

BROOKINGS

QUALITY. INDEPENDENCE. IMPACT.

Africa Learning Barometer

Justin W. van Fleet, Ph.D.

Center for Universal Education | Brookings Institution

September 17, 2012

Overview

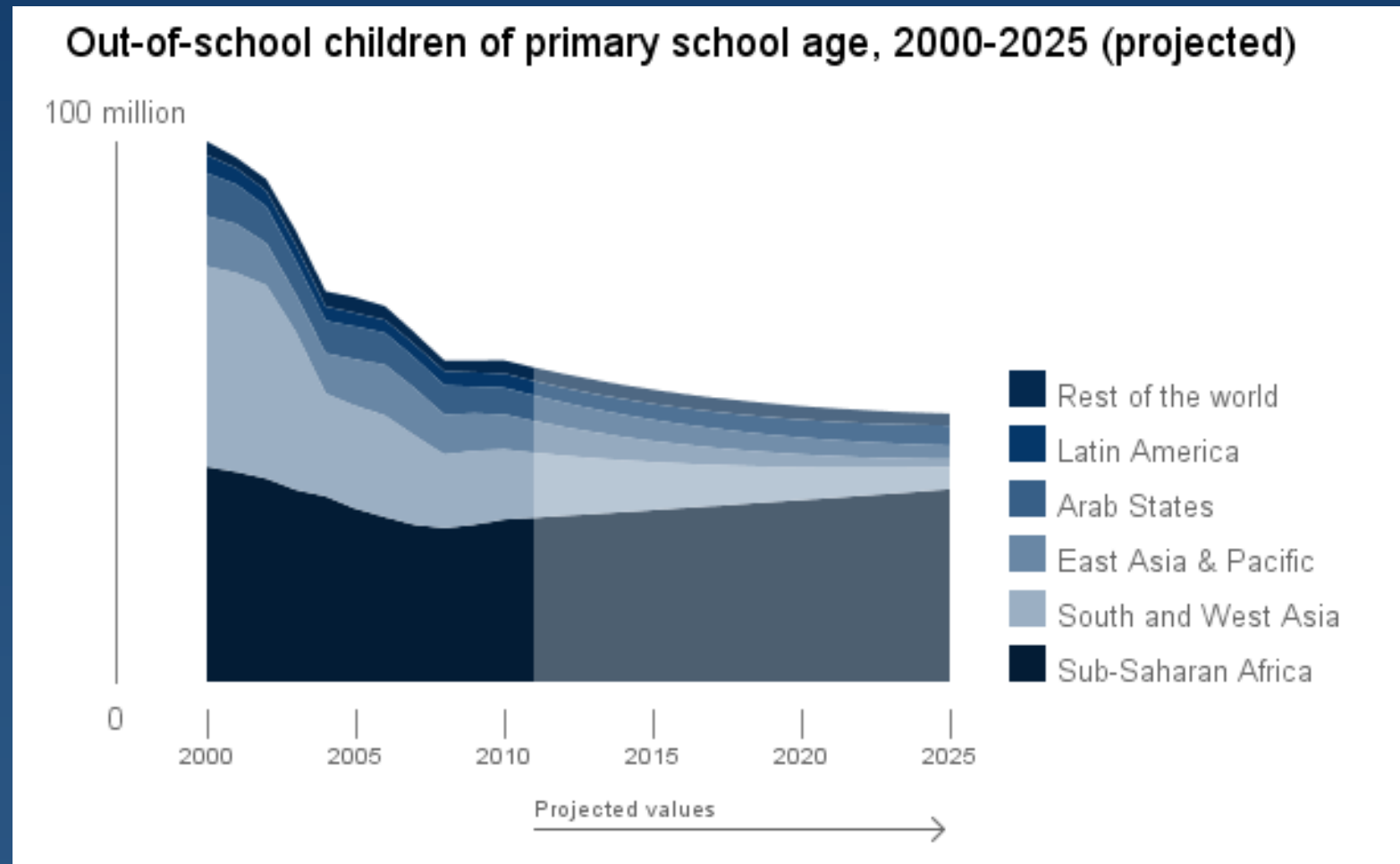
The Africa Learning Barometer provides a baseline on the state of education and learning in the region.

- Four Dimensions
 - Enrollment
 - Completion
 - Learning
 - Inequality
- Uses existing data.
- Acknowledges that education is more than literacy and numeracy.



