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# Higher education access and participation in developing countries

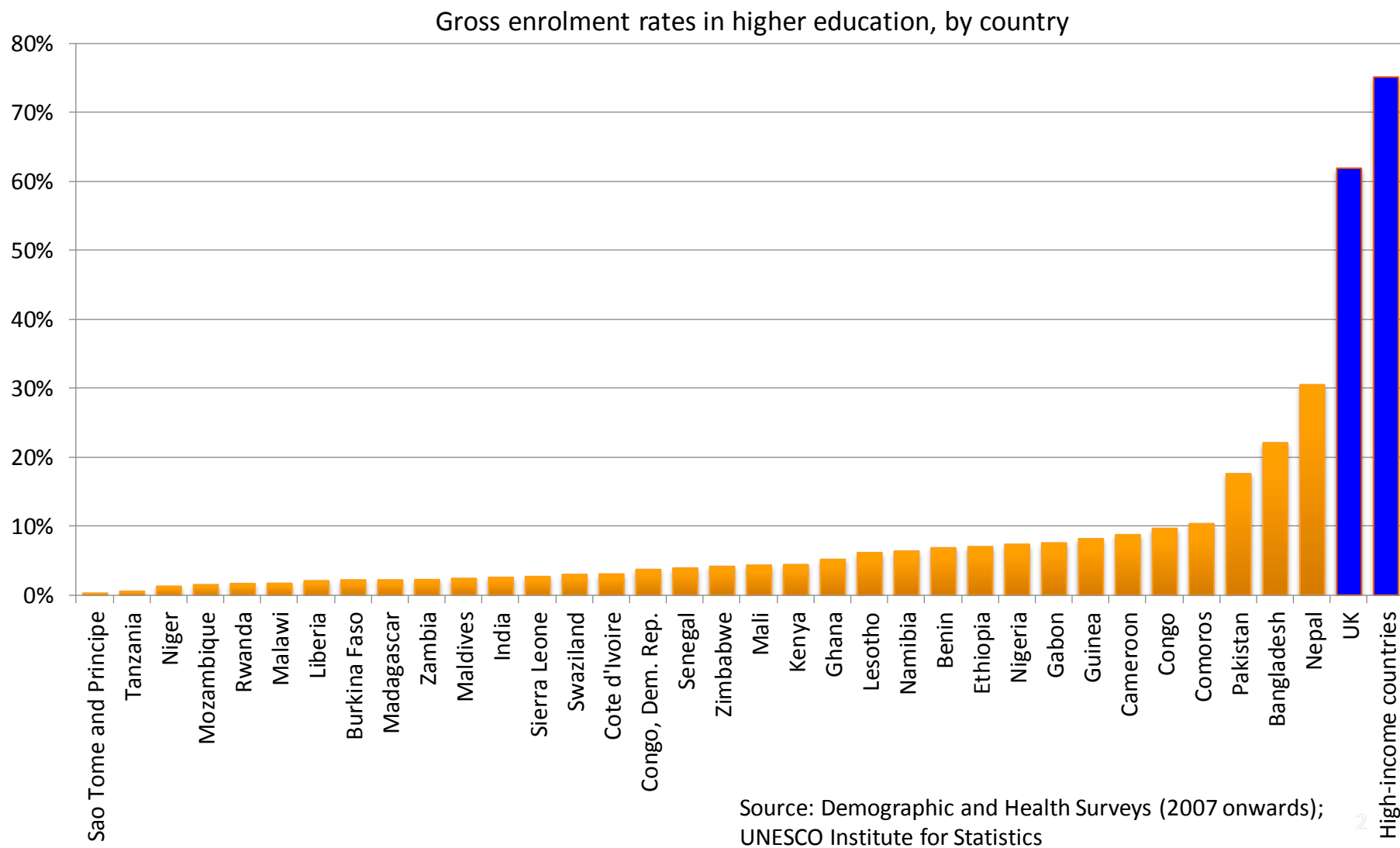
**Pauline Rose**

**Professor, International Education**

**University of Cambridge**

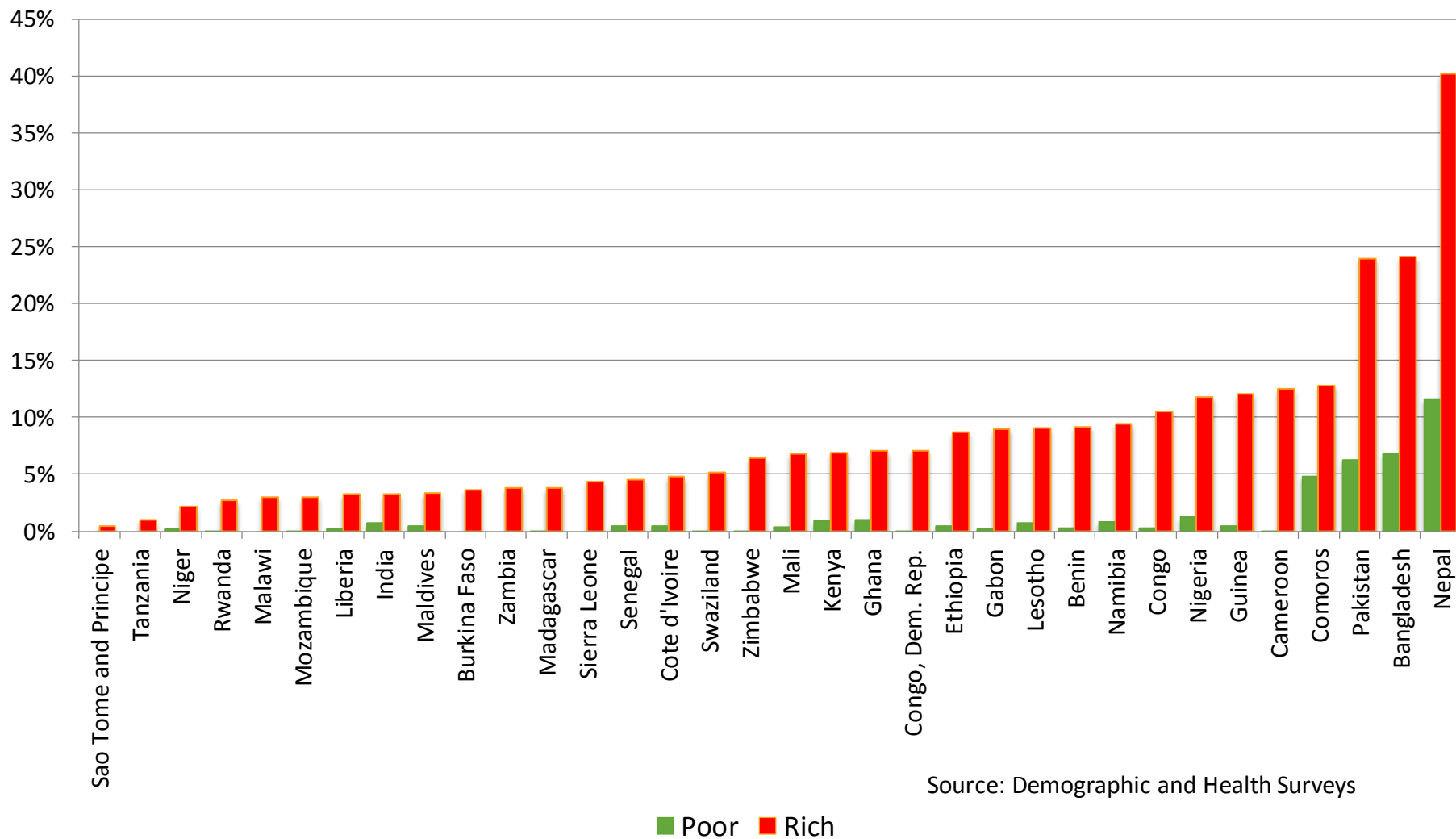
