GROWING SMARTER:
## Learning and equitable development in East Asia and Pacific

World Bank East Asia and Pacific Regional Flagship Report - **2018**

WORLD BANK GROUP
Education

The EAP region: A half-century of stellar growth

Average economic growth between 1961 and 2015
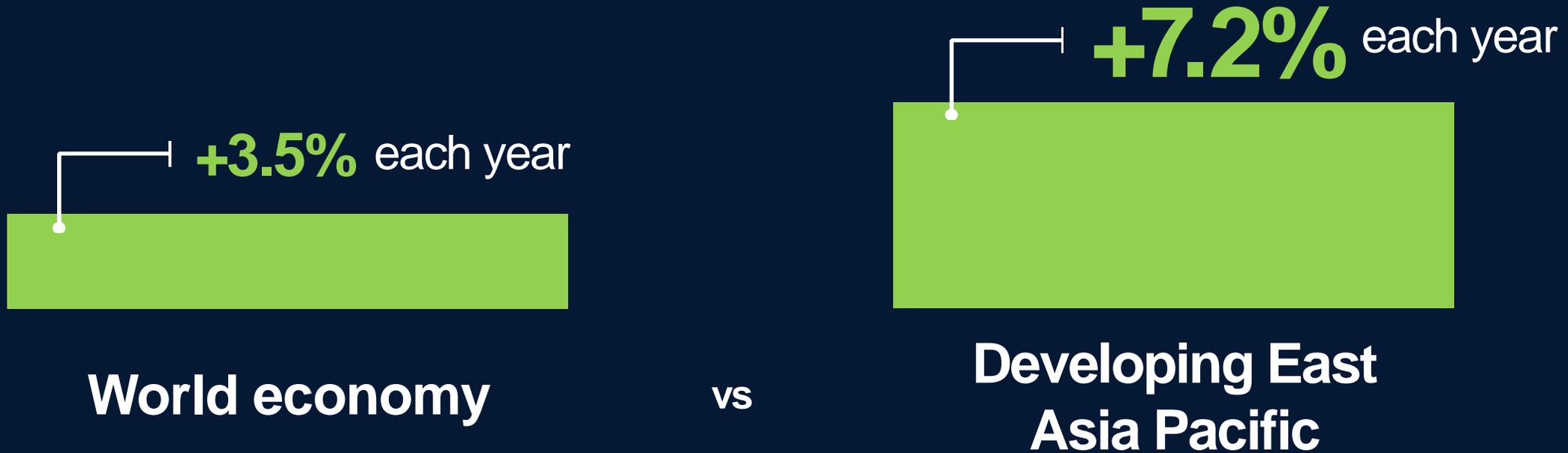
+3.5% each year

+7.2% each year

World economy   vs   **Developing East Asia Pacific**
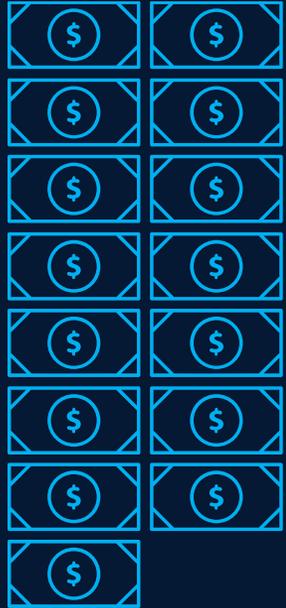
Size of EAP economy at various growth rates

$11.1 trillion
EAP with China

Size of EAP economy at various growth rates

$1.5 trillion
World

Size of EAP economy at various growth rates
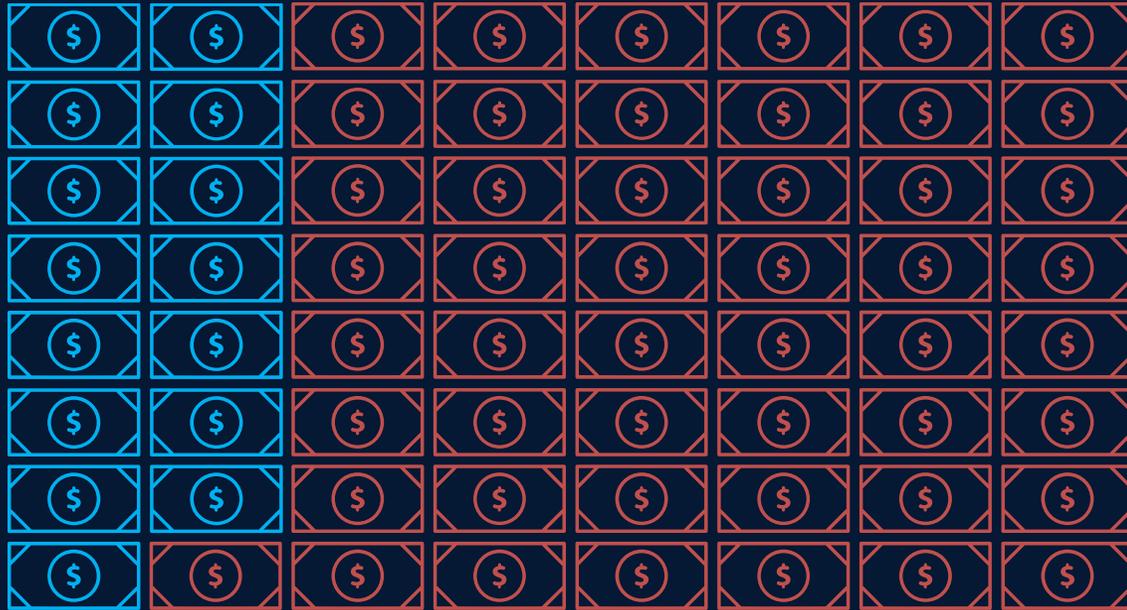
$1.5 trillion
World

