

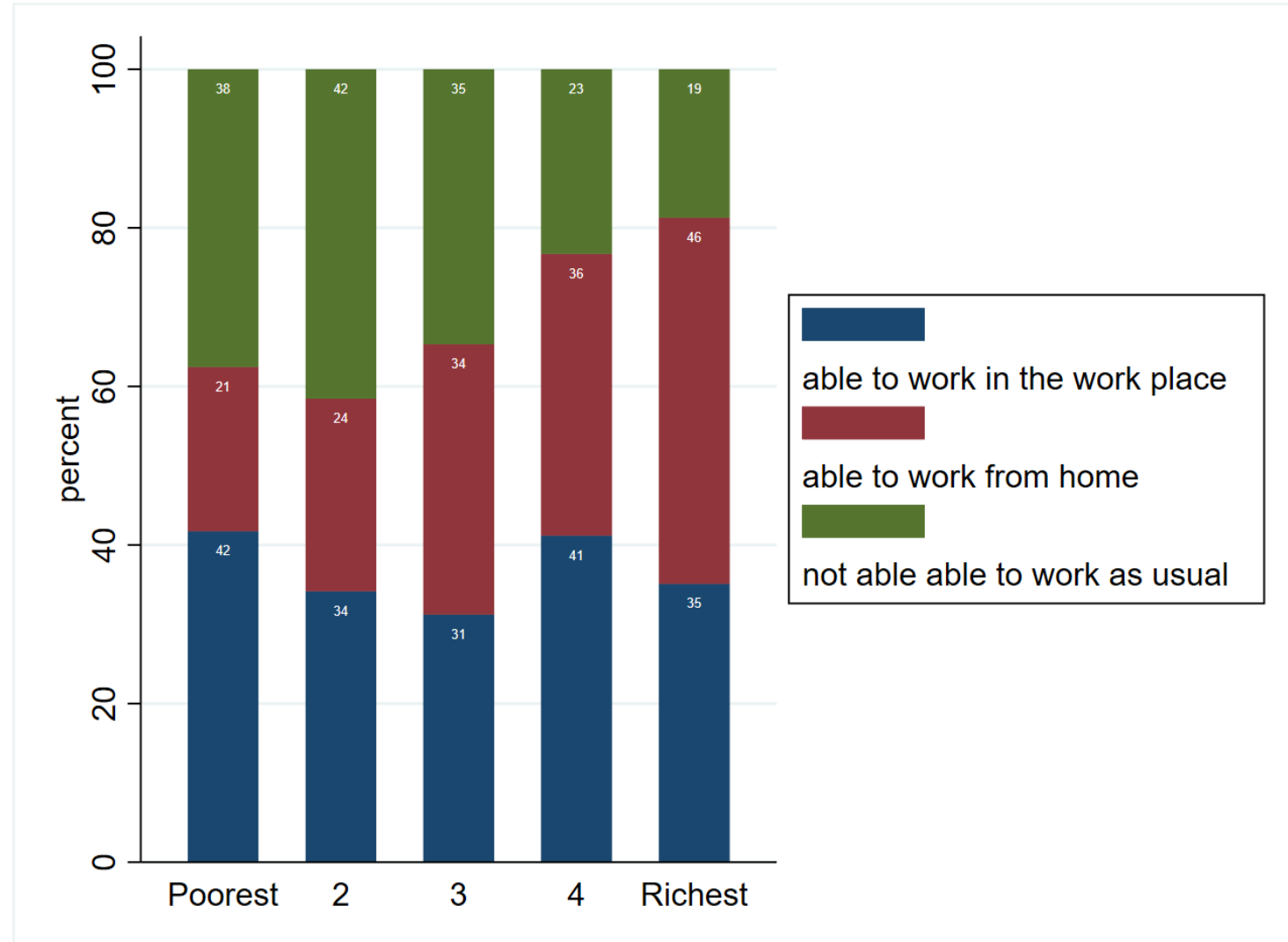
#CloseTheGap: Accelerating post-pandemic recovery through social justice



COVID-19: A Great Economic (Un)Equalizer?