**Faculty of Education**

# Higher education in poor countries: growing but from very low levels

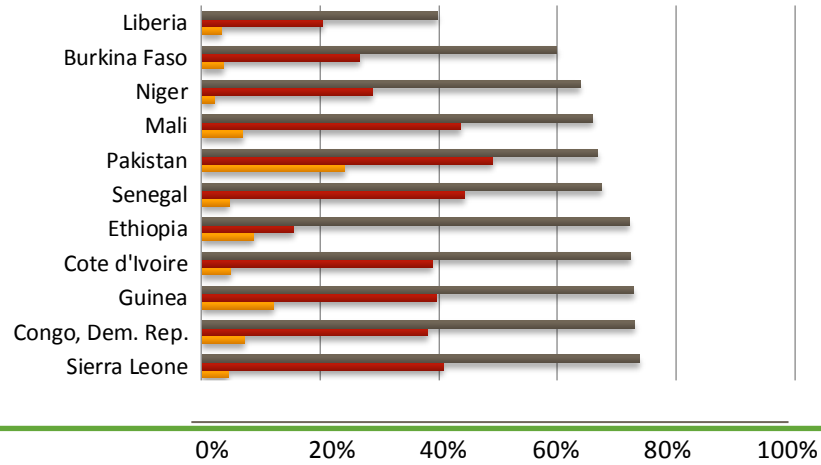


# Few poor young people access higher education

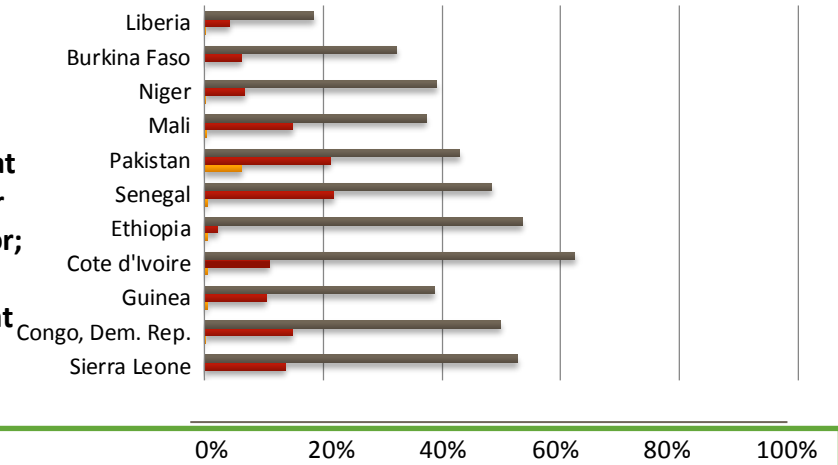
Higher education net enrolment rates, young people under 25 years, poorest 50% & richest 50%



