

# 60 facts on wealth inequality



by Julius Baer Foundation

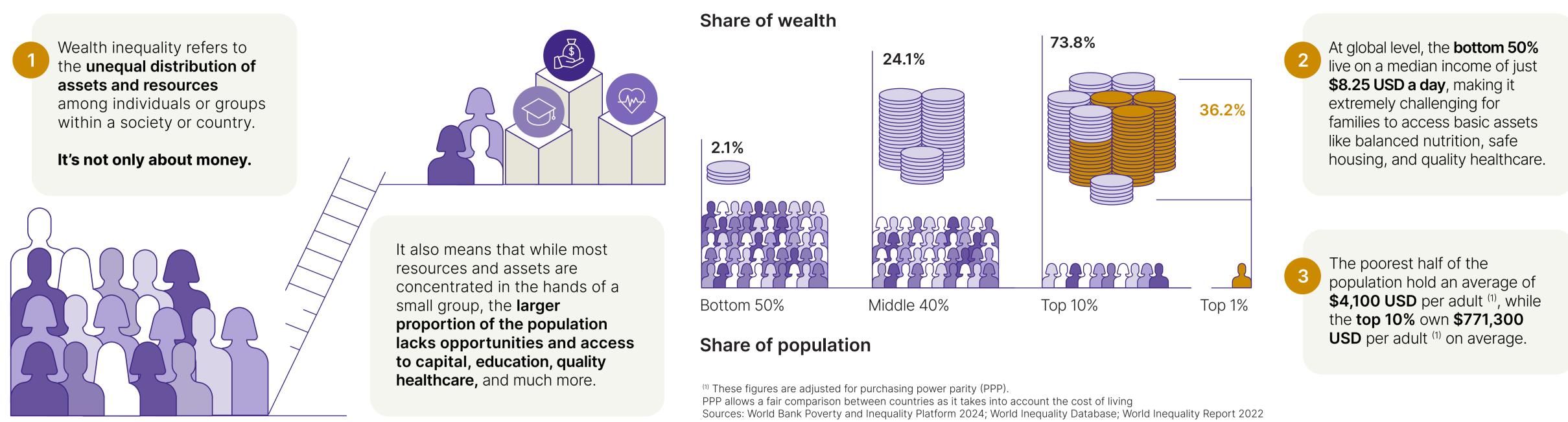
#### **Global view**

The Julius Baer Foundation's work focuses on reducing wealth inequality. To mark the Foundation's 60th anniversary, the '60 Facts' series shares 60 insights into this global challenge.

This infographic presents the first 10 facts, offering a global perspective on socio-economic disparities and wealth inequality.

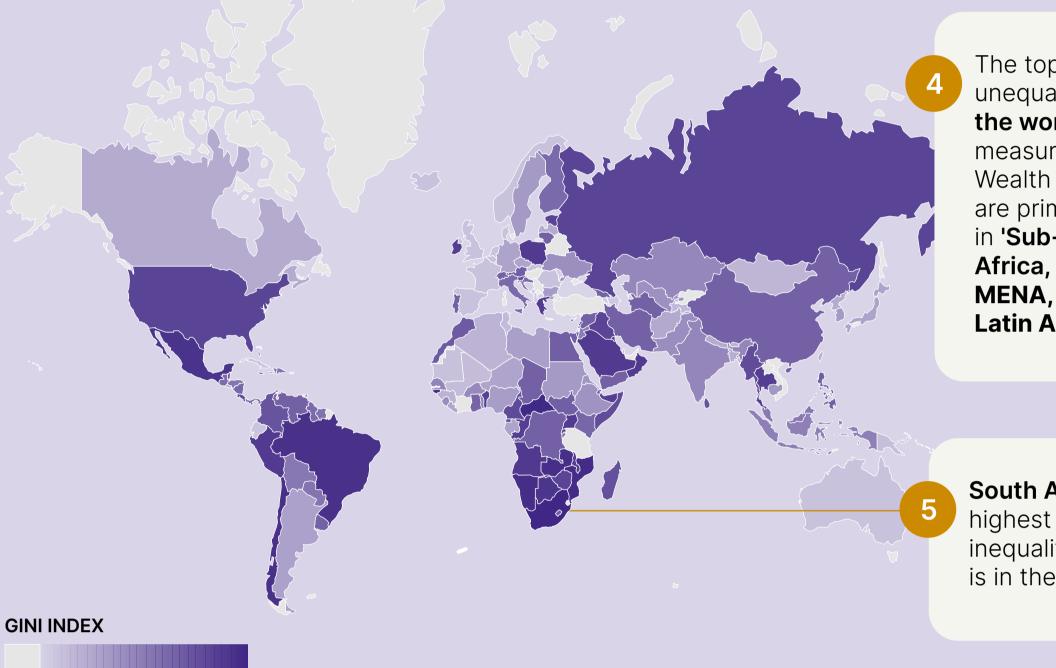
# What is wealth inequality?