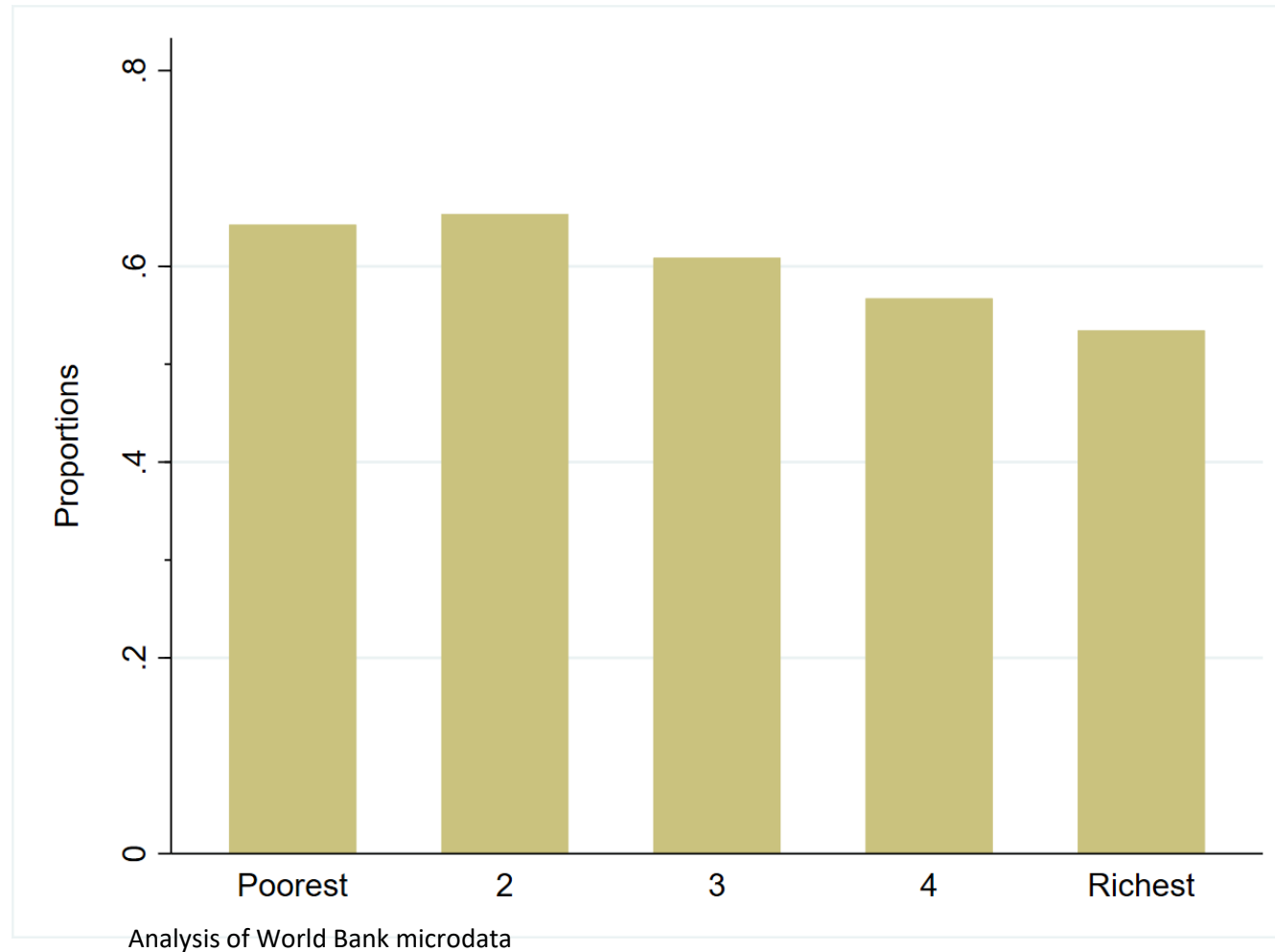
- The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted certain individuals and groups
- The pandemic reinforced the imbalances in power and resource distributions relative to technology and knowledge divides, supply chain disruptions, and demographic and rural-urban disparities.

