the furthest behind: Individual, household, geographic characteristics outside individual's control, for example: gender, wealth, geographic location, etc.
- Ideally, circumstances should not determine an individual's access to opportunities.

Classification Tree

- The primary goal of the analysis undertaken is to identify the groups with the lowest and highest access to opportunities
- A tree classification method is an algorithm that estimates the accessibility by partitioning the sample into different groups based on the circumstances chosen.
- Opportunities: professional help during childhood, contraception, children anthropometrics, sec and higher education, access to finance, clean fuels, electricity, clean water, safe sanitation.

Identifying the Furthest Behind

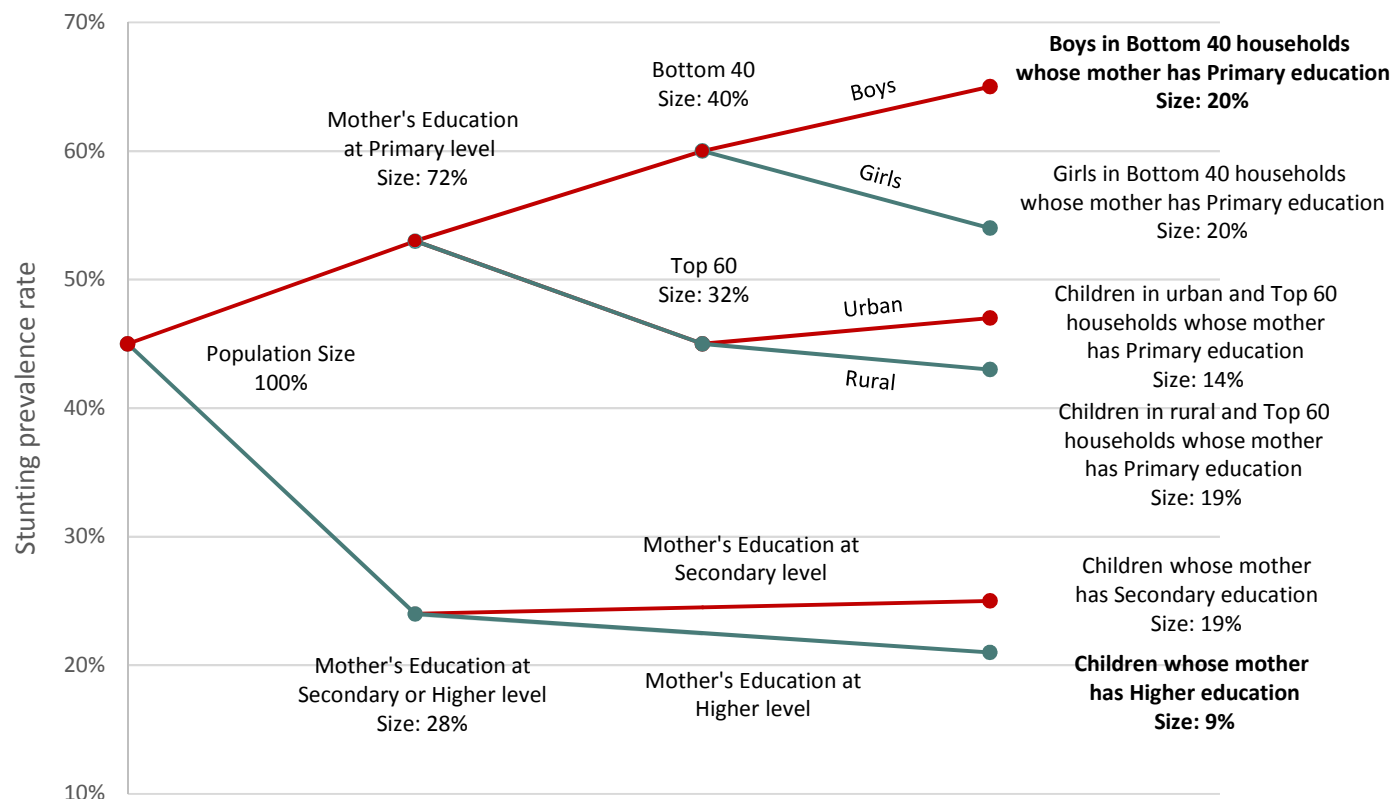
Example of secondary education attainment in Mongolia, using the tree classification



Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, latest year

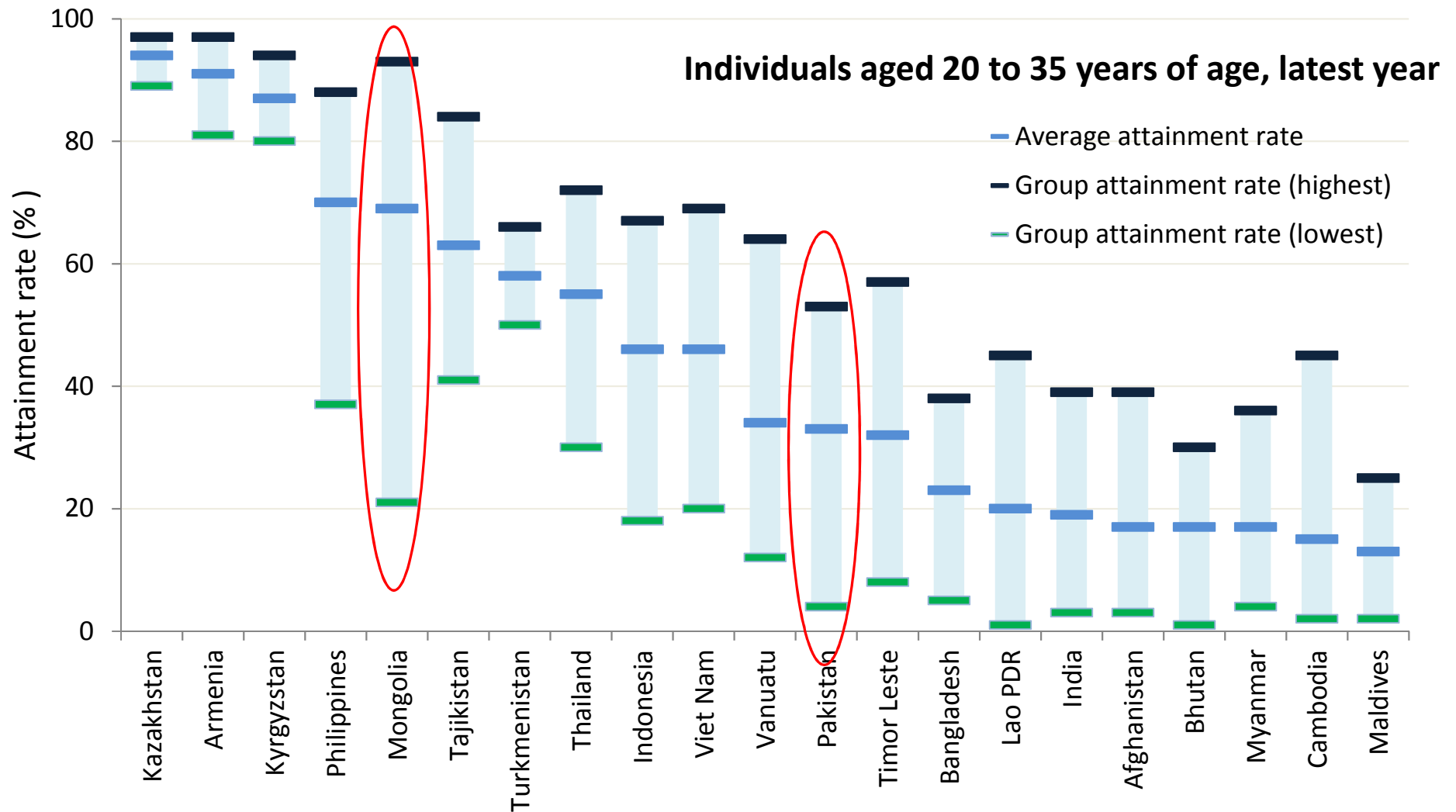
Identifying the Furthest Behind

Example of stunting prevalence in Pakistan, using the tree classification



Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, latest year

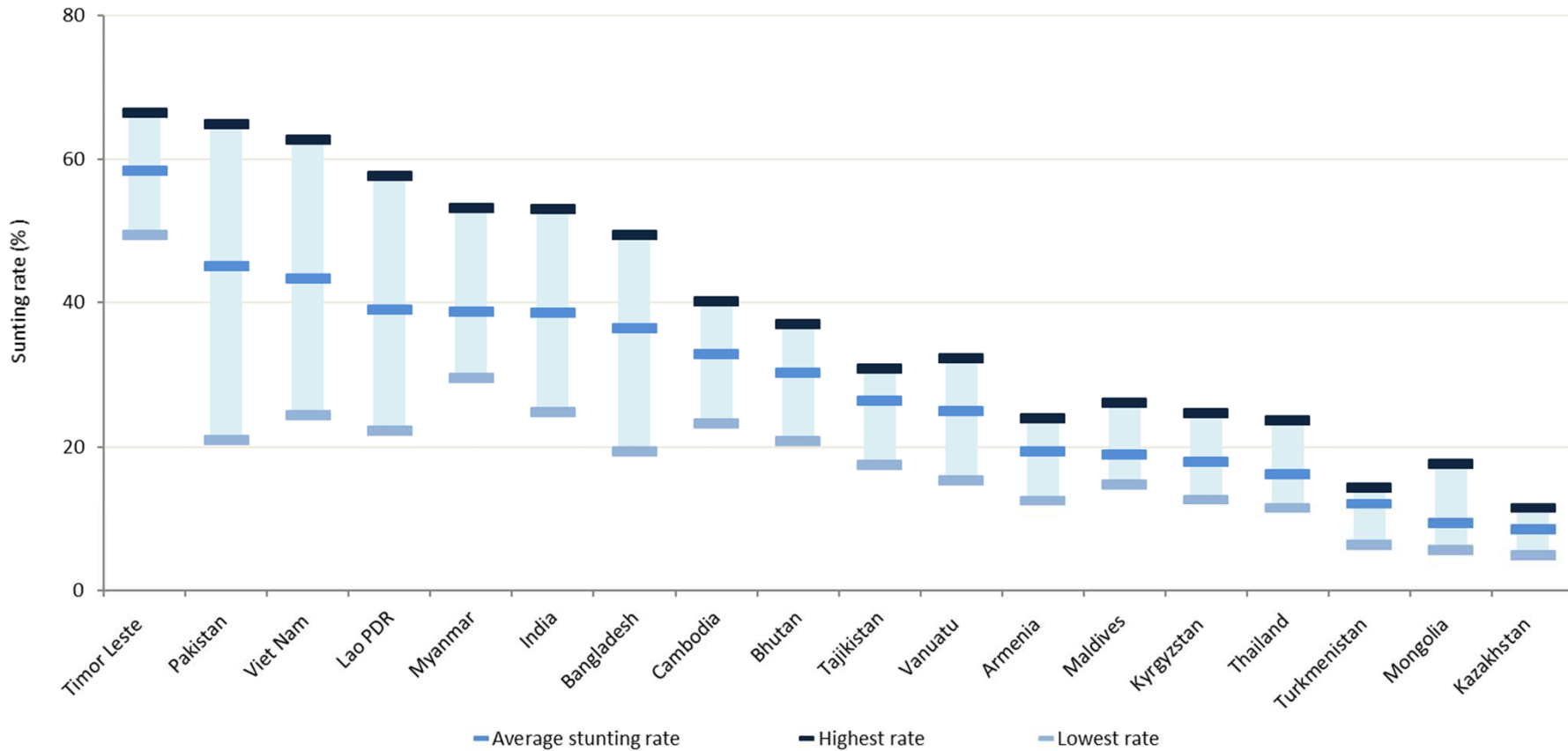
Inequality in Secondary Education Attainment



Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, latest year

Inequality in access to nutrition (stunting)