Net attendance rates for richest 50%



Net attendance rates for poorest 50%

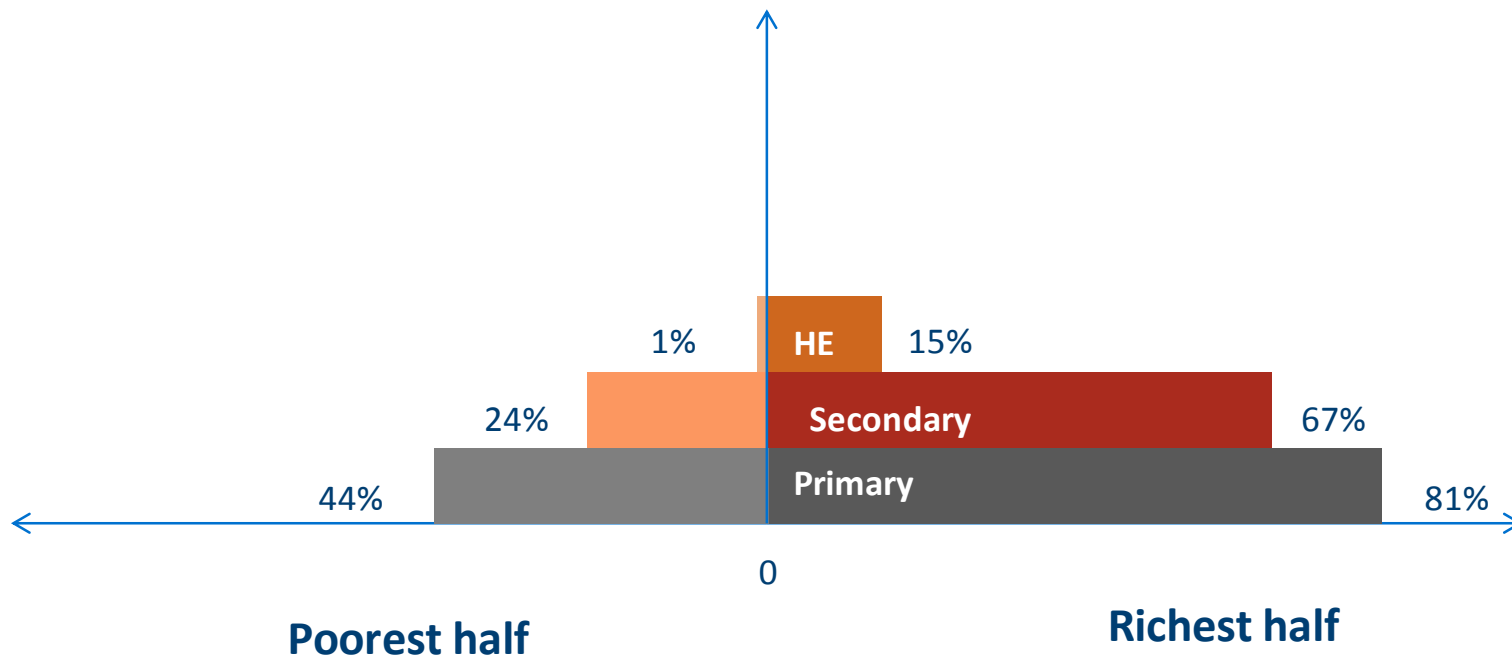


■ Primary ■ Secondary ■ Higher

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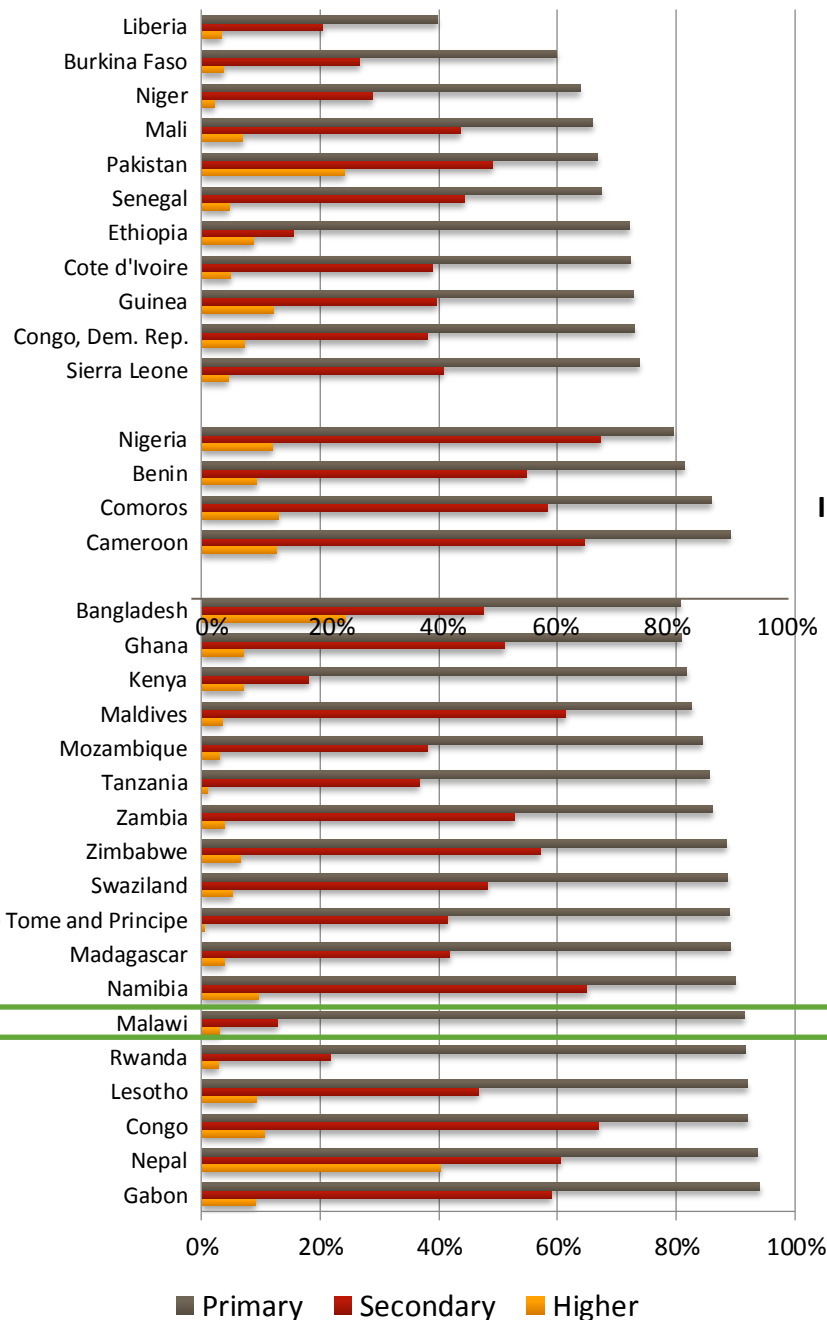
# Nigeria: Inequality starts at primary; only the rich make it to higher education

