



# Sources for sick child care in Zambia

*One in a series of analyses by SHOPS Plus*

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**USAID**  
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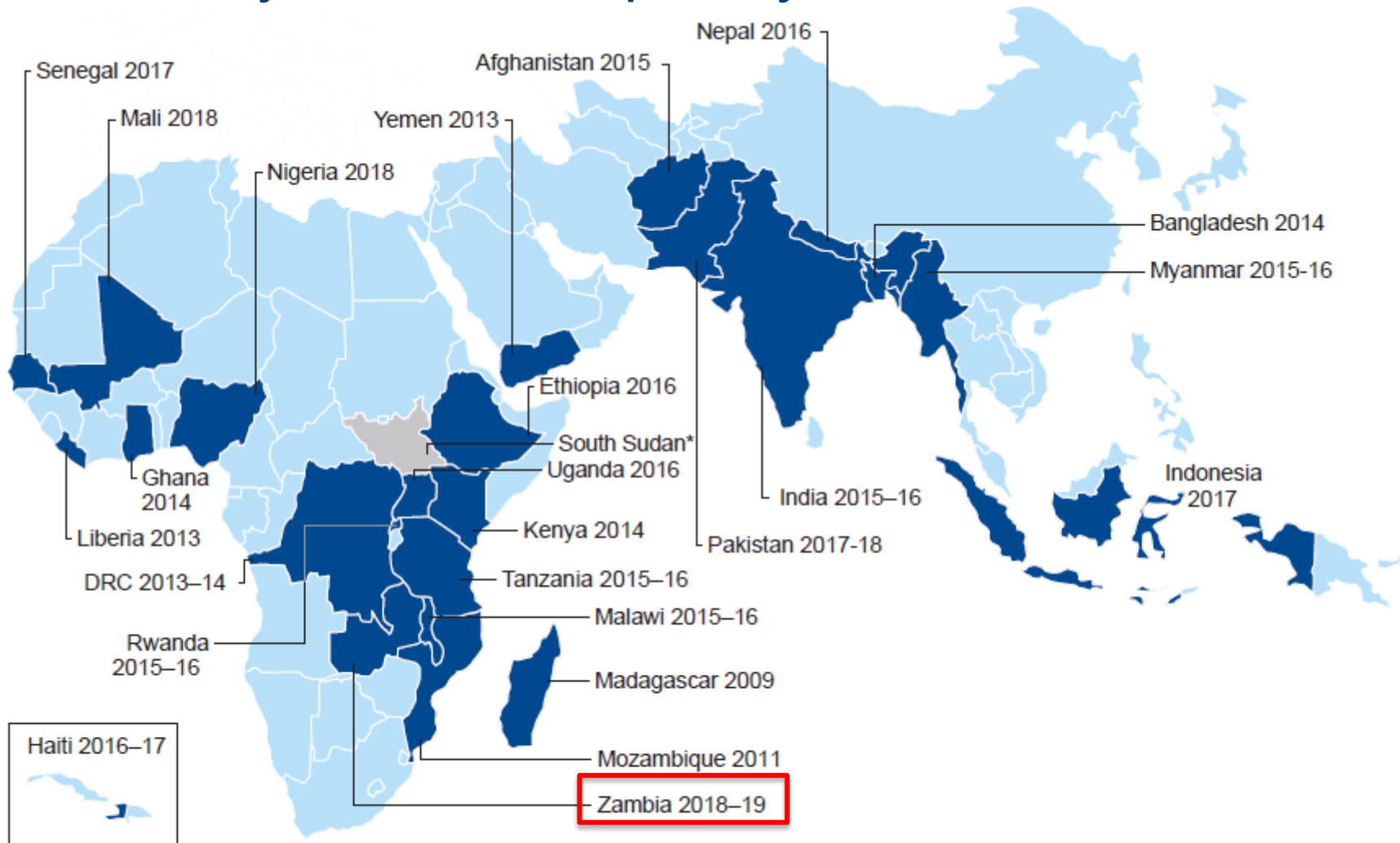
## Purpose of this analysis

- Understand whether and where Zambian caregivers seek advice and treatment for their sick children
- Examine differences in care-seeking patterns by illness and socioeconomic levels, and within public and private sectors
- Share data in a usable format
- **Inform policies and programs to prevent child deaths**





# Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data analyzed from 24 priority countries



\*No DHS data are available for South Sudan.