# The magnitude of the issue



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### **Measuring wealth inequality**



The top 50 most unequal countries in the world, as measured by the Wealth Gini Index, are primarily located in 'Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by MENA, Europe, and Latin America.

South Africa has the highest wealth inequality. The lowest is in the Netherlands.

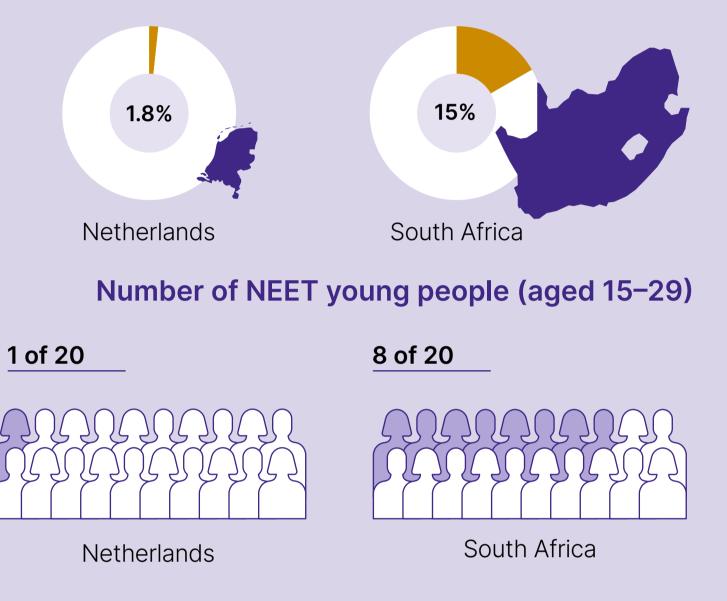
The wealthiest 0.01% in South Africa own 15% of household wealth, while in the Netherlands, they own just 1.8%.

This imbalance affects access to opportunities in everyday life, including access to jobs: In South Africa, 8 in 20 young people aged 15-29 are not in employment, education or training (NEET), compared to **less** than 1 in 20 in the Netherlands.

All wealth is not the same

Distribution of wealth by financial and non-financial assets

Share of household wealth owned by the wealthiest 0.01% of the country



Data downloaded from wid.world; Statistics South Africa Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q1 2024; Eurostat