$4.8 trillion
EAP without China

Size of EAP economy at various growth rates

$11.1 trillion
EAP with China

The share of people in EAP working in agriculture has fallen and the share working in services has risen

Share of population in **1991**

- **Agriculture**
- **Services**
- **Other**

The share of people in EAP working in agriculture has fallen and the share working in services has risen

Share of population in **2016**

● Agriculture   ● Services   ● Other
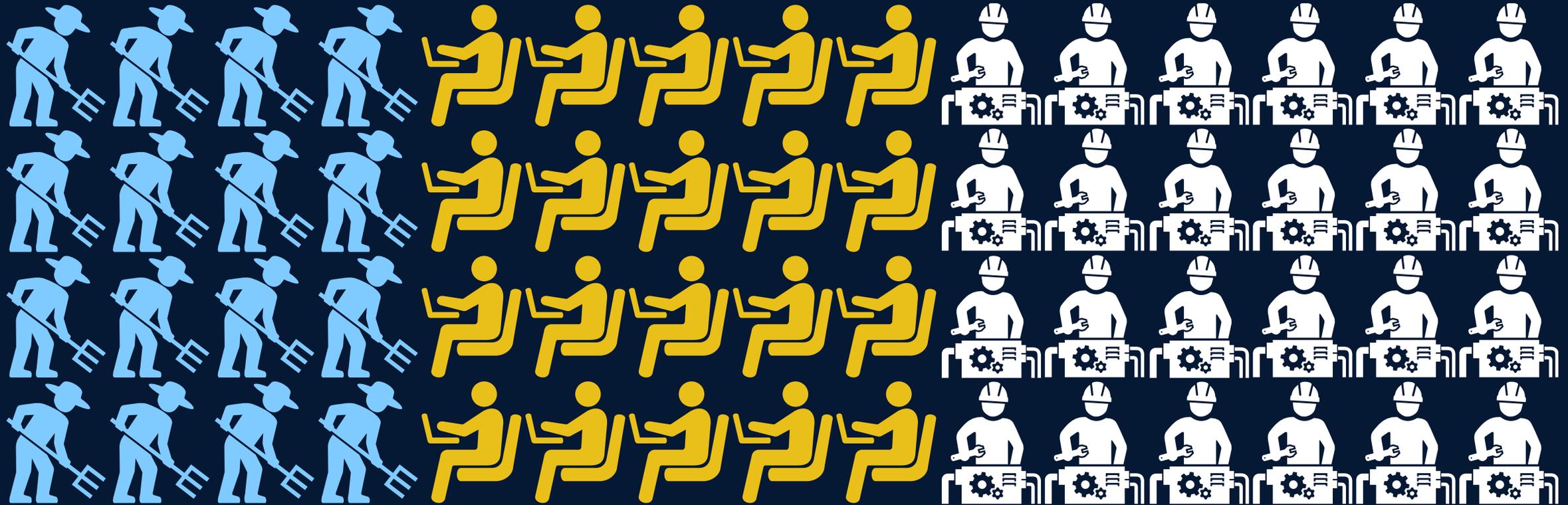
Regional snapshot

The East Asia and Pacific region is home to:

29
countries and economies
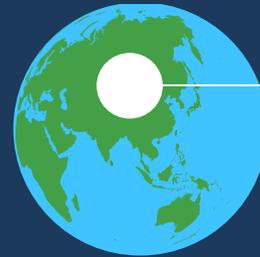
**26%**
of the world's school age children
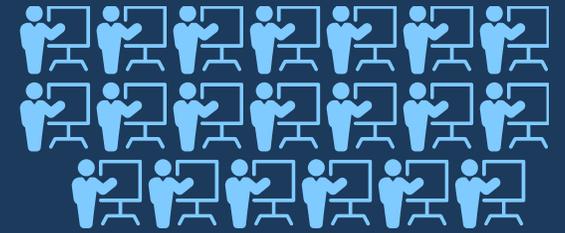
20 million
public school teachers

7/10
of the world's top educational systems

Tens of millions of children
in school but not learning

Education attainment grew rapidly and steadily in EAP since 1950

Average years of schooling for adults aged 25+ in EAP compared to world average in 1950

● **World**   ● **EAP**
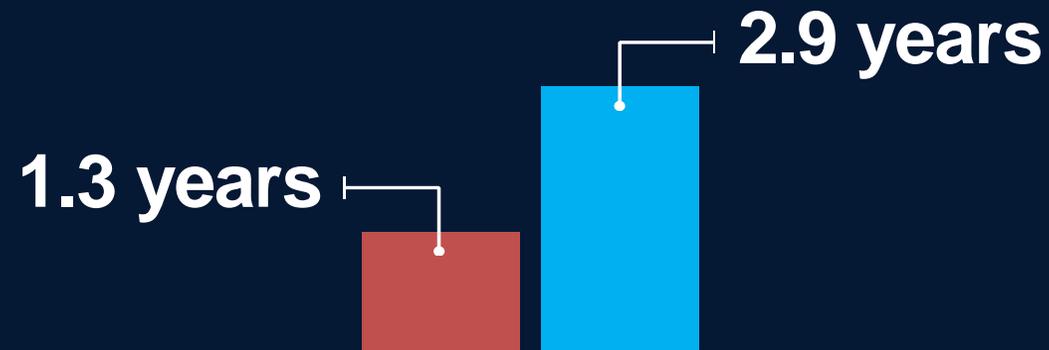
1.3 years

2.9 years

Education attainment grew rapidly and steadily in EAP since 1950

Average years of schooling for adults aged 25+ in EAP compared to
world average in 2010

