

Equity levels and trends in Countdown Countries Update on progress

Ties Boerma, WHO, on behalf of the
CountDown Equity Working Group

Women Deliver, Washington DC,
June 7-9 2010

Overview

- Description of the Countdown Equity work
- What is the situation in the CD countries?
- Is progress being made?

Countdown to 2015 for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival

- Independent 'supra-institutional' initiative established in 2005
- Aims to gather and present data that can be used as a strategic tool by countries and the global health community to stimulate action on the MDGs
- Collaboration of academics, UN agencies, NGOs, health care professional associations, donors, and governments, with *The Lancet* as a key partner
- Focuses on key evidence-based interventions with proven impact on maternal, newborn and child survival - continuum of care from the pre-pregnancy period through to pregnancy, childbirth, the postnatal period, and early childhood.
- Countdown tracks coverage for interventions with proven effectiveness to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality in the 68 countries that together account for nearly all maternal and child deaths worldwide

Equity in the Countdown 2015

- Working groups within CD: coverage, health systems, financing, advocacy - equity
- Monitoring equity for a set of core coverage indicators and indexes by socio-economic status and at subnational levels
- Household survey data

Coverage indicators and stratifiers

COVERAGE and RISK FACTORS

- Contraceptive prevalence
- Antenatal care (4+ visits); skilled attendant at delivery; C-section rate
- Early initiation of breastfeeding; Postnatal visit for baby
- Improved water sources
- DPT3 vaccine; Measles vaccine
- ORT; Care seeking for pneumonia;
- ITNs; Vitamin A supplementation

STRATIFIERS

- Sex
- Place of residence
- Wealth quintiles
- Maternal education
- Region of the country

