

Children's
and youth
education,
digital access
and inclusion
in Latin
America

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EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON POPULATION, EDUCATION
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Session III. Impact of COVID-19 on major educational
levels and lifelong learning

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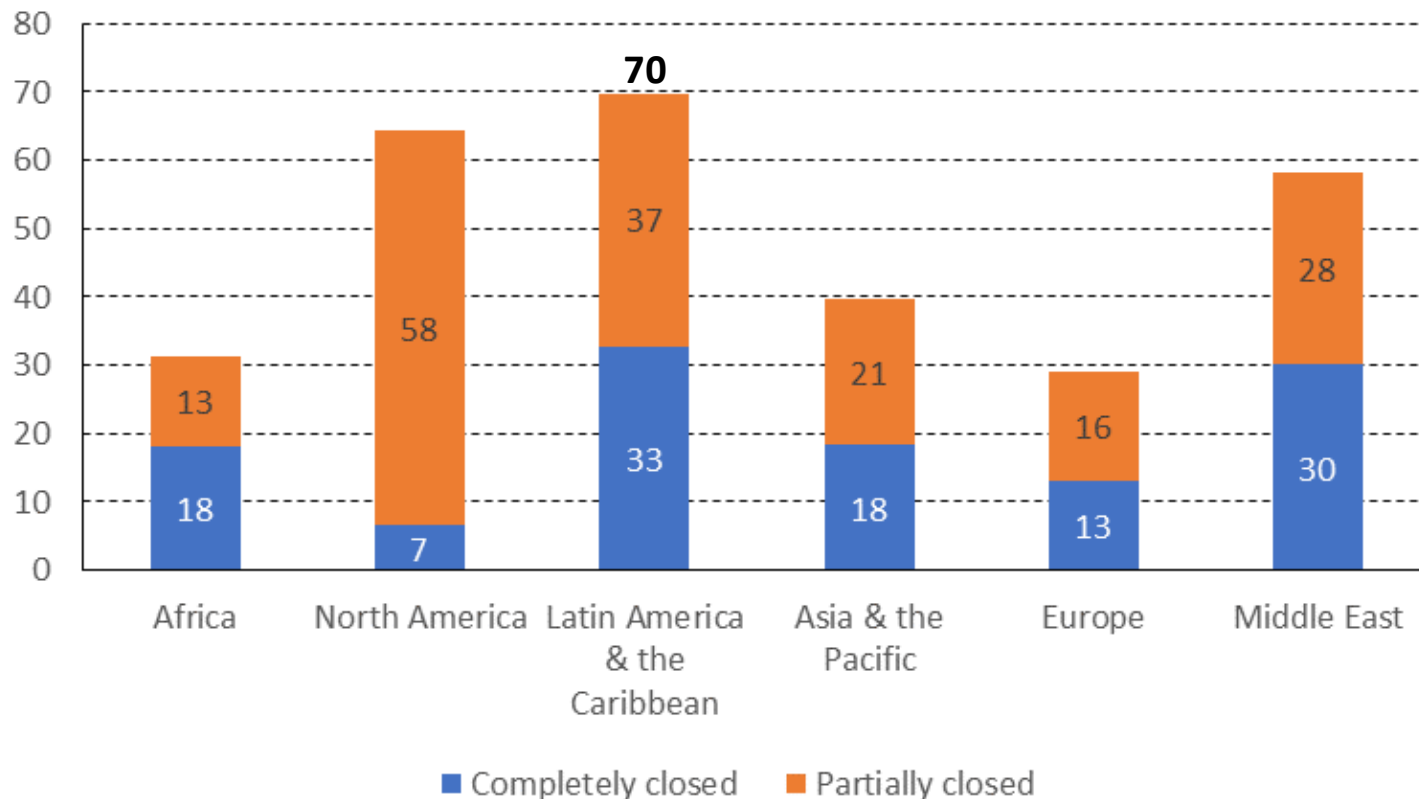


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Schoolchildren in Latin America and the Caribbean were among the most affected by the disruption of face-to-face education during the pandemic

