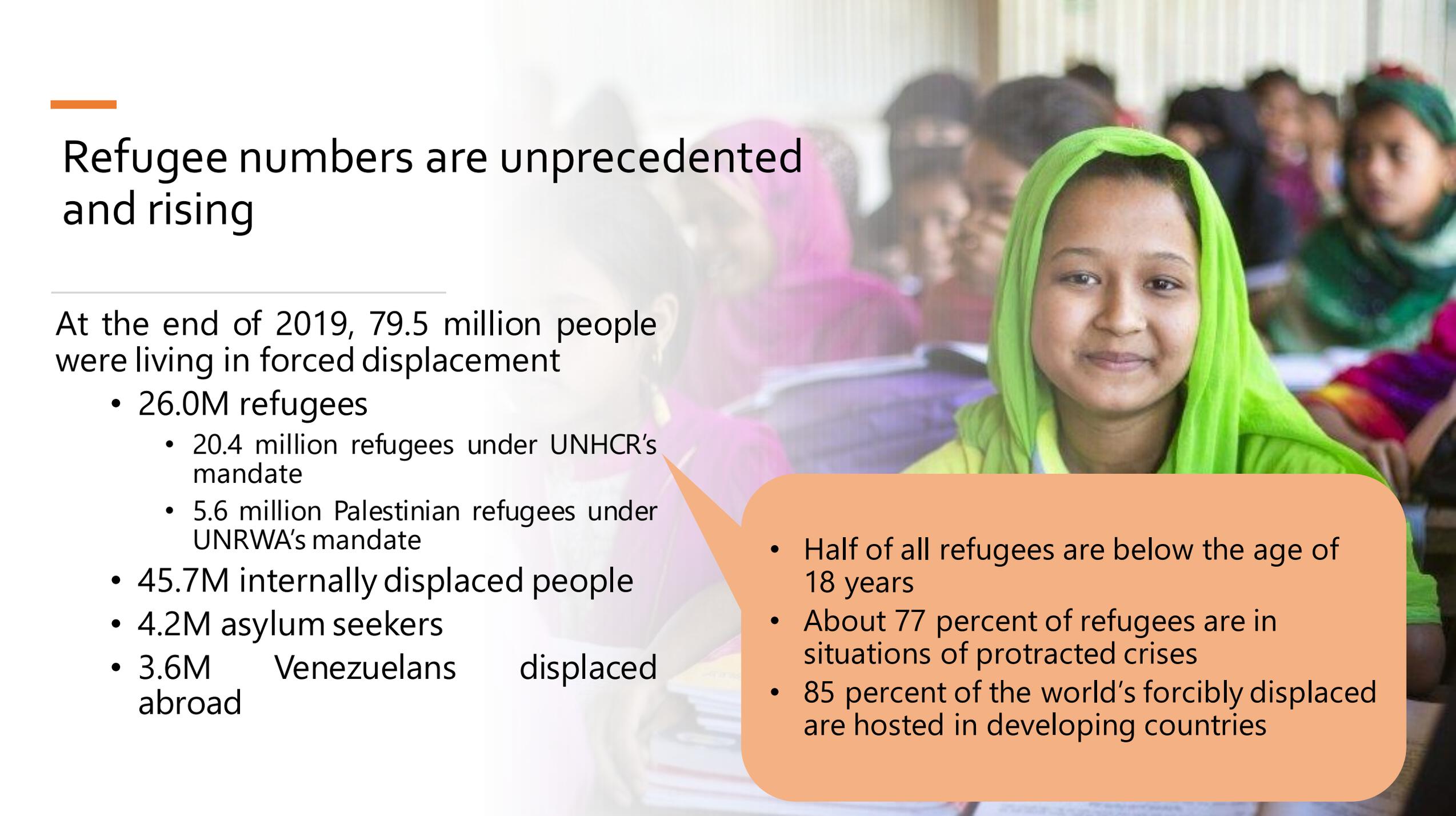




The Global Cost of Inclusive Refugee Education

A Joint World Bank-UNHCR Report
April 9, 2021

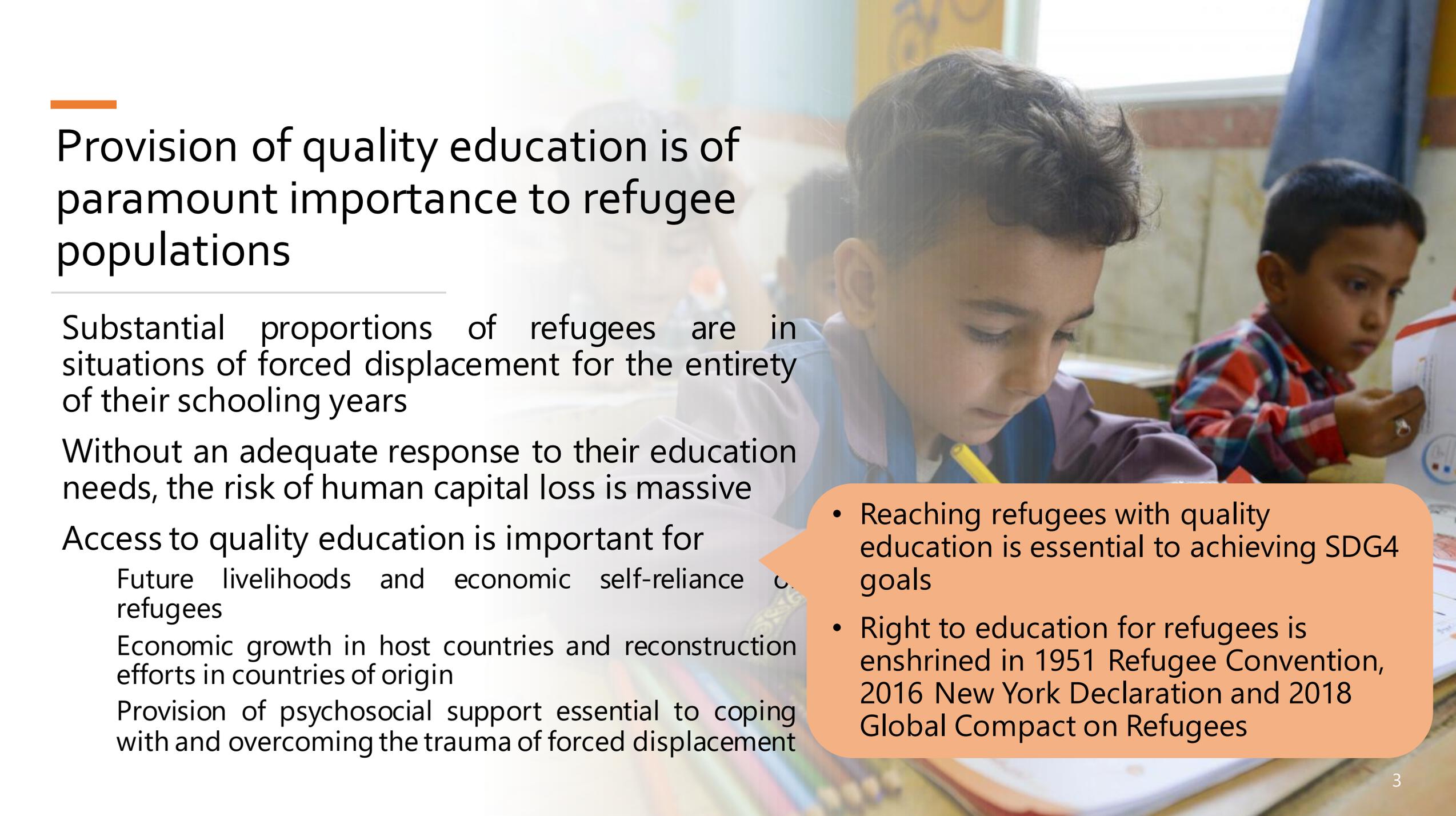


Refugee numbers are unprecedented and rising

At the end of 2019, 79.5 million people were living in forced displacement

- 26.0M refugees
 - 20.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate
 - 5.6 million Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate
- 45.7M internally displaced people
- 4.2M asylum seekers
- 3.6M Venezuelans displaced abroad

- Half of all refugees are below the age of 18 years
- About 77 percent of refugees are in situations of protracted crises
- 85 percent of the world's forcibly displaced are hosted in developing countries

