



Systems Challenges to Educational Policy in Latin America

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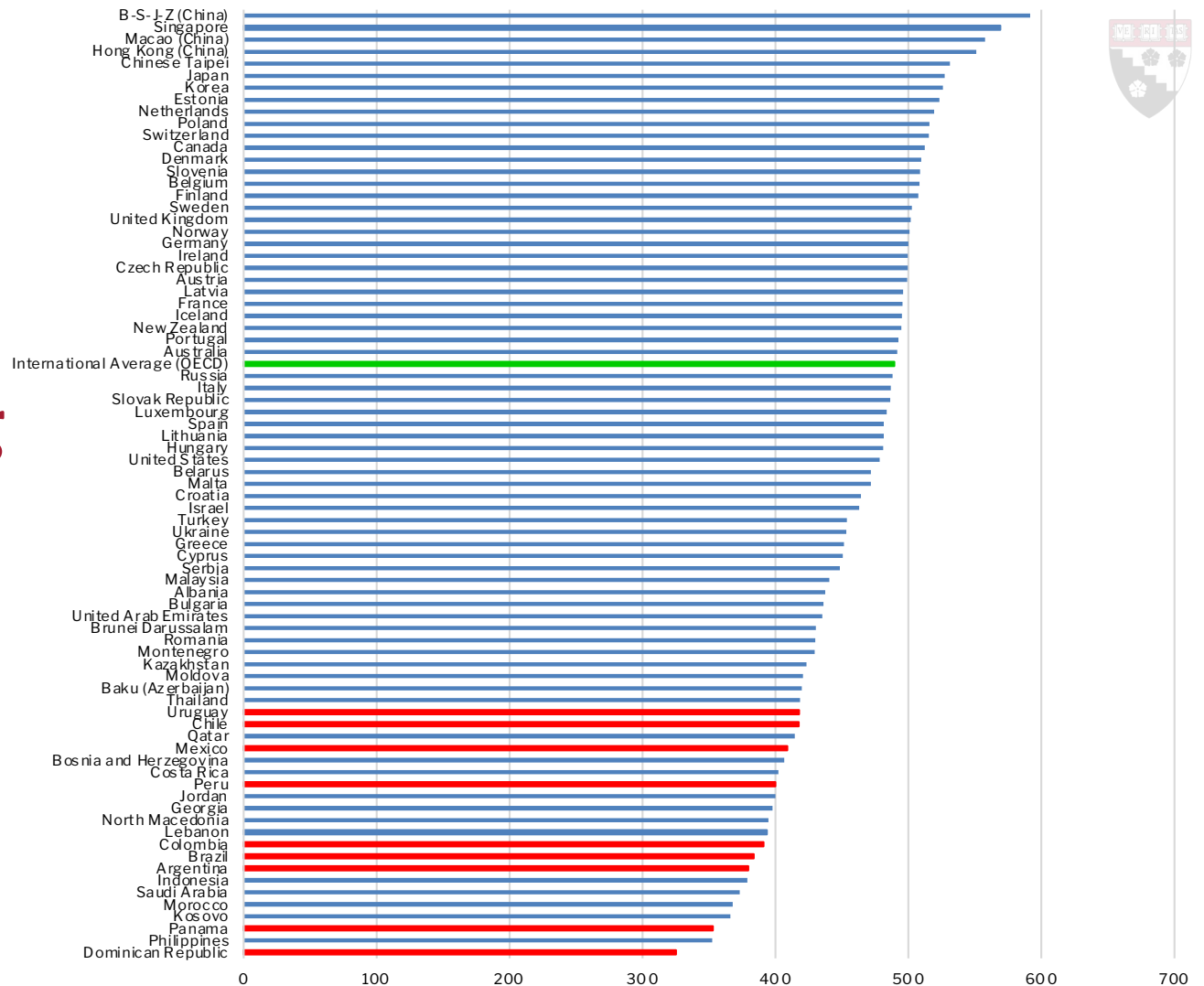
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Agenda