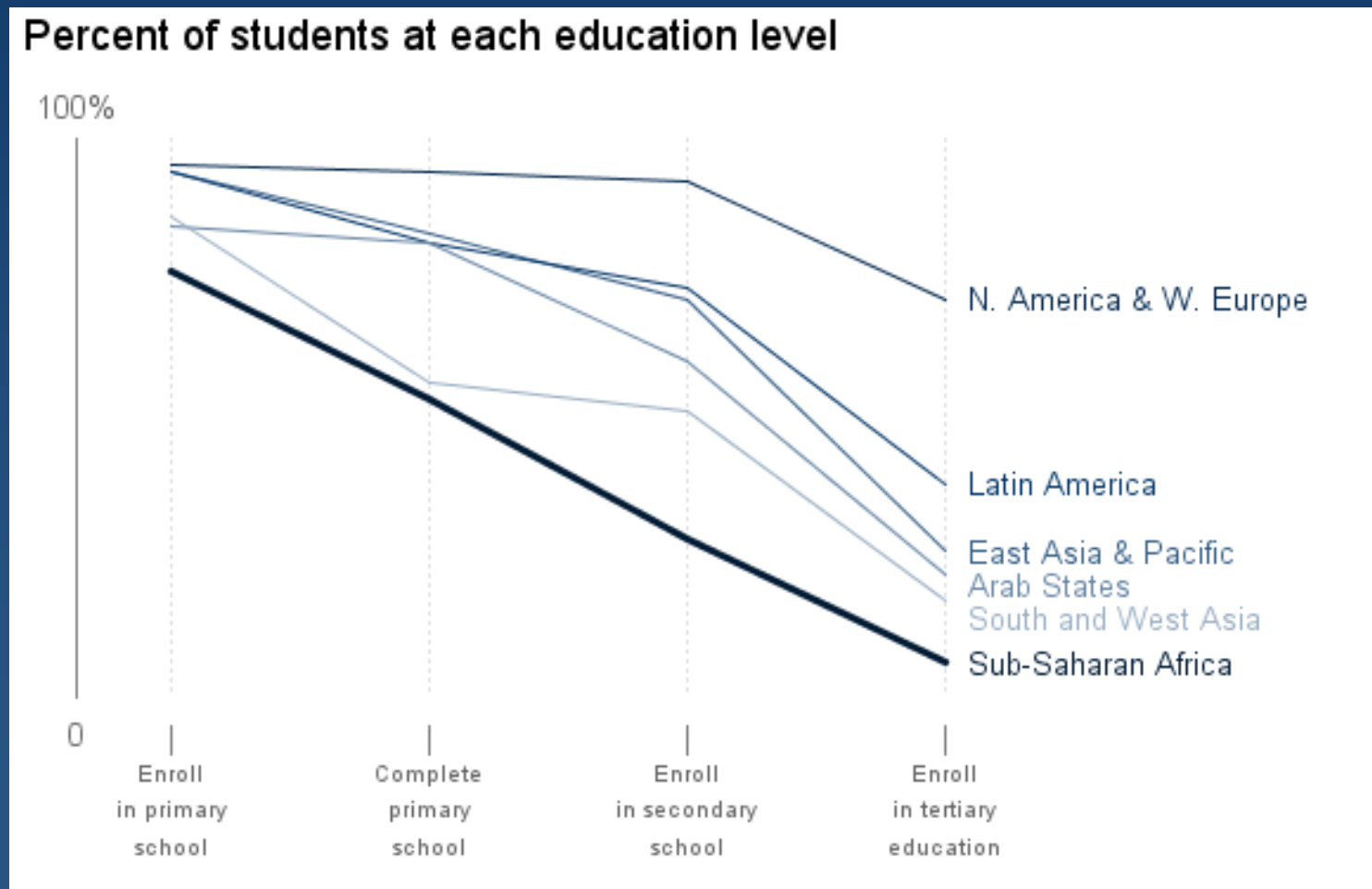
Primary School Enrollment

The number of out-of-school children in Africa is on the rise



School Completion

Only 6% of students enroll in tertiary education in Africa



The Quality of Education In School

Where the data is from:

- 28 Countries
- 2 Regional assessments: SACMEQ and PASEC
- 3 National Assessments: Ghana, Nigeria and Ethiopia
- *Note: Face value approach; the Barometer does not look at examination methodologies or other factors affecting teaching and learning.*

What is Learning:

- Cutoff points were selected on each examination at grades 4, 5 or 6.