A background image showing a classroom with several children. In the foreground, a young boy with dark hair is focused on writing in a notebook with a yellow pencil. To his right, another child is looking at a book. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and classroom elements like a whiteboard and a blue flag.

Provision of quality education is of paramount importance to refugee populations

Substantial proportions of refugees are in situations of forced displacement for the entirety of their schooling years

Without an adequate response to their education needs, the risk of human capital loss is massive

Access to quality education is important for

Future livelihoods and economic self-reliance of refugees

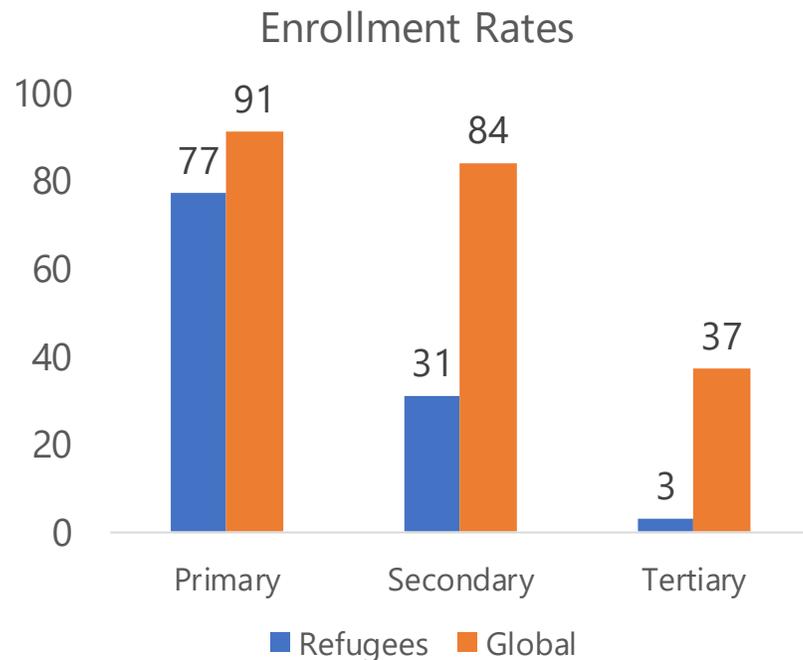
Economic growth in host countries and reconstruction efforts in countries of origin

