United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICS

TECHNICAL COOPERATION GROUP

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Investment Case for SDG4 data

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TCG 4

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Making the case

- Why is relevant to invest in data?
- What are the gaps?
- Is it worthwhile to invest in data?
- What is the size of the investment?
- Who pays and who could pay?
- Any guidance about prioritization?
- What about the indicators that have
  - Low coverage
  - Methodological development is falling behind

MOTIVATION

- SDG4 Reporting and Monitoring framework
  - Ambitious agenda set at the highest political level
  - Comprises 11 Global Indicators
  - 32 complete the Thematic Frameworks
- Need for:
  - Reliable, high quality and cross-nationally comparable data.
  - Data collection, processing, and dissemination based on a common set of norms and standards.
  - Easily accessible data for policymakers.

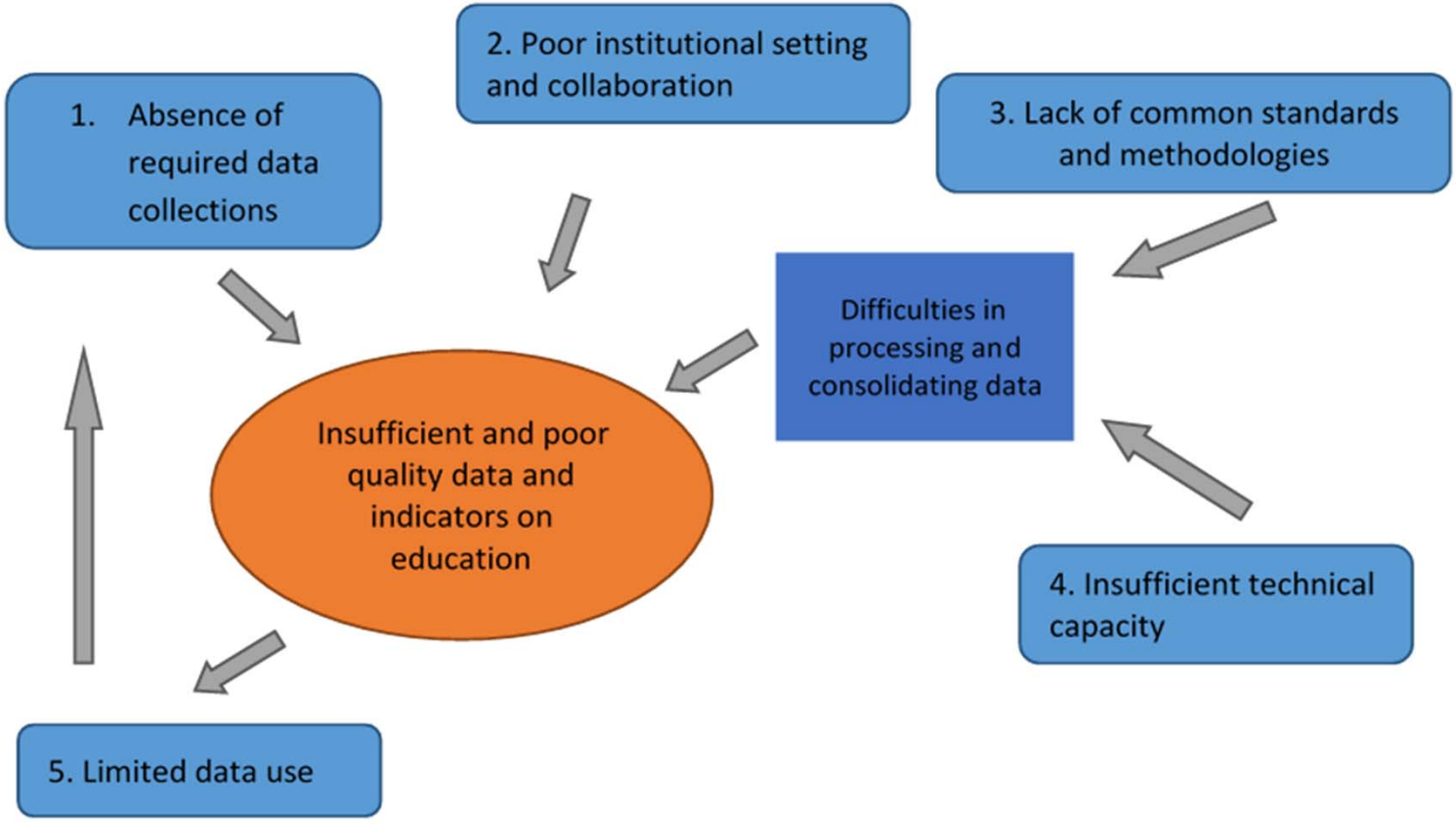
Motivation

- SDG presents more complex demands than the MDGs;
  - strong focus on quality education leading to effective learning outcome
  - importance given to the development of basic literacy and job-relevant skills of the population
- Multiplicity of data sources;

Data Source	Number of global indicators	Number of thematic indicators
UIS from EMIS and other sources	2	16
Household Surveys	3	3
Learning Assessments	2	2
School-based surveys	1	2
Other sources	3	20

