

Learning Poverty Gaps:

The importance of inequality sensitive learning measures

João Pedro Azevedo

Lead Economist

World Bank, Education Global Practice

GAML 7 – Session 12

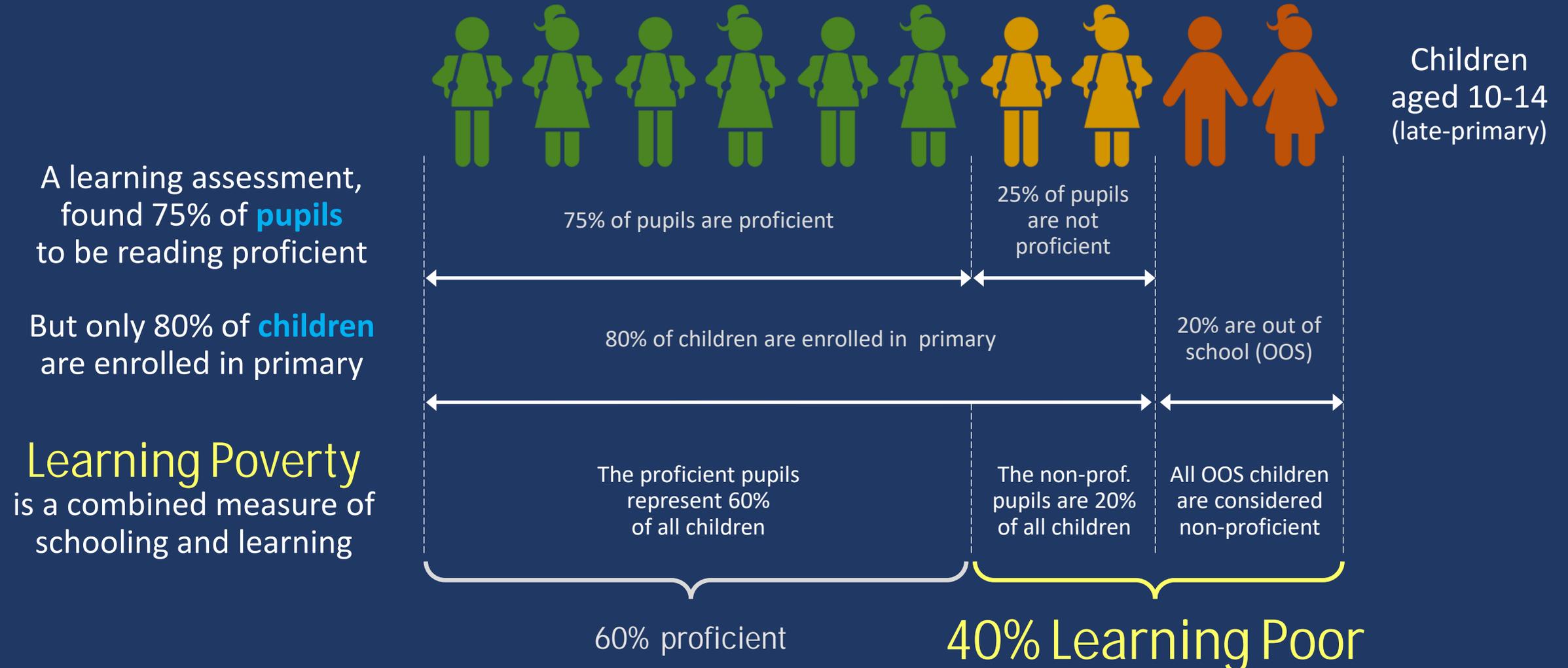
WG/GAML/7

#INVESTinPeople



