



Sierra Leone's Water and Sanitation Inequality Gap

We are **four** years into the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of these global goals, governments have committed to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

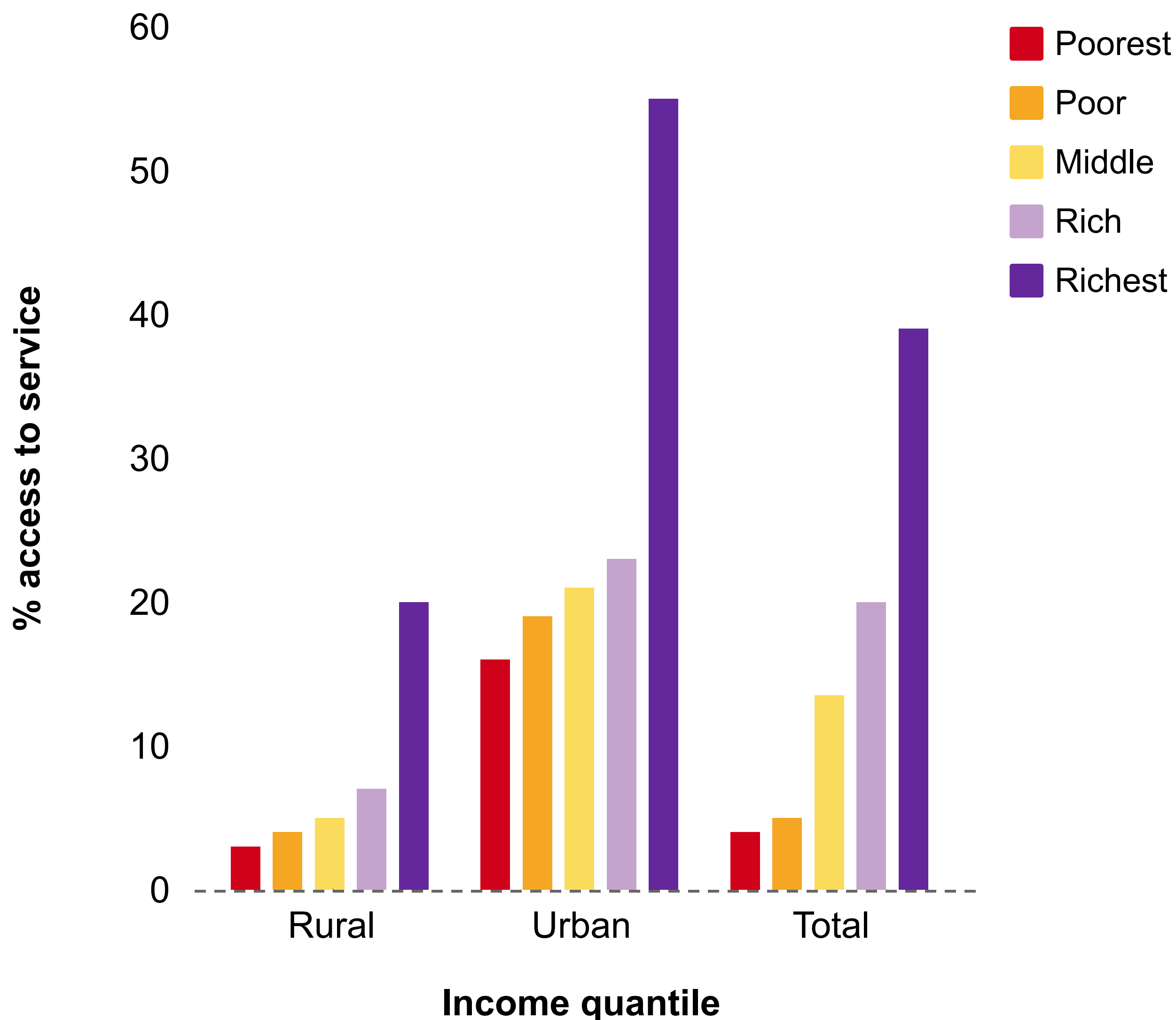
A vital aspect of the SDGs is the use of the human rights framework. The promise to ‘leave no one behind’ has been a central element in the pursuit to achieve these global goals by 2030. The review of SDG10 (reducing inequalities) in 2019 offers the opportunity to identify how inequalities manifest in access levels to basic services at the national level.

To measure SDG6 progress levels, indicators and service ladders were developed to guide governments and their delegated institutions. This country profile explores the inequalities found in Sierra Leone based on these guidelines and indicators.