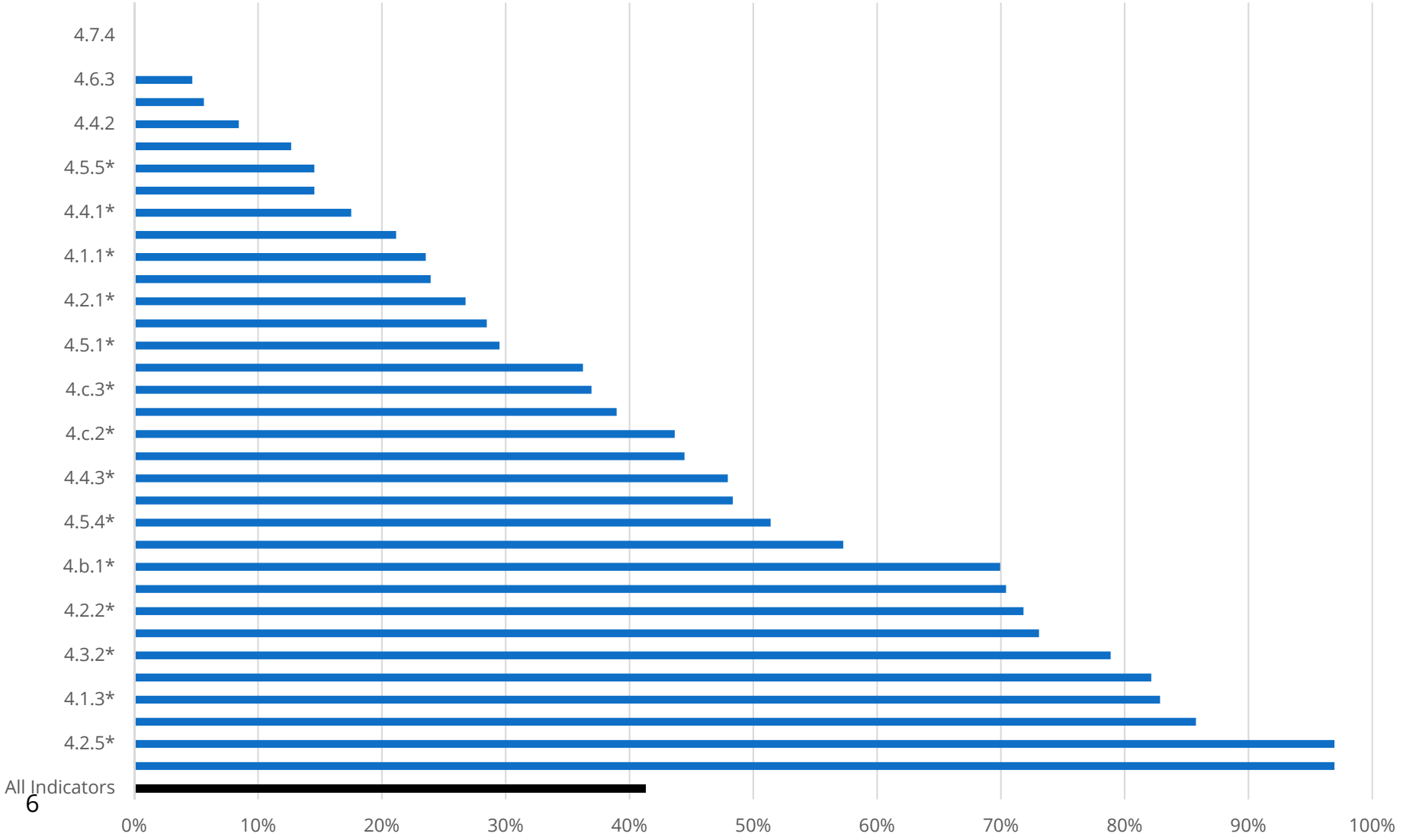
Data shortcomings and gaps

Factors that can explain the lack and poor quality of education data



Data shortcomings and gaps – *by indicator*