Gaps between best of and worst off groups



Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, latest year

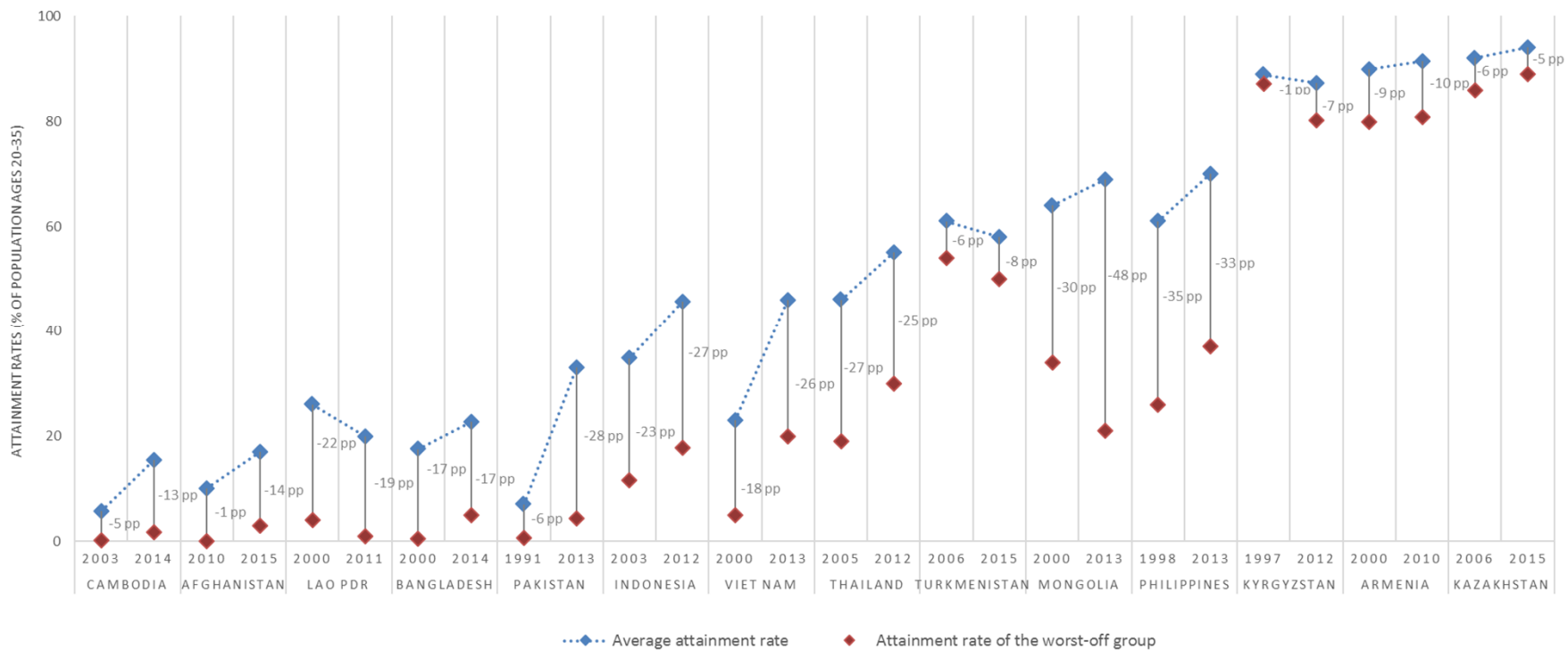
Characteristics of those furthest behind/ahead

FURTHEST BEHIND		FURTHEST AHEAD	
Circumstances	Count (times)	Circumstances	Count (times)
Bottom 40 of wealth distribution	80	Top 60 of wealth distribution	69
Lower and primary education	74	Secondary and higher education	53
Female	63	Male	50
Living in a rural area	42	Living in an urban area	46
Age 15-24	33	Age 25-49	28
Male	16	Female	17
Age 50-64	14	Age 15-24	9

Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, secondary education, latest year