Provision of psychosocial support essential to coping with and overcoming the trauma of forced displacement

- Reaching refugees with quality education is essential to achieving SDG4 goals
- Right to education for refugees is enshrined in 1951 Refugee Convention, 2016 New York Declaration and 2018 Global Compact on Refugees

Educating refugee children and youth poses unique challenges

Enrollment rates for refugee children and youth are far lower than global levels



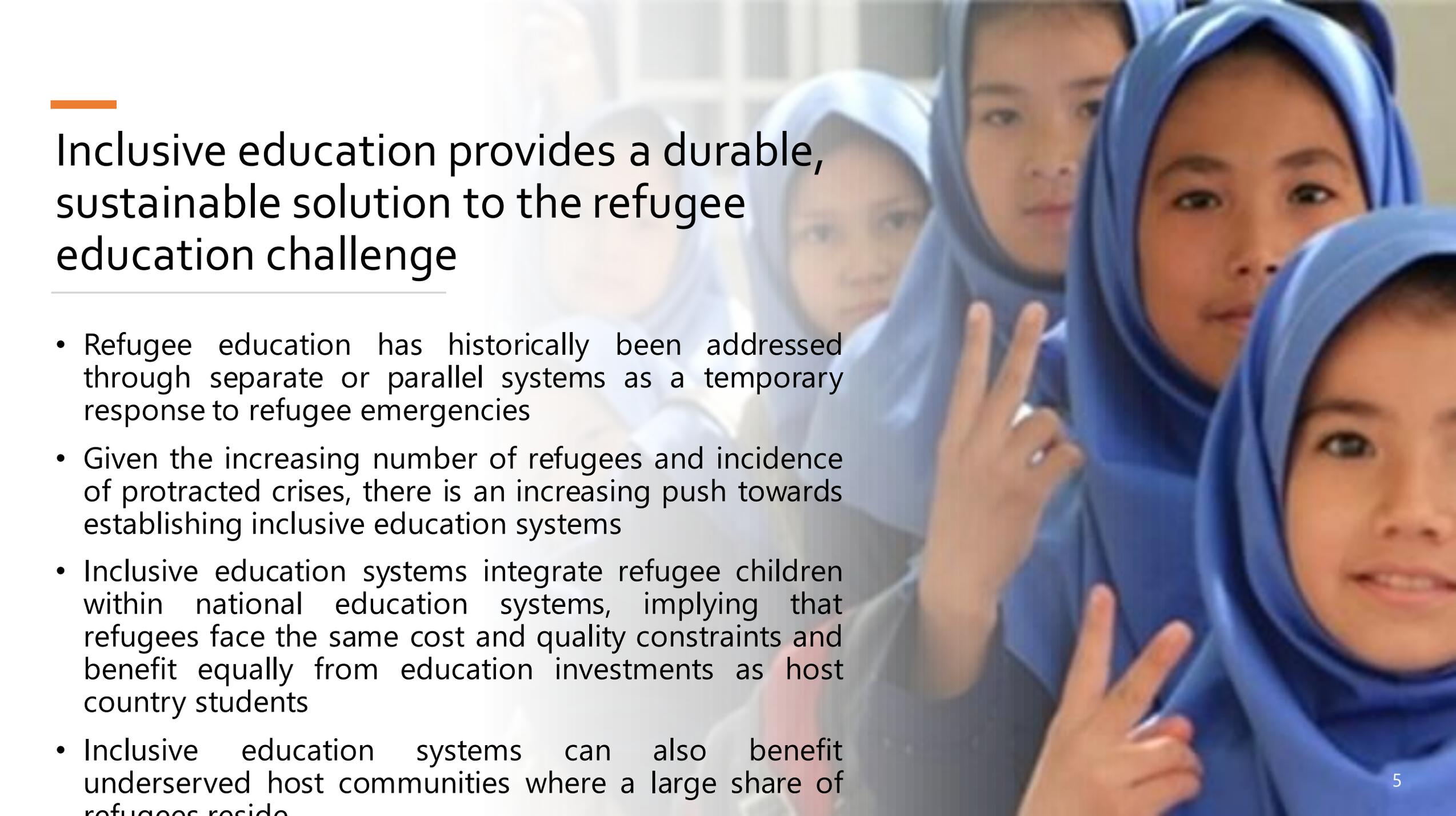
Supply-side challenges

- Legal, political and social barriers to inclusion
- Lack of costed national inclusive education plans
- Poorly financed education sector
- Limited availability of additional spaces and trained teachers
- Limited capacity to provide for specific education needs (remedial instruction, accelerated learning, psychosocial support, local language classes etc.)

