Is it possible to accurately target 'the poor'?

We analysed which types of social protection programmes best reach 'the poorest' and most vulnerable:

23 countries

38 programmes

23 household surveys from 2010 - 2018

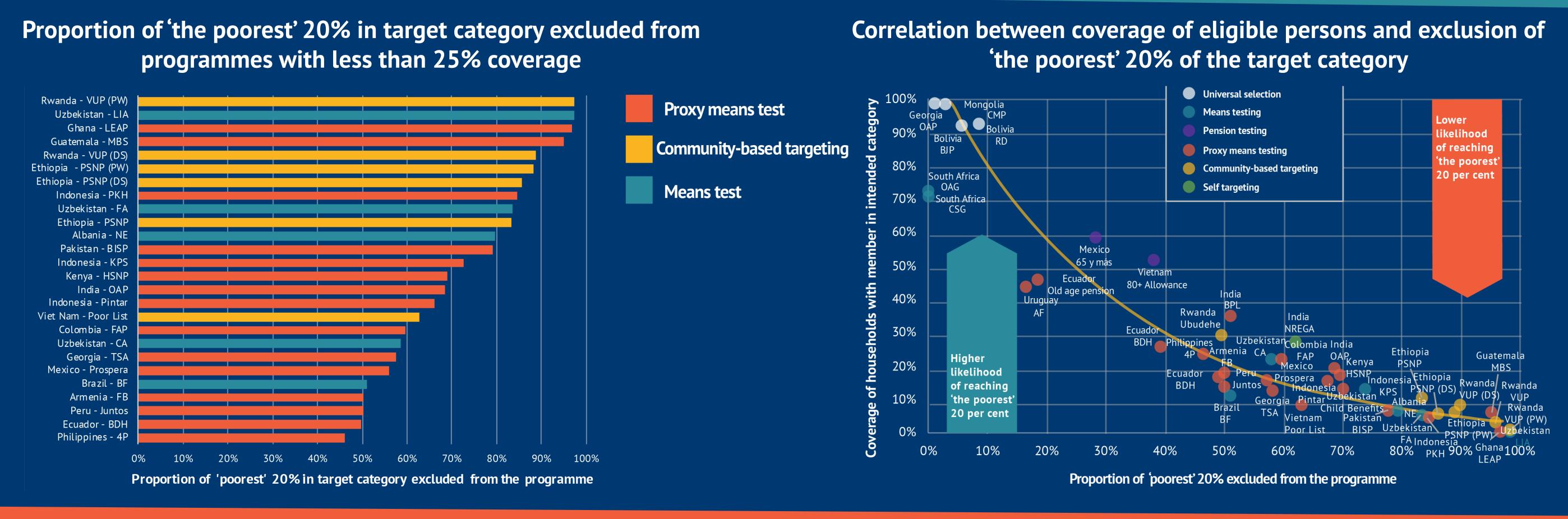
Using representative household surveys, the analysis assessed the targeting effectiveness of

social protection programmes by comparing programme participation across welfare percentiles.