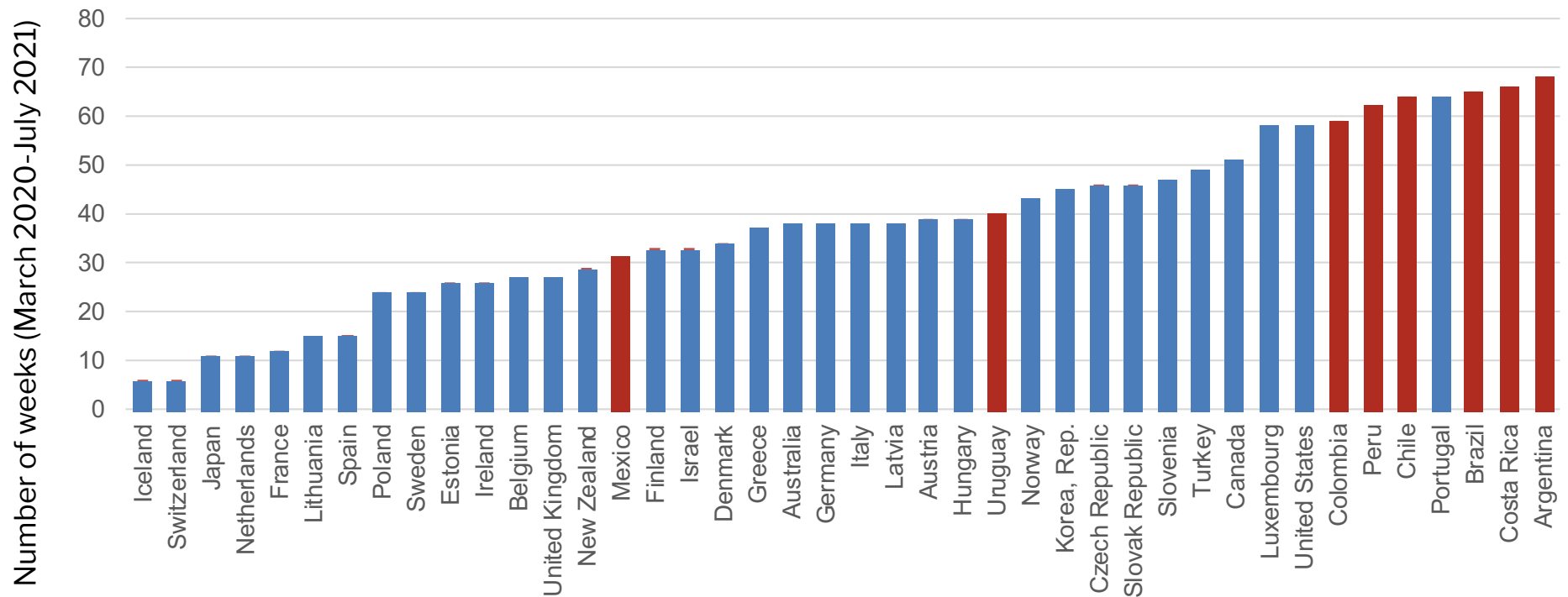
1. **Education and Development:** progress and challenges in Latin America
2. **Public & private** investment in education in the region
3. **Private sector-driven initiatives** & their impact
4. International evidence of interventions that improve **learning**
5. **Opportunities** to transform education in Latin America