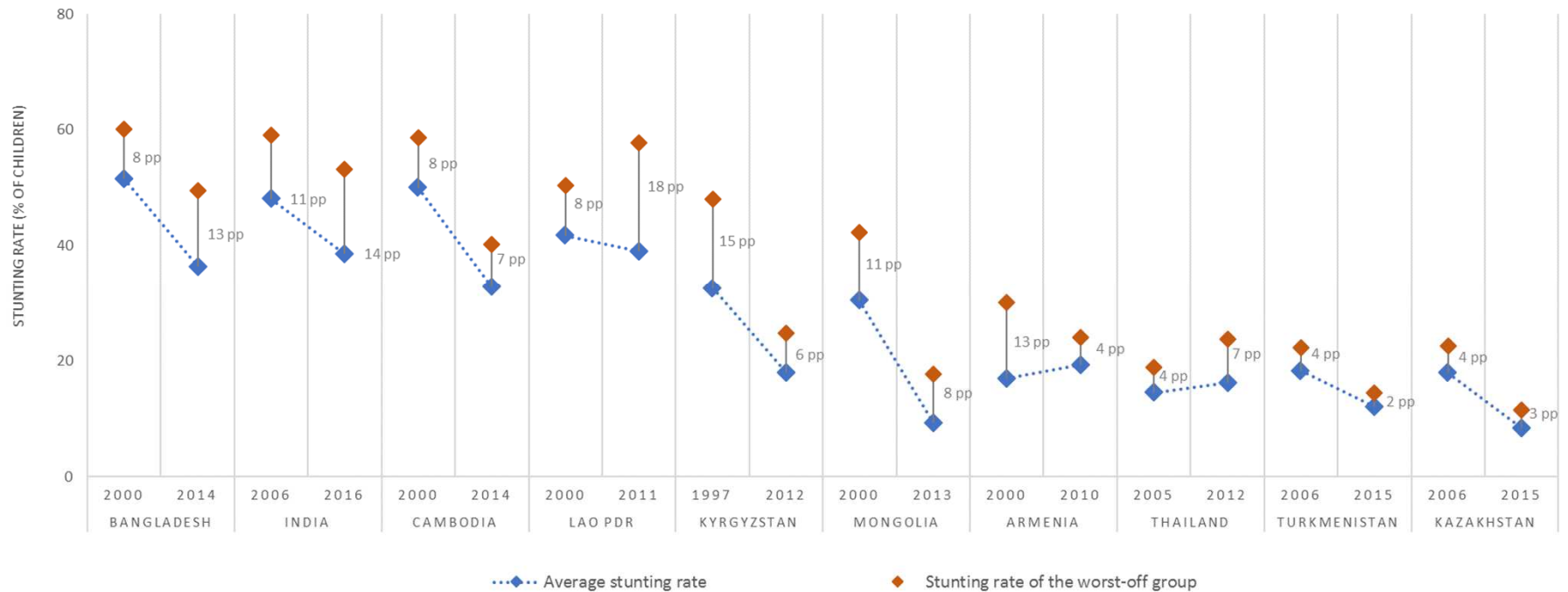
Average progress over time conceals detailed picture

- Secondary education



Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, secondary education, latest year