Coverage of SDG4 indicators



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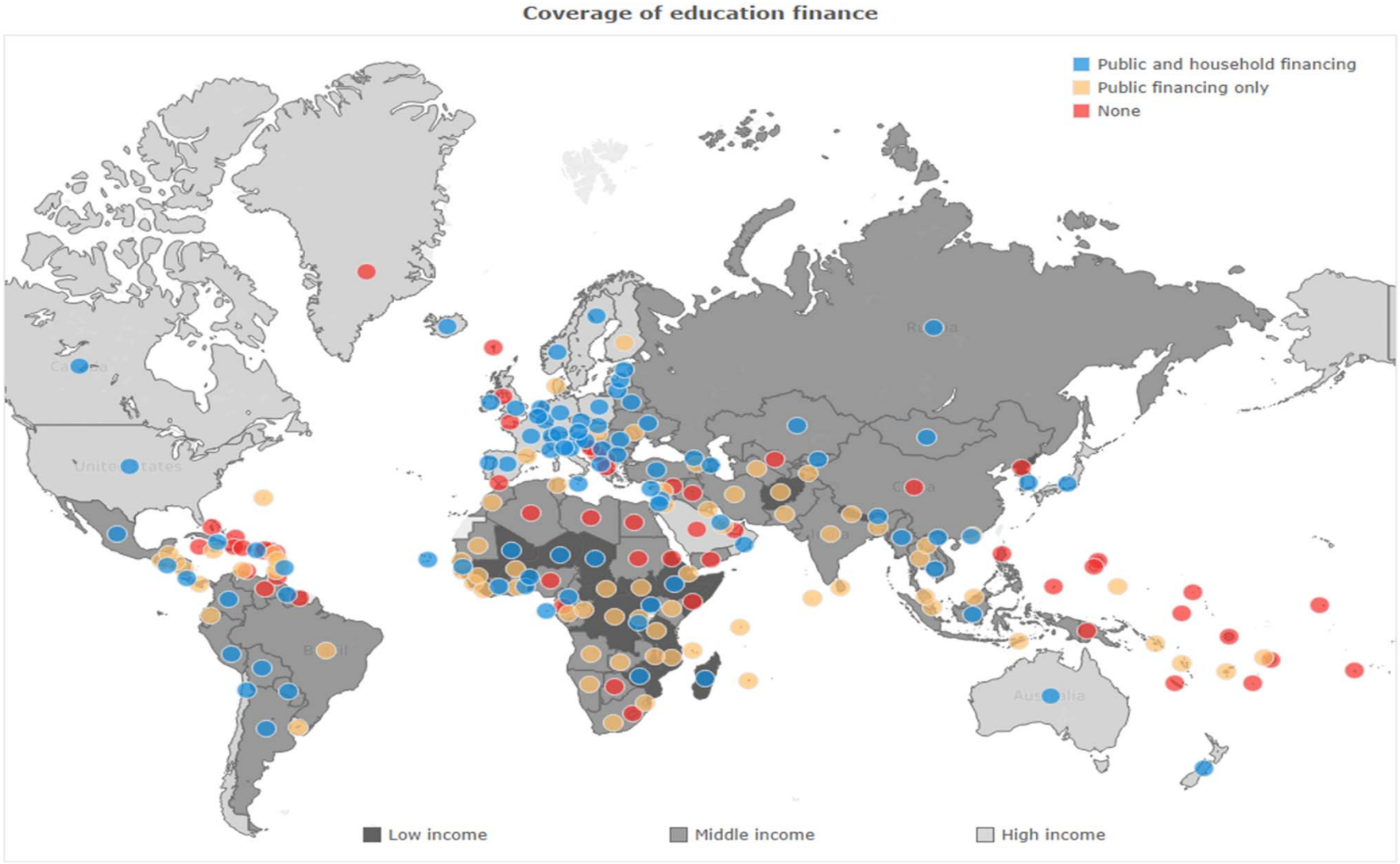
Data shortcomings and gaps – *by location*