## Zambia 2018-19 DHS data: Interviews with mothers of young children

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Mothers of children five years old or younger were asked:

- Whether their children had experienced fever, symptoms of acute respiratory infection (ARI), or diarrhea in the past two weeks
  - If yes, asked whether they had sought advice or treatment from any source
    - If yes, asked where they had sought advice or treatment



## This analysis will tell you:

1. What percentage of children in Zambia experience fever, ARI symptoms, and/or diarrhea?
2. What percentage of caregivers seek advice or treatment outside the home for children with these illnesses?
3. Among those who seek out-of-home care, what are the sources?
  - a) Public, private, other
  - b) Clinical vs. non-clinical
4. How do patterns of care-seeking vary by:
  - a) Illness: fever, ARI, diarrhea
  - b) Countries within the East and Southern Africa region
  - c) Wealth quintile: poorest and wealthiest Zambians



How frequently do children in  
Zambia experience fever,  
ARI symptoms, and/or  
diarrhea?

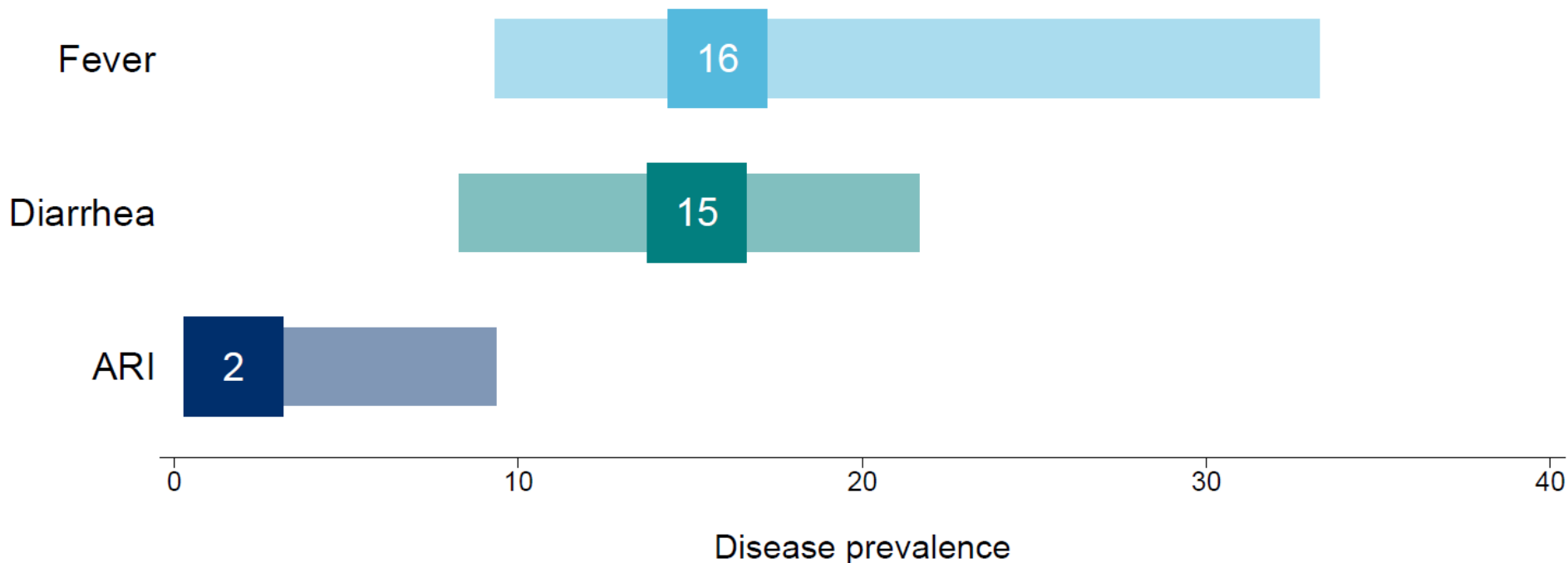




## Zambia's childhood disease prevalence is mid-range among countries in East and Southern Africa

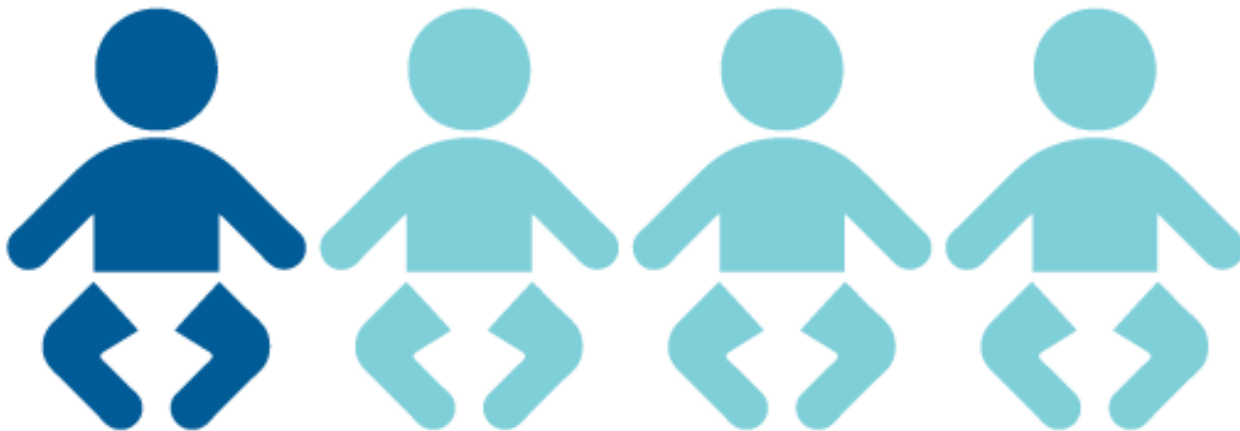
Bar shows **range** across East and Southern African USAID priority countries; squares show **Zambia**

### Illness prevalence: Zambia and East and Southern Africa





**1 out of 4 children in Zambia experienced fever, ARI symptoms, and/or diarrhea in the last 2 weeks.**





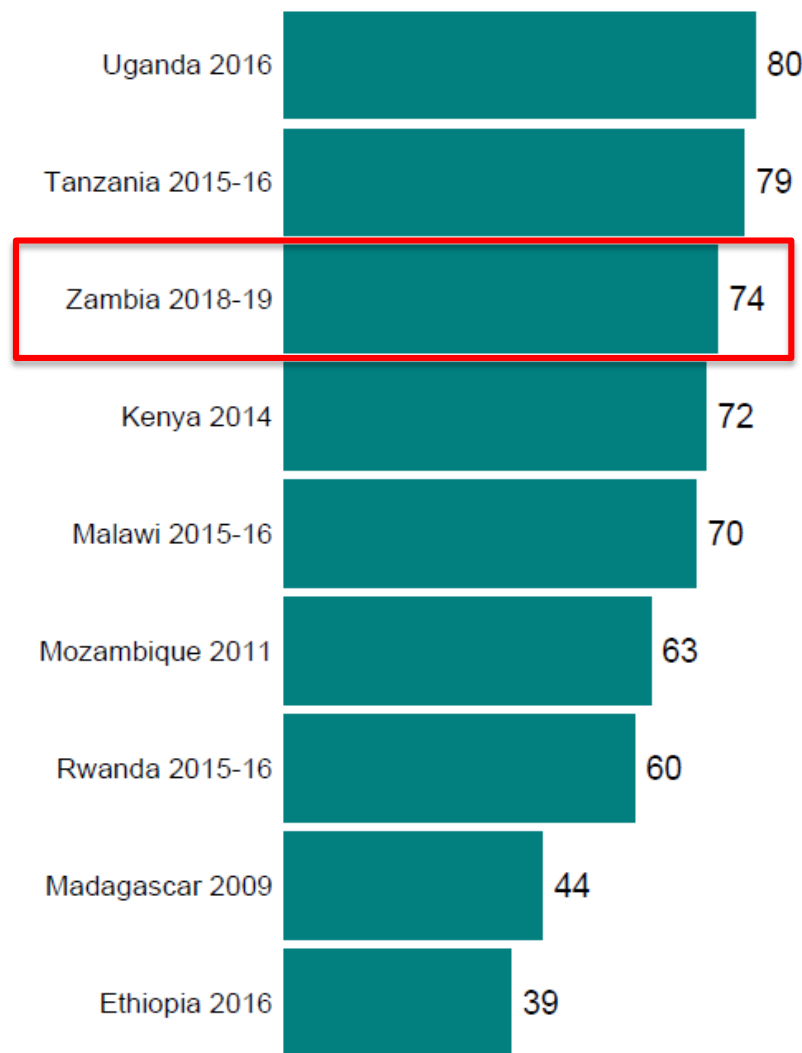


How frequently is out-of-home  
care sought for Zambian  
children with these illnesses?