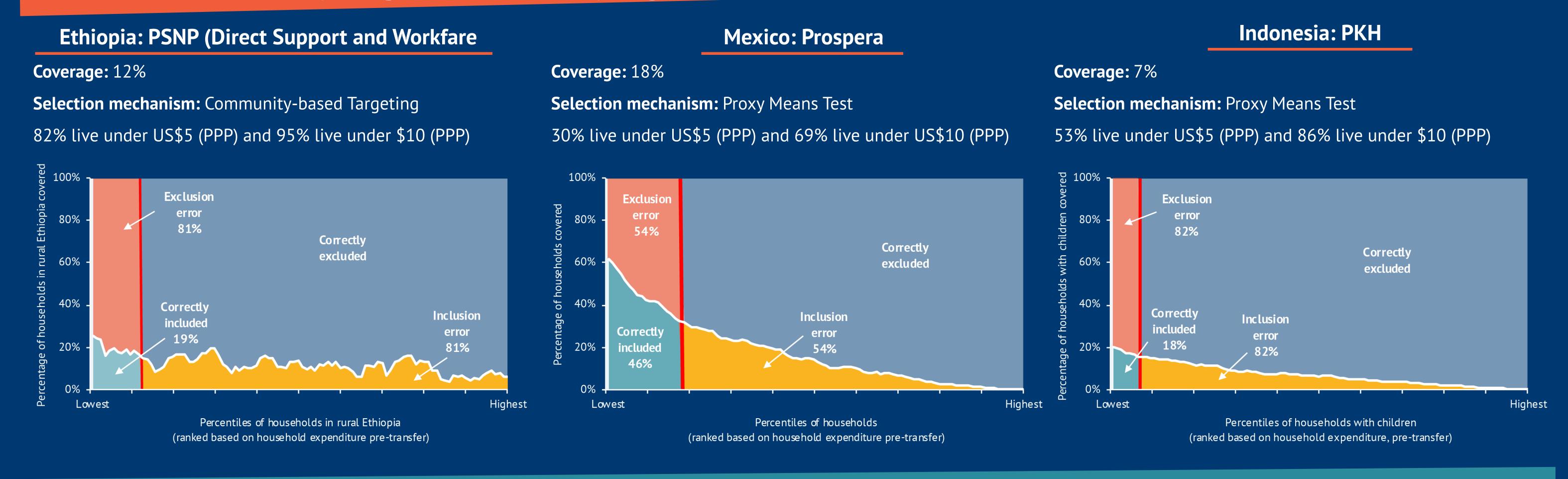


Church of Sweden 🛂

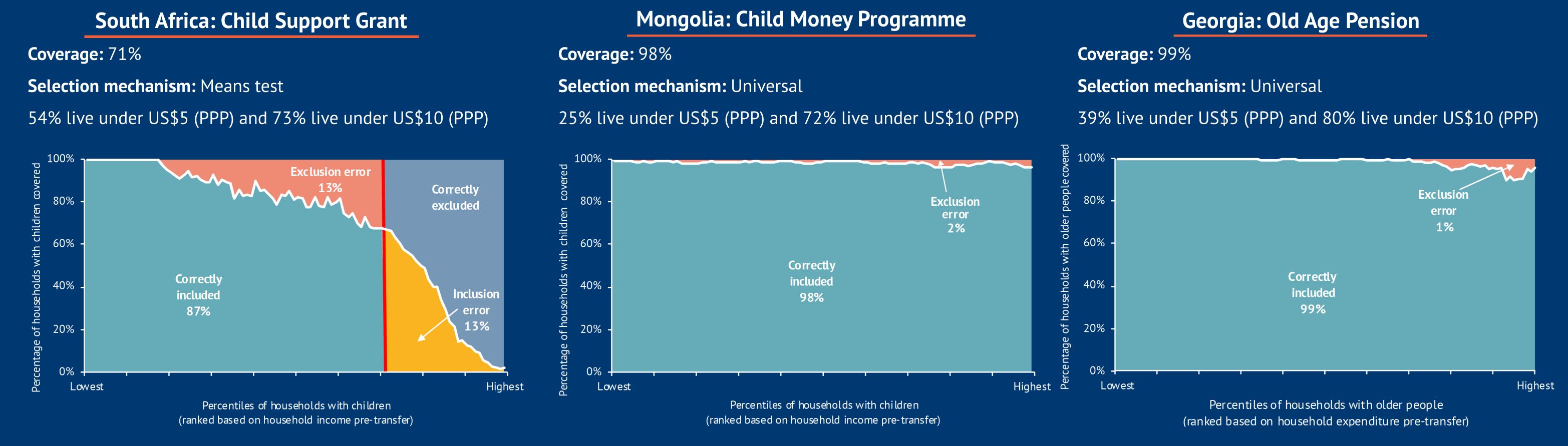
Higher coverage leads to lower exclusion errors – this means that schemes selecting a high proportion of the target population are more likely to include those most in need.



Even well known poverty-targeted schemes, which are thought to be effectively targeted, have very high errors.



Programmes with higher or universal coverage reach more of 'the poorest' and 'most vulnerable'. This means that they are better at reaching 'the poor' than poverty-targeted programmes.



If we want to reach all persons living in poverty, then social protection schemes must be universal.