Nigeria: Net attendance rate



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2013

Net attendance rates for richest 50%

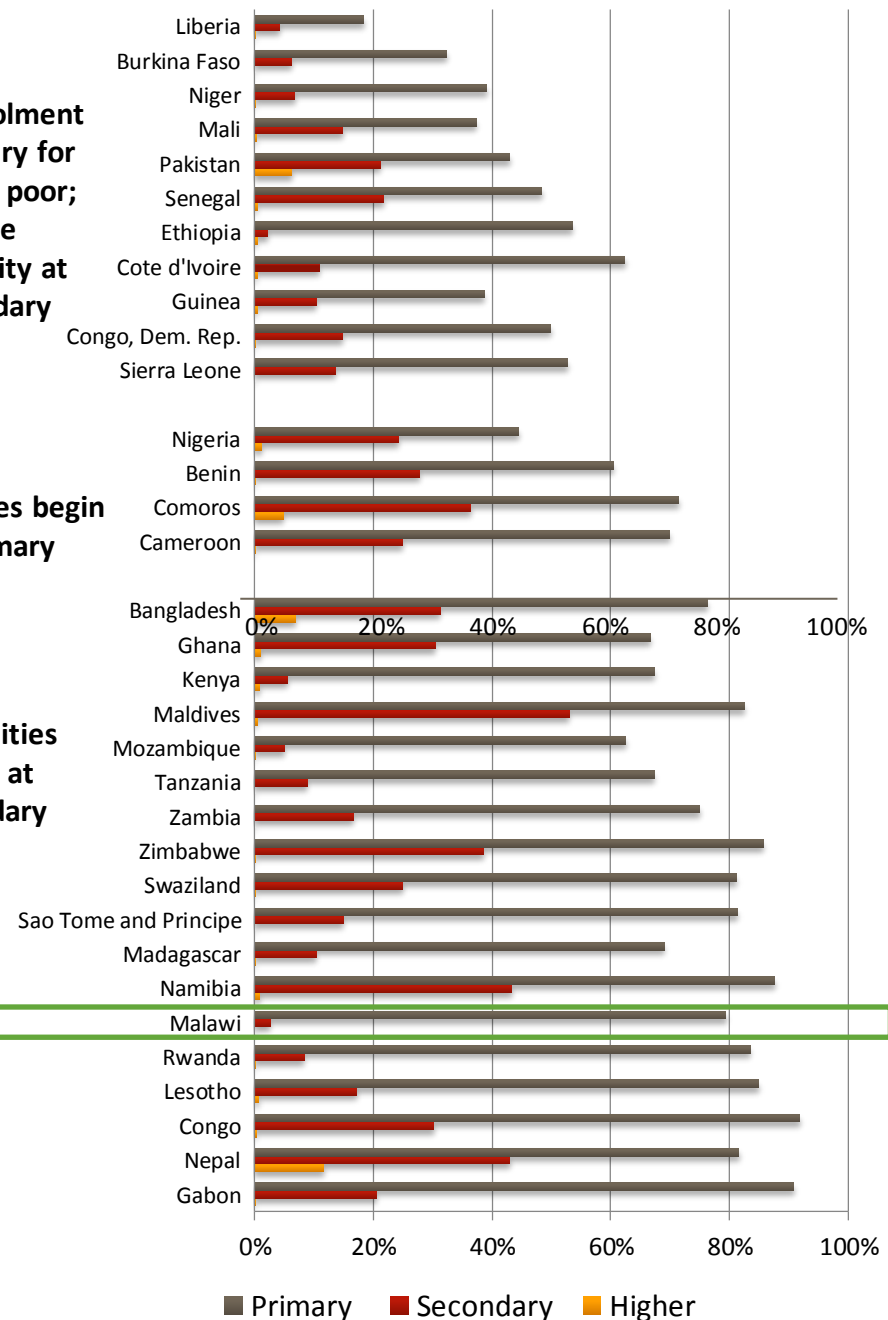


**Low enrolment  
at primary for  
rich and poor;  
wide  
inequality at  
secondary**