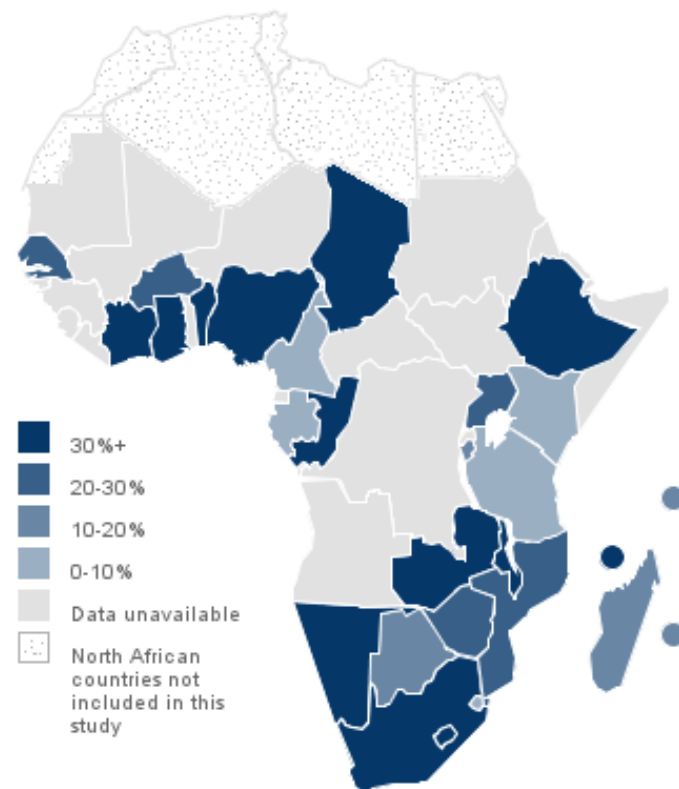
Cutoff points

Examination	Cutoff Point
SACMEQ	Children achieving Level 1 (pre-reading and pre-numeracy) or Level 2 (emergent reading and emergent numeracy) out of 8 levels.
PASEC	The proportion of students scoring in the 0-25 range (Level 1 out of 3). The threshold for basic learning competency set by PASEC is a score of 40.
National Examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Ethiopia</u>: Students' performance is grouped into three levels (below basic, basic, and proficient). Those in the basic performance level do not meet the minimum level of learning competency.• <u>Ghana</u>: The minimum threshold for basic competency is 35 percent, equivalent to randomized guessing.• <u>Nigeria</u>: The percentage of Grade 4 students not responding correctly to Grade 1 & 2 topics.

What did we find?

- There are 7 countries where over 40% of school children are not learning:
 - Chad (40%)
 - Ivory Coast (41%)
 - Benin (41.7%)
 - Malawi (48.3%)
 - Ethiopia (55.3%)
 - Zambia (55.7%)
 - Nigeria (58.3%)

Percent of schoolchildren not learning



SOURCE:

Center for Universal Education at Brookings calculations based on data from multiple regional and national assessments. See technical appendix for details.

South Africa

The Data

- 33.7% of young people are not learning basic skills.
- **Inequality of Learning**
 - 52.9% of the children in the poorest households are not learning.
 - Compared to 10.5% in the wealthiest.

Percent not learning, by...

Gender



Income



Region



Zimbabwe

The Data

- 22.6% of children are not learning.
- **Inequality of Learning**
 - 29.1% of rural children were unable to meet basic learning levels.
 - 5.9% of urban children did not cross the threshold of minimum competency.

Percent not learning, by...

Gender



Income



Region



Nigeria

The Data

- 58.3% of grade 4 students could not answer grades 1 & 2 questions correctly.
- 21.6 million enrolled in primary school