UIS and World Bank collaboration, building on the SDGs

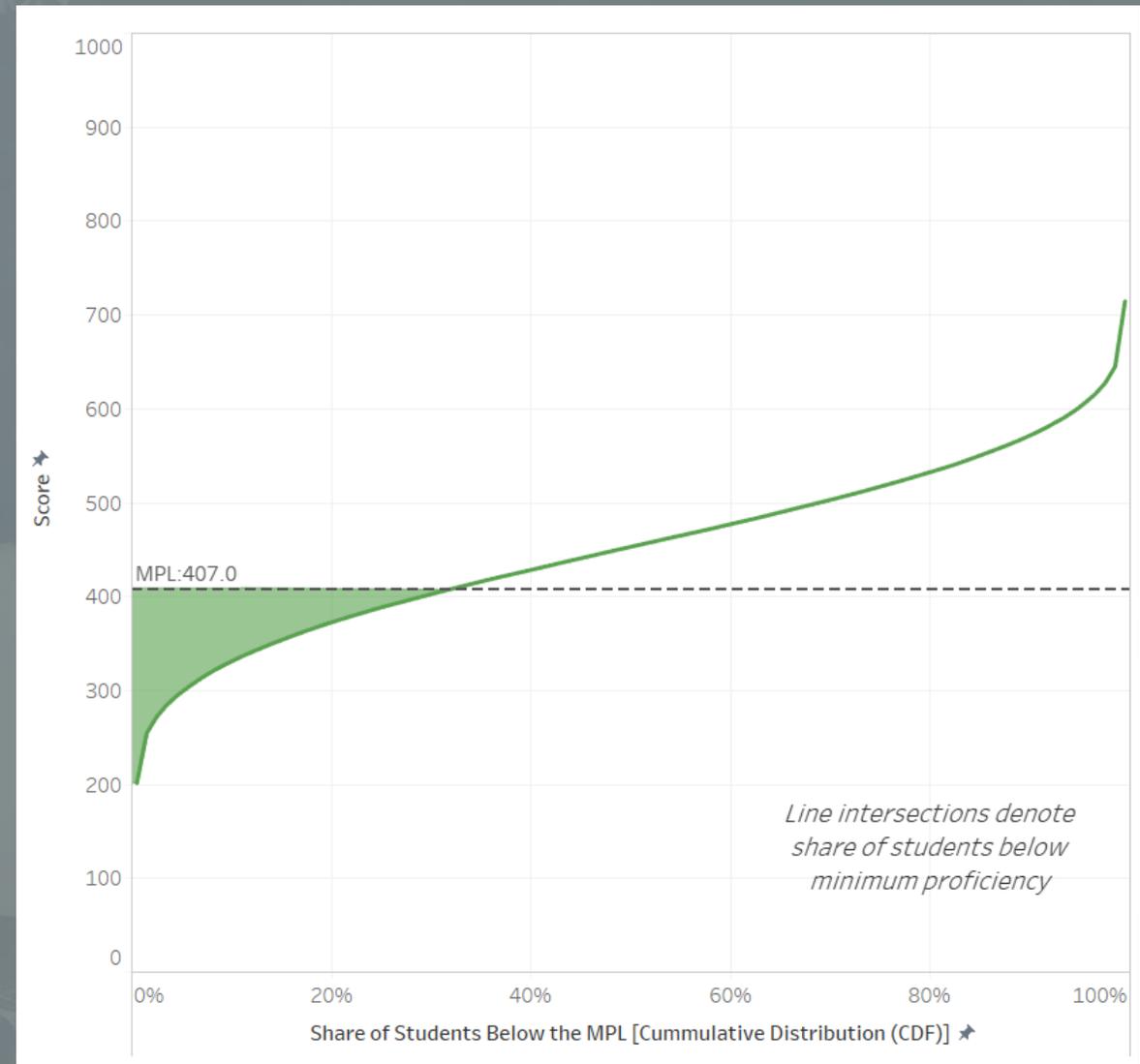
Learning Poverty: Learning + Schooling



SDG 4.1.1

The SDG 4.1.1 measure has given us **focus** on learning below the Minimum Proficiency Level (MPL)

...and is very simple to communicate.