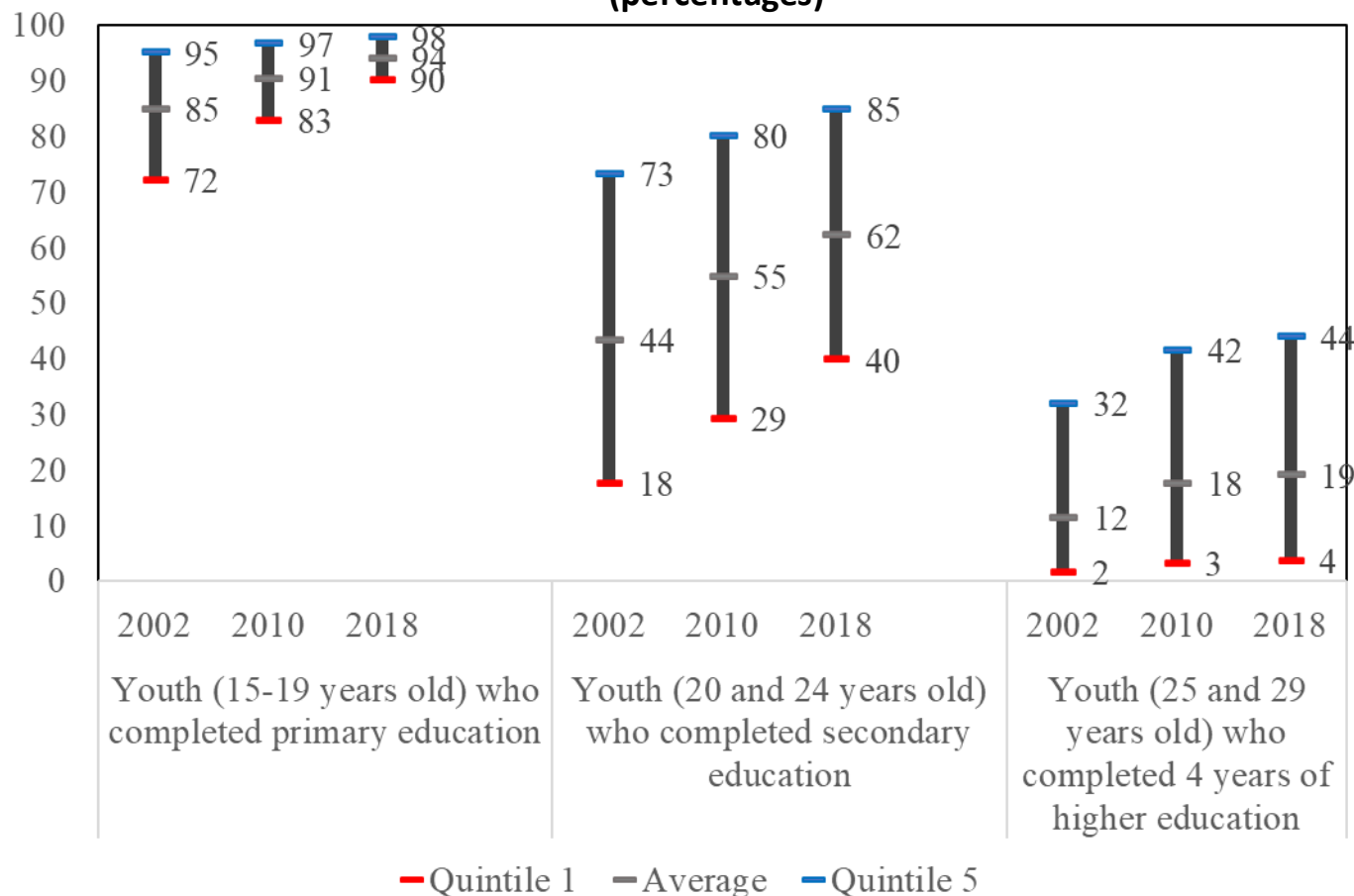
TIME OF COMPLETE OR PARTIAL CLOSURE OF FACE-TO-FACE EDUCATION, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2020 TO MARCH 3, 2022
(IN NUMBER OF WEEKS)



- Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions in the world with the **longest interruption of face-to-face education**: on average, close to 70 weeks of total or partial interruption.
- Gaps in the **development of cognitive skills**, loss of learning opportunities and the risk of **increased school dropout** have been generated
- **School is a fundamental place for the integral wellbeing of children**: protection of other fundamental rights of children

Despite the advances made prior to the pandemic, significant educational inequalities were still being faced

