

The deepening learning crisis

EVIDENCE FROM 32 LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Even before the pandemic, children were not learning enough

Skills of Grade 3 students

only **30%**
can read and understand simple texts



just **18%**
show mastery over simple numeracy tasks

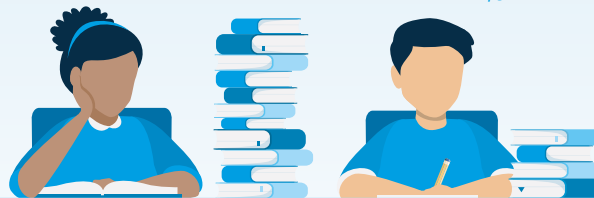


In almost all the countries analyzed, **girls outperform boys in foundational reading**

There is **little difference by sex** when it comes to **foundational numeracy**

The turtle swam in the ocean...

$$5+8 = 13$$
$$52 - 15 = 37$$



The pace of learning is too slow

For 70% of schoolchildren to gain the skills they should have grasped in **2 years of primary school**, it would take:



Certain groups of children are less likely to have foundational learning skills



Children from the poorest families (by wealth quintile)

22-percentage point gap in reading skills

between the poorest and the wealthiest students



Children with disabilities

20% less likely to grasp the basics of reading

as children without disabilities



Children engaged in child labour who don't attend school

have about half the rate of foundational reading

as children who go to school and are not engaged in child labour

A year of school closures due to the pandemic has worsened the learning crisis



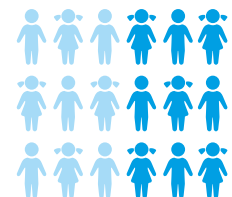
According to estimates, the share of children with foundational reading skills

will drop by **68%**

after just one year of being out of school

Younger children could lose out the most:

If nothing is done, **only half of today's Grade 1 students** will have foundational reading skills by the time they get to Grade 9.



LOOKING AHEAD

With the right **strategies**, learning loss from the pandemic can be recouped



With teaching at the right level over the long term, the negative impacts due to COVID-19 on education can be fully recovered.