Risk of exposure varies by socio-economic status



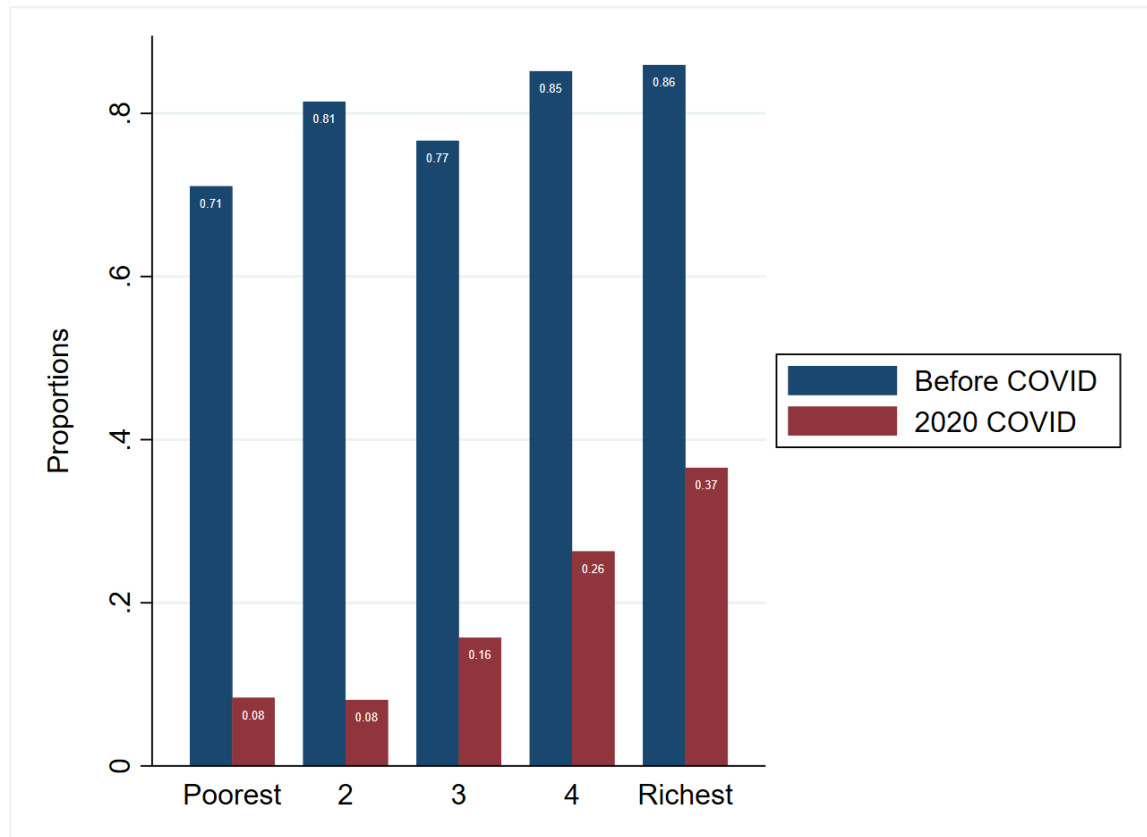
Differential impact on income

Proportion of household reporting reduction of income in 2020

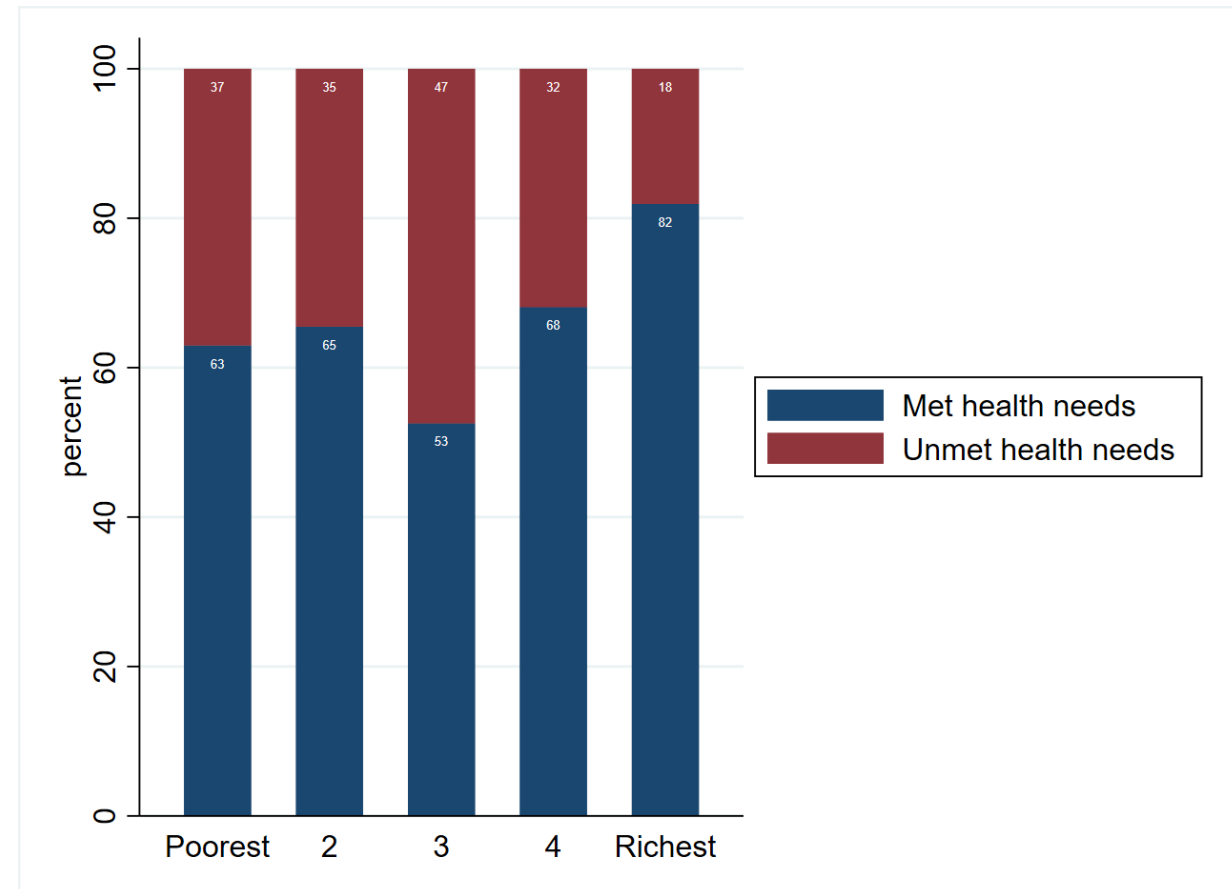


Differential impact on health and education

School attendance



Healthcare access



The COVID-19 has exacerbated deep-seated structural inequities

Social

Political

Economic

Environmental

Work conditions

Living conditions

Education/learning
conditions

Uneven risk of disease burden and uneven pandemic
recovery within groups

What is #SocialJustice?

- Fair distribution of economic benefits (UN-DESA 2006), ensuring social and economic stability (Calalang v Williams 1940)
- International declarations such as the Charter of United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Copenhagen Declaration, and the UN Millennium Declaration among others.
- Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, and the *Ambisyon Natin 2040*

#SocialJustice at the forefront of post-COVID recovery (1)

- COVID-19 has led to a renewed sense of urgency to respond to underlying and structural inequities and injustices:
 - First: Rethinking how our economies are structured (e.g., moving towards “stakeholder capitalism”, changing labor arrangements and conditions, fairer taxation, and moving towards higher public spending on health through universal health coverage).

#SocialJustice at the forefront of post-COVID recovery (2)

- COVID-19 has led to a renewed sense of urgency to respond to underlying and structural inequities and injustices:
 - Second: reinforcing the needs of the most excluded should be placed front and center (e.g., informal sector workers, women)
 - Third: renewing commitment to climate and environmental justice (e.g., the new found appreciation with the environment during lockdowns; protecting groups prone to environmental injustice (indigenous people))