Students in LAC are not achieving needed skills



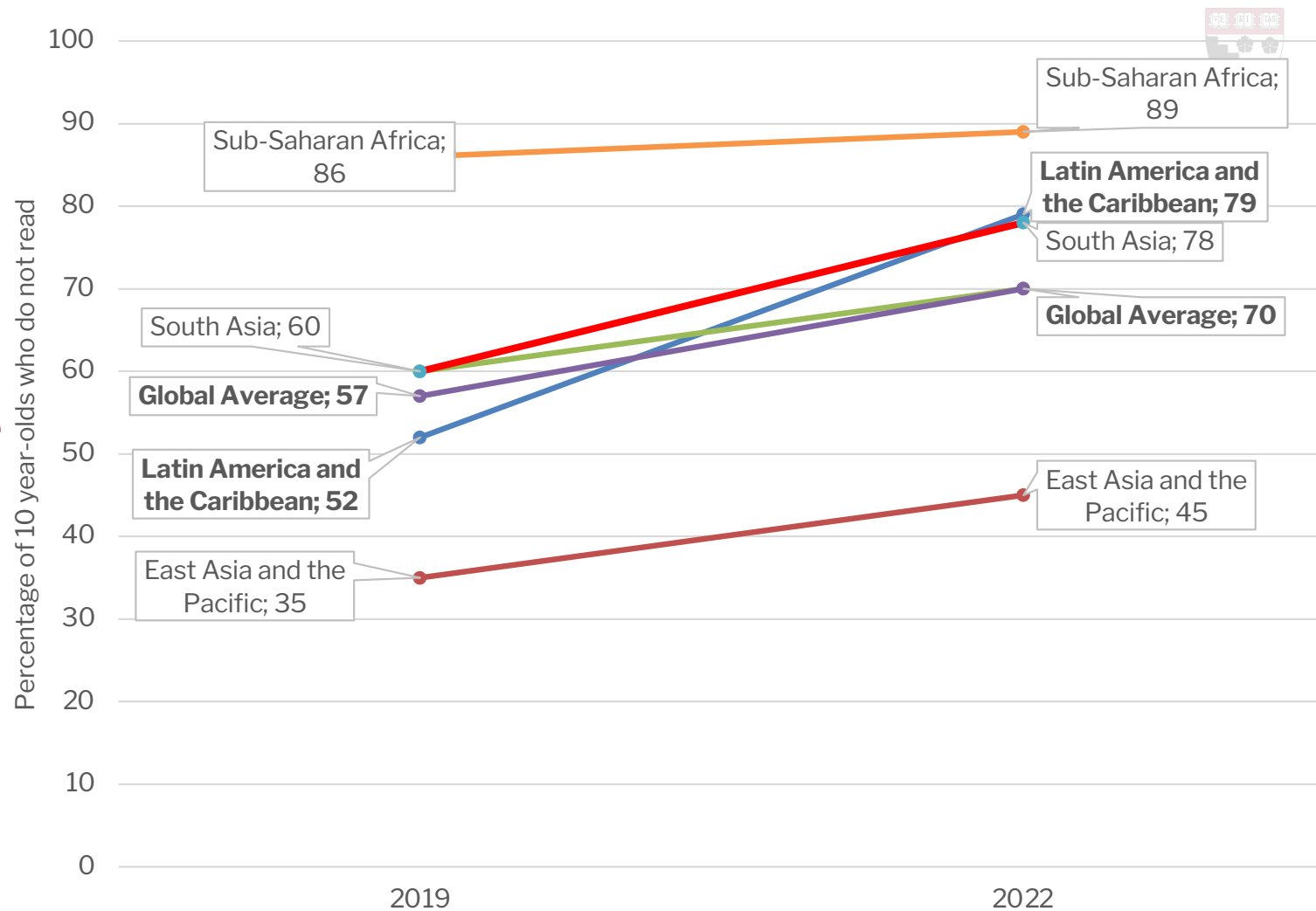


During COVID-19, LAC countries closed schools longer than the rest of the world



From learning crisis to catastrophe

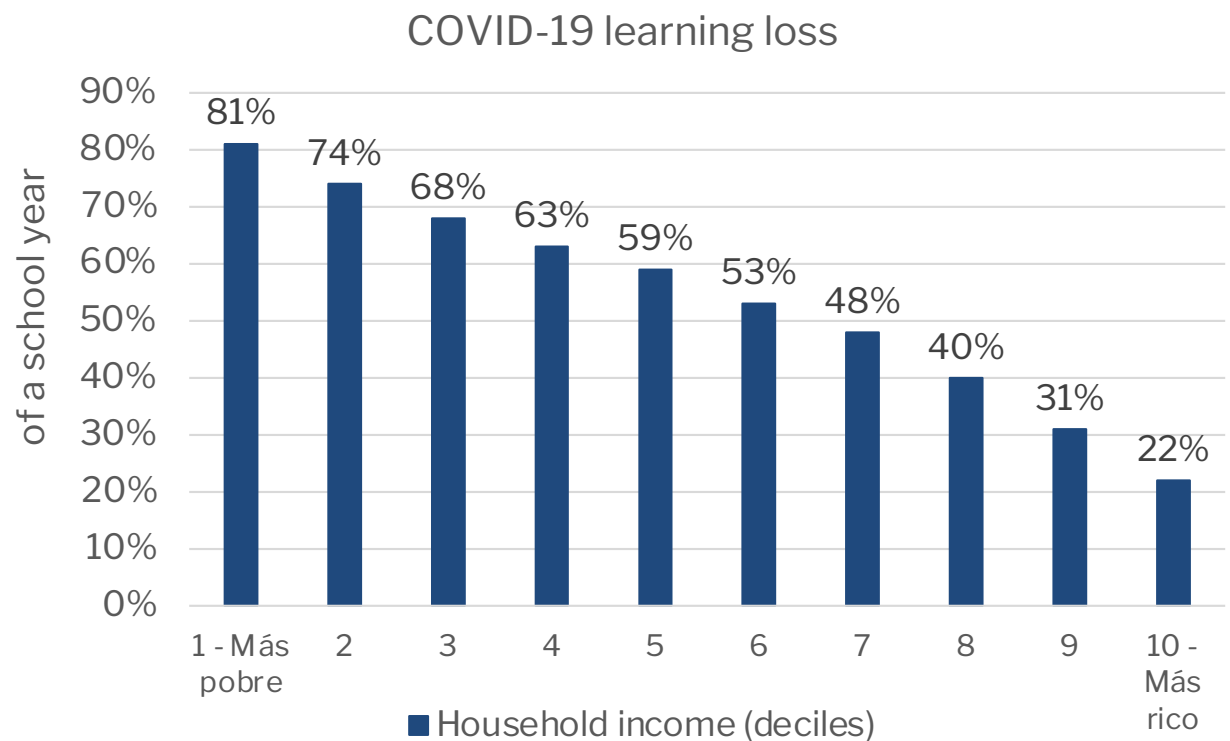
LAC is the region with the highest increase in "learning poverty"



Source: World Bank (2022).