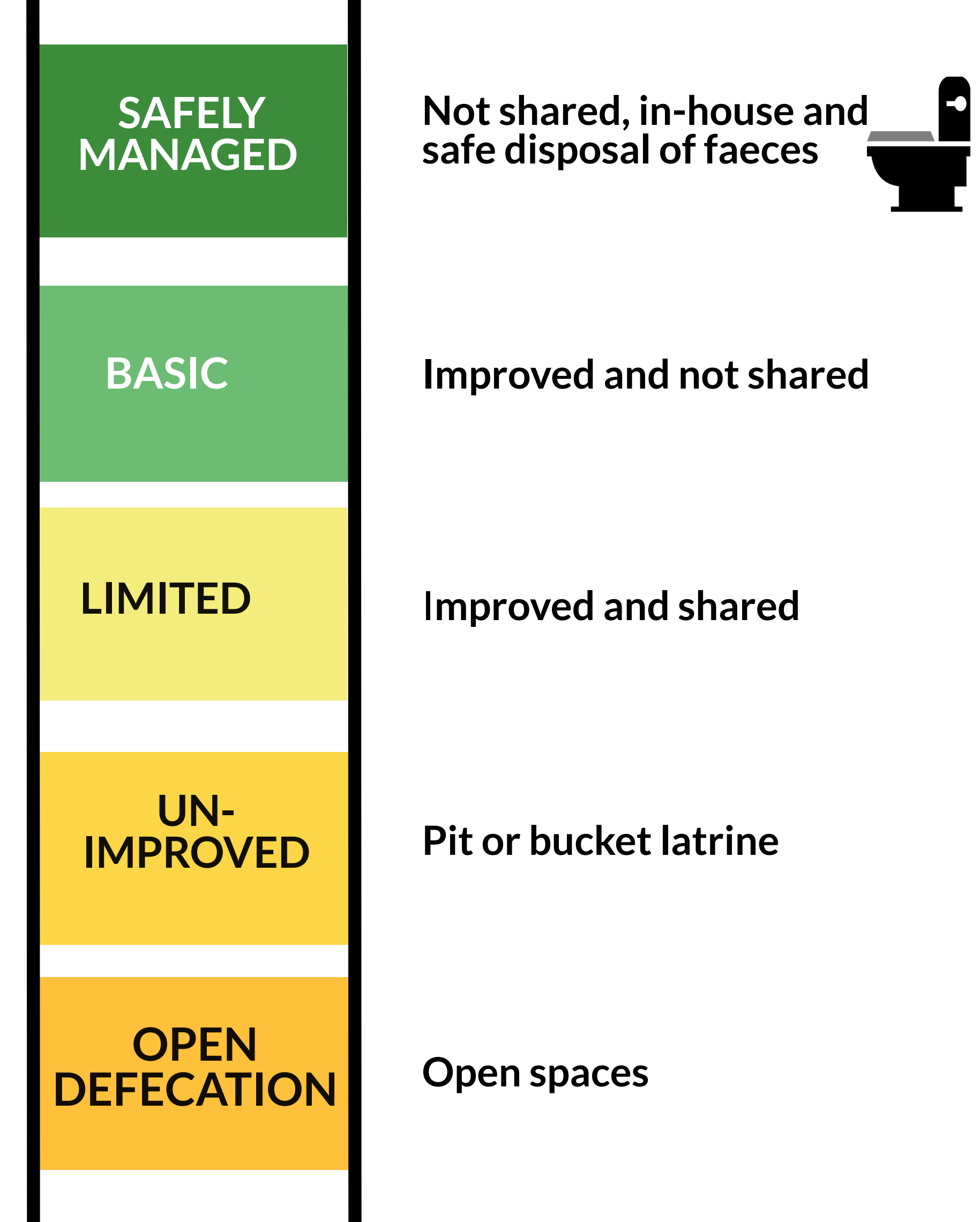
The Basic Sanitation Inequality Gap

The gap in access to basic sanitation between the urban richest and rural poor is a colossal **52%**. The low access levels for sanitation will exacerbate existing inequalities and acts as a barrier to human dignity, good health across the population, economic development, and secured livelihoods.

