

Putting children first: tackling Toilet Loss in schools

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The challenge

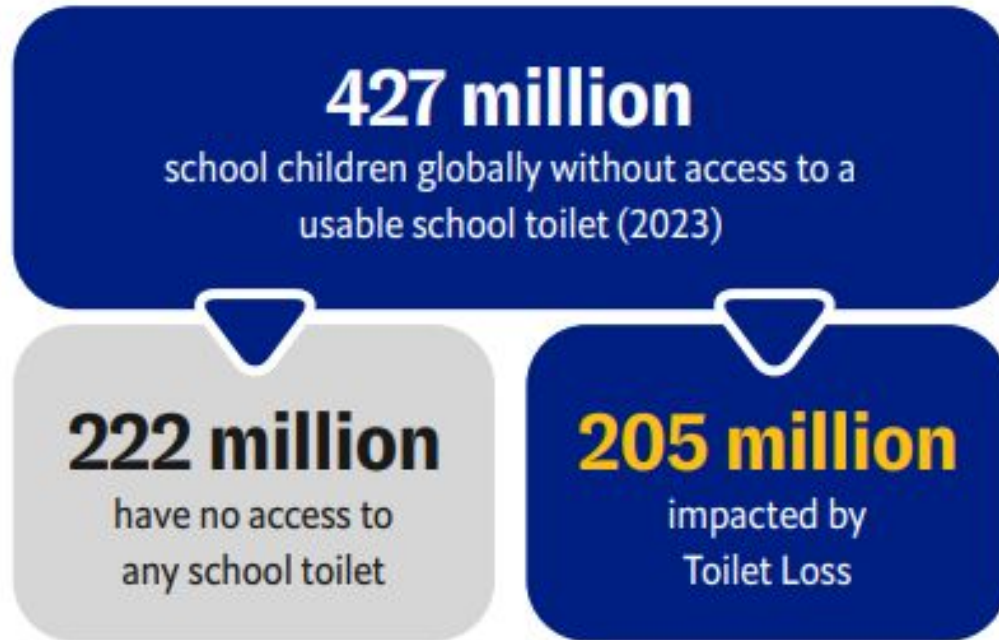
Meeting **SDG 4 and SDG 6.2** will require reaching **full coverage of basic sanitation services in schools**.

Access to a basic functioning toilet is **equally critical** to a child's success as a good teacher or a textbook.



A hidden problem globally

The existence of toilets alone is not enough. Toilets are **"lost"** when they are built but become **unusable** due to **lack of operations and maintenance**.



What is Toilet Loss?

Toilet Loss is the economic and societal cost we face when we build toilets but fail to maintain them

Toilets can become unusable through neglect from:

- *Lack of investment in operations and maintenance*
- *Lack of appropriate school-level management policies, or implementation capacity, to enable toilet use (e.g. safety policies, school policies on routine O&M)*
- *Lack of provision of essential resources (e.g. water, sanitary products)*

Building on JMP data

The World Health Organisation / UNICEF **Joint Monitoring Programme** has collected data on the number of **children with access to different levels of sanitation services in schools**. We use this data to calculate **Toilet Loss**.