The impact of the pandemic on learning was greatest among the most disadvantaged

The richest 10% of LAC students faced educational losses equivalent to 22% of a school year, while the poorest 10% faced losses equivalent to 81%.





The bottom line

1. Education is **the key to human development** and social welfare.
2. **Learning is** what **matters** for development.
3. LAC students **do not achieve the necessary skills.**
4. The **impact of COVID-19** in the region has been disastrous, bringing us close to Sub-Saharan African levels.
5. **Better investment** is **urgently needed** to transform education and boost development in LAC.

How much do the public and private sectors invest in education?



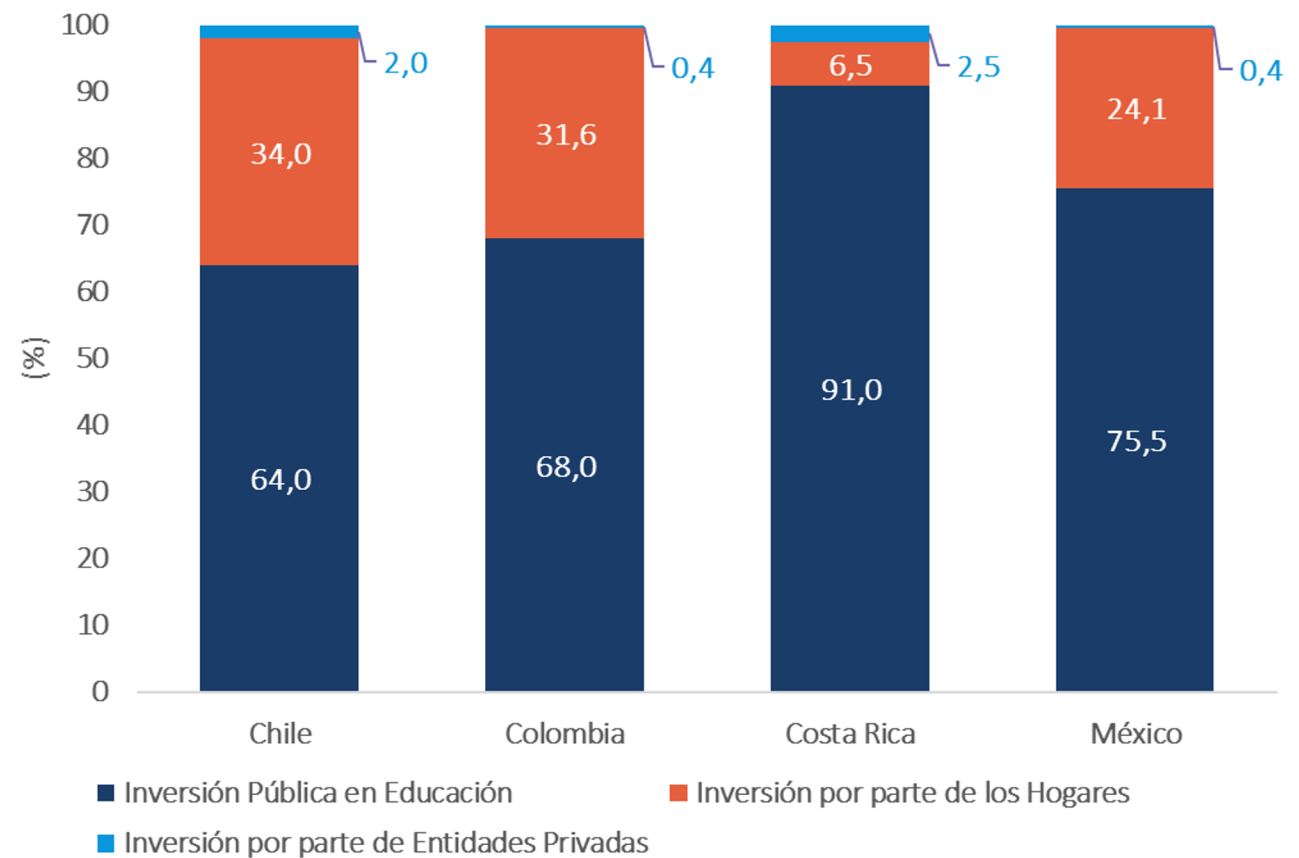
Latin America & the Caribbean make a major effort in education