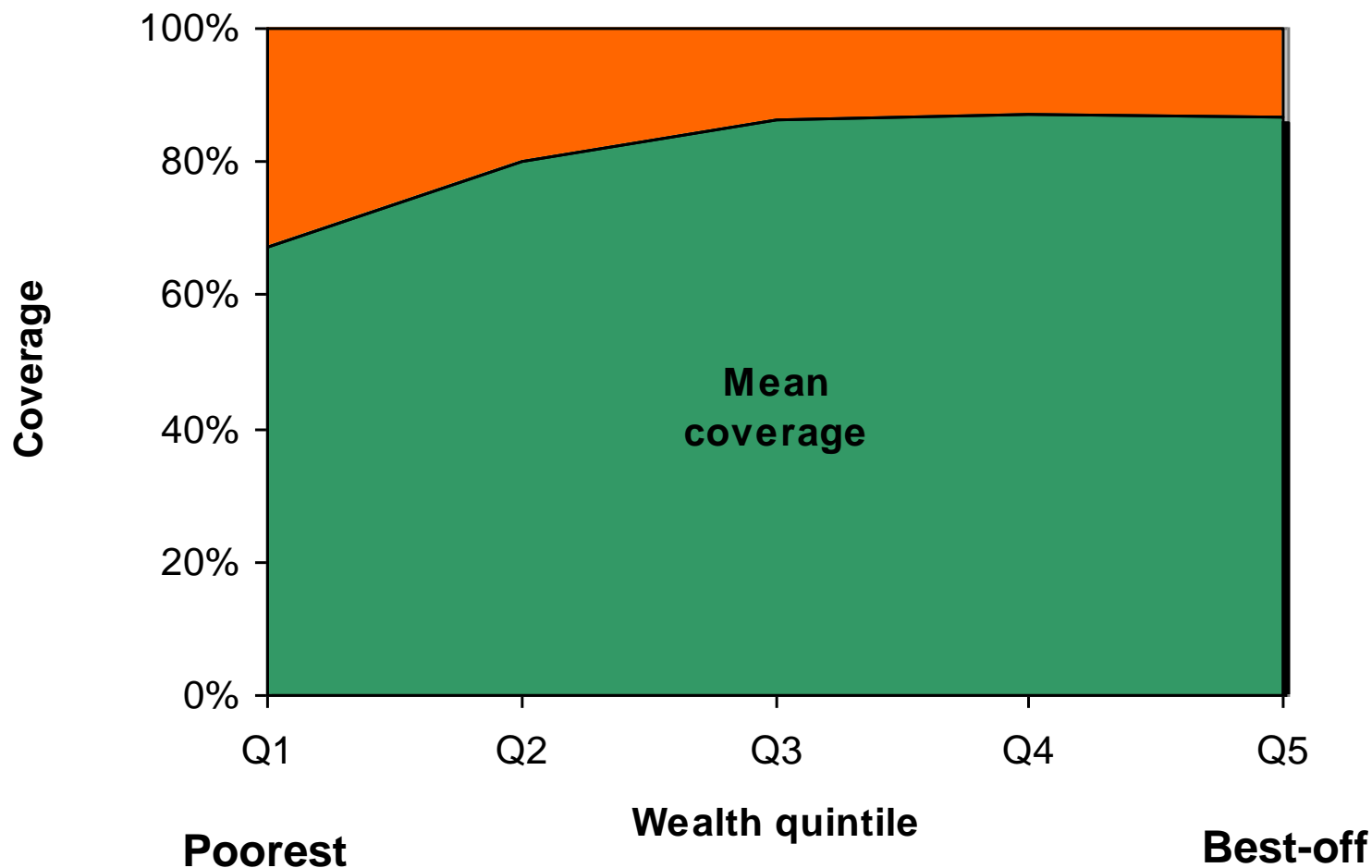
Coverage indexes

Coverage index = unweighted average of coverage in 4 intervention areas

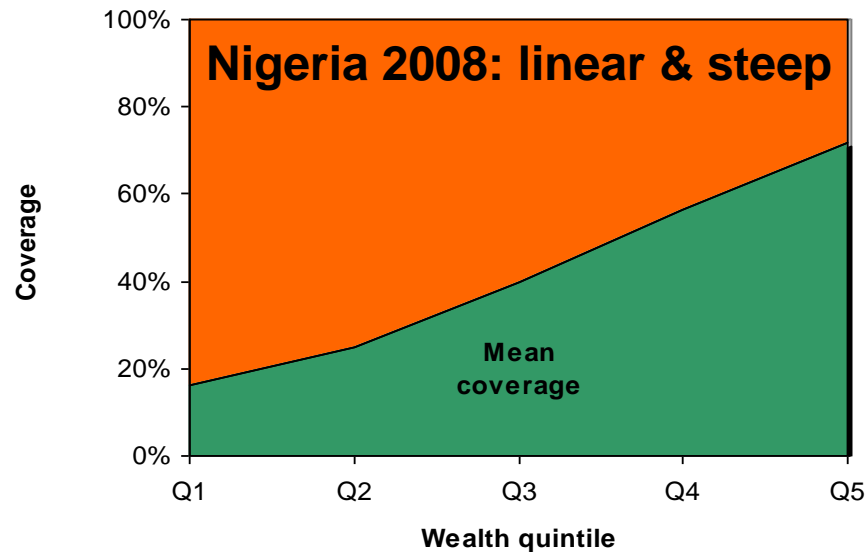
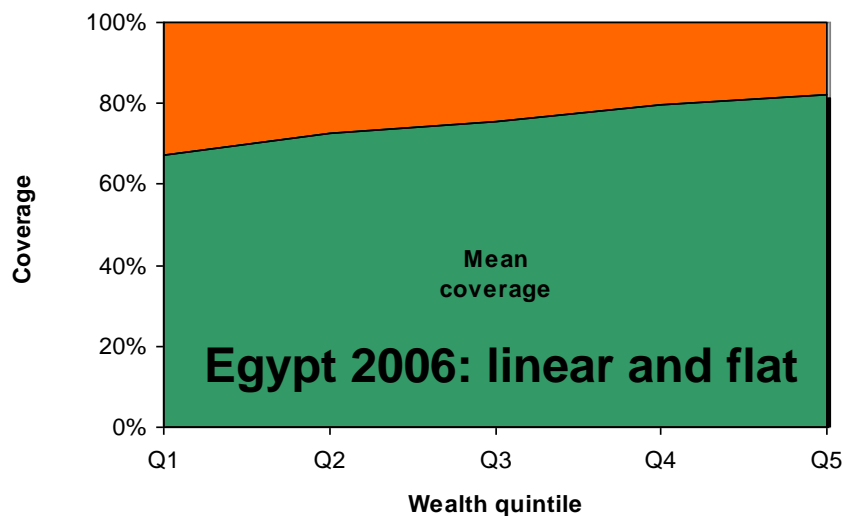
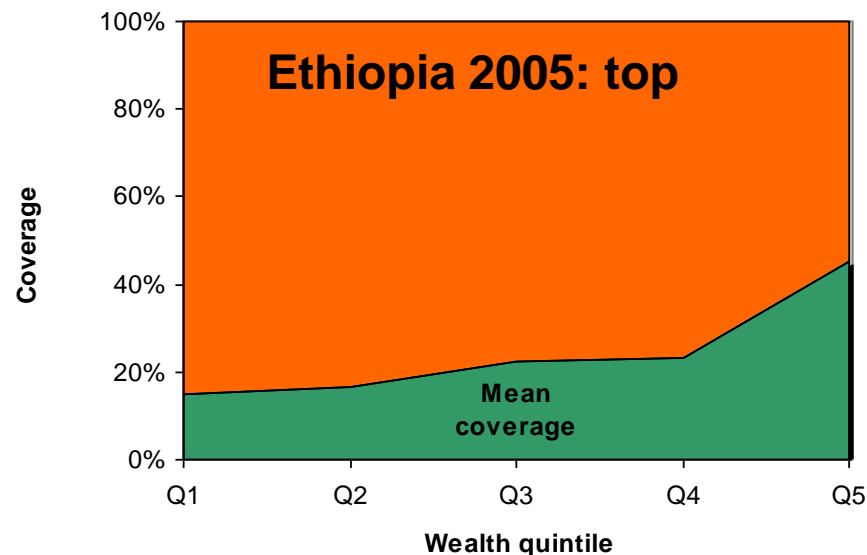
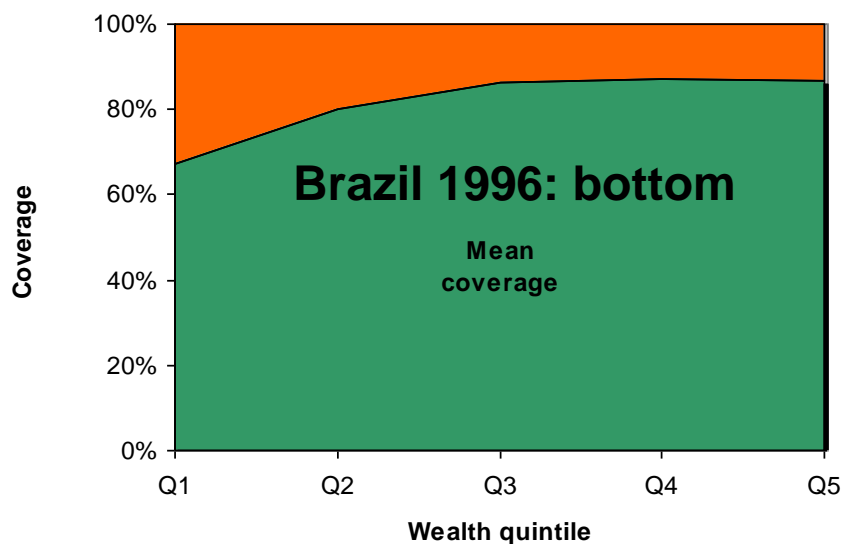
Topic	Indicators
Family planning	Contraceptive prevalence/met need
Maternal and newborn care	Antenatal care (1+ visit) Skilled attendant at delivery
Immunization	BCG; DPT3; Measles
Treatment of sick children	ORT Careseeking for pneumonia

**Co-coverage = presence of 7 preventive interventions in a single child
Including antenatal care, SBA, TT, vaccination etc.**