Demand-side challenges

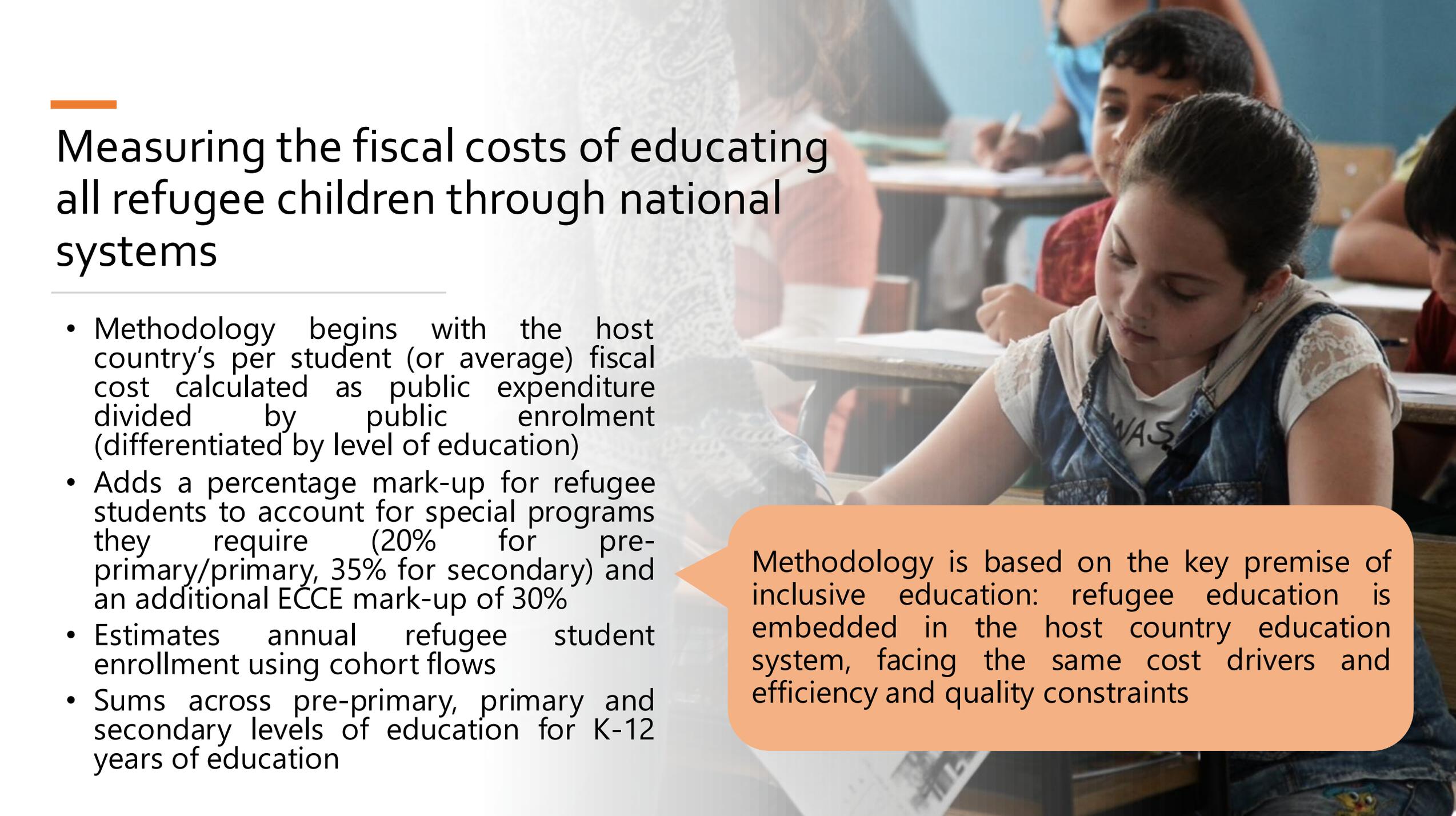
- Direct, indirect and opportunity costs of schooling
- High levels of poverty
- Negative coping strategies
- Lack of documentation and recognition of prior learning
- Discrimination and bullying
- Limited returns to education without access to formal labor markets

These challenges are exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 and resulting fiscal shrinkage among host and donor governments



Inclusive education provides a durable, sustainable solution to the refugee education challenge

- Refugee education has historically been addressed through separate or parallel systems as a temporary response to refugee emergencies
- Given the increasing number of refugees and incidence of protracted crises, there is an increasing push towards establishing inclusive education systems
- Inclusive education systems integrate refugee children within national education systems, implying that refugees face the same cost and quality constraints and benefit equally from education investments as host country students
- Inclusive education systems can also benefit underserved host communities where a large share of refugees reside

A young girl with dark hair tied back, wearing a white lace-trimmed shirt under a denim vest, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. She is looking down at a book or paper on her desk. In the background, other students are visible at their desks, and a teacher or adult is partially visible on the left side of the frame. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a daytime classroom setting.