Country	Total Investment in Education (US\$ Millions)	Amount per student (US\$)	% Investment Education/ GDP
Argentina	29.240	1.783	5%
Bolivia	3.836	1.128	10%
Brazil	128.935	2.080	7%
Chile	22.932	3.954	9%
Colombia	21.527	1.607	7%
Costa Rica	4.548	3.032	7%
Ecuador	3.858	665	4%
Mexico	74.682	1.753	7%
Panama	2.272	2.272	4%
Paraguay	2.058	1.210	5%
Dominican Rep.	7.782	2.223	4%
Uruguay	2.877	1.918	5%



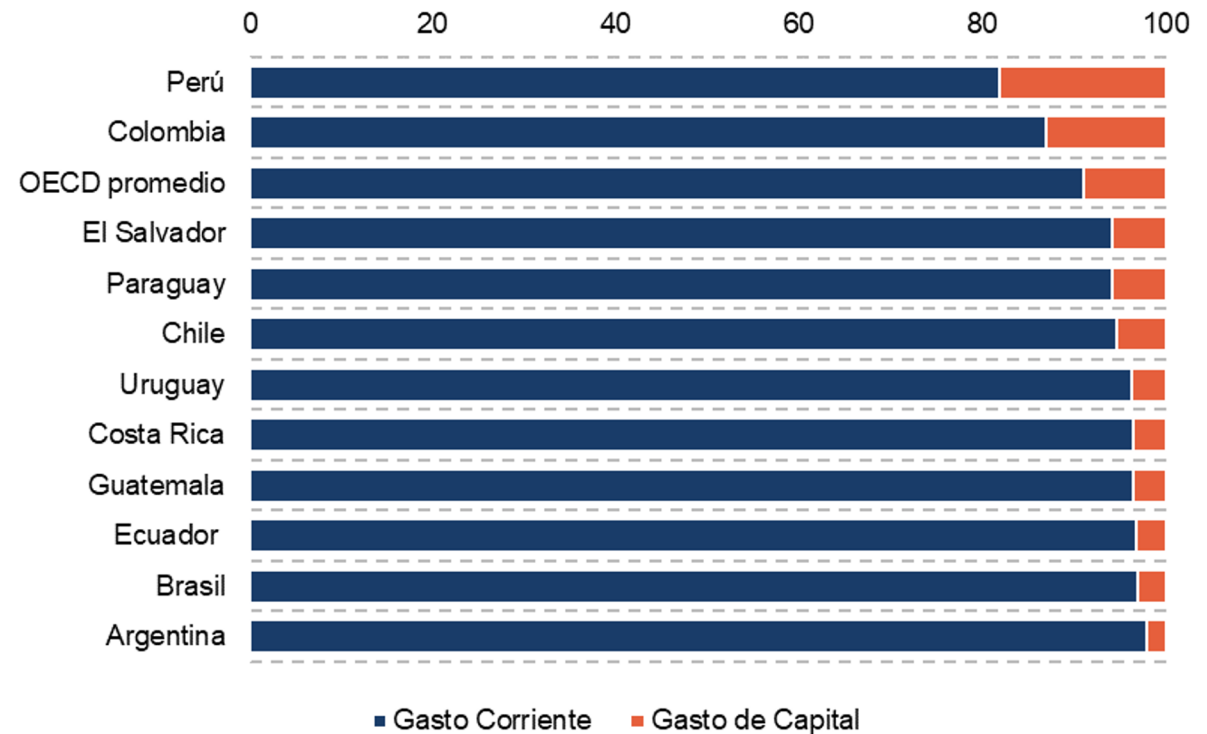
A large share of investment in education comes from public funding sources