● **World**   ● **EAP**

7.9 years

8 years
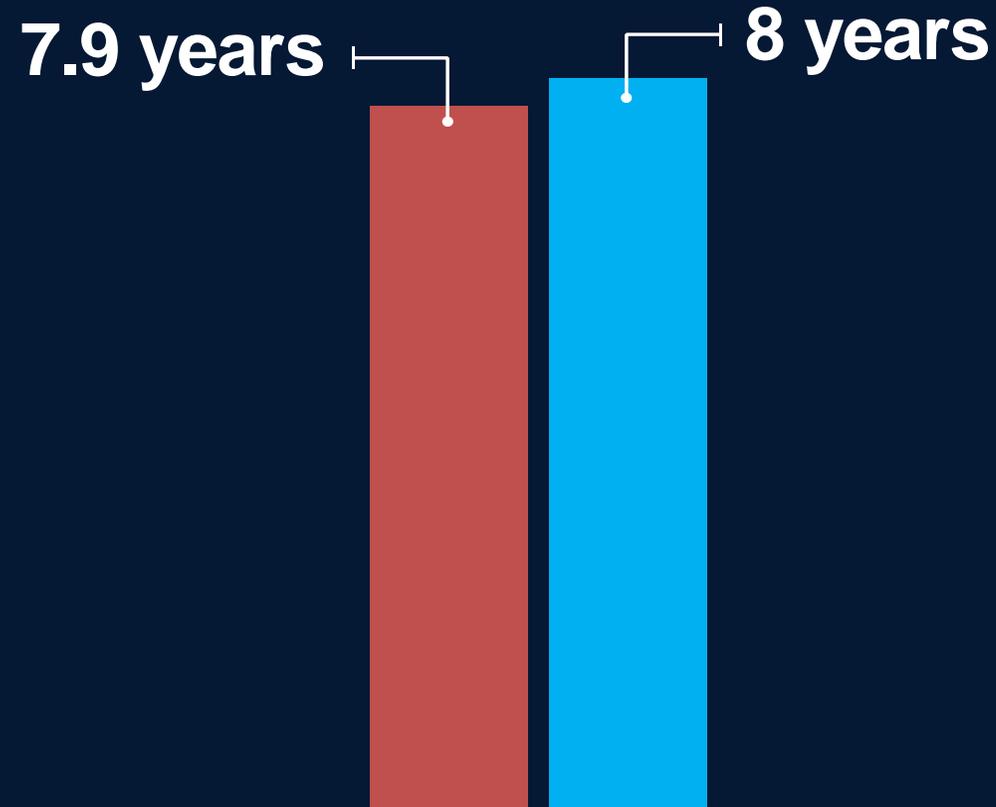
Every year of schooling raises earnings by 10%

There are rising returns to higher levels of education, despite increases in supply

Vietnam 1992

Share of workers with tertiary education

Wage premiums to tertiary education

Source: Di Gropello and Sakellariou 2010.

There are rising returns to higher levels of education, despite increases in supply

Vietnam 2006

+94%

+273%

Share of workers with tertiary education
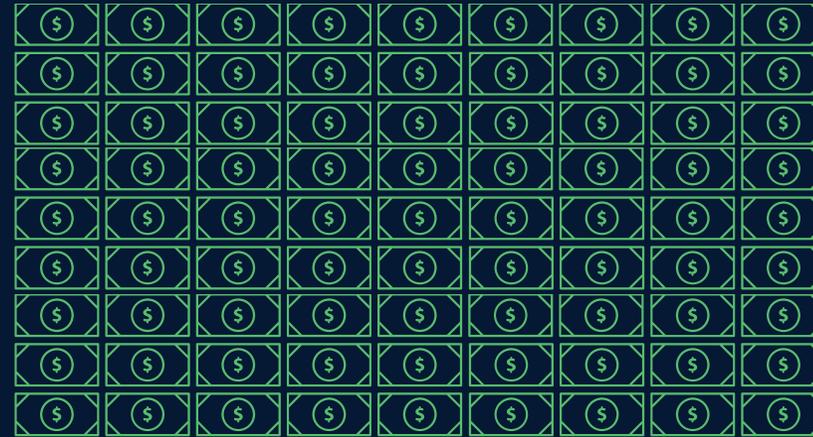
Wage premiums to tertiary education

Developing countries cluster at bottom of global scale

Mean scores for selected developed and developing countries (1965-2015)