Coverage index by wealth quintile



4 patterns of inequality



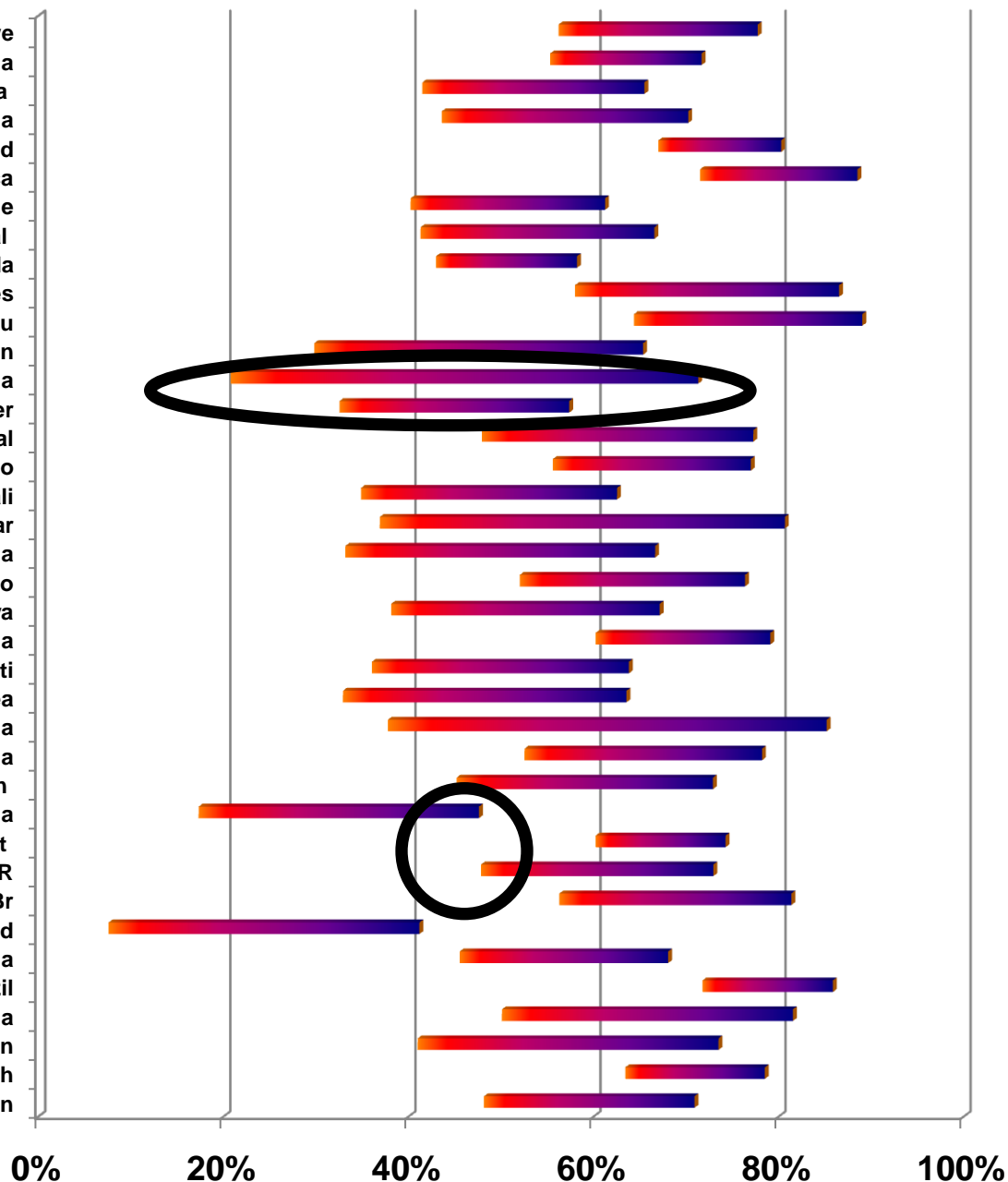
**Magnitude in
inequality
ranges:**

**mean
coverage
index
(Q5-Q1),**

38 countries

Zimbabwe
Zambia
Uganda
Tanzania
Swaziland
South Africa
Sierra Leone
Senegal
Rwanda
Philippines
Peru
Pakistan
Nigeria
Niger
Nepal
Morocco
Mali
Madagascar
Liberia
Lesotho
Kenya
Indonesia
Haiti
Guinea
Guatemala
Ghana
Gabon
Ethiopia
Egypt
Congo DR
Congo Br
Chad
Cambodia
Brazil
Bolivia
Benin
Bangladesh
Azerbaijan