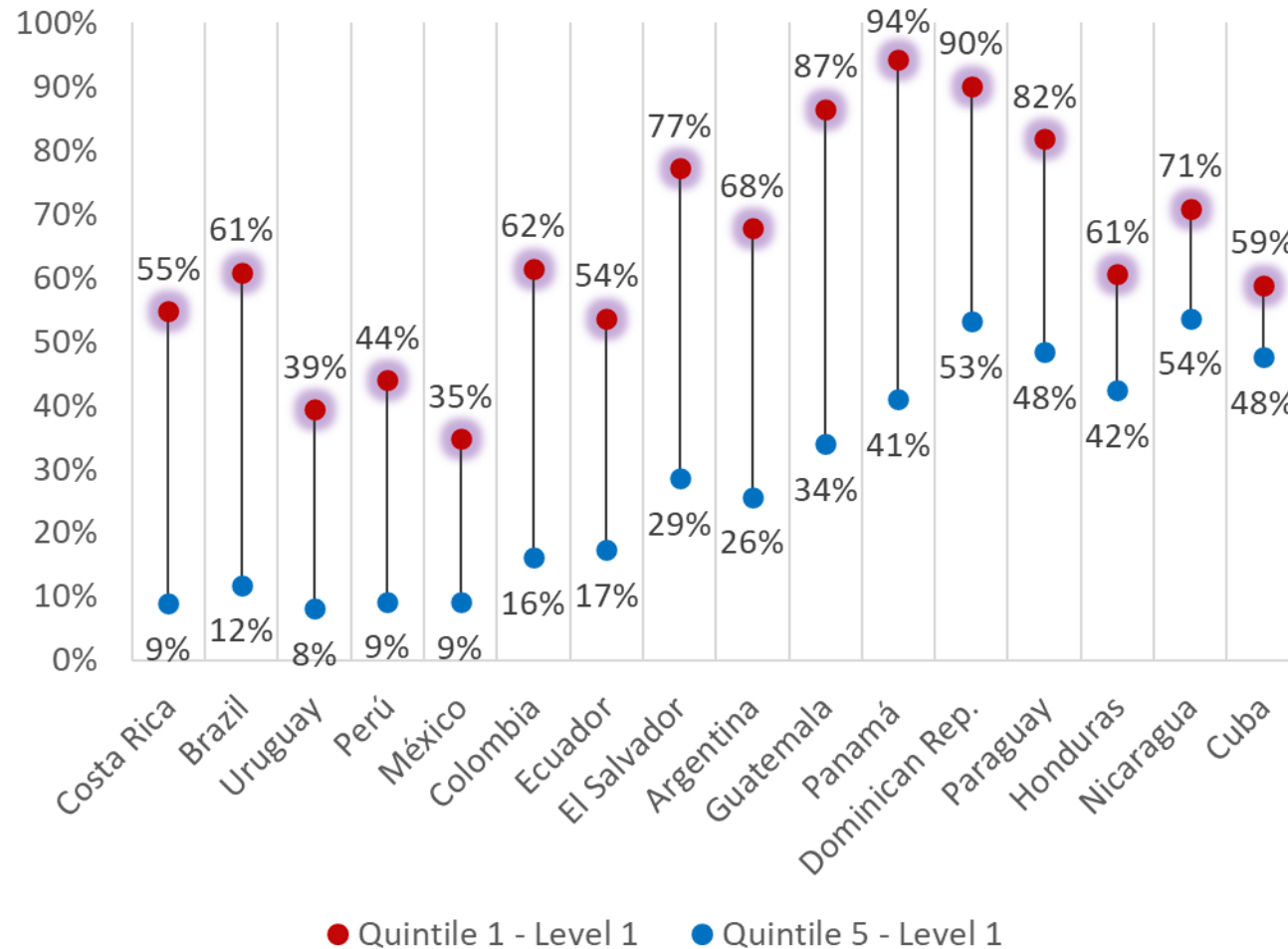
Latin America (18 countries): young people who have completed primary, secondary and higher education, by age group and income quintile, around 2002, 2010 and 2019 (percentages)



- In the last 20 years, the region has shown great **progress in the proportion** of young people completing some form of education
- **Progress is unequal** and the gaps are particularly evident from secondary school onwards
- The gap in the completion of secondary education between those from households in the richest quintile and the poorest quintile is **46 percentage points in 2019**
- **Higher education completion** levels were almost nil (between 2% and 4%) in the lower-income youth population