Most public investment is current spending, with little left for innovation

Composition of Education Spending by Type of Expenditure, 2019
(Percentage)



**How does the private
sector invest in
education?**

From micro to macro: 3 general categories of private sector collaboration in education



1. Adopt a school



2. Specific, innovative programs in various schools, regions or countries

- Fundación Zamora Terán
- Fundación Mustakis
- Instituto Natura

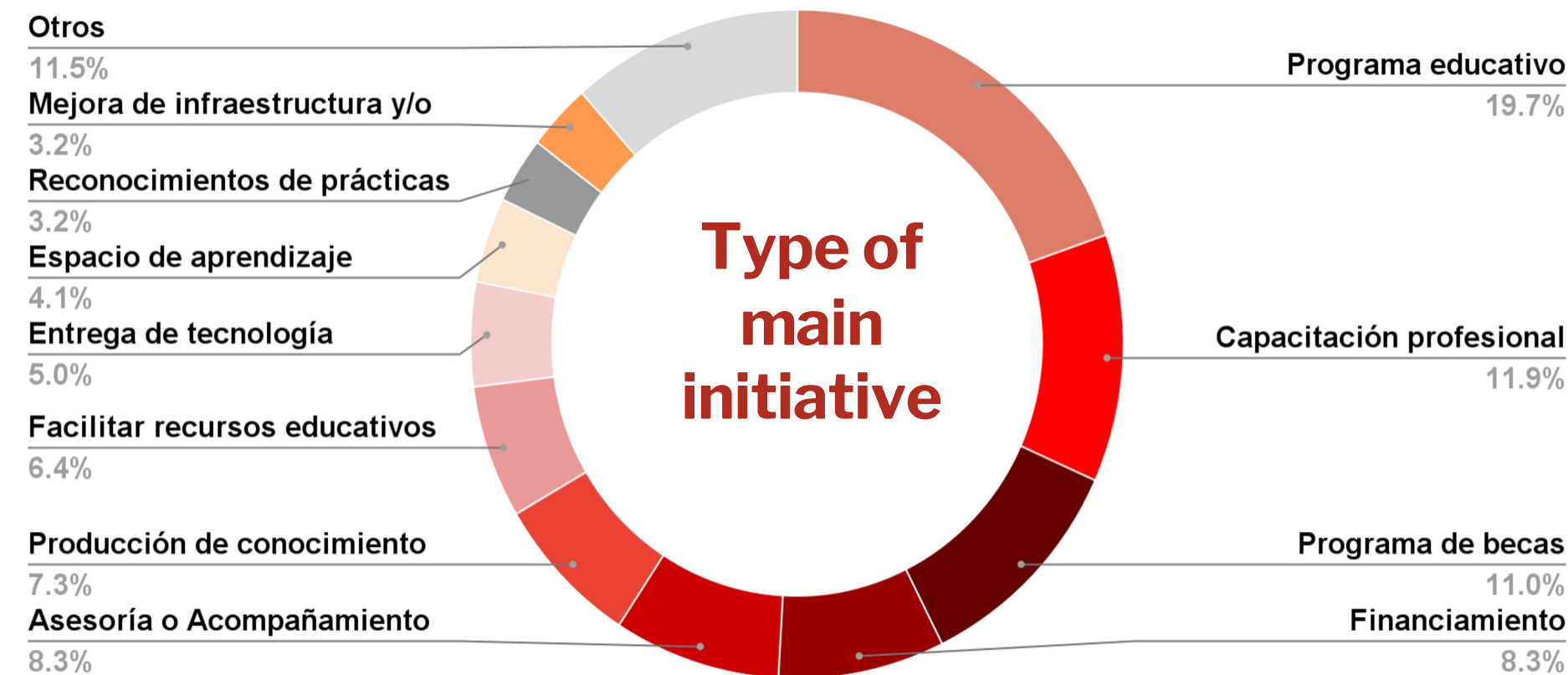


3. Public Policy Advocacy

- Lemann Foundation
- Mexicanos Primero
- Empresarios por la Educación



Private investment tends to support specific programs



**Others: Personal development (parents, students, etc.), Extra-curricular and/or cultural activities, Adult education, Crowdfunding, Competitive funds and Awards.*

What do we
know about **the**
impact of these
initiatives?