## Wealth inequality across regions

The top 1% of global wealth owners, by region

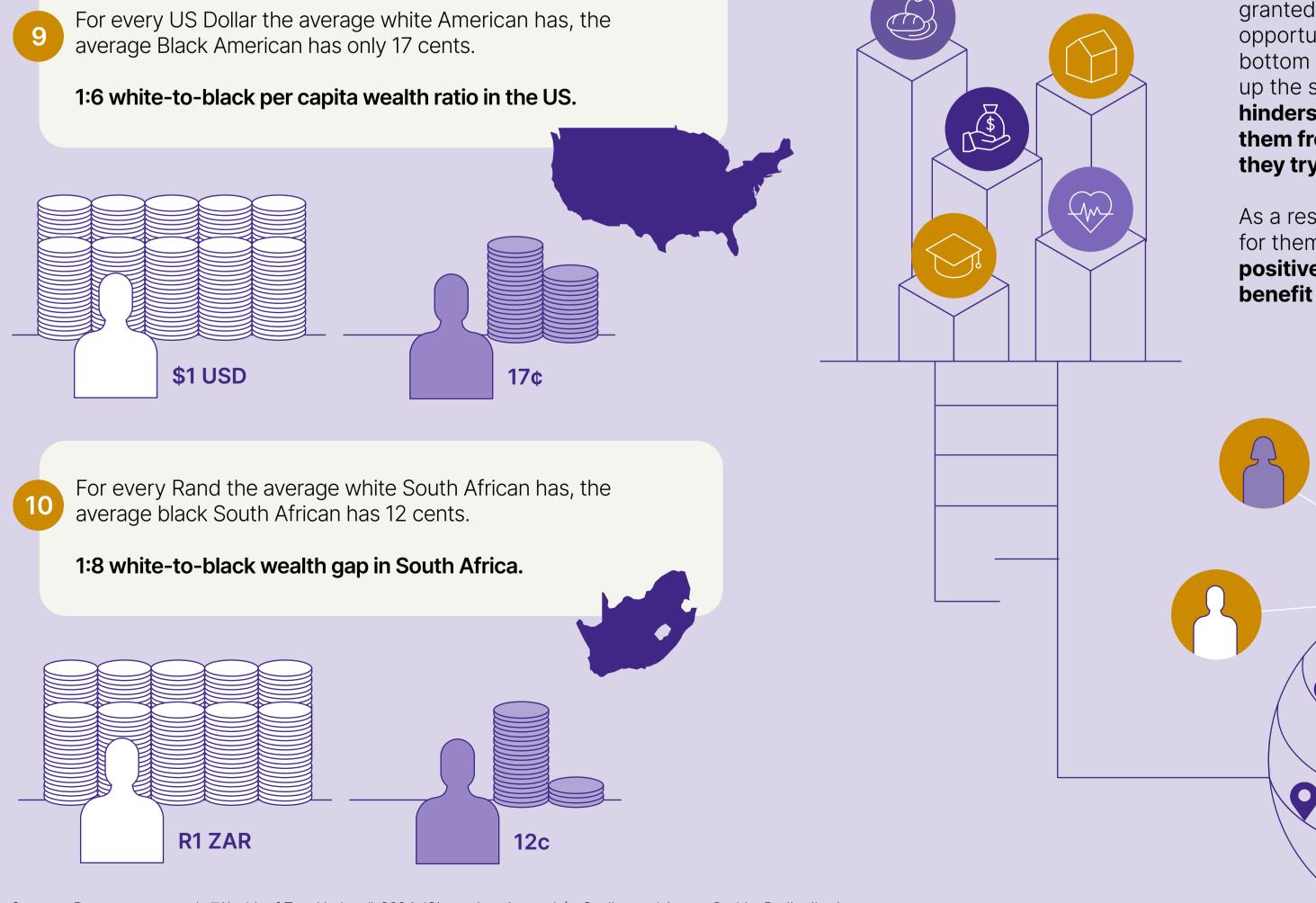
0.957

< 0.721

			Financial assets	Non-financial assets	
North America <b>42.9%</b>		7 Today, the top 1% of global wealth owners are predominantly	Africa	43.8% 56.2%	In North America, 72% of wealth is held in financial assets, while in India 77%
		from North America — 4 in 10 people.	Asia-Pacific	50.6%	assets, while in India 77% 8 is non-financial.*
		Fewer than 3 in 10 are from Europe, 2 in 10 from the Asia-Pacific	China	44.2%	60% of personal wealth is held as land in India.
Europe	Asia-Pacific	region, and 1 in 10	Europe	45.7% 54.3%	
<b>27.7%</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	from China.	India	23.3%	76.7%
			Latin America	43.7% 56.3%	
	China <b>9.3%</b>	Latin America <b>1.3%</b>	North America	71.6% 28.4%	
		India <b>1.2%</b>	* Financial assets include stocks and bonds, retirement/pension funds, and cash ad deposits. Non-financial assets include property (both owner resident and rental), equipment for business, and land.		
		Africa <b>0.5%</b>	Sources: Credit Suisse Wealth Databook 2021;Anand et al., "Wealth Inequality: The Indian Case," 2023; Credit Suisse Wealth Databook 2021		

## The racial wealth gap





When access to basic resources is not granted, entire communities are denied opportunities to grow. The reality is that the bottom 50% of the population barely moves

The issue is complex, and systemic change requires time and structural measures. But it is also clear that **initiatives for greater** equality need to bridge the gap holistically, addressing wealth creation and preservation, access to opportunities, and the development of social capital.

Sources: Derenoncourt et al., "Wealth of Two Nations", 2024; 'Chatterjee, Aroop, Léo Czajka, and Amory Gethin. Redistribution without inclusion? Inequality in South Africa since the end of apartheid. Working Paper, Paris School of Economics, 2023.

up the social ladder; wealth inequality hinders upward social mobility, keeping them from progressing no matter how hard they try.

As a result, they not only lack better prospects for themselves, but also the opportunity to positively contribute to society for the benefit of all.

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As the charitable foundation of a trusted partner to the world's wealthy, the Julius Baer Foundation is equipped to use its position at the nexus of wealth and influence holders, philanthropists, and organisations at all levels of society to drive positive transformation and tackle this issue together.

We believe that by **bringing together** socio-economic groups from across the wealth spectrum, all stakeholders learn from each other, and foster productive partnerships that go beyond monetary donations and address both the economic and social dimensions of the challenge.

The projects that we support around the world are united in one common approach: that groups across the wealth spectrum work together to share their knowledge and networks and to create social mobility and equal opportunities.

Learn more about our projects and how they are tackling wealth inequality by investing in income generation and enterprise development, funding inclusive education, and building community infrastructure.

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