Coverage of education finance data by **source of spending** and **country level of income**



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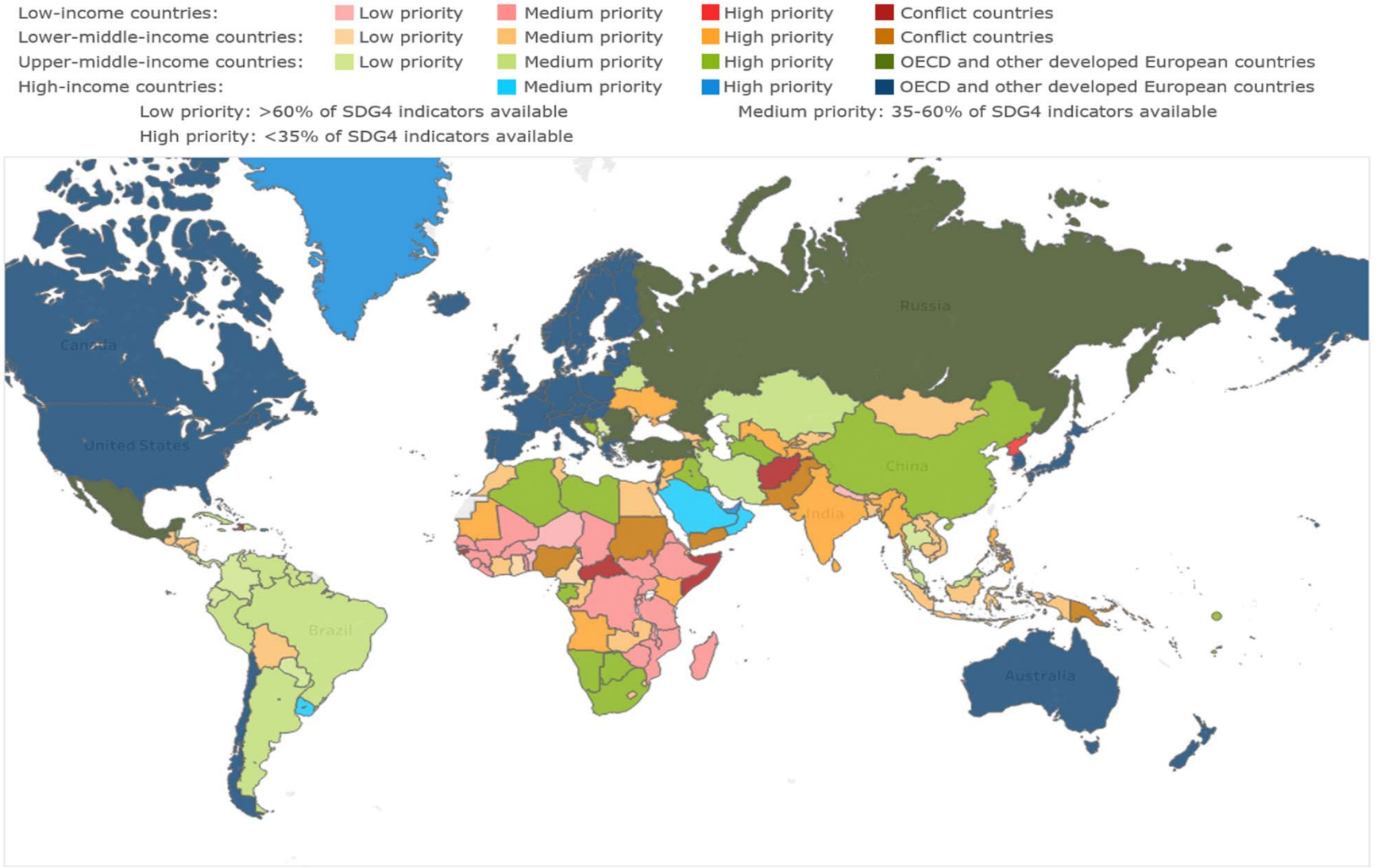
Data shortcomings and gaps – *by location*