Measuring the fiscal costs of educating all refugee children through national systems

- Methodology begins with the host country's per student (or average) fiscal cost calculated as public expenditure divided by public enrolment (differentiated by level of education)
- Adds a percentage mark-up for refugee students to account for special programs they require (20% for pre-primary/primary, 35% for secondary) and an additional ECCE mark-up of 30%
- Estimates annual refugee student enrollment using cohort flows
- Sums across pre-primary, primary and secondary levels of education for K-12 years of education

Methodology is based on the key premise of inclusive education: refugee education is embedded in the host country education system, facing the same cost drivers and efficiency and quality constraints

Summary Findings

Average annual cost all refugee students to complete K-12 years of education through national systems in developing countries:
US\$4.85 billion*

Total financing envelope over thirteen years:
US\$63 billion

** An additional US\$443 million is the estimated annual cost for delivering education to Palestinian refugee children under UNRWA's mandate*

The top 15 developing refugee host countries account for US\$3.7 billion or over 75 percent of this annual financing envelope, of which

- US\$2.1 billion in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan
- US\$468 million in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador
- US\$461 million in Bangladesh
- US\$421 million in Iran and Pakistan
- US\$214 million in Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Kenya and Chad



The average unit cost for refugee education varies by income-categorization and level of education

Average unit cost for refugee education: US\$1,051

LIC: US\$171

LMIC: US\$663

UMIC: US\$2,085

	Average annual unit costs for native students (2020 US\$)			Average annual unit costs for refugee students (2020 US\$)		
	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary
Low income	123	95	181	142	114	244
Lower-middle income	535	412	666	618	494	900
Upper-middle income	2,095	1,612	1,596	2,417	1,934	2,155

* Country-specific cost estimates can be reviewed and adapted [here](#)

Greater investment is required in the secondary subsector to allow for completion of the K-12 education cycle

The cost of secondary education for refugee students accounts for **75 percent** of the total annual financing required for refugee education.

US\$ (millions)	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary	Total
Low income	1	25	148	174
Lower-middle income	3	74	738	815
Upper-middle income	46	1,045	2,770	3,861
Total	50	1,144	3,656	4,850

The annual cost of inclusive refugee education amounts to less than 5 percent of public education expenditure in developing host countries

Average annual refugee education cost as percentage of public education expenditure: 3.8 percent

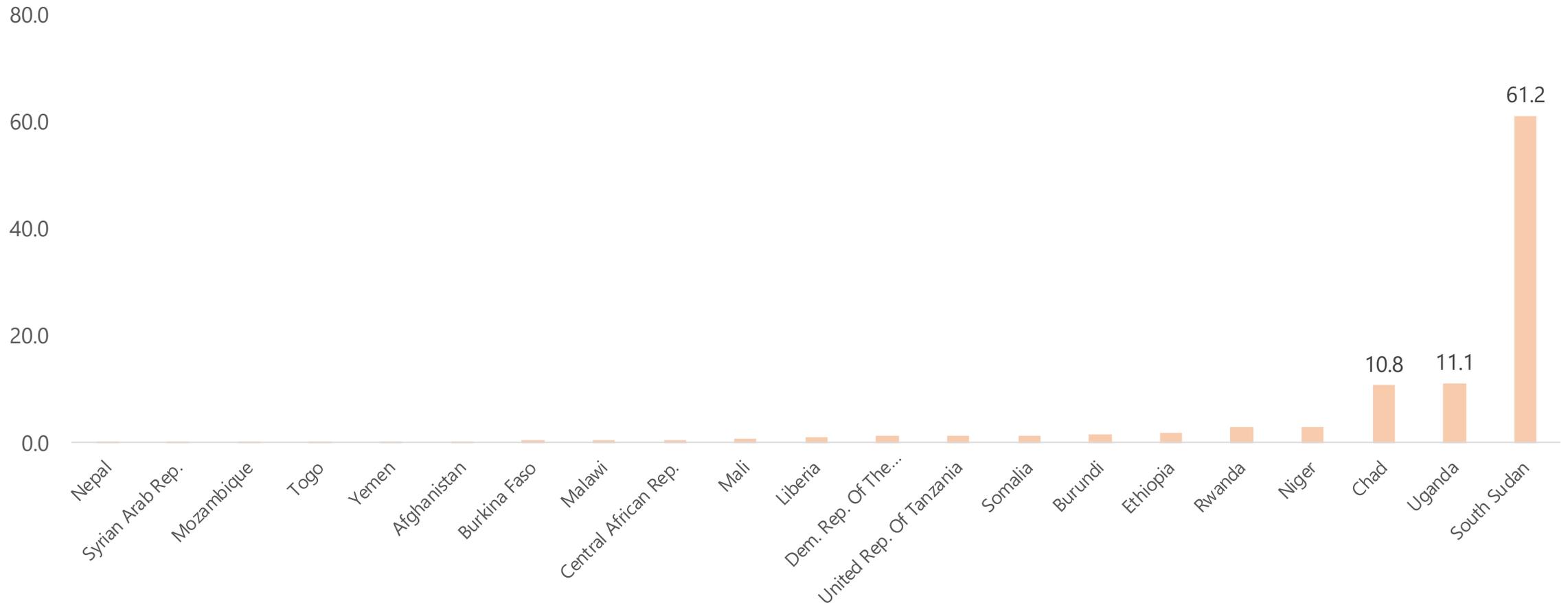
LIC: 4.7 percent
LMIC: 2.1 percent
UMIC: 4.3 percent