Average progress over time – stunting

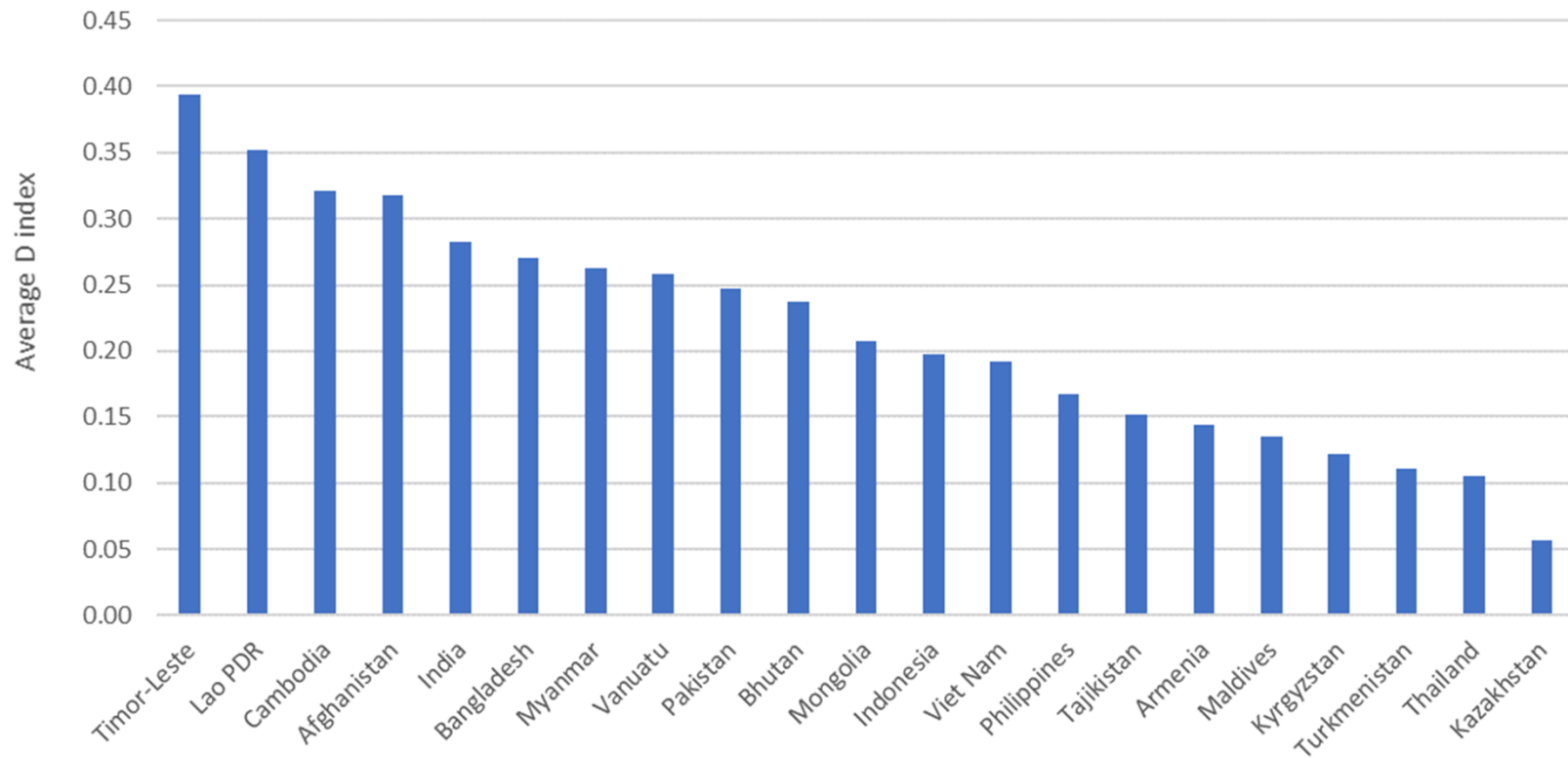


Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, secondary education, latest year