**Inequalities begin  
at primary**

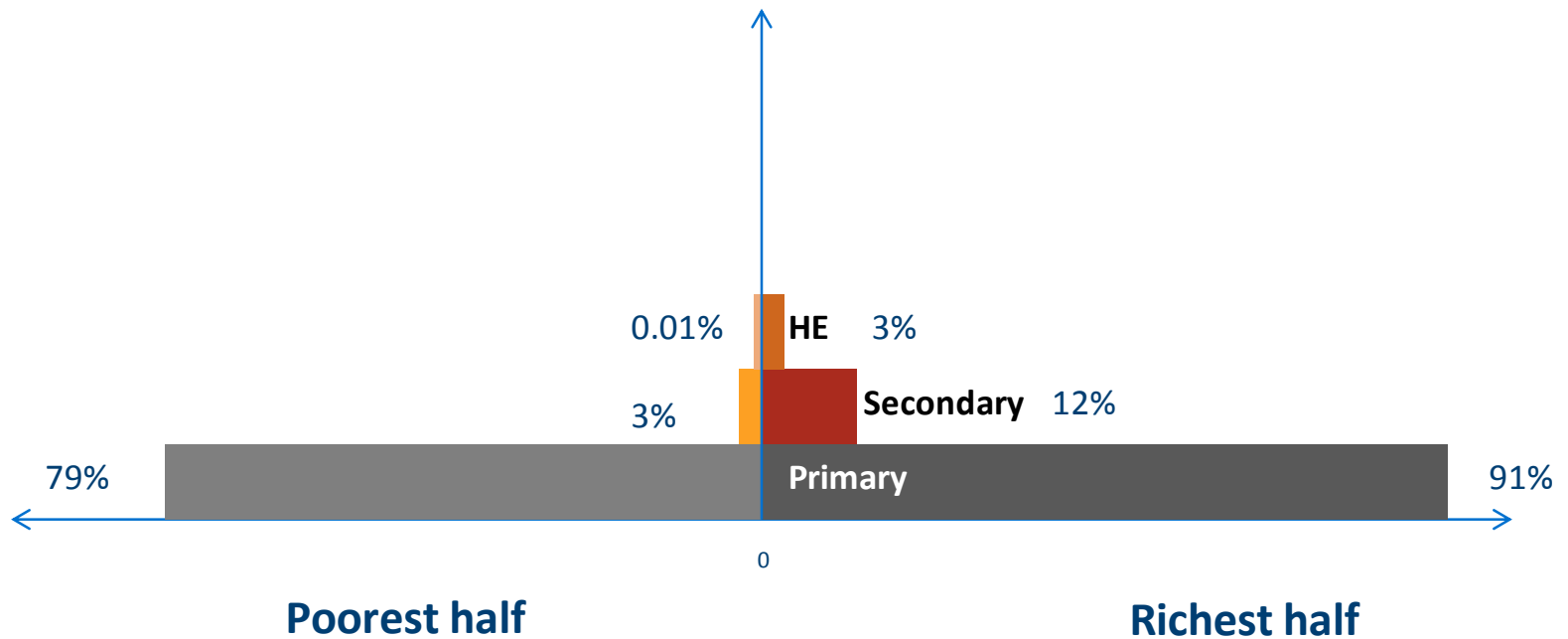
**Inequalities  
begin at  
secondary**

Net attendance rates for poorest 50%



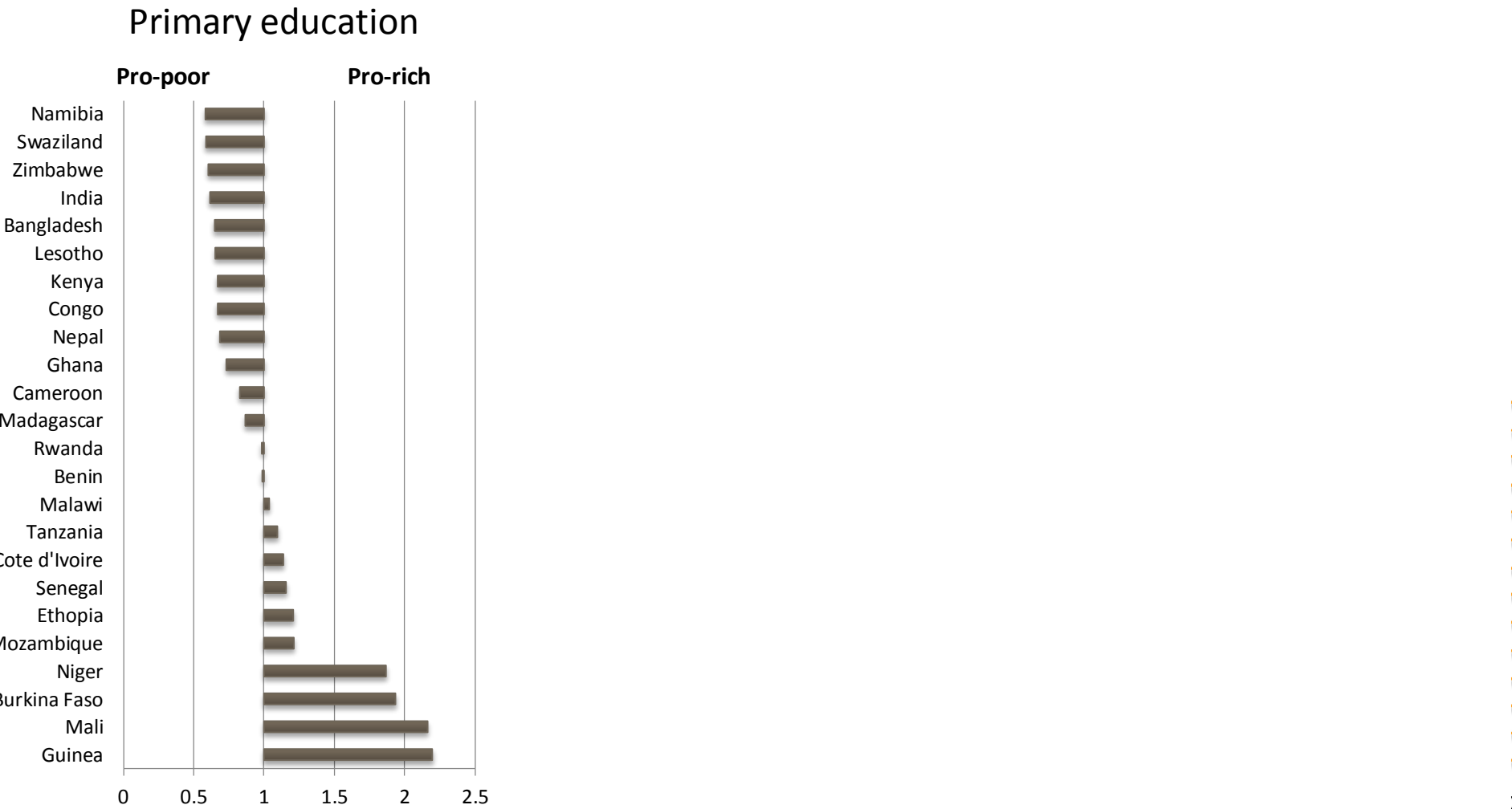
# Malawi: Inequality starts at secondary; very few reach higher education