In 36 out of the 65 countries studied inclusive refugee education costs amounts to less than 1 percent of annual primary and secondary education expenditure

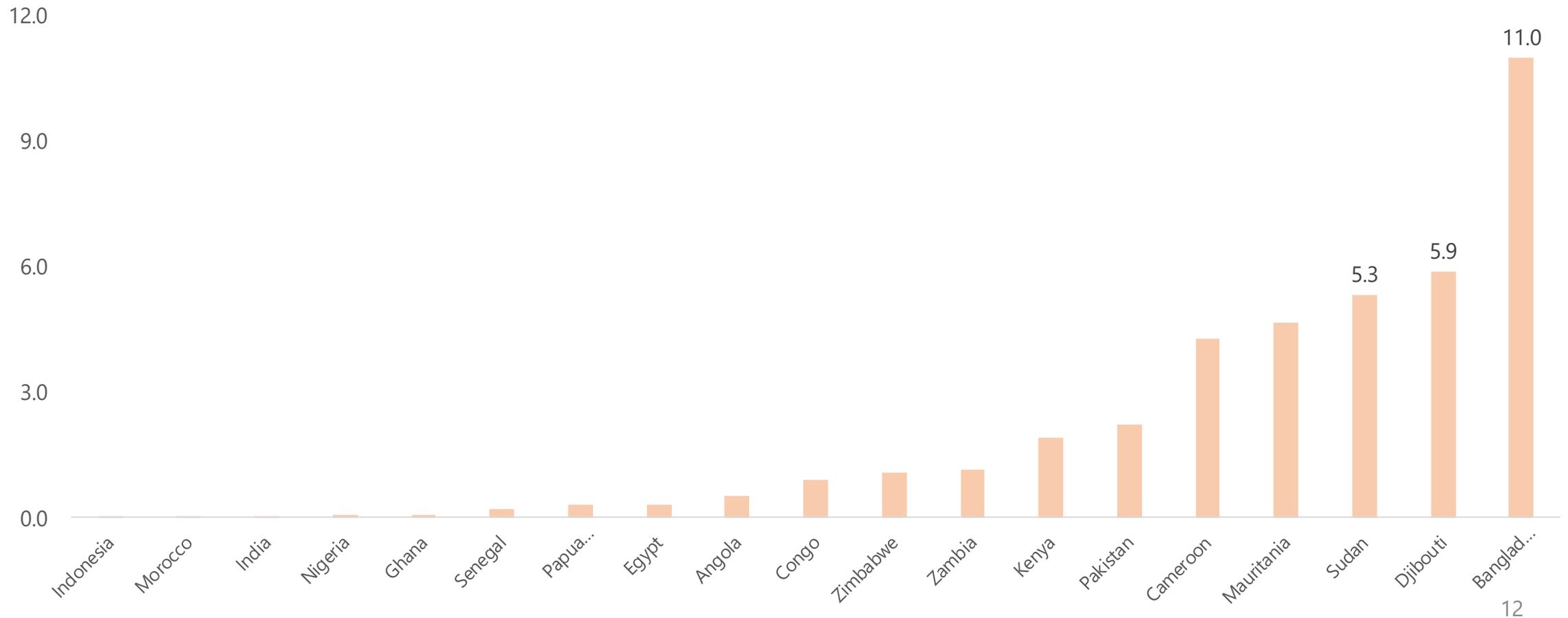
Exceptions exist in countries experiencing large influxes of refugees and historically low public expenditure on education

Country	Avg. annual costs for refugees (% of public primary and secondary education expenditure)
Bangladesh	11.0
Uganda	11.1
Jordan	16.1
Lebanon	58.2
South Sudan	61.2