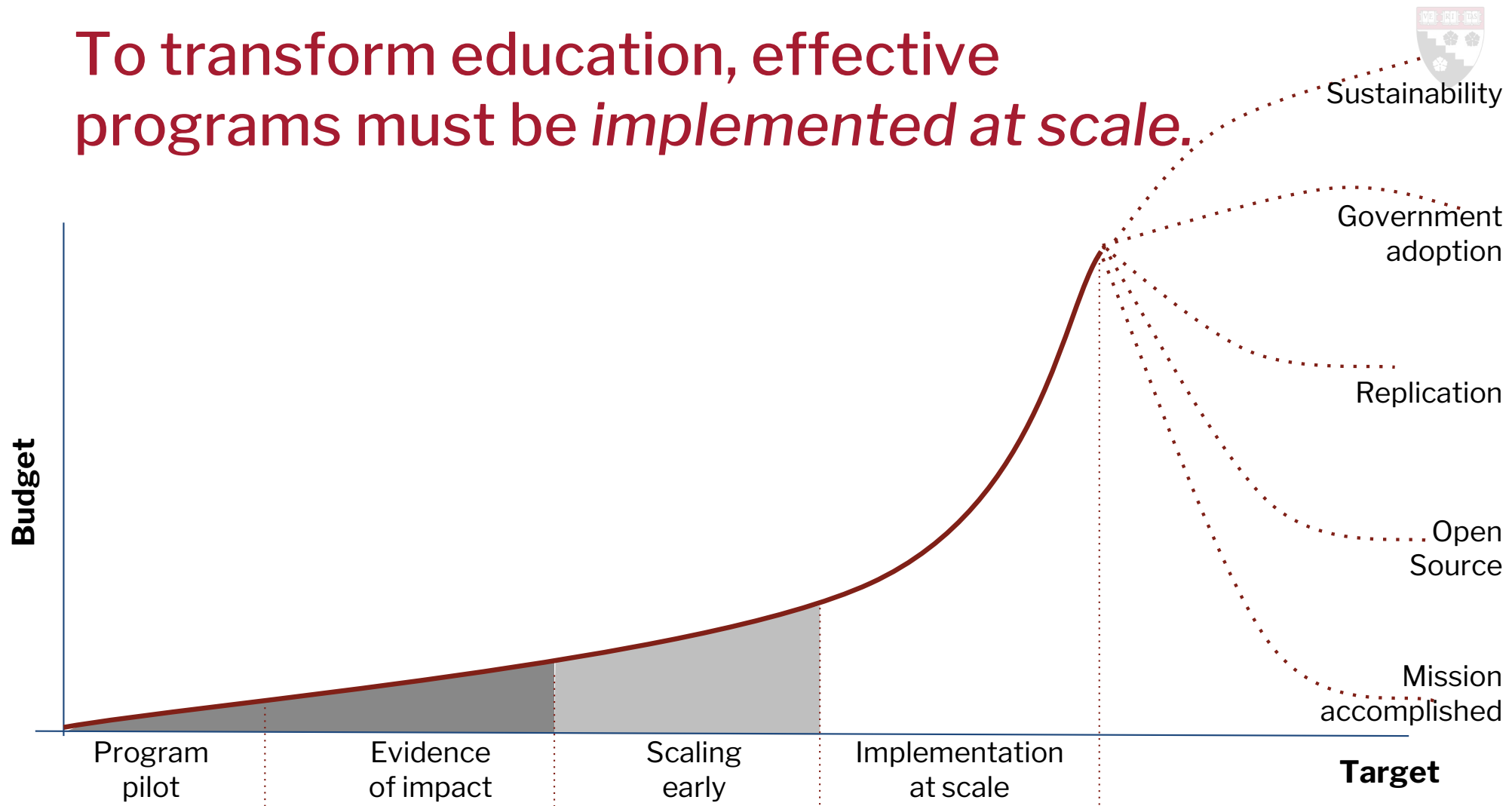


Evidence of impact is key to scalability and sustainability

Only **1 in 5** initiatives promoted by the private sector have some kind of impact assessment.



To transform education, effective programs must be *implemented at scale*.



Source: Gugelev and Stern, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Winter 2015.

What does the
international evidence tell
us about **effective**
interventions to improve
the quality of education?



These interventions have a greater impact:



Investing early, starting in early childhood



Improving classroom practice - the instructional core



Reforms at the education system level, aligning curriculum, assessments, and training - (e.g. Ceará, Brazil).



Attracting talent and strengthening capabilities at all levels



These interventions are very cost-effective:



Great Buys

- ✓ Provide information to parents and families about the benefits, costs and quality of education.
- ✓ Implement structured instructional programs
- ✓ Grouping students by knowledge level - TaRL



Good Buys

- ✓ Investing early, starting in early childhood
 - early stimulation
 - high quality preschool
- ✓ Reducing the time needed to get to school
- ✓ Provide merit-based scholarships to students from low socioeconomic backgrounds.



These interventions have promise, but limited evidence of impact:

- **Use software to personalize instruction** and tailor it to individual learning levels
- Augment teaching teams with community staff.
- Provide school-based health services
- Leverage **cell phones** to support learning
- **Teach social-emotional** and life **competencies**
- Protect students from violence



Interventions that have no evidence of impact:



Bad Buys

- X Adding inputs **without changing processes** (e.g. books, teachers, infrastructure)
- X Investing in computers and technology **without clear learning objectives, training and evaluation**
- X Funding programs **with no evidence of impact and no investment in generating it**

Opportunities to **transform** **education in** LAC

5 opportunities to transform LAC's education systems



1. Improving classroom practices
2. Investing early, beginning in early childhood
3. Leveraging technology
4. Strengthening capacity
5. Financing socio-economically disadvantaged students



1. Improving classroom practices

- ✓ **Teachers are the most important school-side factor** in student learning outcomes.
- ✓ In LAC, the teaching profession **does not attract the best talent.**
- ✓ **Interventions with rigorous evidence** in multiple countries and contexts:
 - ✓ Implement structured instructional programs
 - ✓ Grouping students by knowledge level - TaRL



2. Invest early, beginning in early childhood

- ✓ Interventions with rigorous evidence in multiple countries and contexts:
 - Early stimulation
 - High quality preschool



3. Leveraging technology

- ✓ Use mobile phones and software to personalize instruction and tailor it to individual learning level
- ✓ Expand access to connectivity, high quality educational software
- ✓ Invest in the generation of evidence on ed-tech
- ✓ Encourage the development of digital and computational competencies.
- ✓ Facilitate the acquisition and certification of skills relevant to the labor market.



4. Strengthening capacity

- ✓ Public education “observatories”
- ✓ Strengthening leadership at all levels
- ✓ Generation and translation of evidence for decision making
- ✓ Mobilizing public opinion in support of quality education



5. Support disadvantaged students through merit-based scholarships & specific programs

- ✓ Encourage the study of careers necessary for regional/national development, such as STEM.
- ✓ Promote linkages between basic, higher education & the labor market.

**The future of Latin
America depends
on transforming
education.**



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Thank you

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