## Zambia's care-seeking level is higher than that of most of its neighbors



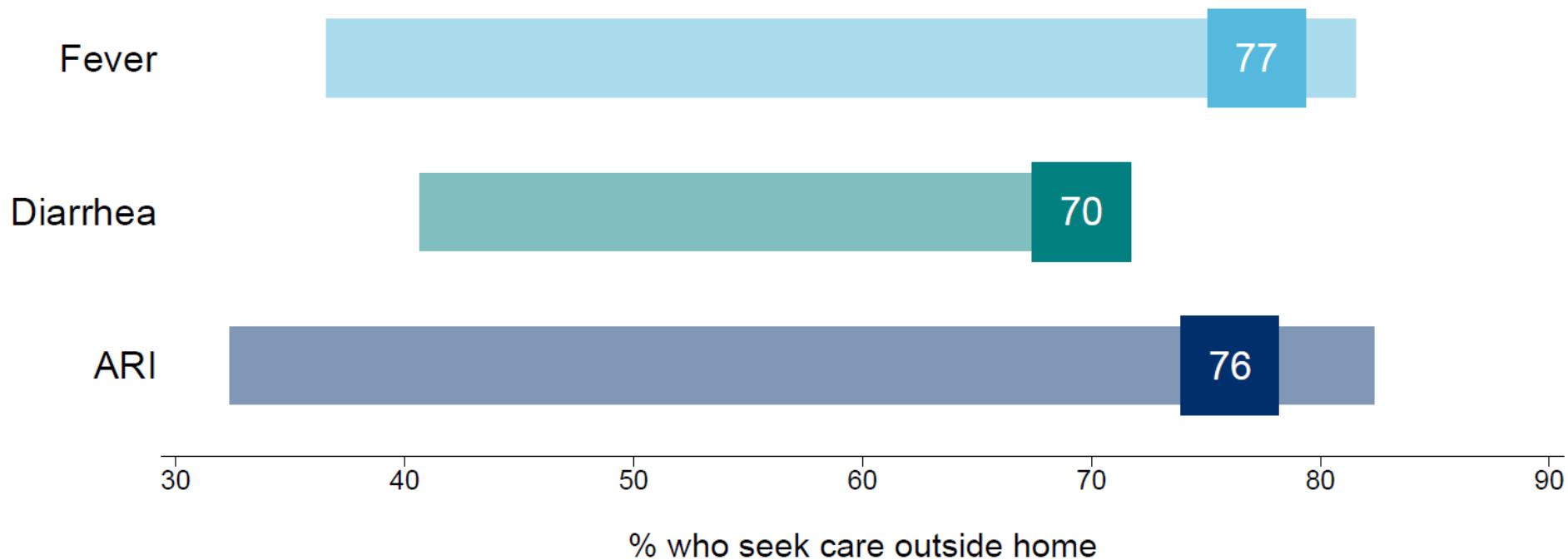
% of caregivers who seek treatment for children with any of the three illnesses in each of the East and Southern African USAID priority countries analyzed



# Zambia has **higher** care-seeking levels compared to most USAID priority countries in East and Southern Africa, across illnesses

*Bars show **range** across East and Southern African USAID priority countries; squares show **Zambia**.*

## Caregivers who seek care outside the home: Zambia and East and Southern Africa





Among Zambians who seek  
out-of-home care, what are the  
sources?