EAP has some of the best education systems in the world, but also some that struggle to perform well
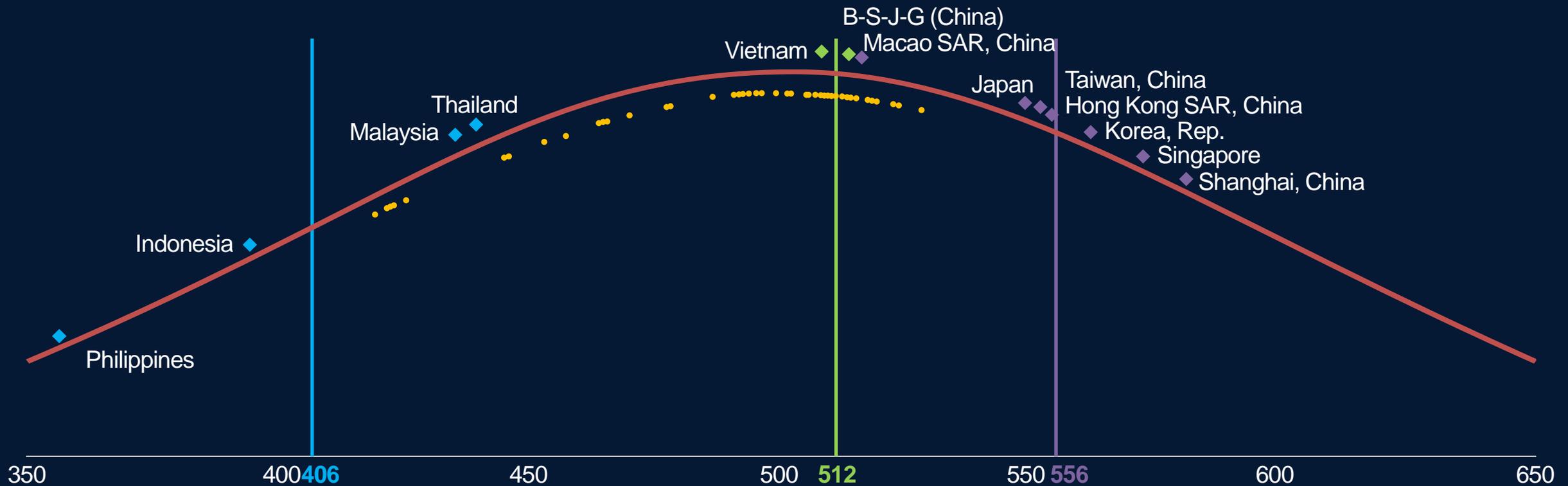
In Above-Average Performing Systems, learning is 2+ years above predicted levels

Japan	**2.0**	B-S-J-G (China)	**2.0**	Indonesia	**-0.6**
Korea, Rep.	**1.3**	Vietnam	**4.4**	Thailand	**-0.6**
Singapore	**1.3**			Malaysia	**-0.7**

Scores are not only high, they are also equitable

● OECD   ● Vietnam and B-S-J-G (China)