Poorest Richest

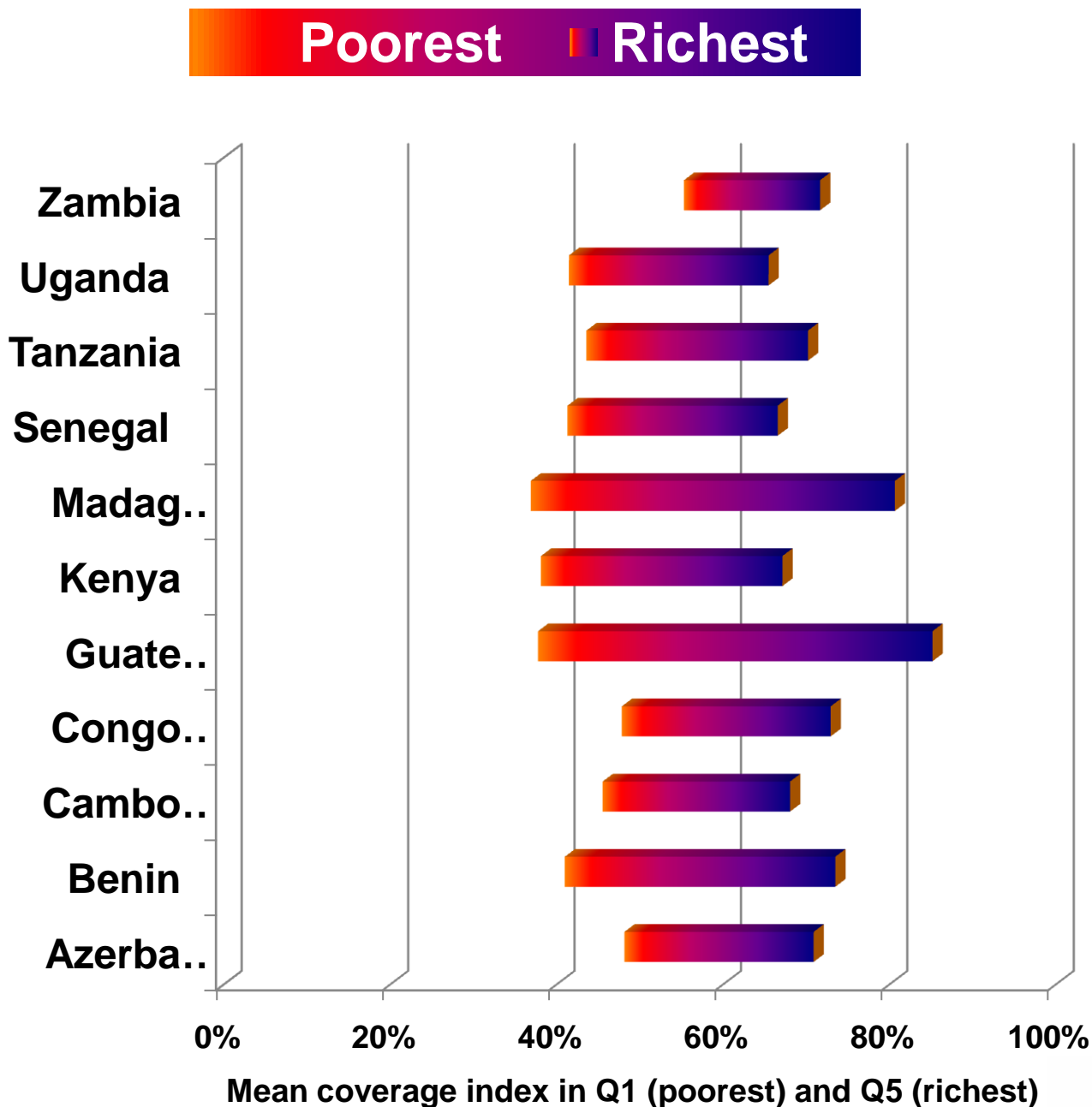


Mean coverage index in Q1 (poorest) and Q5 (richest)