Public, private, other



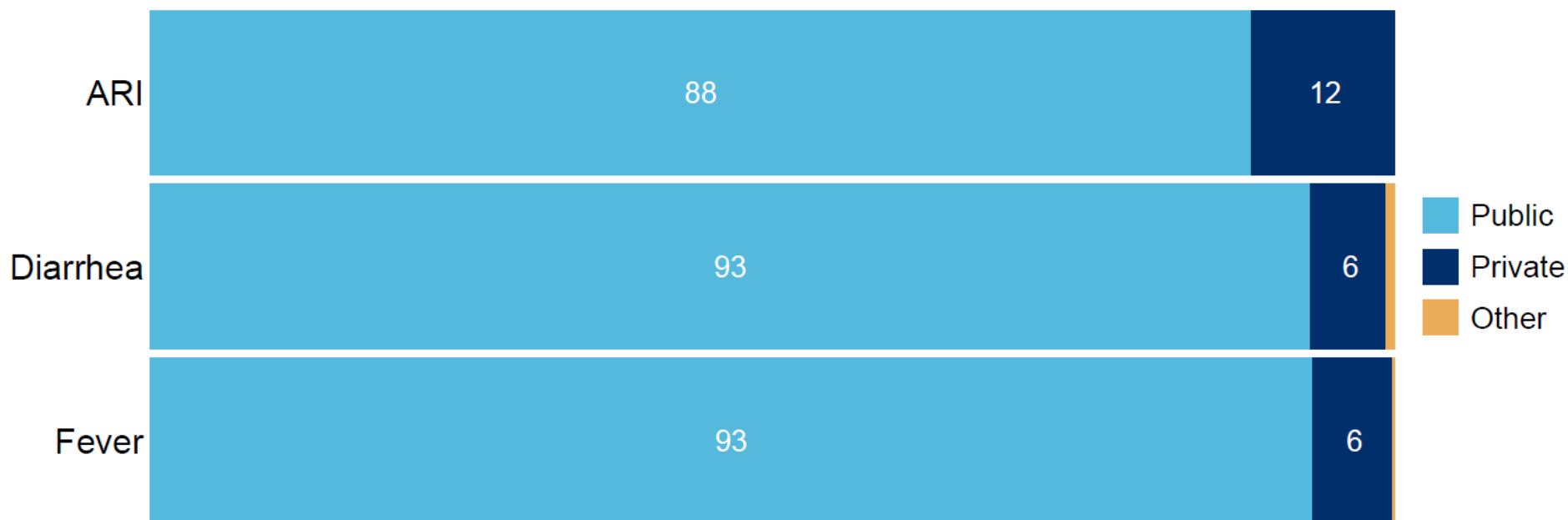


## Sources of care

Public sector	Private sector	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Hospitals</li><li>· Health centers</li><li>· Health posts</li><li>· Mobile clinics</li><li>· Community-based agents</li><li>· Field workers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Private clinics, hospitals, mobile clinics, and doctors</li><li>· Faith-based organizations</li><li>· Pharmacies, shops, markets, and itinerant drug sellers</li><li>· Private community-based agents and field workers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Traditional practitioners</li></ul>



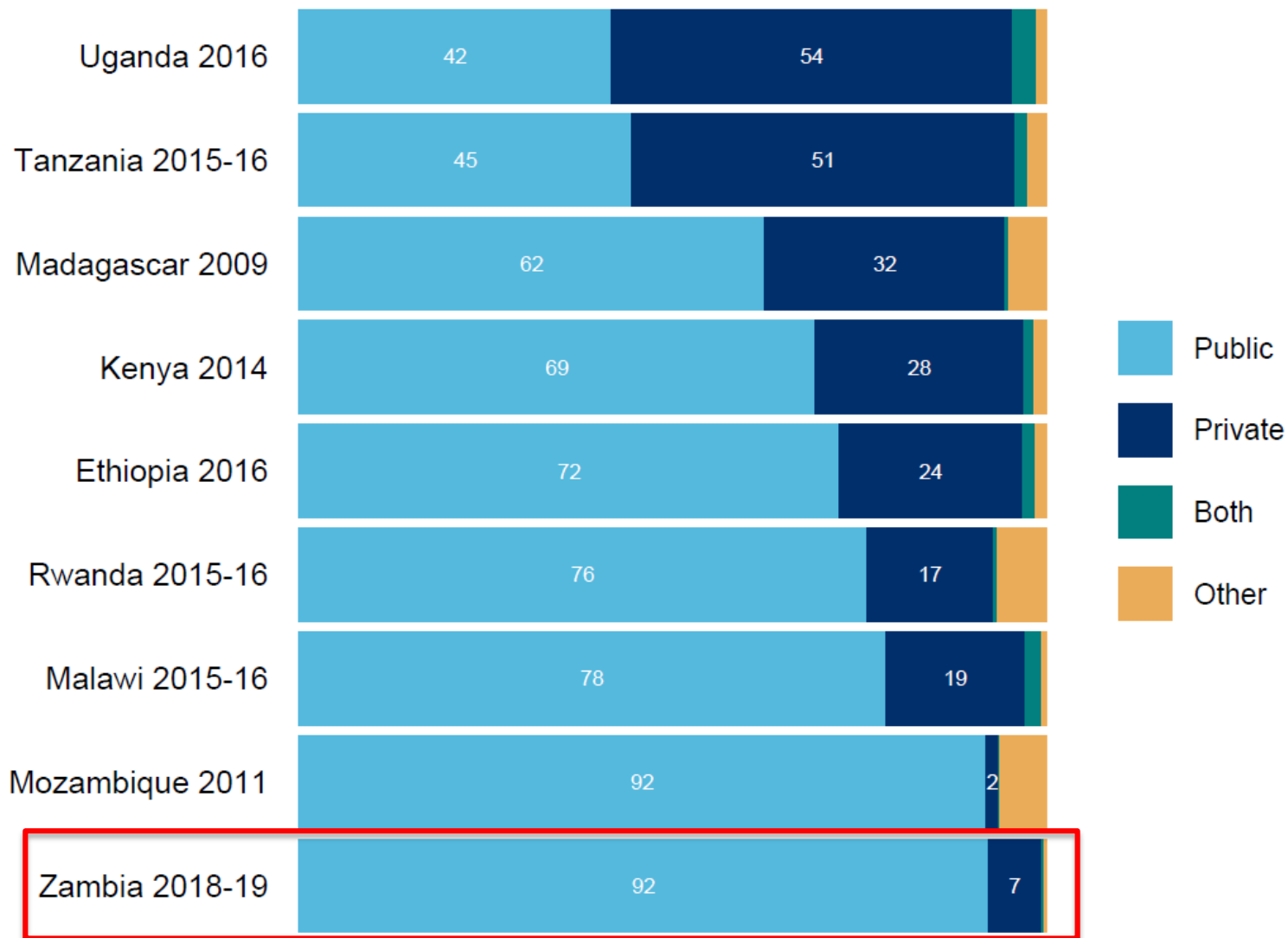
## Across all three illnesses, the **public** sector is the **dominant** source of care in Zambia