650
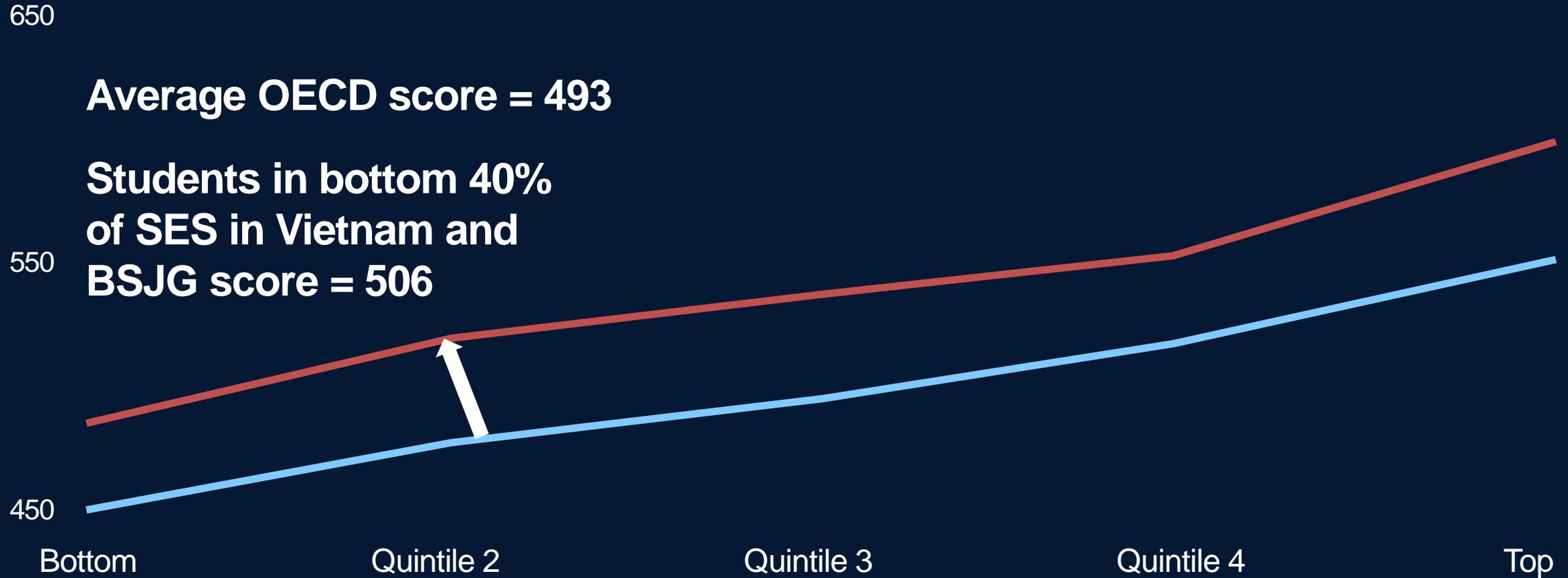
Average OECD score = 493

**Students in bottom 40%
of SES in Vietnam and
BSJG score = 506**

550

450

Bottom   Quintile 2   Quintile 3   Quintile 4   Top

Up to 60% of students in EAP are in systems in which learning outcomes are low or unknown
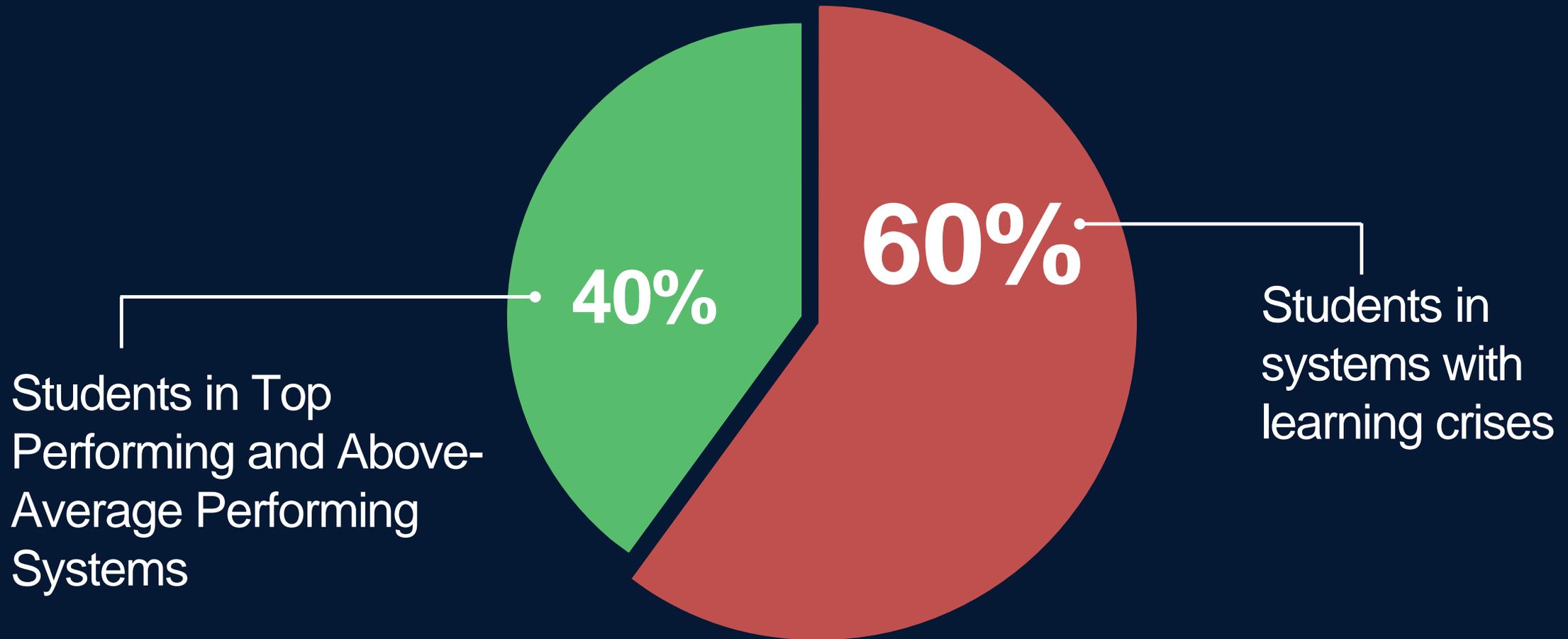
40% Students in Top Performing and Above-Average Performing Systems

60% Students in systems with learning crises

What can be learned from successful systems?

5 key policy domains

Align institutions to ensure that basic conditions for learning are in place in schools

Assess students to diagnose issues and inform instruction

Ensure children are ready to learn in school

Concentrate effective, equity-minded public spending on basic education

Select and support teachers throughout their careers to allow them to focus on the classroom

INSTITUTIONS

ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SPENDING

LEARNING

READINESS TO LEARN

TEACHERS

1 **Align institutions to ensure basic conditions for learning**

Top Performing systems had an unshakeable commitment to developing skills for prosperity