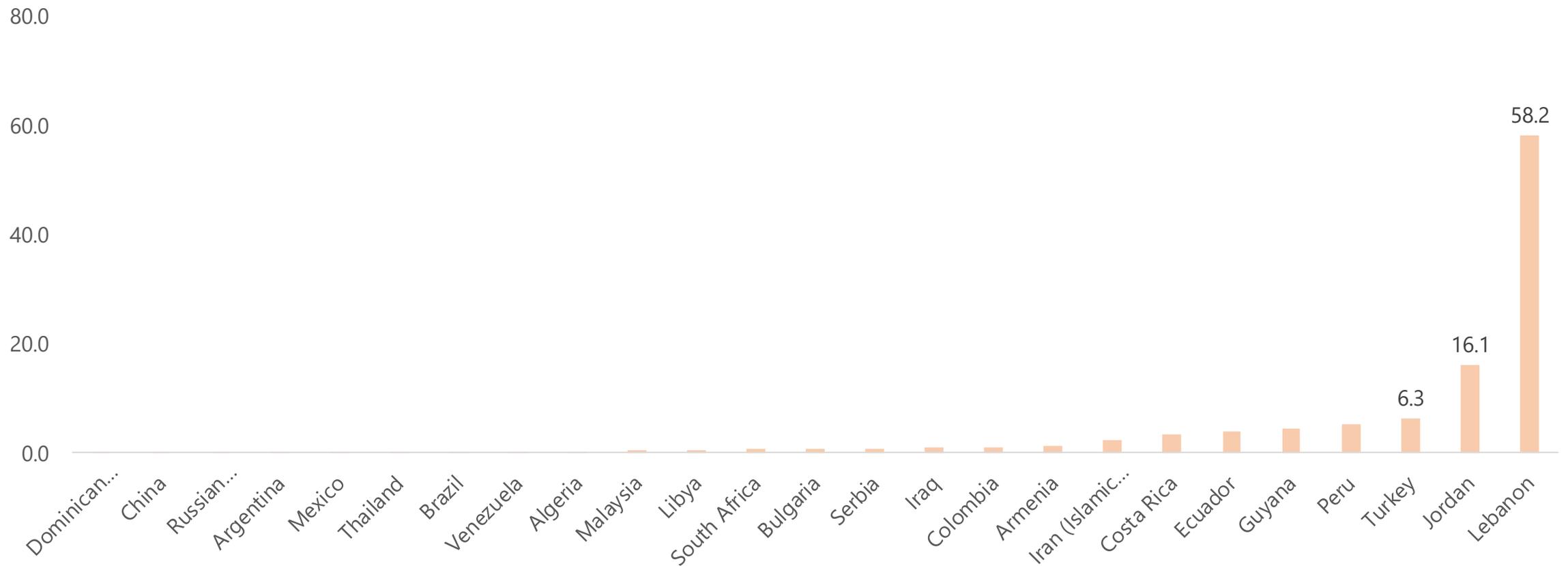
The annual cost of inclusive refugee education amounts to averagely 4.7 percent of public education expenditure in LICs



The annual cost of inclusive refugee education amounts to averagely 2.1 percent of public education expenditure in LMICs



The annual cost of inclusive refugee education amounts to averagely 4.3 percent of public education expenditure in UMICs



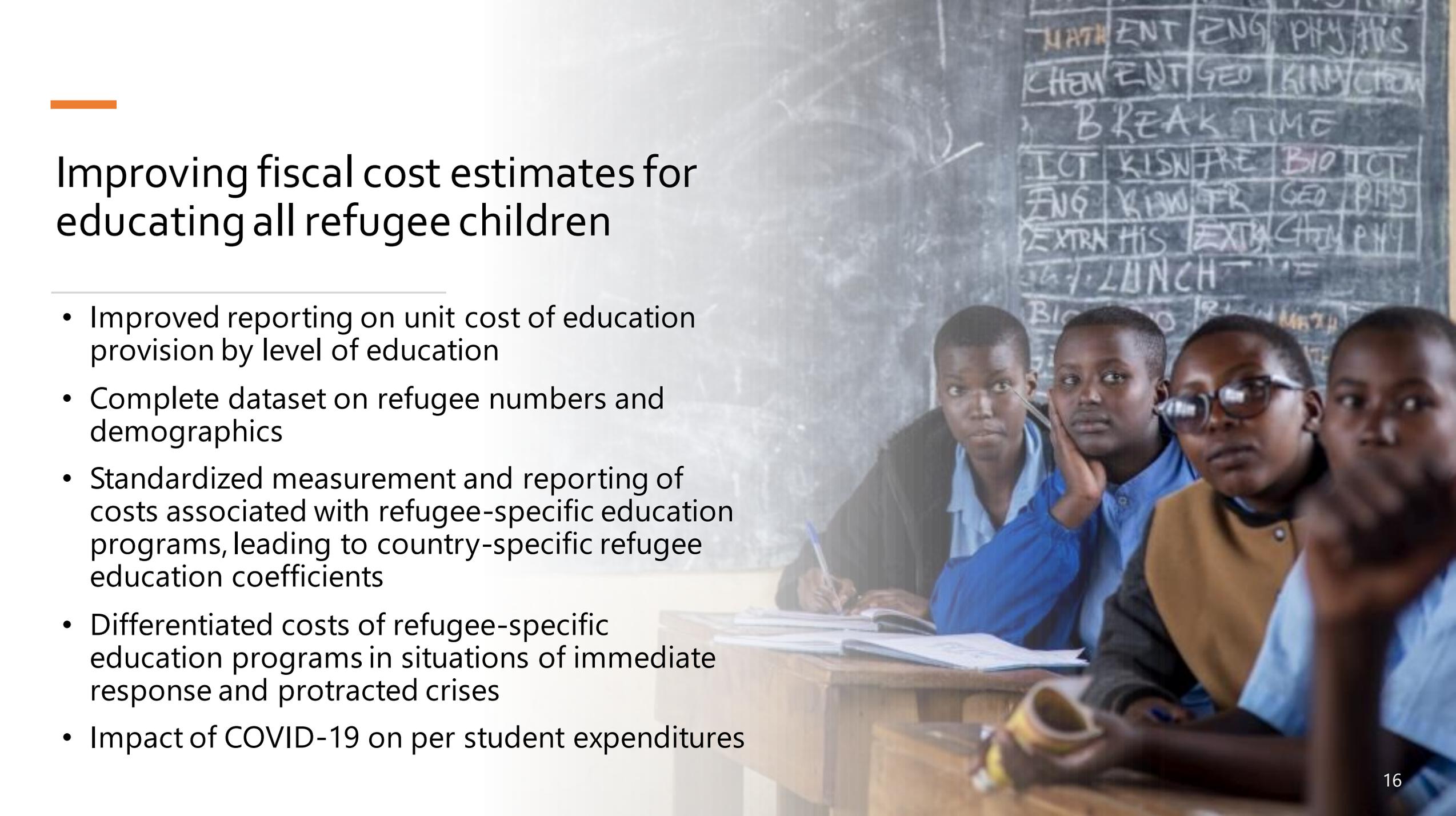
Prioritization of investments in low and lower-middle income countries can result in over half of all school-aged refugee children being reached