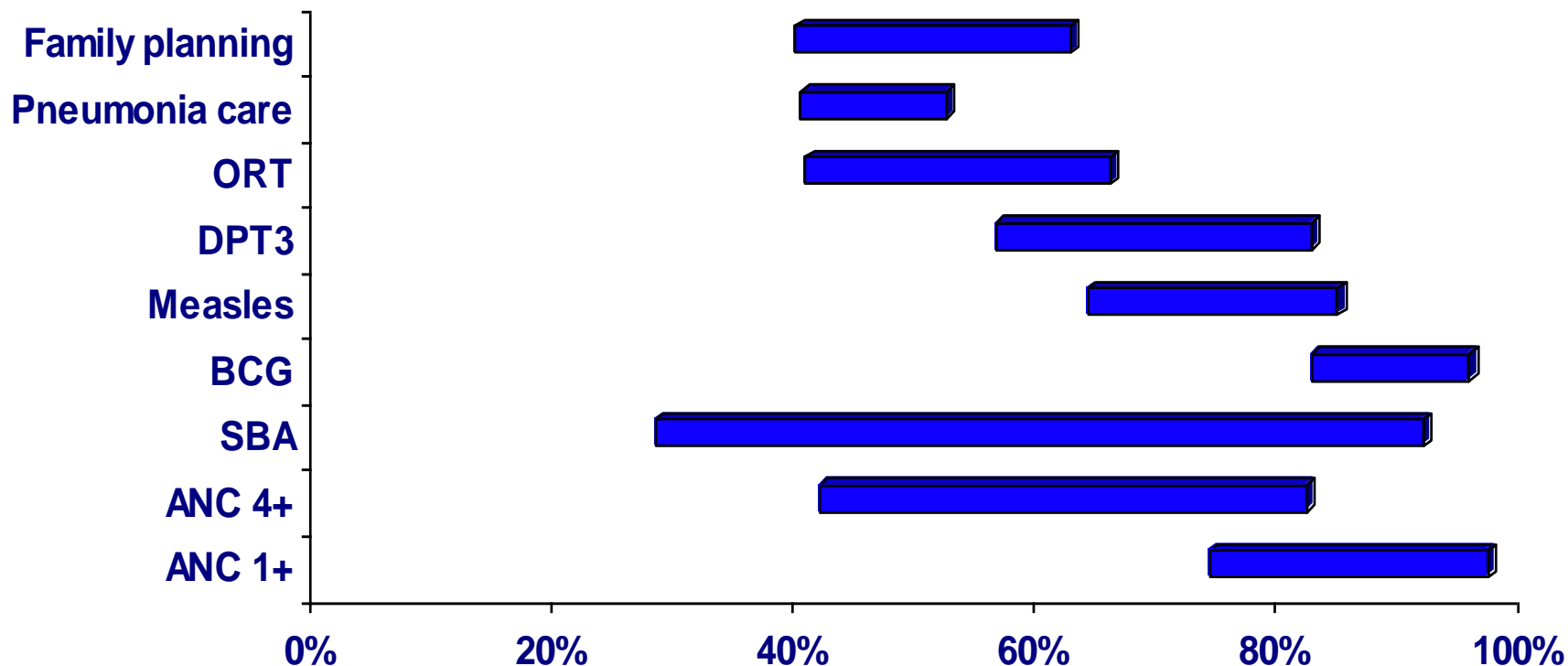
**National levels
do not tell the
equity story**