SDG4 indicator coverage by **country income level**



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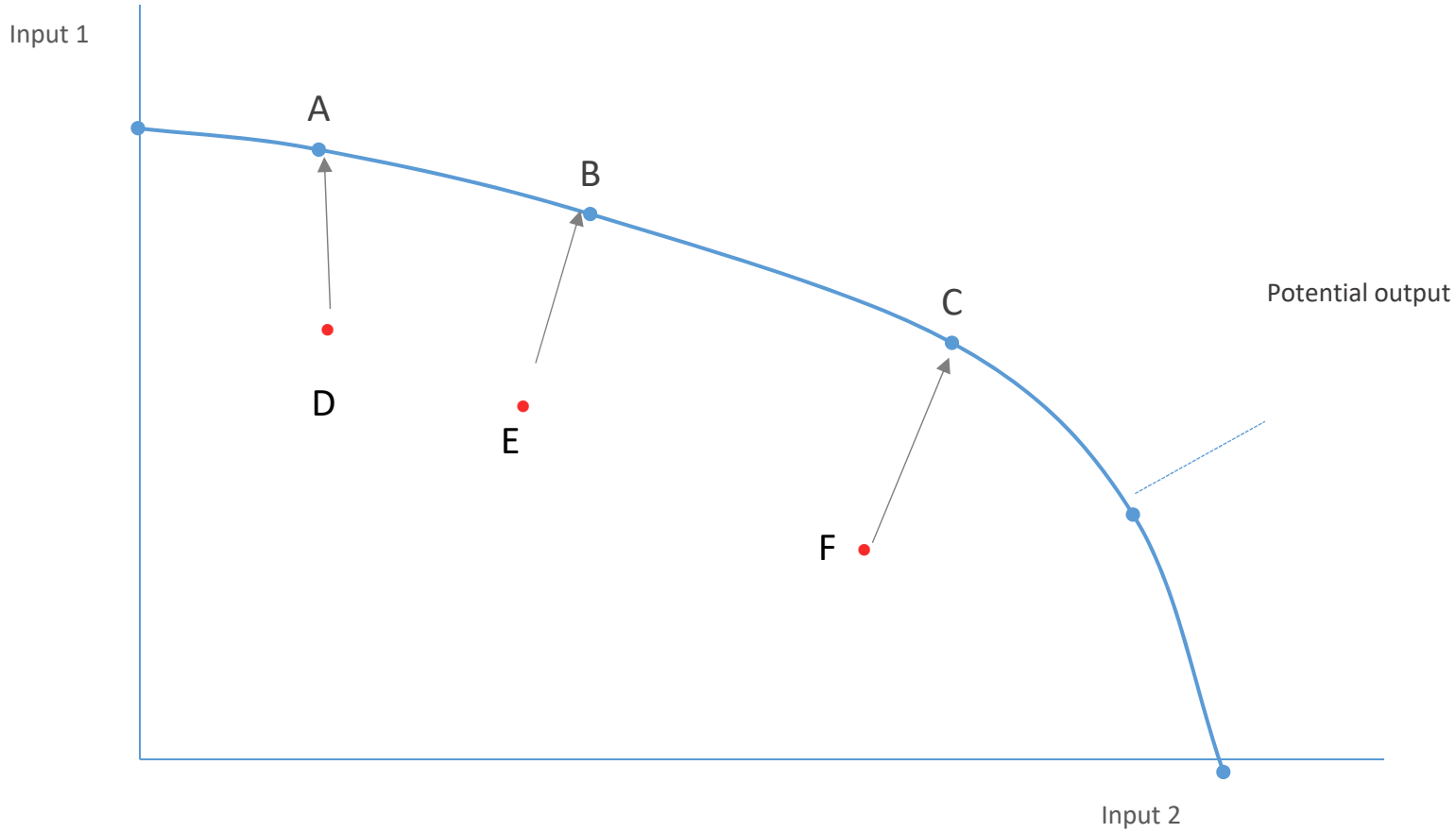
Empirical work shows that data works…