Source among Zambians who seek sick child care outside the home



# Zambia has high **public** sector use among priority countries in the region





Among caregivers who seek sick child care outside the home, **7%** seek treatment or advice from private sector sources and **92%** from public sector sources.



■ Public source

■ Private source

■ Other





# Sources of care: Clinical versus non-clinical





## Sources of care: Clinical and non-clinical

	<b>Public sector</b>	<b>Private sector</b>
<b>Clinical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Hospitals</li><li>· Health centers</li><li>· Health posts</li><li>· Mobile clinics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Private clinics, hospitals, doctors, and mobile clinics</li><li>· Faith-based organizations</li></ul>
<b>Non-clinical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Community-based agents</li><li>· Field workers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Pharmacies, shops, markets, and itinerant drug sellers</li><li>· Private community-based agents</li><li>· Private field workers</li></ul>



**Clinical** care is dominant in the **public** sector;  
**clinical** and **non-clinical** care are split more evenly  
in the **private** sector

**Public sector:**

96%

Clinical



4%

Non-clinical



**Private sector:**

59%

Clinical



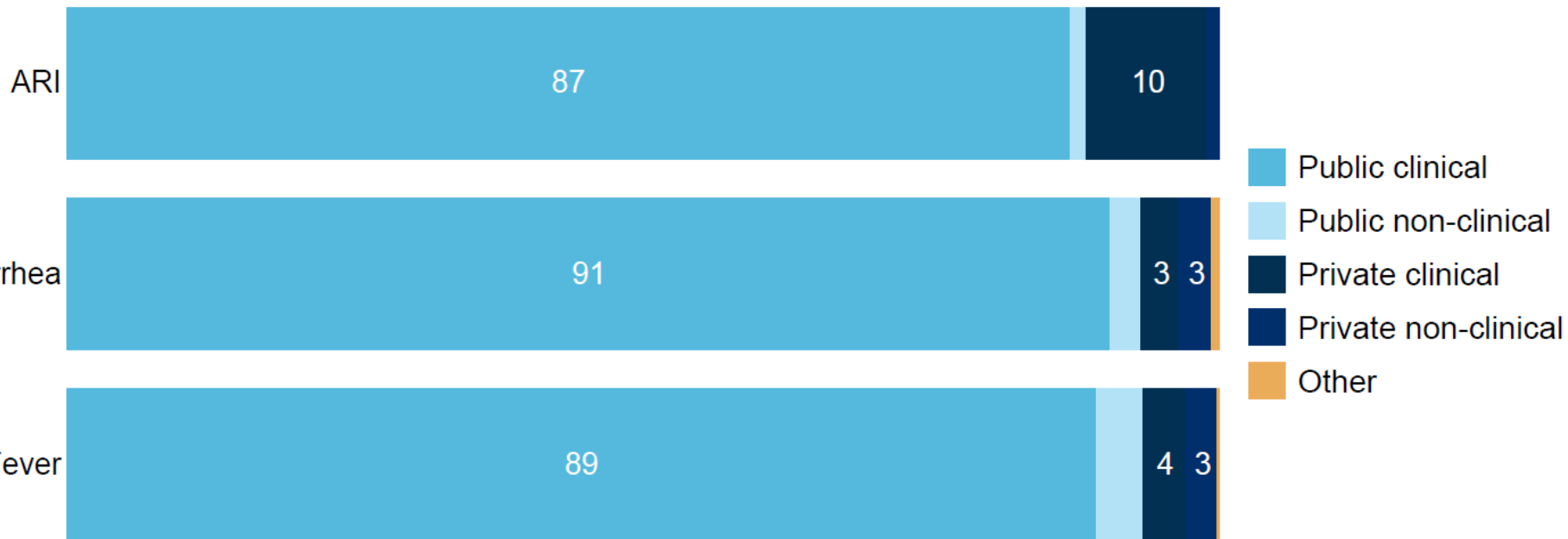
41%

Non-clinical





## By illness: *Little variation* in clinical vs. non-clinical sources of care



Source among Zambians who seek sick child care outside the home



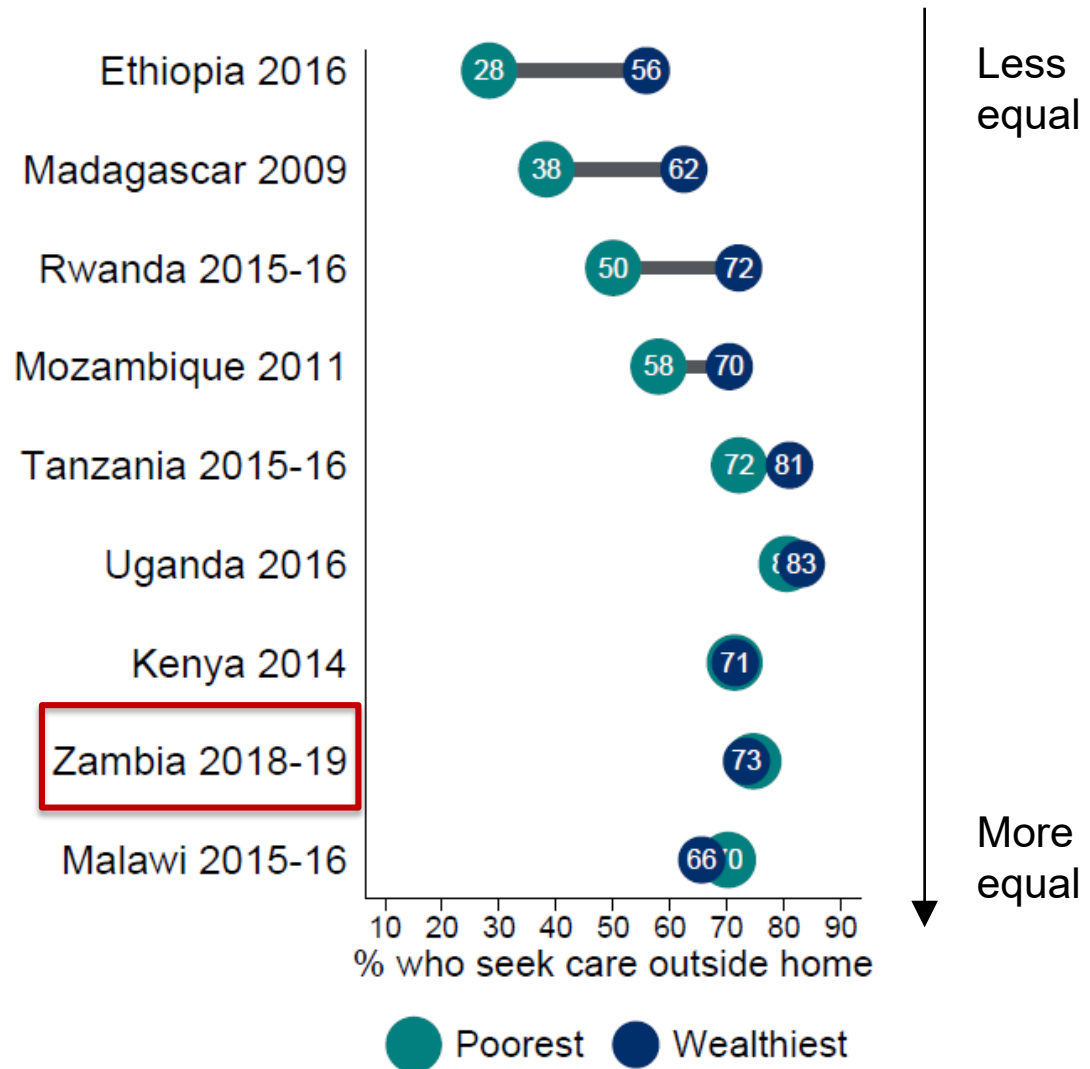
How do patterns of care-seeking vary between the poorest and wealthiest  
Zambians?