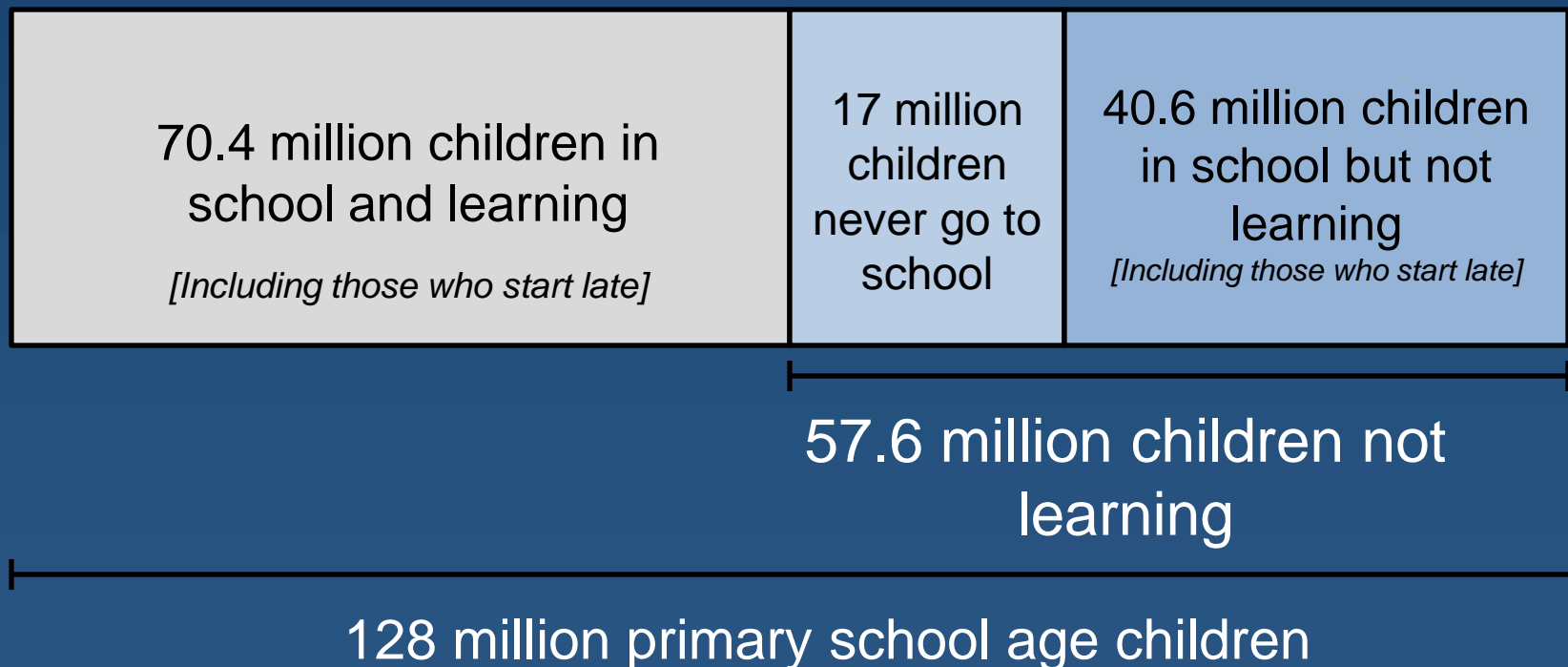
= 12.6 million

children in school and not learning.



Weighting for Population:

45% of children in Africa are not learning.



Those In School and “Learning”

What do we know?

- **Bar:** Not randomly guessing.
- **Bar:** Able to read after 6 years.
- **Bar:** Able to do basic math after 5 years.
- *What is the extent of the learning crisis for those “learning?”*

70.4 million children in
school and learning

[Including those who start late]

Explore the Africa Learning Barometer

Interactive

Africa Learning Barometer

DOWNLOAD

 Technical Appendix
135 KB

 Email

 Tweet 0

 Recommend 0

Share

 Print

The Africa Learning Barometer is an interactive feature that analyzes the state of education and learning in sub-Saharan Africa through four indicators: school enrollment, school completion, quality of education and education inequality. The Barometer is a collaboration between the Brookings Center for Universal Education and *This Is Africa*, a publication of the *Financial Times*.

I. School enrollment

II. School completion

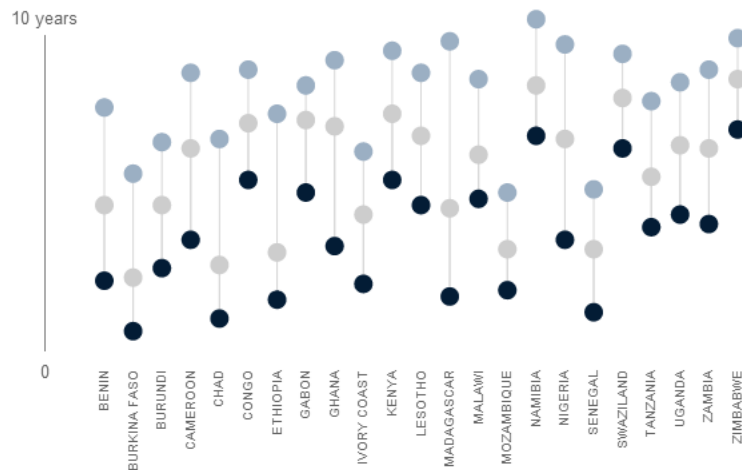
III. Quality of education

IV. Education inequality

In many countries, education disparities exist between rich and poor

Education is a human right enjoyed by all children – but when it comes to schooling, some children face greater disadvantages than others. Opportunities for education in sub-Saharan Africa are marked by deep inequalities linked to wealth, gender and other social divisions. The degree of extreme education poverty, defined as having less than 2 years in school, is much higher among the poor. For instance, in Ethiopia, 68.3% of the poorest quintile of the population lives in education poverty, compared to 13.8% of the richest quintile.

Years of education



SOURCE:
UNESCO Deprivation and Marginalization in Education (DME) index
from the 2010 Education for All Global Monitoring Report.

SHOW:

Years of education Education poverty

SORT BY VALUE:

Alpha. Richest Poorest Avg.

Thank you.

Justin W. van Fleet, Ph.D.

Center for Universal Education

jvanfleet@brookings.edu



[justinvanfleet](https://twitter.com/justinvanfleet)