Percent of population with no schooling in 1950
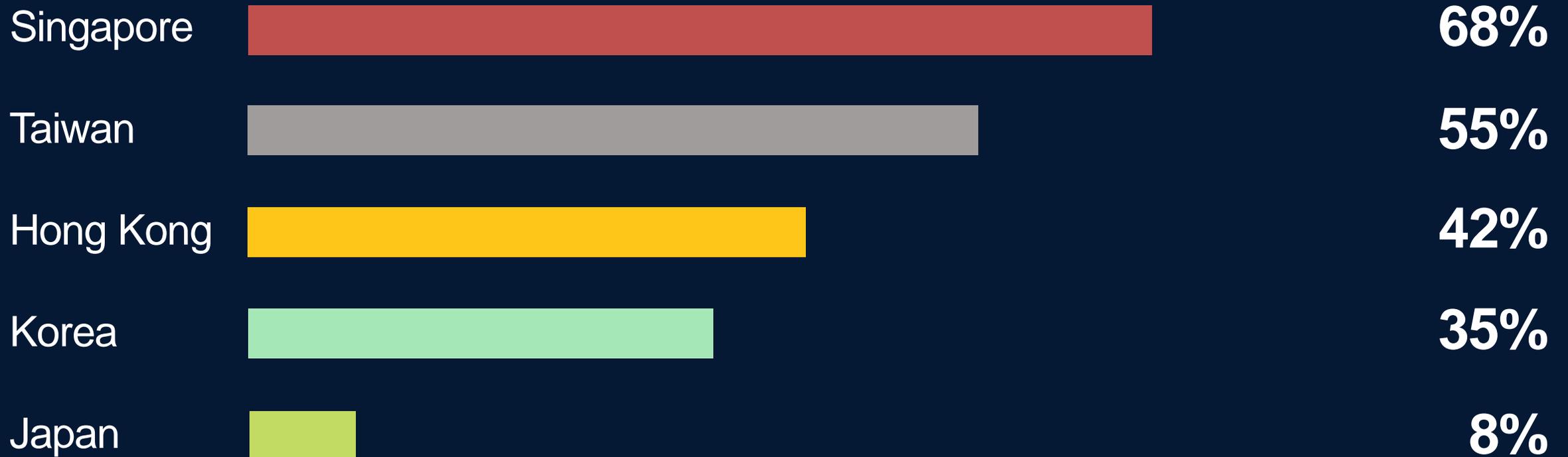
|	
Singapore	68%
Taiwan	55%
Hong Kong	42%
Korea	35%
Japan	8%

Source: Barro and Lee 2013.

Top Performing systems had an unshakeable commitment to developing skills for prosperity

Percent of population with no schooling in 2010

| Country		Percent
Singapore		**18%**
Taiwan		**5%**
Hong Kong		**8%**
Korea		**7%**
Japan		**0%**

Source: Barro and Lee 2013.

❷ Concentrate effective, equity-minded public spending on basic education

Unlike Top Performing Systems, Below-Average Performing Systems still struggle to focus spending on basic education

Percent of government education spending

● **Elementary**   ● **Tertiary**
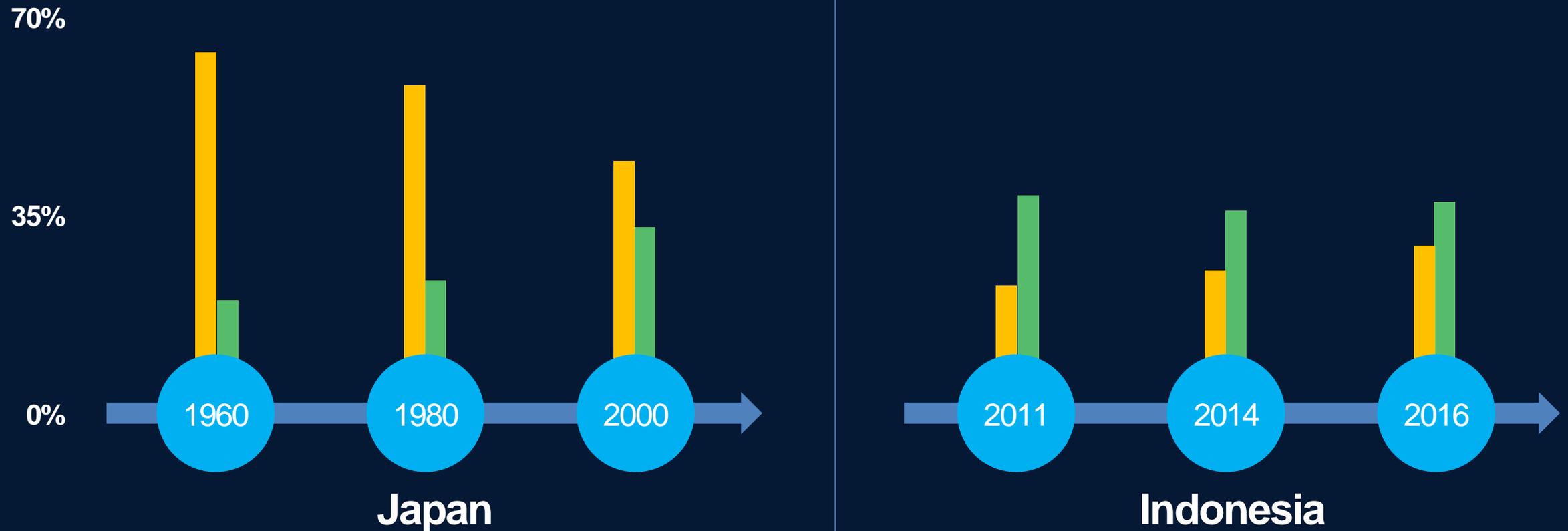
Japan

Indonesia

3 **Select and support teachers throughout their careers to allow them to focus on the classroom**

Successful systems recruit and develop the best to become teachers

In **Japan**, only 14% of applicants to education programs are accepted; only about 30–40% of graduates are hired annually

In **Singapore**, the government recruits the top one-third of university graduates to become teachers

In **Korea**, only 1 in 20 passes the exams for employment to become a teacher

In **Taiwan, China** typically only the top third of applications are accepted into education programs which are highly competitive