**Countries with
50-60% overall
coverage**

**Mean
coverage
index (Q5-Q1)
by country**



Poorest richest differences by specific intervention



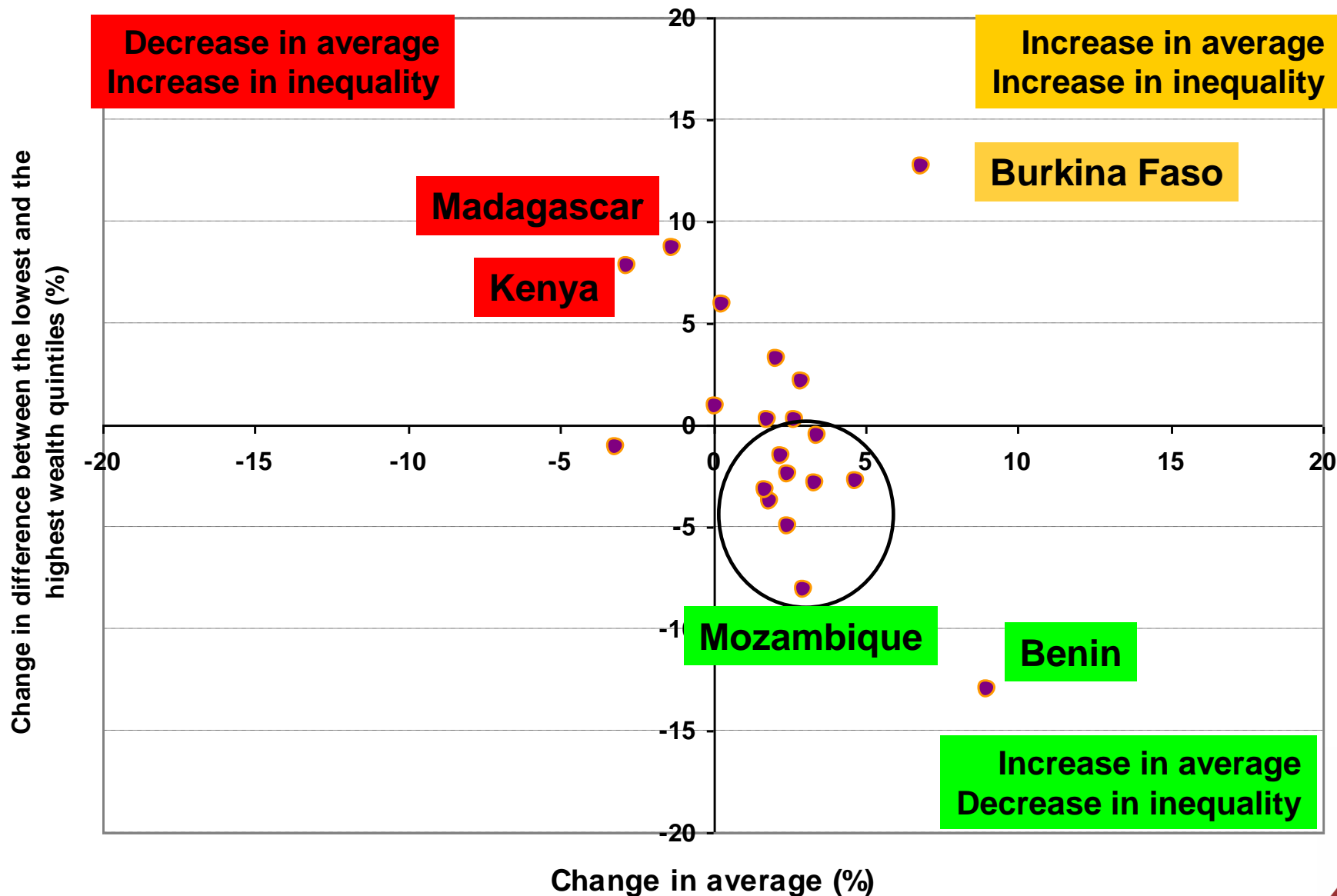
42 countdown countries, survey data 2000-2009

Inequality in coverage

Changes over time

- Most countries show gradual changes only, but there are exceptions
- If coverage increases, the pattern may change from top inequality (the richest doing much better) to linear to bottom inequality (the poorest are left behind)
- Improvements in national coverage levels and mean different things to the inequality

**Trend in skilled birth attendance over 5 years,
Inequality vs. Average, 20 countries in AFR**



In sum

- Large differences in coverage inequality within countries
- Larger for interventions which require greater contact with health services: 4 visits ANC, Skilled birth attendant, DPT3
- Countries generally make only gradual progress towards reducing inequities in coverage, but there are good examples
- Case studies to follow ...

WG membership

- Coordinators: **Cesar Victora**, Ties Boerma
- Members: Henrik Axelson, Carine Ronsmans, Wendy Graham, Betty Kirkwood, Abdelmajid Tibouti, Laura Laski, Zulfiqar Bhutta, Kate Kerber
- University of Pelotas team: Aluisio Barros, João Luis Dornelles