- Technical information about
  - what to do and how to do;
  - what works (best practices);
- "Political will" to act on that information;
- Management and technical capacity to implement
- Inclusion of data as other inputs in terms of planning and policy processes at the country level

Rationale for investing in education data



Rationale for investing in education data

- *Average expenditure per country* (in US$ current millions)

Expenditure	Low income	Lower middle income	World
Median Expenditure	361	1,006	1,431

- *Simulation of savings per year per country* (in US$ current millions)

Expenditure	Low income	Lower middle income	World
10% Savings	36	100	143
1% Savings	3.6	10	14.3

Funding SDG4 Information System

- Defining needs : reason indicator by indicator but
  - Split sources between the ones that countries do have and will continue to have (basically admin data)
  - Costed by source of information providing data (one source could provide more than one indicator)
  - The methodological needs
  - Other associated costs including technical assistance and training at all levels
  - Global and regional coordination

Funding SDG4 Information System

- Definition of unit costs
  - Define when is a new survey
    - What is the additional cost
  - Consider minor marginal costs for EMIS and finance data
  - Assume maximization in the use of the sources of information including the reporting for same indicator from different sources

Funding SDG4 Information System

- Frequency
  - How many times will happened until 2030?
- Who pays
  - Self-funded or financial aid?
  - New funding or existing funding?
- What is the increase with respect to existing funding?
- Need assumptions for different group of countries

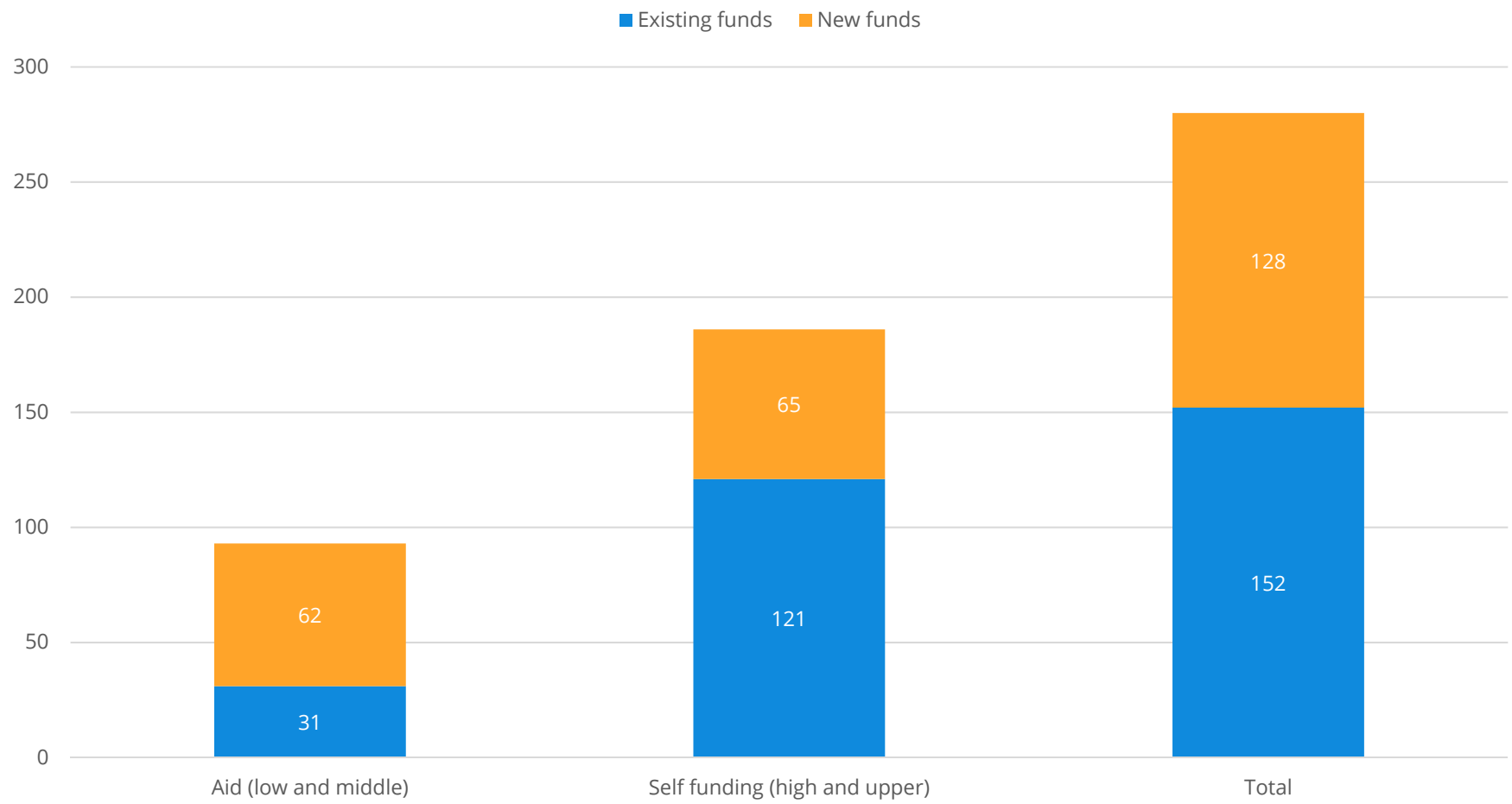
Income	Aid	Self Funded
Low	X	
Low Middle	X	
Upper Middle		X
High Income		X