# Top Performing and Above Average Performing Systems in EAP tend to use more elaboration and less memorization

Teaching and learning strategies in mathematics around the world

More memorization

More elaboration

United Kingdom

Indonesia

United States

OECD average

Finland

Hong Kong, SAR

Thailand

Korea

Macau, SAR

Shanghai, China

Malaysia

Vietnam

Taiwan, China

More student-oriented instruction

More teacher-directed instruction
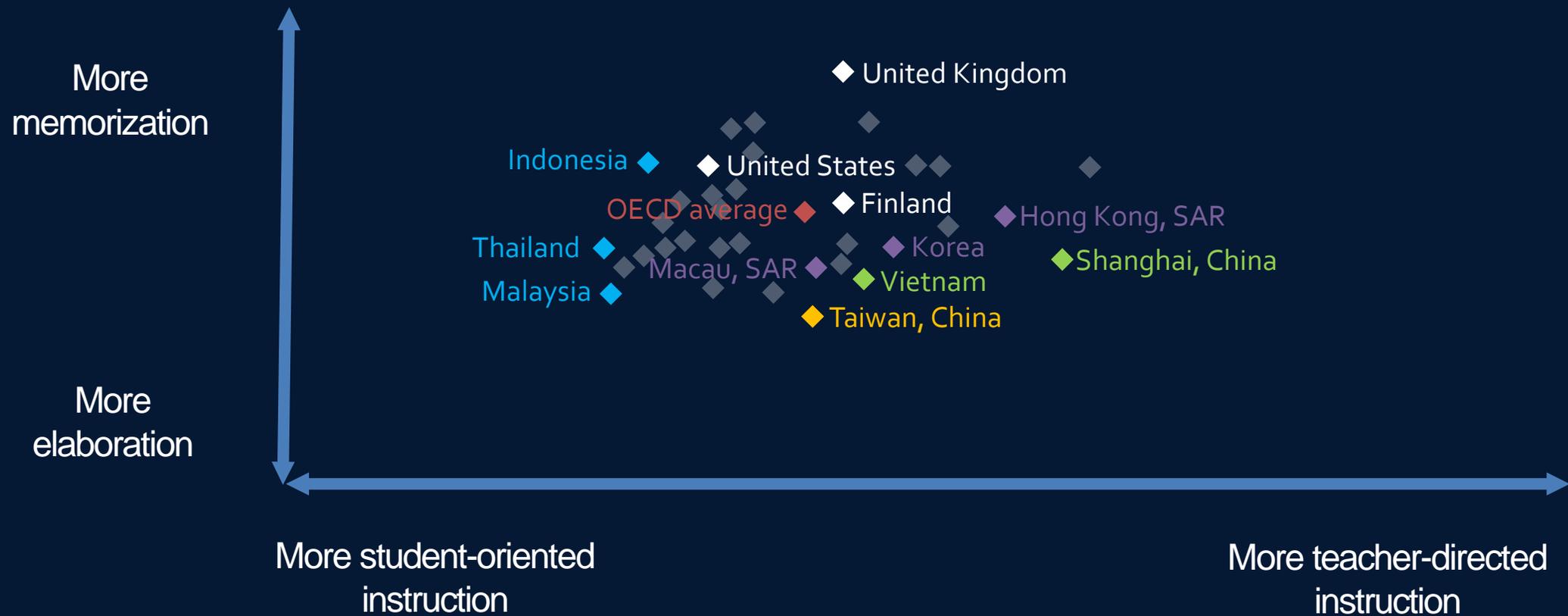
4 **Ensure that children are ready to learn in school**

Access to key services varies widely across countries – the largest gaps are between pregnancy and preschool

● Pregnancy   ● Birth   ● Family support   ● Child health and development   ● Preschool