Sierra Leone Basic Sanitation Inequalities Chart



Sanitation Service Ladder





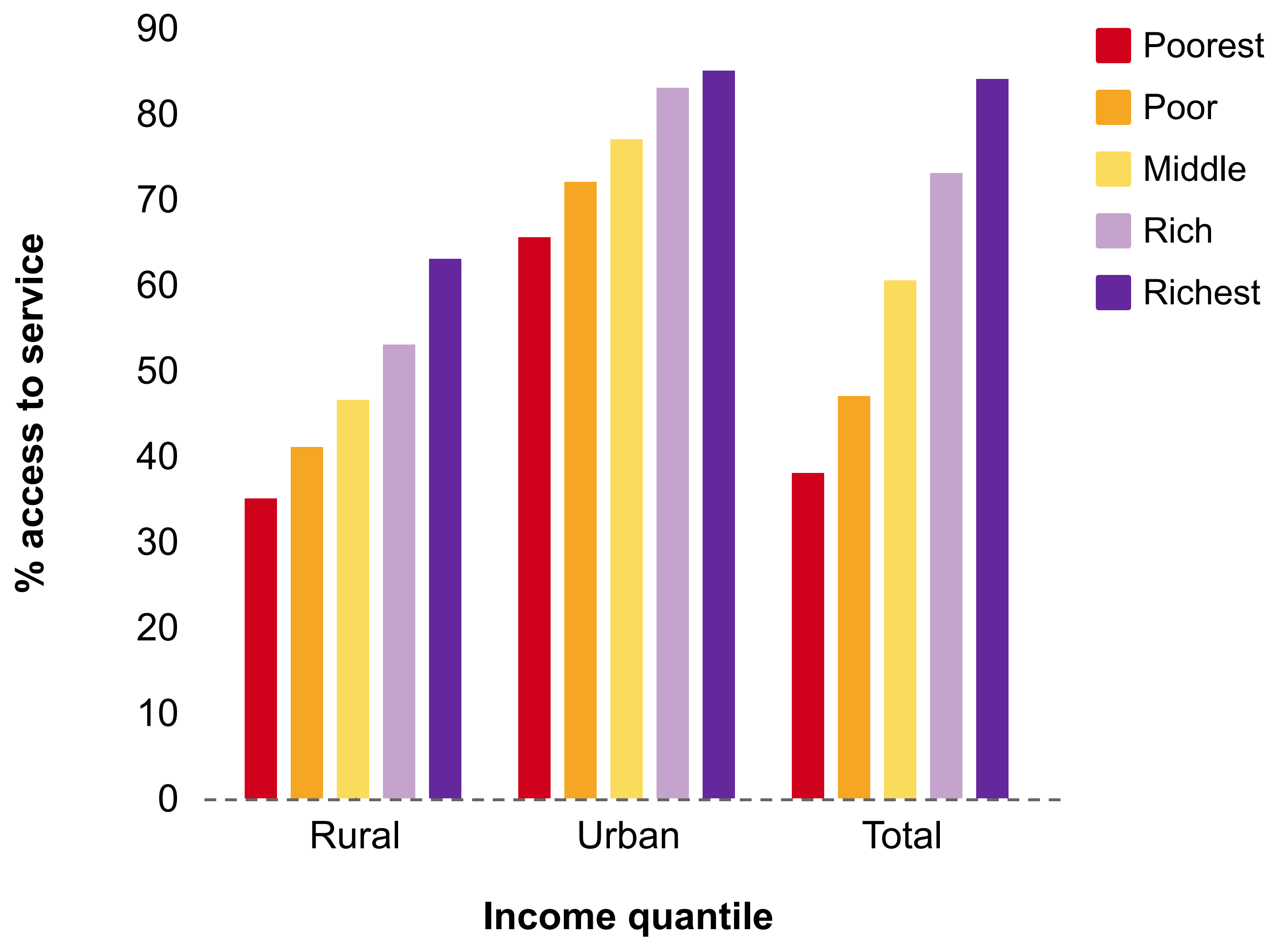
Available 24/7, no contamination and located on premises

Water Service Ladder



Basic water access levels in Sierra Leone are similar to basic sanitation. There is a huge gap of **50%** in access to basic water between the richest and poorest. This directly contradicts the principles of human rights articulated within Sierra Leone's National Water Policy.

Sierra Leone Basic Water Inequalities Chart



Disclaimer: Data for this profile was sourced from www.washdata.org, they are not responsible for the interpretation of the data in this document. We rounded off decimals where they were less than 0.5 or over than 0.5.

Recommendations

While Sierra Leone's National Water Policy committed to "access to safe and adequate water to meet basic human needs is a fundamental human right", there are gross inequalities between who has access to these basic services. Our recommendations are:

1. A greater focus on who benefits from investments and resource allocation in the water and sanitation sectors, in both rural and urban areas.
2. Inclusion and involvement of marginalised groups in the planning, implementation and review stages of pro-poor investments in water and sanitation services. In Sierra Leone, it is clear that the rural poor have been left behind. Improving access levels to water and sanitation services for these groups will be central to the achievement of the National Water Policy.
3. The creation and allocation of a global public fund consisting 2% of GDP contributions and global profits of corporations to fund public goods and social services such as water and sanitation. Once created, this fund would be critical in providing a reliable and low risk funding instrument to meet the investment requirement to deliver services for the poorest and most marginalised. There is the need to step up investment for the sector.

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