D-index

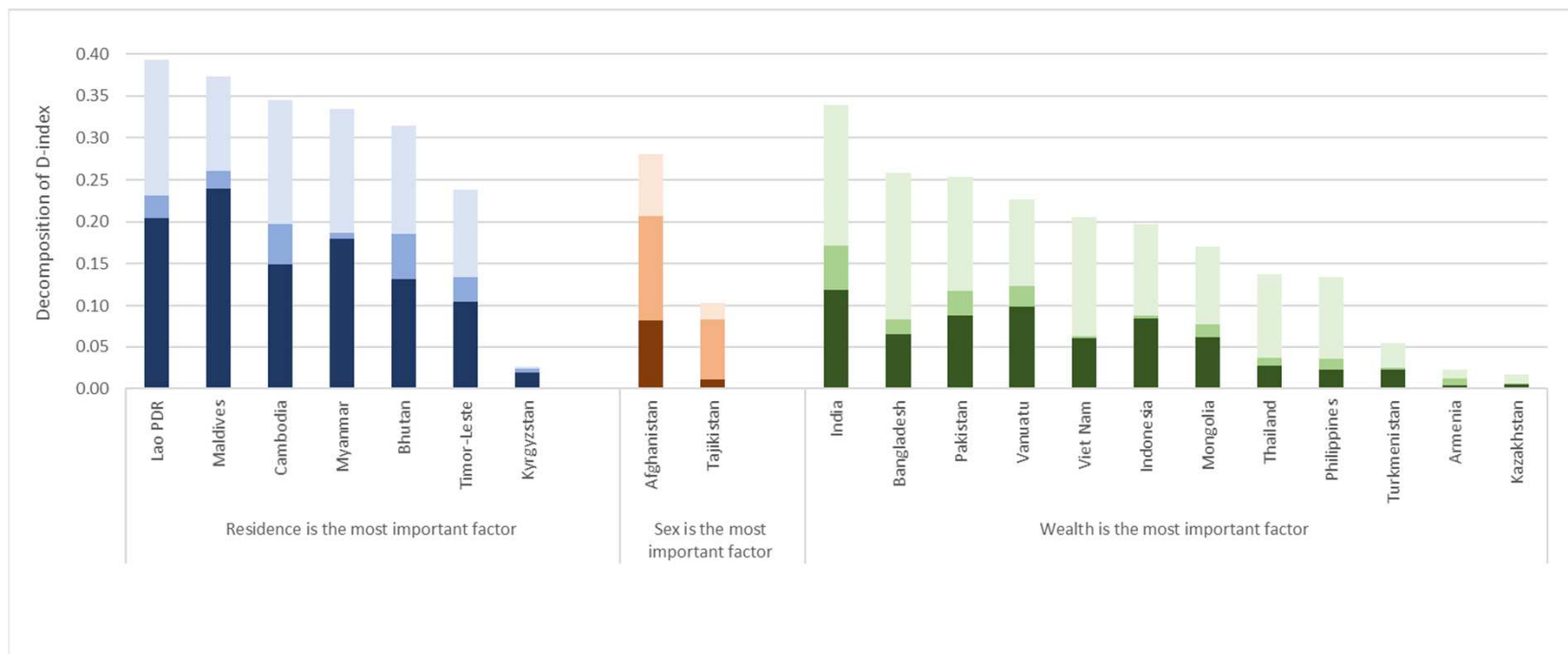
- The dissimilarity index, or D-index, measures how all different groups of fare in terms of accessing a certain opportunity.
- $$D = \frac{1}{2\bar{p}} \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i (p_i - \bar{p})$$
- For example, two countries with identical average rates may have a very different D-indexes depending on how equitably access to an opportunity is distributed.
- Takes values from 0-1, similar to Gini
- Can be decomposed