Malawi: Net attendance rate



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2010

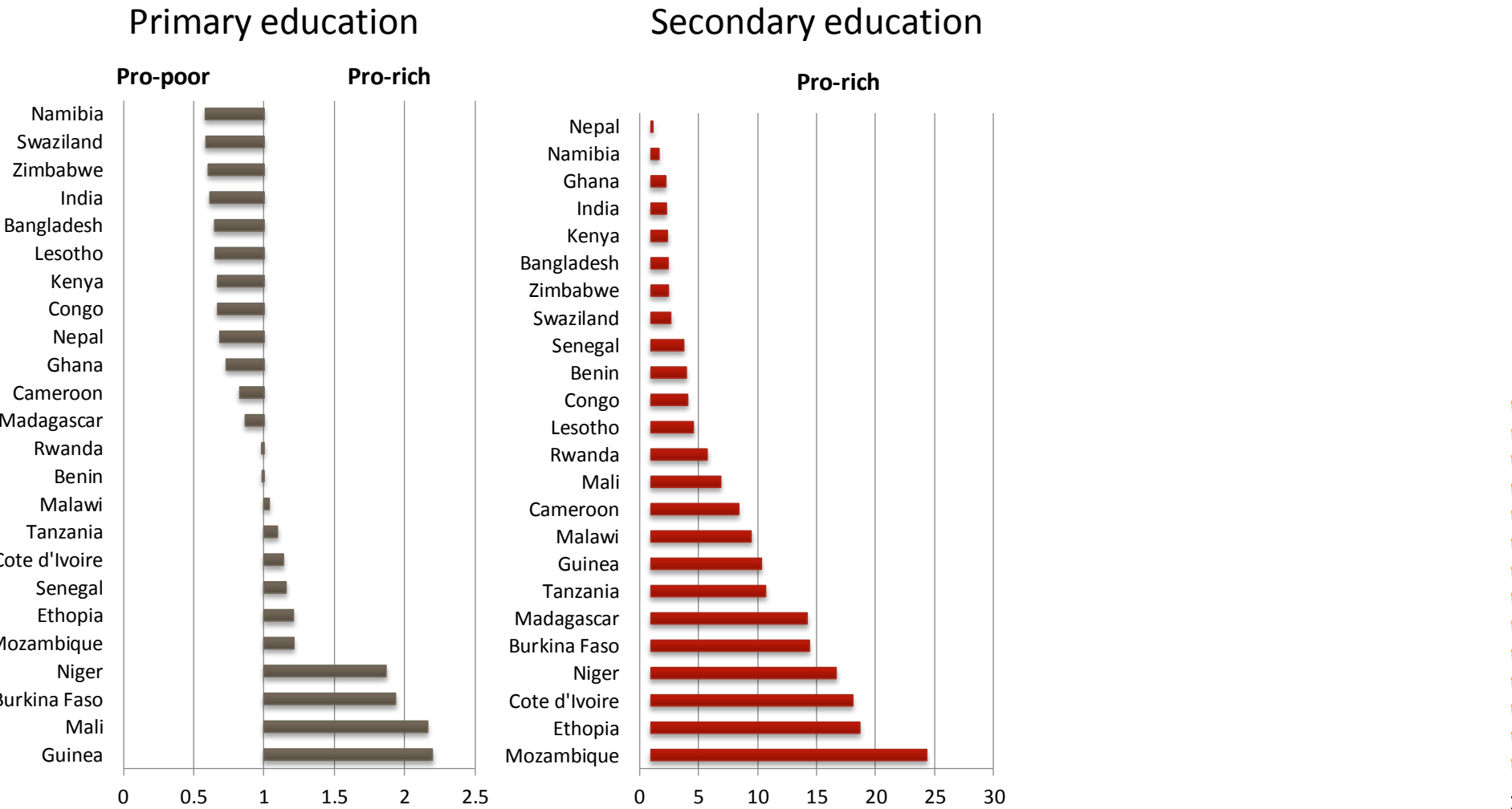
# Ratio of education spending on richest 20% vs poorest 20%