SDG4 Monitoring Compact

- The total cost until 2030 is 2,8 US$ billion dollars over 10 years
- About 280 US$ million dollars
- 1,430,000 US$ dollars per country
- Cost could be disaggregated
  - 59% Learning Assessment
  - 37% Household Survey
  - 3% Technical assistance, capacity development, coordination, improvement on systems

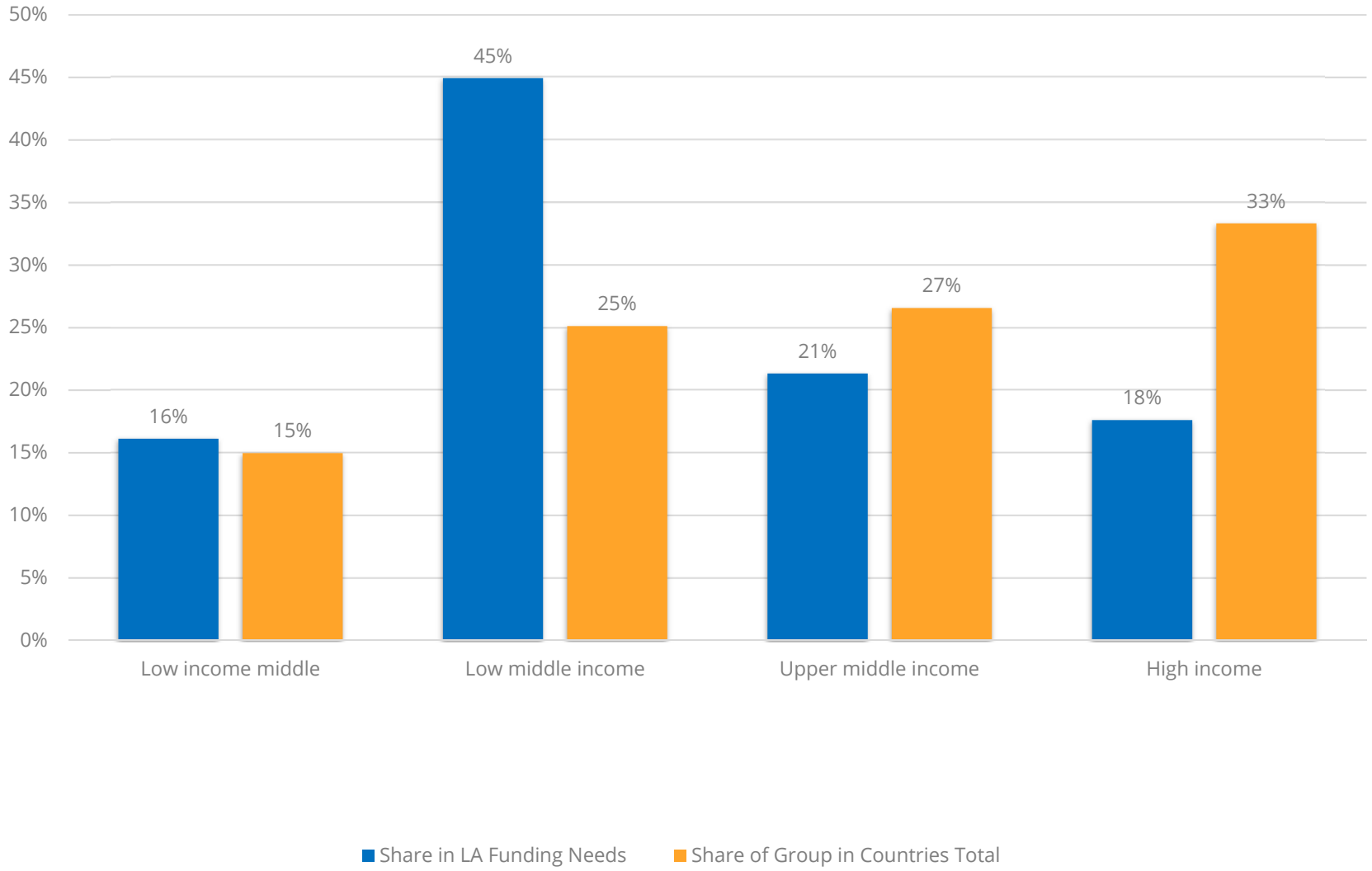
Funding for data should increase in around 80%