D-index - ESCAP



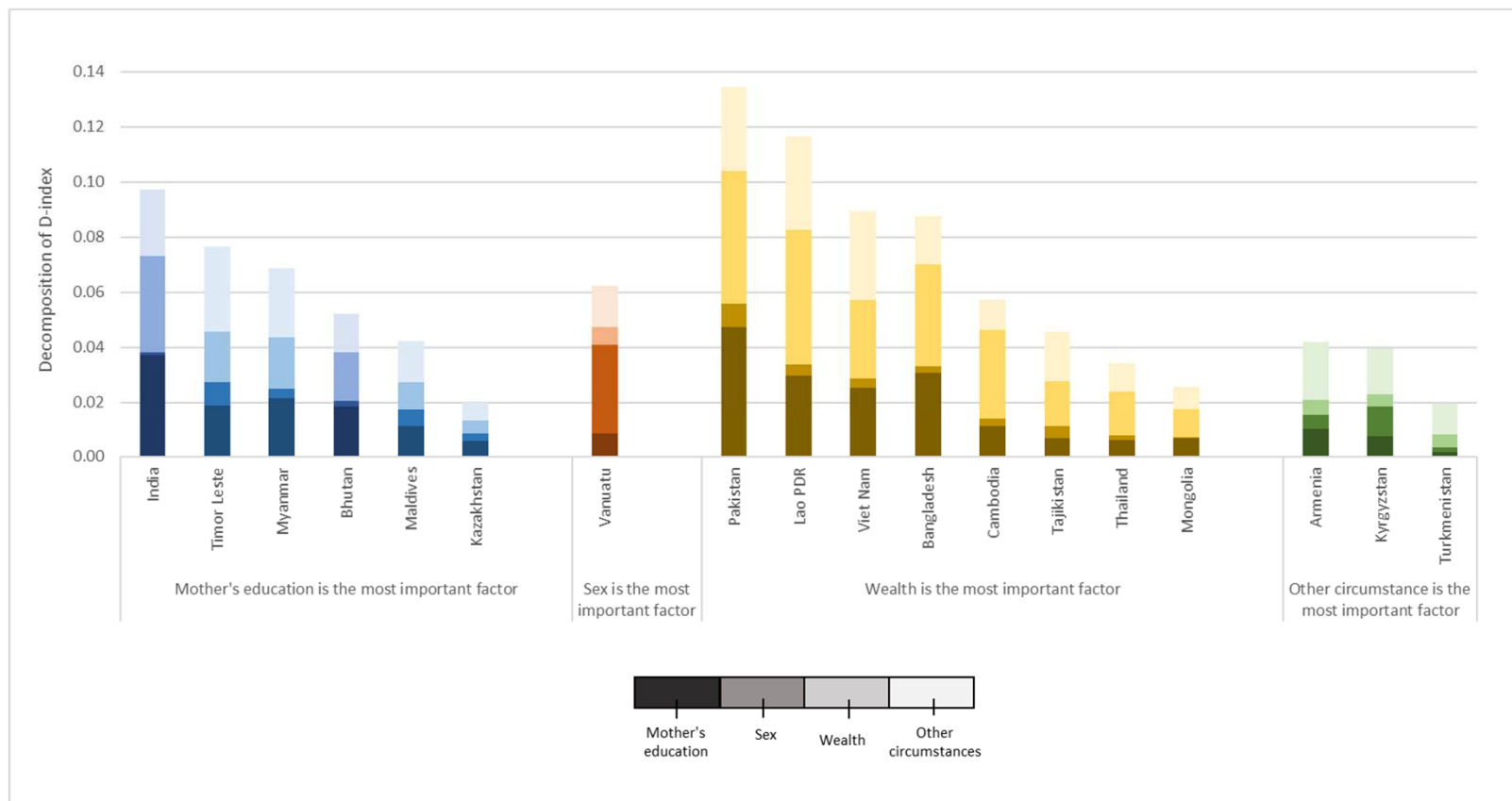
Shapely decomposition

- What is the marginal contribution of each circumstance to inequality of opportunities – secondary education?



Shapely decomposition

- What is the marginal contribution of each circumstance to inequality of opportunities –stunting?



Ethnicity, Religion & Language

- Common identity: affects composition of furthest behind groups
- 11 MICS + DHS India
- In Turkmenistan, 65% urban, top 60 Turkmen-speaking completed secondary, 78% urban, top 60 Uzbek-speaking
- In Lao PDR, ethnic Lao 3 x more likely than minor ethnicities to access clean fuels
- In Sri Lanka, 58% Christian, Hindu and Muslim younger and older males are employed full time, compared with 35% **Buddhists**
- In India, Scheduled caste status is critical in determining secondary education attainment, incidence of stunting, access to clean fuels, safe sanitation and bank account ownership

Relevance for Policymaking

1. **Furthest behind** are hardest to identify: need better data



2. **Compounding factors**: need inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder collaboration



3. **Economic growth is not enough**: need social protection and investment in quality services

Policy Options and Recommendations

Better data and research

Political commitment

Public support & trust in institutions

Multi ministerial & stakeholder collaboration

Strengthen social protection

Reducing poverty and inequality requires...

Decent work creation and labour market interventions

Tax policies

Understanding the impact and drivers

Human rights-based approach

Thank you!