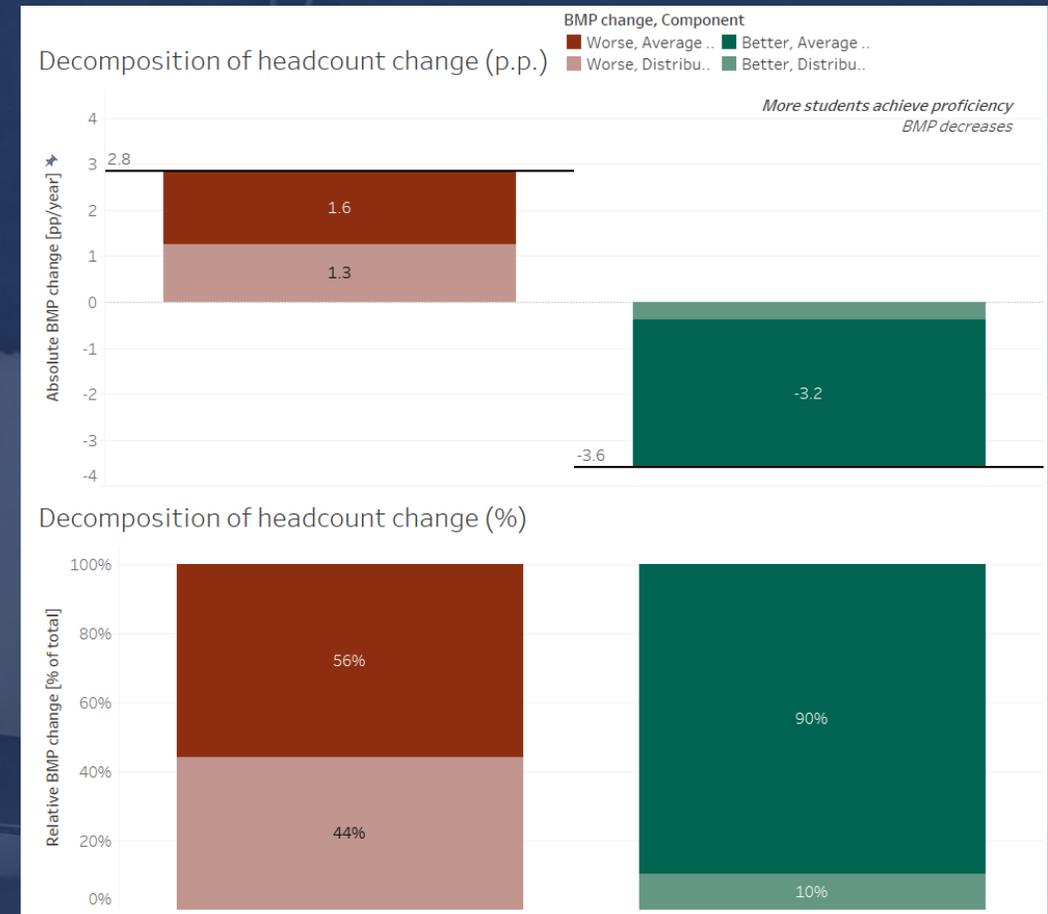


THE FOCUS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE LEARNING DISTRIBUTION CAN AFFECT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM

The average learning and share of student below the MPL can move in very different ways



and the learning distribution does change specially when the share of students below the MPL increase