Funding should increase in 128 US$ million dollars per year, almost half aid and half self-funded



16 Estimate of SDG4 Data Collection (in thousand of US$) over a ten year period

Share in Learning Assessment Funding



Cost of funding the monitoring compact

Comparing benefits with costs for investment in data per year (in US$ million dollars)

Country by income level	Cost of SDG4 Data in USD	10% Efficiency Gains in USD current	1% Efficiency Gains in USD current
Low income	2.6	36	4
Low middle income	6.3	101	10
Average country	1.4	143	14

CONCLUSIONS

- The benefits yielded from investments in the collection and production of reliable data yield high-returns, and particularly for low and low middle income countries.
  - The cost of generating reliable data and using data to make informed policy decisions is relatively small compared to the cost of making uninformed, incorrect decisions.
- Country could choose to opt out. The scope and scale of monitoring framework criteria affects costs.
- The global indicators have been set at the highest political level so there are recommendations to estimate them respecting national priorities.

CONCLUSIONS

- Learning assessment and household (multi) purpose surveys are the relative new sources of data that will concentrate a good part of the funding.
- Funding implies actions on all sides
  - To keep current level of commitment and funding
  - Increase aid is expected to come from existing different sources to low and low middle income countries
  - Self-funding expanding in upper middle and high income countries to expand coverage
  - From all countries data need to be regular inputs of educational planning, regardless of their level of income

Recommendations for the TCG Plenary

- To adopt the SDG4 Data Investment case to guide donors, countries and all stakeholders investment in data
  - Recommending an overall funding for SDG4 data of U$S 280 millions per year
  - Trebling the current Financial Aid to low income and low middle income countries in up to US$ 60 millions dollars per year
  - Increasing a third the self-funding in upper middle and high income countries
  - Stressing the focus on investment on Learning Assessment and Household surveys to be able to achieve SDG4 goals
  - Completing the SDG4 monitoring compact attending the capacity development needs and the global and regional coordination and monitoring.
- To endorse the investment case and put to the consideration of the GPE Board as priority to be promoted at the GPE Replenishment Conference on 2 February 2018.

Recommendations for the TCG Plenary

- To emphasise the role of data in the achievement of SDG goals, increasing the relevance and visibility of data including the political commitment that has been endorsed by the UNGA in 2015.