

WHY HAVE OUT-OF-SCHOOL NUMBERS SUDDENLY INCREASED BY 21 MILLION?



272 MILLION

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS
AND YOUTH WERE
OUT OF SCHOOL IN 2023.

THIS IS **21 MILLION MORE**
THAN PREVIOUSLY
ESTIMATED.

The GEM Report and
the UIS explain why



TWO MAIN DRIVERS BEHIND THE INCREASE:

1 INSUFFICIENT **PROGRESS**
IN ENROLMENT

2 UPDATED GLOBAL
POPULATION
ESTIMATES



Let's take a closer
look at each



1 ENROLMENT PROGRESS HAS STALLED

GLOBAL EFFORTS TO GET CHILDREN INTO
SCHOOL HAVE **SLOWED**. IN SOME CASES,
THEY HAVE **REVERSED**.

THIS LED TO A RISE
OF **8 MILLION** IN THE
OUT-OF-SCHOOL
POPULATION.



2 THE SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION HAS GROWN

THE LATEST POPULATION
DATA SHOW THAT THE NUMBER
OF 6–17-YEAR-OLDS
HAS **INCREASED** BY **49 MILLION**.



WHEN MATCHED WITH
EXISTING ENROLMENT
FIGURES, THIS LEADS TO
13 MILLION MORE CHILDREN
AND YOUTH BEING COUNTED
AS **OUT OF SCHOOL**.



OUT-OF-SCHOOL ESTIMATES DEPEND ON HOW WE COLLECT DATA:

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (school headcounts)
assume enrolment does not change.
So if the population grows, it can look
like more children are out of school.

SURVEY DATA (household surveys)
measure enrolment proportionally,
so the out-of-school rates stay stable.

THE GEM REPORT AND THE UIS
MODEL USE BOTH TO PROVIDE
A BALANCED ESTIMATE.



BUT THE DATA STILL MISSES CHILDREN IN CRISIS

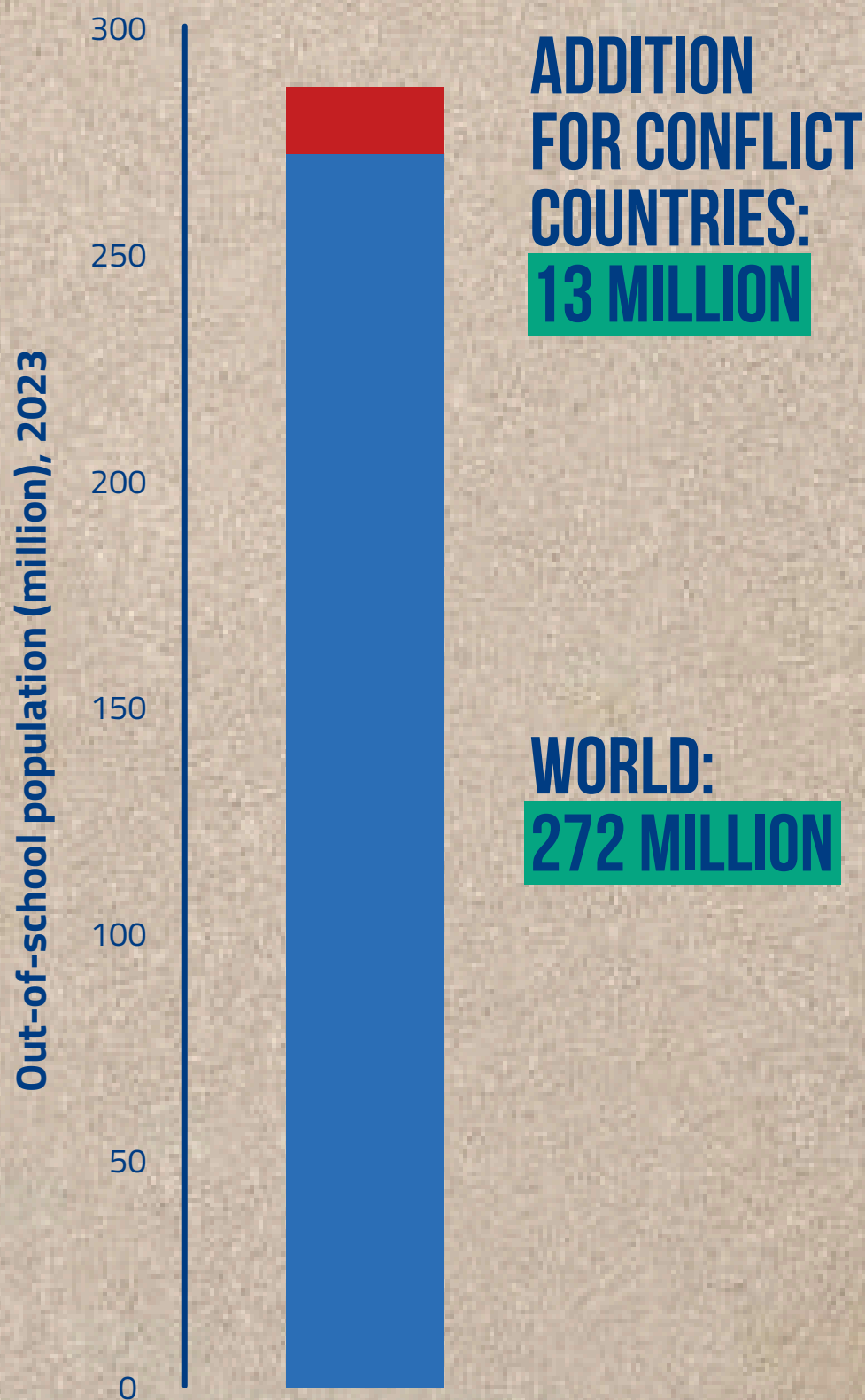
CHILDREN IN **CONFLICT-AFFECTED** OR **DISASTER-HIT** COUNTRIES ARE **OFTEN INVISIBLE** IN OFFICIAL DATA.

Lack of information leads
to underestimates of
out-of-school populations.



THE CRISIS IS DEEPER IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

IN 10 COUNTRIES
ON THE IRC
EMERGENCY
WATCHLIST, THE
OUT-OF-SCHOOL
POPULATION MAY BE
UNDERESTIMATED
BY **13 MILLION**.



IF INCLUDED, THE GLOBAL OUT-OF-SCHOOL
TOTAL WOULD RISE TO **285 MILLION**.





**WE HAVE 5 YEARS
UNTIL 2030.**



**USE THE SDG 4 SCORECARD TO REVISIT
COMMITMENTS, CLOSE THE DATA GAPS,
AND PUT EVERY LEARNER ON TRACK.**

#SDG4Scorecard