THE CHALLENGE

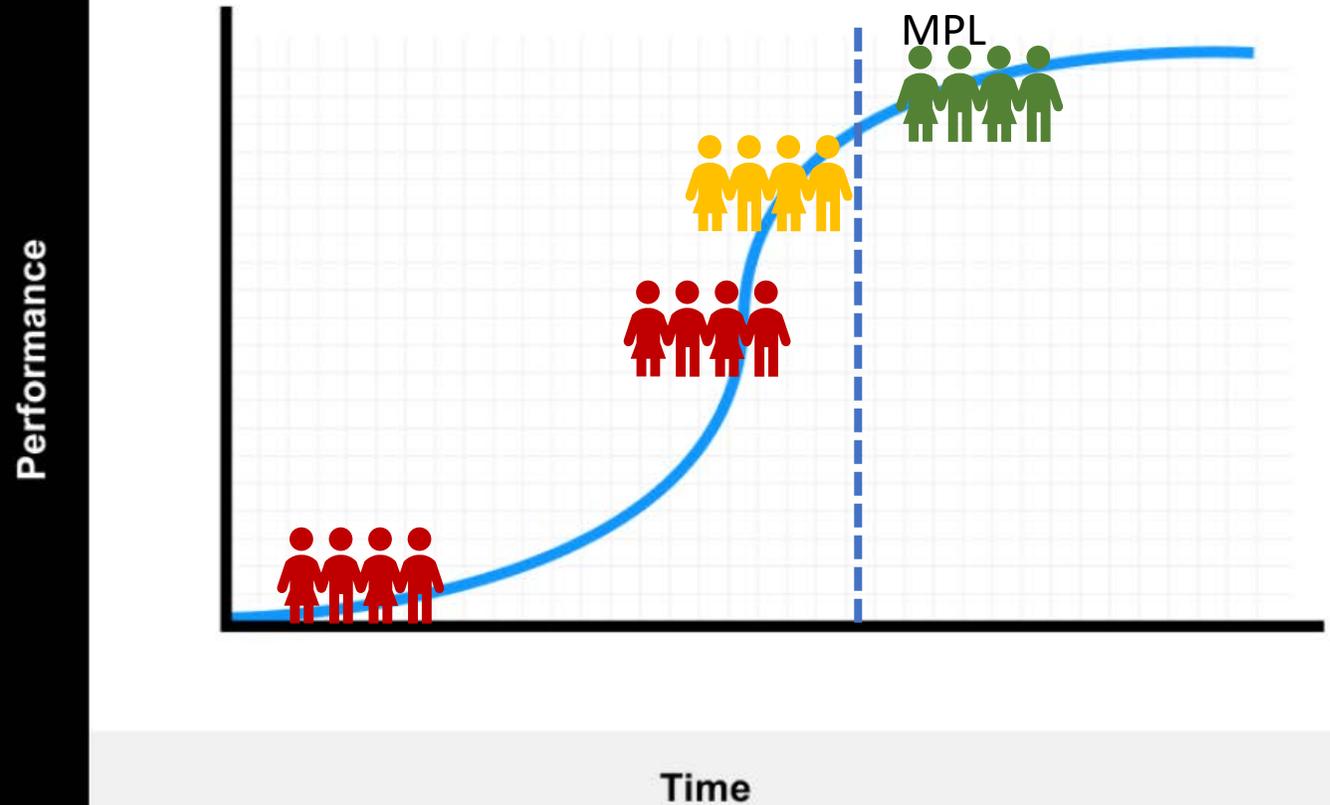
However, at high levels of learning deprivation (or low levels of learning), SDG 4.1.1 measures might not generate the correct incentives.

It fails to capture and recognize important efforts and results that countries might be obtaining at “foundational skills”

And is not sensitive to initial conditions of those below the MPL.