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics database

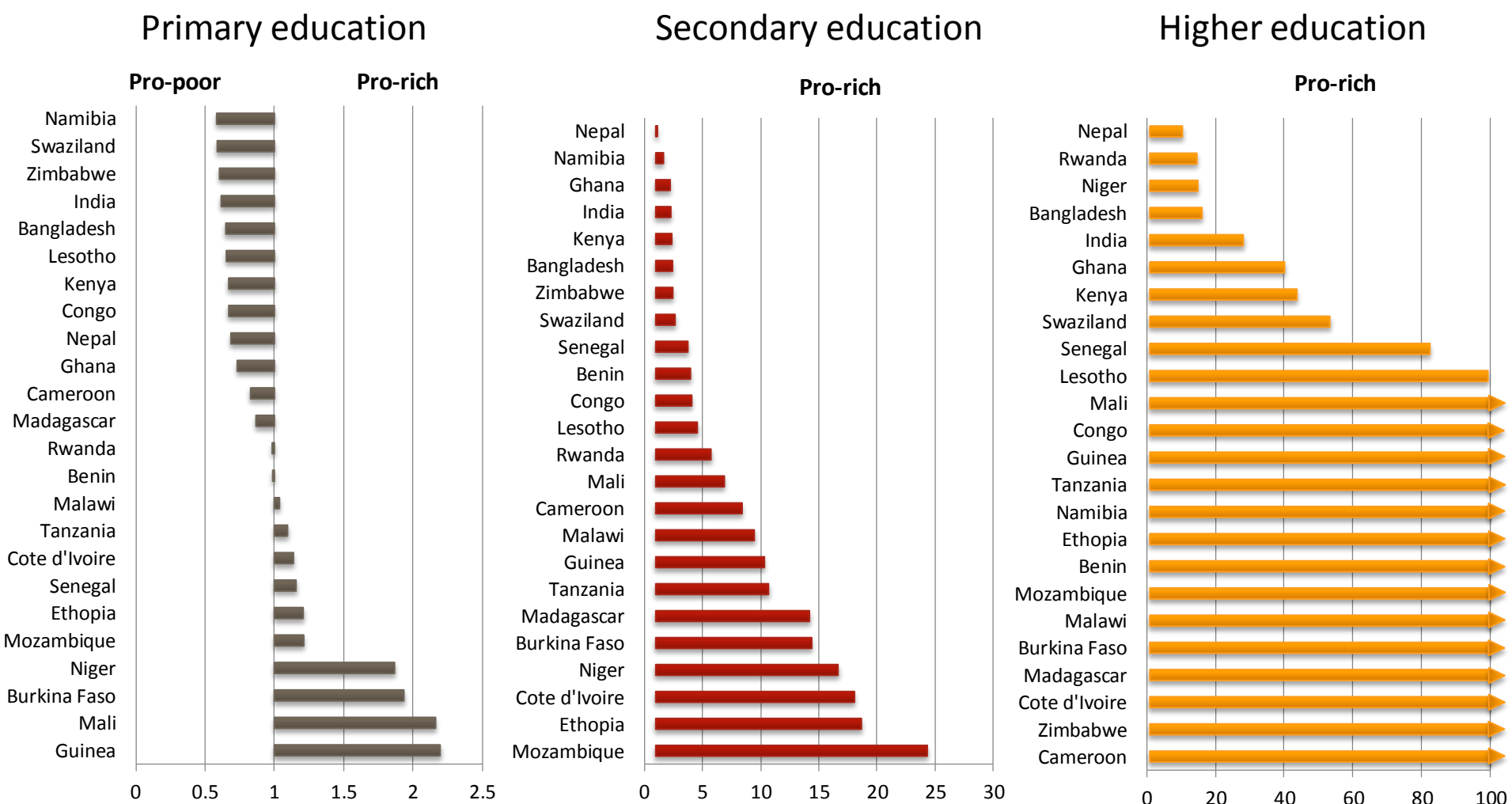


# Ratio of education spending on richest 20% vs poorest 20%



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics database

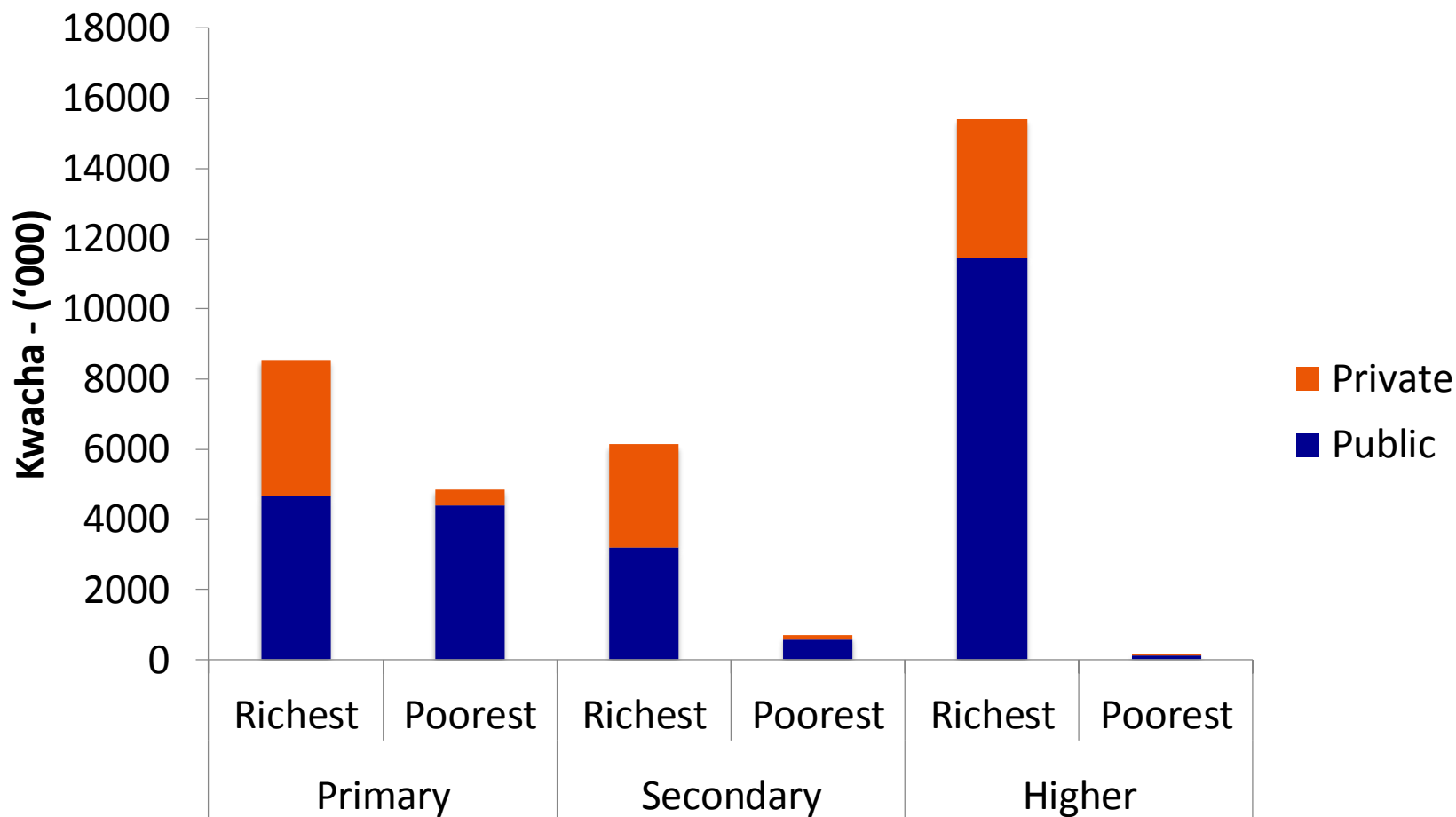
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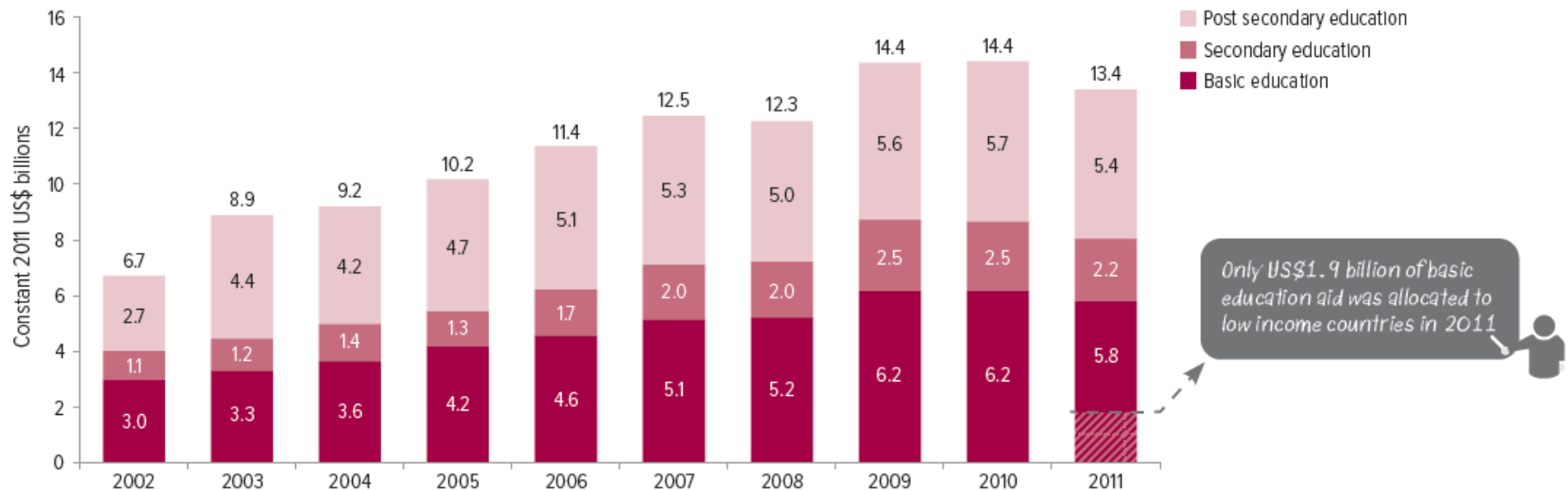
# Malawi spends almost 3x on richest in higher education than on poorest in primary