# Care-seeking levels are fairly **equal** among the poorest and wealthiest Zambians

- Wealthiest
- Poorest





# Public sector is dominant for **both poorer and wealthier** Zambians



Source among those who seek care outside the home

Q1 = poorest

Q5 = wealthiest



Public



Private



Both



Other

In Zambia, the public sector is dominant:

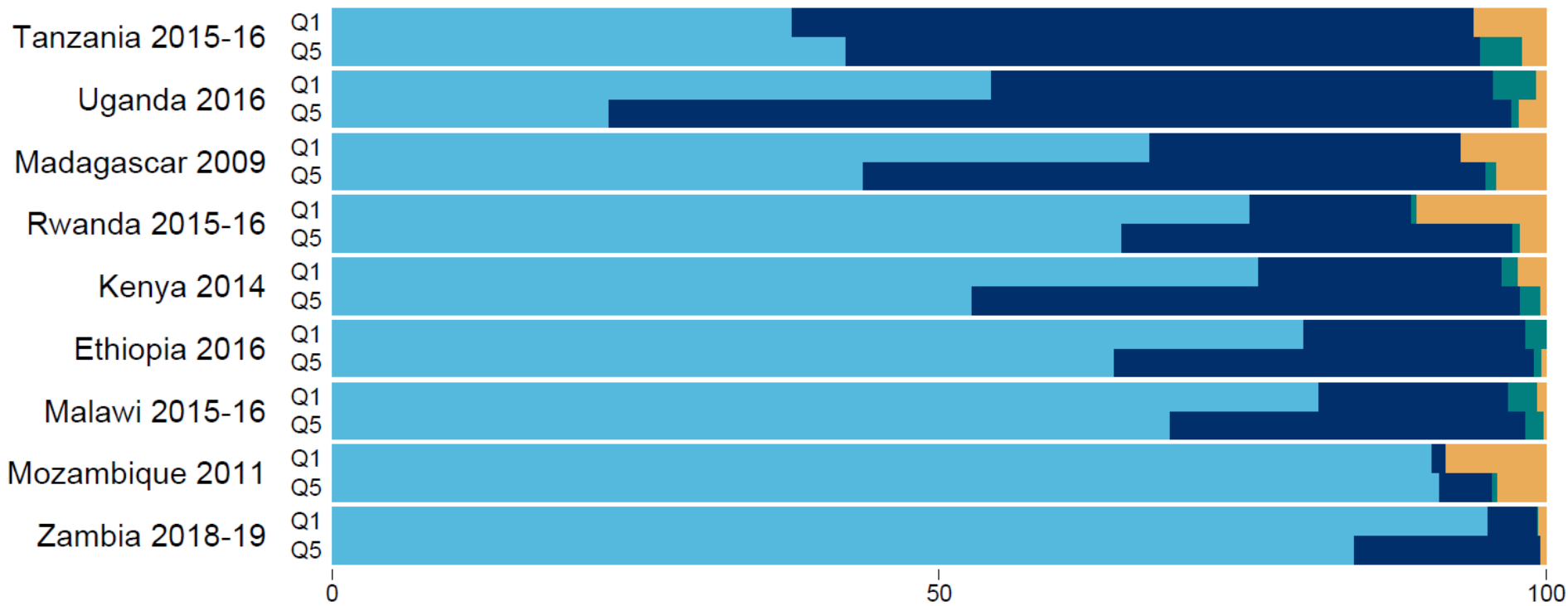
- 95% of poorest and 84% of wealthiest caregivers use the public sector

Private sector use is much less common, particularly among the poor:

- 4% of poorest and 15% of wealthiest caregivers use the private sector



# The **public** sector is dominant throughout the East and Southern Africa region, particularly in **Zambia**



Source among those who seek care outside the home

Q1 = poorest  
Q5 = wealthiest

Public Private Both Other





# Summary

- **1 out of 4** children experienced a treatable illness in the past two weeks
- **74%** of caregivers seek treatment outside the home
  - **7%** use the private sector
  - **92%** use the public sector
- **Public sector** is dominant
  - Zambia has one of the **highest** levels of public sector care-seeking compared to all other East and Southern African USAID priority countries
- Public sector remains dominant across income levels
  - **84%** of wealthiest and **95%** of poorest caregivers use the public sector
  - **4%** of poorest and **15%** of wealthiest use private sources
- Public clinical sources are dominant in Zambia
  - Private sector: **59%** use clinical sources; **41%** use non-clinical sources
  - Public sector: **96%** use clinical sources; **4%** use non-clinical sources



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## About SHOPS Plus

Sustaining Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) Plus is USAID's flagship initiative in private sector health. The project seeks to harness the full potential of the private sector and catalyze public-private engagement to improve health outcomes in family planning, HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, and other health areas. SHOPS Plus supports the achievement of US government health priorities and improves the equity and quality of the total health system.



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