100%

50%

0%   Cambodia   Indonesia   Myanmar   Philippines   Timor-Leste   Korea, Rep.
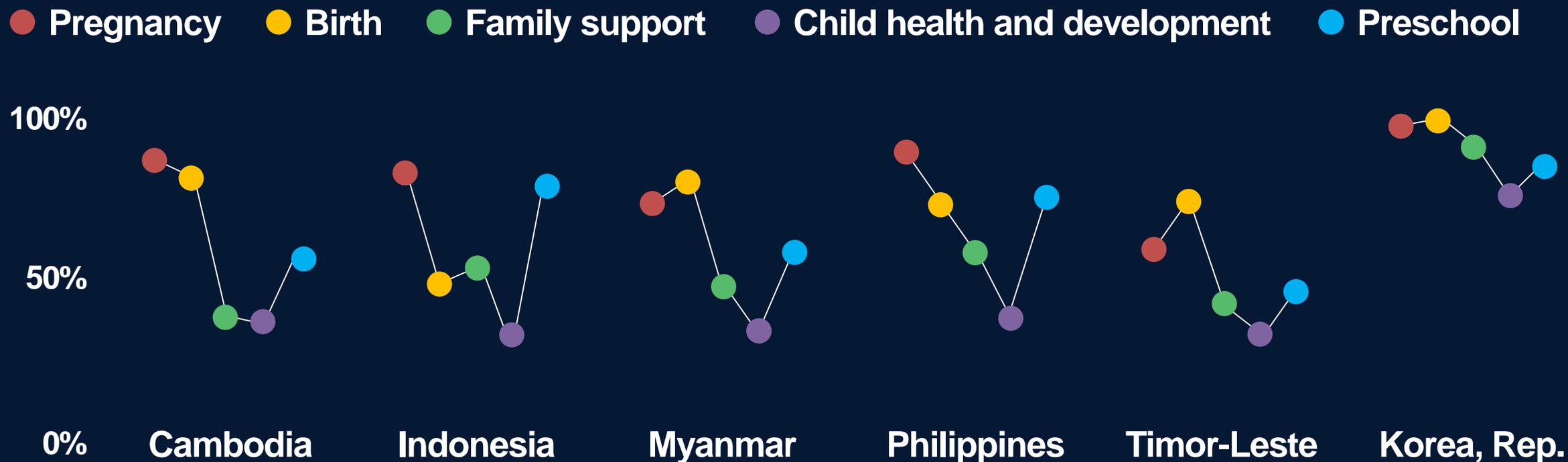
Sources: Data from Demographic and Health Surveys. Preschool attendance data were supplemented by World Bank EdStats database (various years).
Note: As described in Denboba and others (2014), pregnancy includes at least 4 visits in antenatal care, iron during pregnancy, and diet counseling during pregnancy; Birth includes doctor or nurse present at delivery and breastfeeding; Child health and development includes at least 3 types of food beside breastmilk from 6 months on, zinc supplement in case of diarrhoea, children with weight, height and height/weight ratio less than two standard deviations, and access to deworming medicine; family support includes mother having completed at least primary education, last birth interval greater than two years and last pregnancy desired, at least three types of stimulations, health care facility not too far and visit within 12 months, vitamin A in last 6 months and iron supplementation, safe water source and improved sanitation. Preschool attendance measures enrollment rate in preprimary education. Philippines has no data on non-breastmilk nutrition. Only Cambodia has information on diet counseling during pregnancy and availability of deworming medicine. Preschool attendance data supplemented by EdStats.

5 Assess students to inform instruction

Data from assessments have spurred national reforms
EGRA zero-word readers, 2nd grade
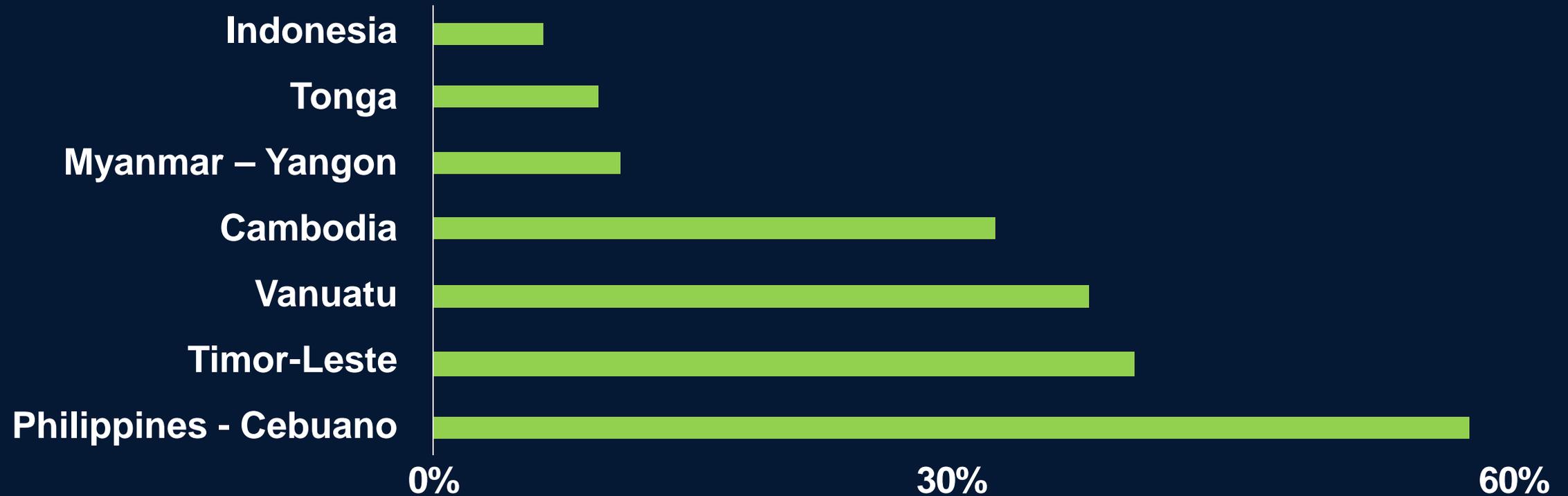
Source: Graham and Kelly 2017.
Note: All data are from nationally representative samples completed in the second half of the school year. Zero-word scores are based on the oral reading fluency subcomponent for all countries except Cambodia and Timor-Leste, for which it is based on the familiar word reading subcomponent.

Data from assessments have spurred national reforms
## EGRA zero-word readers, 2nd grade

2010

48%

Cambodia ▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬

0%   30%   60%

Data from assessments have spurred national reforms
EGRA zero-word readers, 2nd grade

2012

33%

Cambodia

0%   30%   60%

Actions across policy domains drive learning

Align
institutions to ensure basic conditions for learning

Concentrate
effective, equity-minded public spending on basic education

Select and support
teachers throughout their careers to allow them to focus on the classroom

Ensure
that children are ready to learn in school

Assess
students to diagnose issues and inform instruction

Thank you!

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