Income Category	Number of school-age refugees	Total base cost (US\$ billions)	Total refugee mark-up (US\$ billions)	Total cost (US\$ billions)	Share of school-age refugees	Share of total cost
Low income	1,861,337	1.71	0.55	2.26	26	3.6
Lower-middle income	1,887,390	7.94	2.65	10.59	27	16.8
Upper-middle income	3,288,842	38.51	11.68	50.19	47	79.6
Total	7,037,568	48.16	14.89	63.05	100	100

Limitations and caveats

- Refugee education coefficients are assumed to be uniform across all countries
- Costing methodology does not include the cost of improving *quality* of education
- Report provides a pre-COVID baseline of fiscal costs given limited and evolving data on impact on public education expenditure
- Provision of financial resources is a necessary but not sufficient condition for universal access and completion of education
- Report does not substitute for national inclusive education planning nor is it meant for cross-country comparisons.





Improving fiscal cost estimates for educating all refugee children

- Improved reporting on unit cost of education provision by level of education
- Complete dataset on refugee numbers and demographics
- Standardized measurement and reporting of costs associated with refugee-specific education programs, leading to country-specific refugee education coefficients
- Differentiated costs of refugee-specific education programs in situations of immediate response and protracted crises
- Impact of COVID-19 on per student expenditures



Financing refugee education

- Financing for refugee education has largely mirrored the financing patterns of humanitarian aid (short-term, fragmented and earmarked for specific interventions directed to parallel rather than national systems)
- Humanitarian aid is dependent on the resources mobilized for emergency response (largely voluntary, unpredictable and inadequate).
- Over the last 20 years, humanitarian appeals for education were only 50 percent funded on average.
- Combined humanitarian and development support to refugee education amounted to US\$800 million in 2016
- Total aid to education amounted to US\$15.9 billion in

The report's figure of US\$4.85 billion annually, while representing a significant increase in terms of support to refugee education, is also well within the annual education aid envelope

Policy Recommendations

- Address challenges related to inadequate, inflexible and unpredictable financing
- Develop costed refugee and host community education response plans with clear financing targets, resource mobilization plans and capacity building
- Accelerate operationalization of innovative financing instruments (IFFEd, GCFF, impact and theme bonds, donor guarantees to MDBs, World Bank WHR and RSW etc.)
- Strengthen humanitarian-development nexus and effective sequencing of humanitarian and development financing
- Strengthen leadership and partnerships between development and humanitarian actors

World Bank Support to Education in FCS

- IDA-18 Regional Sub-Window for Refugees and Host Communities (RSW) 2018-2020 – US\$2 billion (half of which is grants).
- IDA-19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) 2021-2023 – US\$2.2 billion in operations, including a dedicated sub-window of US\$1 billion to respond to the COVID-19 impact on refugees.
- Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) provides concessional financing to middle-income countries.
- About 15 percent of RSW/WHR funds and 12 percent of GCFF funds are allocated to education.
- The World Bank also has a portfolio of over US\$1.11 billion IDA in education projects operational in fragile states.
- Analytical work supported through the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center (JDC)
- World Bank has a partnership with ECW and GPE which committed to coordinate on identifying and closing funding gaps for education of the

Refugee Inclusive Education Costing – Data Dashboard

Report is accompanied by a data dashboard which allows host countries to review and adapt refugee numbers, unit costs and refugee coefficient figures

Country:	AFGHANISTAN
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Please select country here

Data from UIS/ UNHCR	
Refugee, asylum seeker and VDA population (end 2019)	
Refugees	72,228
Asylum seekers	251
Venezuelans displaced abroad	-
Total refugees and asylum seekers	72,479
Population aged 5-11 years	17,002
Population aged 12-17 years	9,247
Total school-aged children	26,249
Unit cost for native student (estimated) - 2020 US\$	
Primary education	62
Secondary education	68

Standard assumptions of costing model	
Number of years of pre-primary and primary education	7
Number of years of secondary education	6
Repetition rate - Primary	0
Repetition rate - Secondary	0
Refugee coefficient - pre-primary/primary	0.2
Refugee coefficient - secondary	0.35
ECE coefficient	0.3
Projected inflation rate	0.024

Summary of results	
Total cost of refugee education	19,361,887
Y1 cost	2,161,276
Annual average cost	1,489,376
Unit cost for refugee student (estimated) - 2020 US\$	
Pre-primary	93.40
Primary	74.72
Secondary	91.43



Thank you!

Q & A