#SocialJustice at the forefront of post-COVID recovery (3)

- COVID-19 has led to a renewed sense of urgency to respond to underlying and structural inequities and injustices:
 - Fourth: facilitating international cooperation (e.g., veering away from nationalism).
 - Fifth: Committing to protect civic freedom (e.g., access to information, demanding accountability)

#SocialJustice: thematic areas

**Labor and
education**

Public health

Environment

#SocialJustice: public health

- While the health of the richest 20% of Filipinos are similar to most UMICs, the poorest 20% are comparable to **Sub-Saharan Africa**
- The Philippines is one of the countries with the largest absolute gap between the poorest and richest group for some key health indicators.
- High level of catastrophic health spending especially among the poor
- Health inequalities could be attributed to poor and unequal access to basic healthcare services, and unequal social determinants of health (e.g., environment and sanitation and income and education)

#SocialJustice: education and labor

- **Labor**

- Majority of Filipinos are employed in occupations that require general skills
- High level of skills mismatch
- Increasing high value jobs (e.g., ICT) but new forms of arrangements that increase the informality and precarity of work. Hence, limited social protection and benefits

- **Education**

- Significant disparities in education outcomes (both quality and quantity) , which further exacerbated by the pandemic because of digital divide and other socio-economic barriers

#SocialJustice: environment

- Marginalized groups still feel the heaviest brunt of external shocks with farmers, fisherfolks, and individuals residing in rural communities still posting the highest poverty incidences
- Indigenous peoples further suffer the consequences of negative environment-related externalities given their compromised access to support provisions, resources and facilities

Thank you