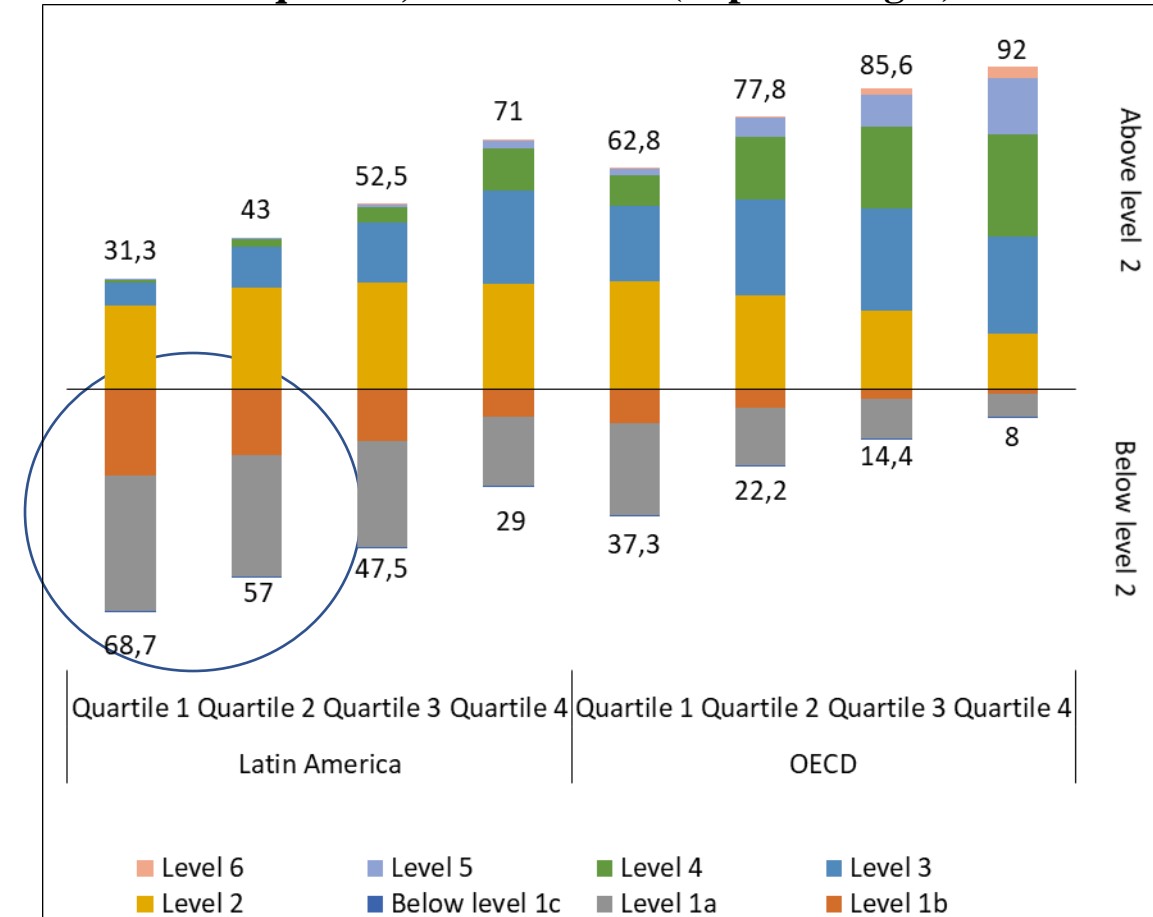
Prior to the pandemic there was a learning crisis in Latin America

Latin America (16 countries): 6th grade students in the lowest level of performance in math, by socioeconomic status (quintile 1 and 5), ERCE 2019 (in percentages)