Malawi: Public & private education expenditure



# Aid for HE equivalent to aid for basic education

Total aid to education disbursements, 2002–2011

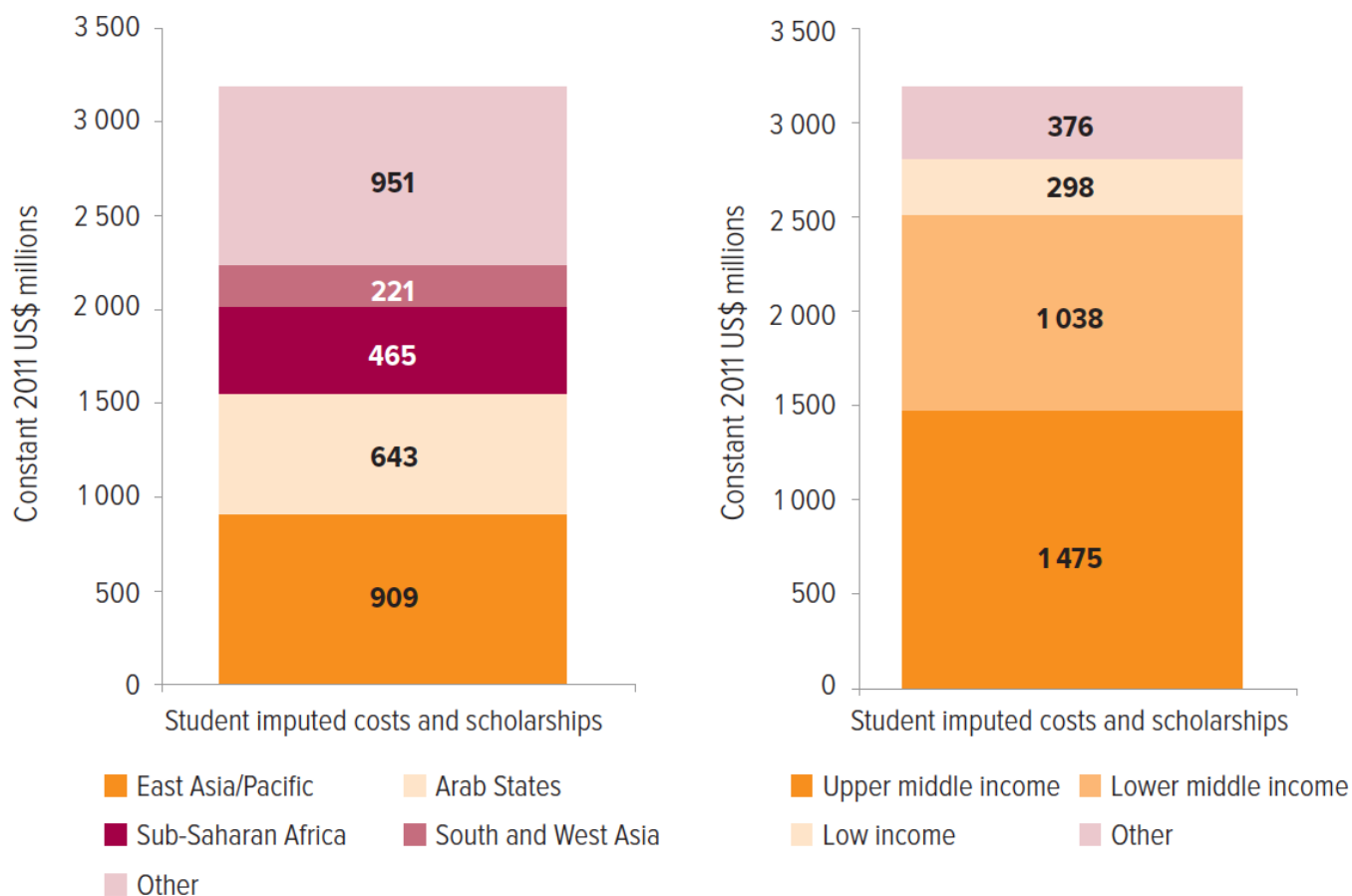


Source: OECD-DAC (2013).

Source: 2013/4 EFA Global Monitoring Report

# Middle income countries benefit most from aid to scholarships

Education aid spent on scholarships and student imputed costs, 2010–2011



Source: 2013/4 EFA Global Monitoring Report

# Messages

- Investment in HE is vital for economic growth
- But: given low levels of primary and secondary enrolment among poorest, public spending on HE is often regressive
- So: public spending (and aid) needs to focus on primary and secondary education, with attention to addressing inequalities
- Need alternative approaches to financing HE, with subsidies for poor
- Aid to HE needs to re-orientate spending within the low-income countries
- Private HE is growing rapidly in some of the poorest countries – but often unregulated; need to pay attention to its quality