ENGLISH
DICTATION

Learning Curve



Source: <https://www.valamis.com/hub/learning-curve>

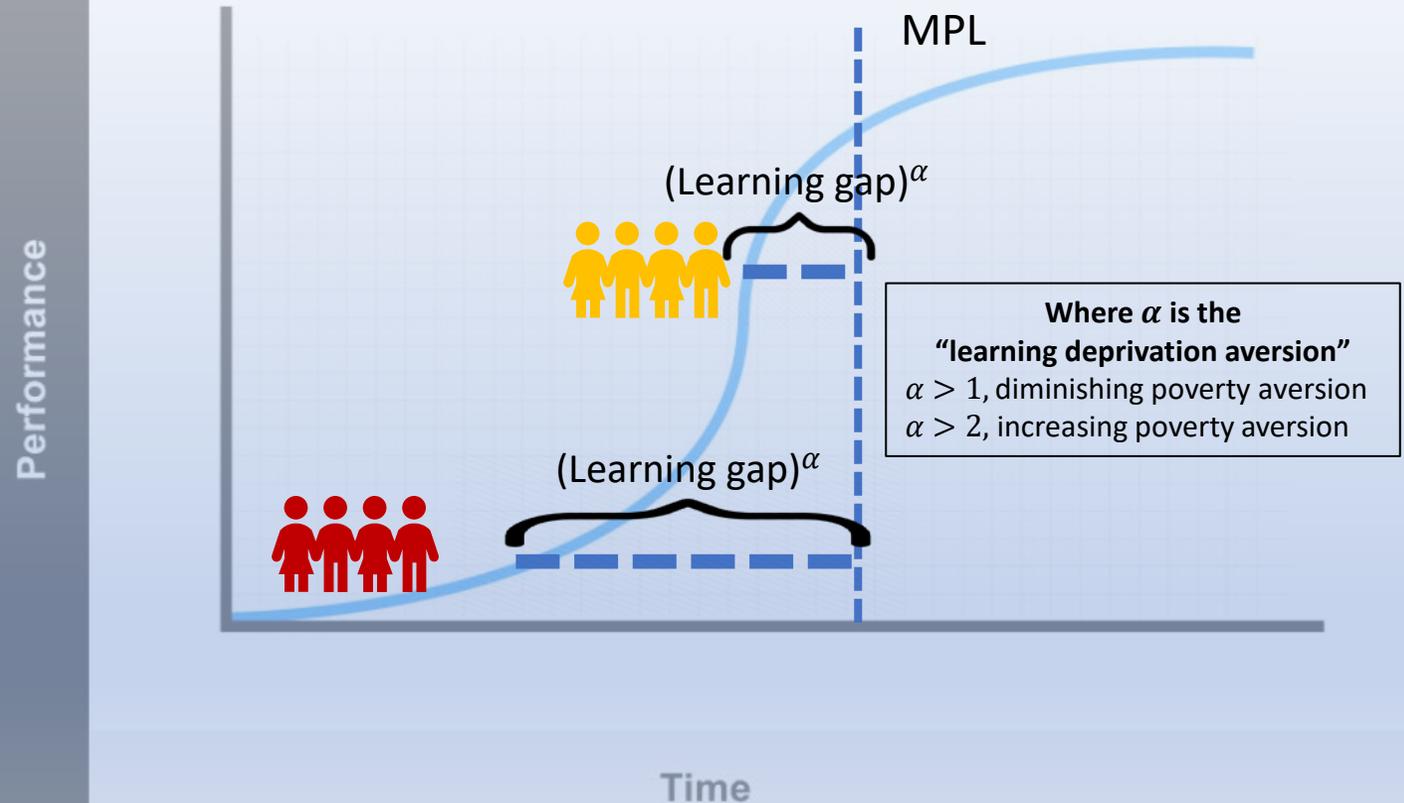
THE SOLUTION

Gap measure (learning deprivation gap) ($\alpha = 1$): sensitive to changes below the MPL, however, all changes below the MPL are equally important;

Gap-inequality measure (learning deprivation severity) ($\alpha > 1$): is both sensitive to changes below the MPL and can differentiate progress made at different points of the learning curve.

ENGLISH
DICTATION

Learning Curve



Source: <https://www.valamis.com/hub/learning-curve>

THIS DIFFERENTIATION MATTERS

DICTATION

Countries where students are at the same level of learning deprivation, require very different levels of effort (learning gap).

Countries that require the same average effort (learning gap); have very different levels of learning inequality among students below the MPL.