Source: ERCE 2019, UNESCO

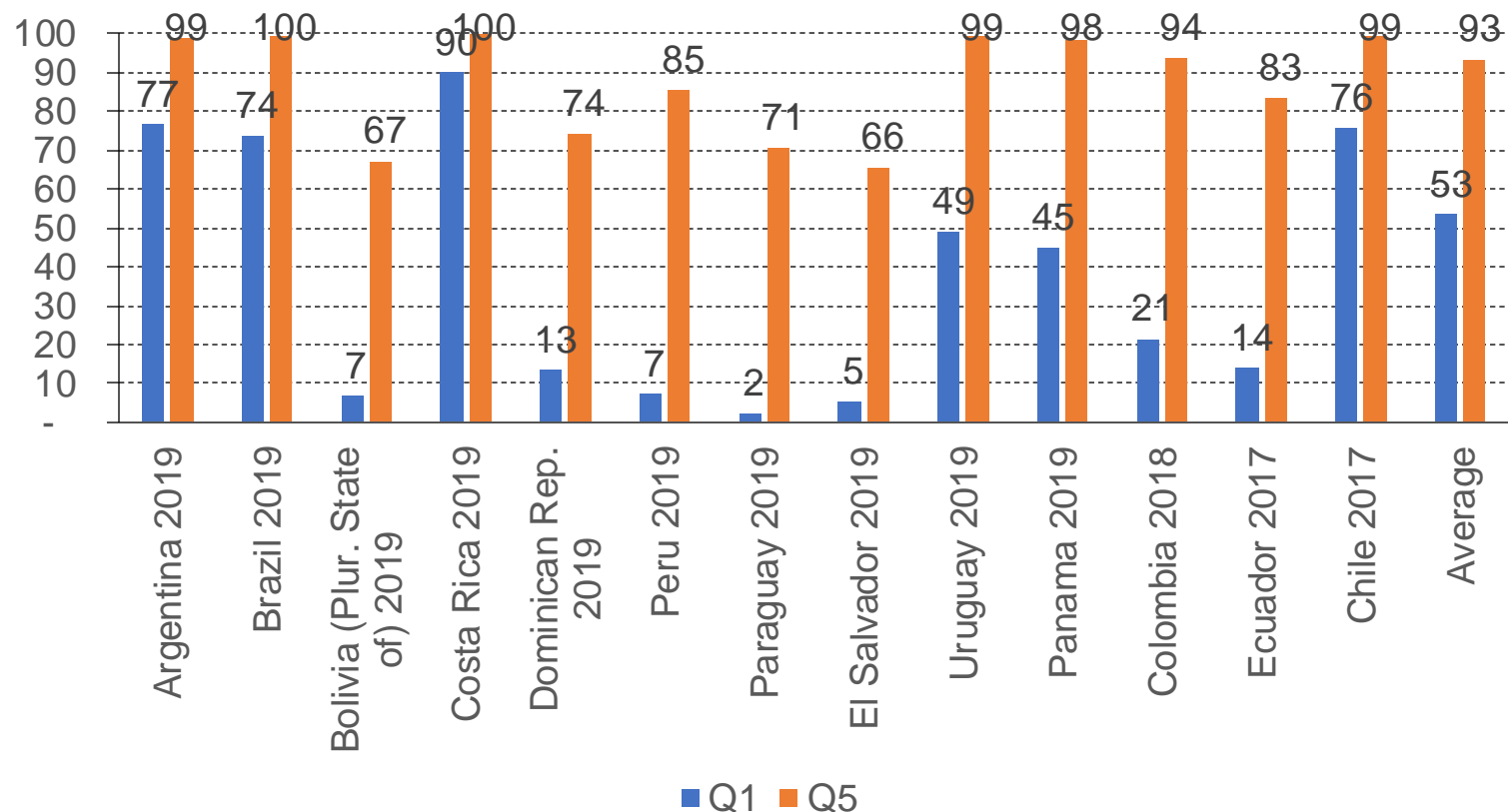
Latin America (10 countries/a) and OECD average: reading achievement levels of 15-year-olds by socioeconomic quartile, PISA 2018/b (in percentages)



Source: ECLAC, based on OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018.a Simple average of: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican R. and Uruguay.b Students who score at levels below 2 (level 1 and below level 1) do not reach the expected basic level of proficiency.

We were not prepared for the continuation of online studies: it is urgent to advance in the universalization of digital access

Latin America (10 countries): Persons aged 5-20 years living in households with Internet access in the first- and fifth-income quintiles, around 2019 (in percentages)



- In 2019, **33% of children and youth** (between 5 and 20 years old) in these 10 countries lived in households **without Internet access**
- Access **was also very unequal** among the countries and by socioeconomic level: on average, **53% of people aged 5 to 20 in the lowest income quintile had access** to the Internet at home, compared to 93% of those in the highest income quintile
- In addition to effective connectivity, the **unequal distribution of digital skills** in the population was also a factor that contributed to deepen the inequalities

The pandemic as an opportunity to transform education: a transformative, resilient and inclusive education recovery

Maintaining face-to-face attendance, learning recovery and student re-engagement

Address inequalities in education

Greater articulation with other public policy sectors (social protection, health, transportation, nutrition, etc.).

Building on the lessons learned from the pandemic

- Culture of innovation and collaboration (strengthen the role of key support figures)
- Focus on cognitive, digital and socio-emotional competencies

Digital education – a change that is here to stay

New social pact for education, with a long-term and strategic vision and financial sustainability

Thank you

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