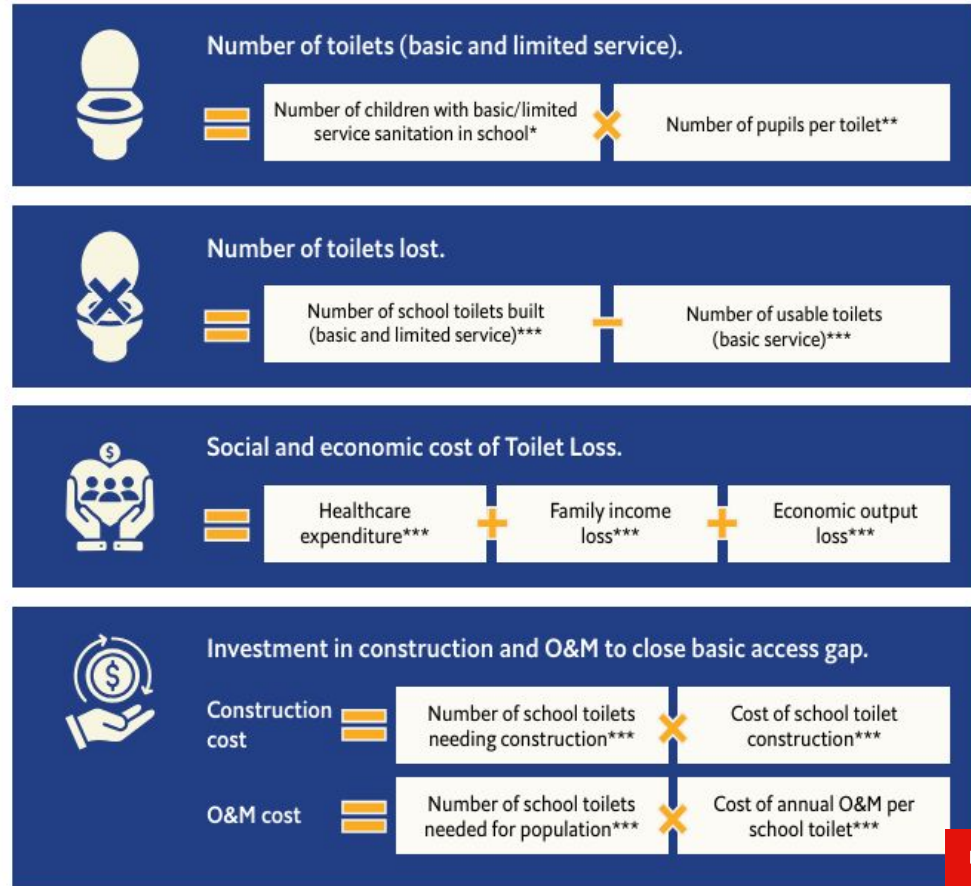


How we calculate Toilet Loss

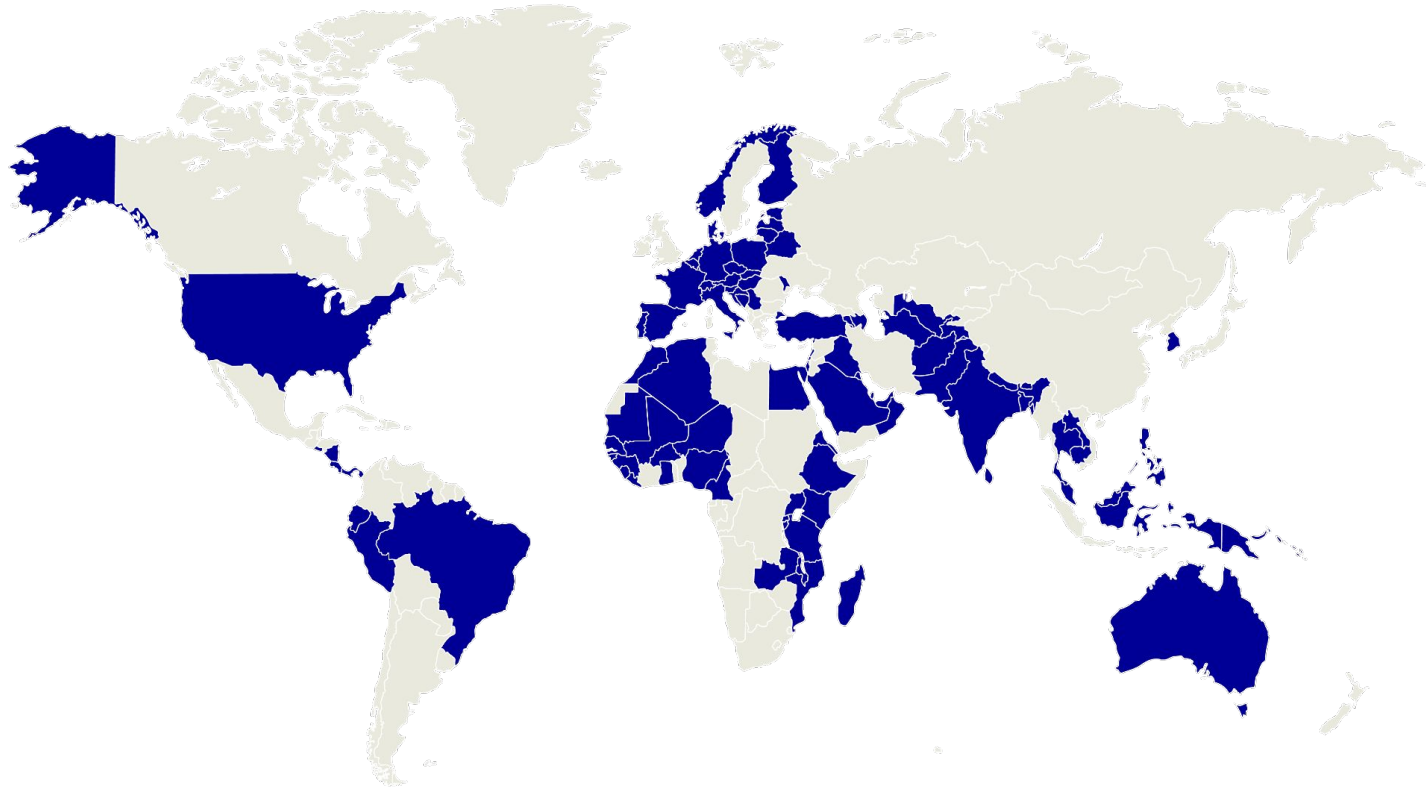
In the second year of this research programme, our analysis estimates:

- Toilet Loss globally since 2015
- The benefits of closing the gap and meeting SDG 6.2
- The investment required

Estimating Toilet Loss and the costs and benefits of addressing it



Our analysis covers 118 countries—encompassing 65% of the world's school-aged children



Putting children first:
Tackling Toilet Loss
in schools

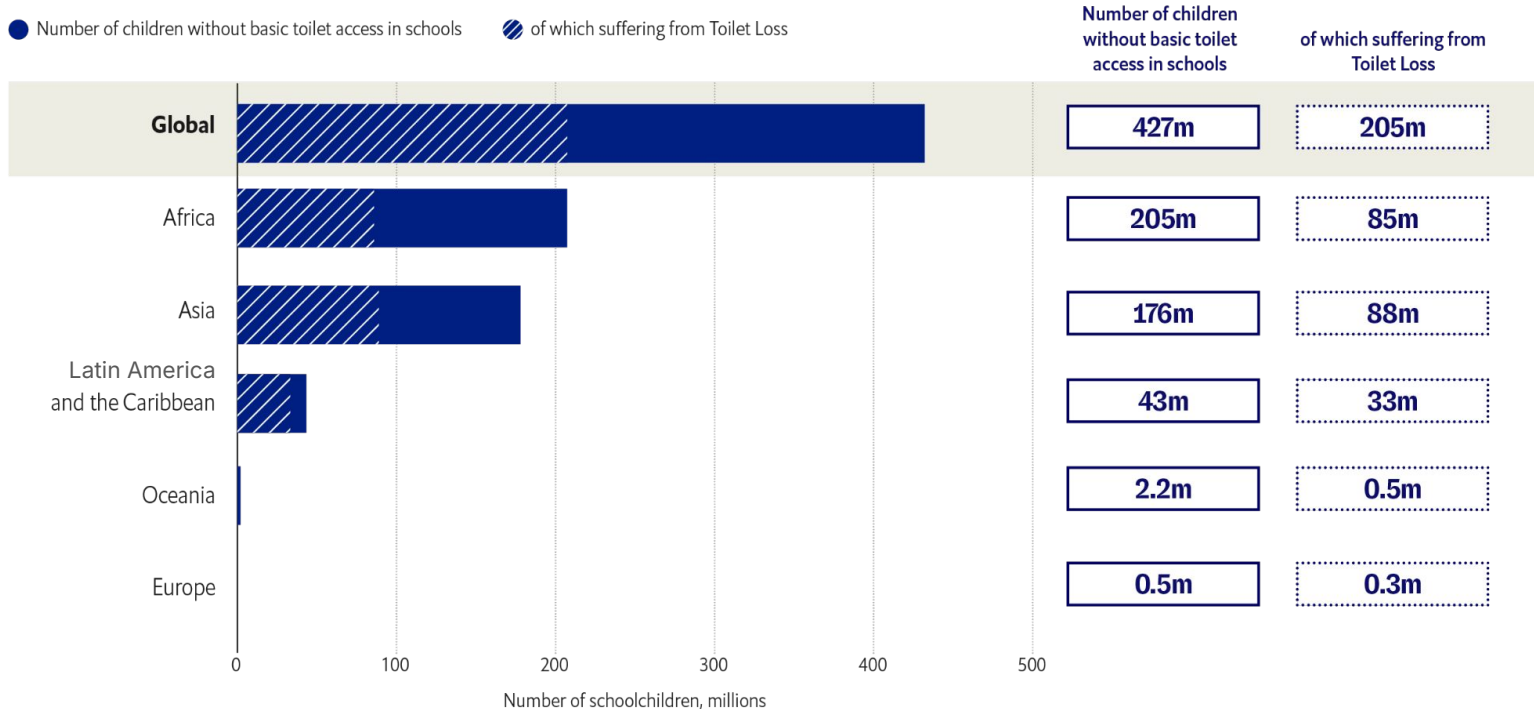


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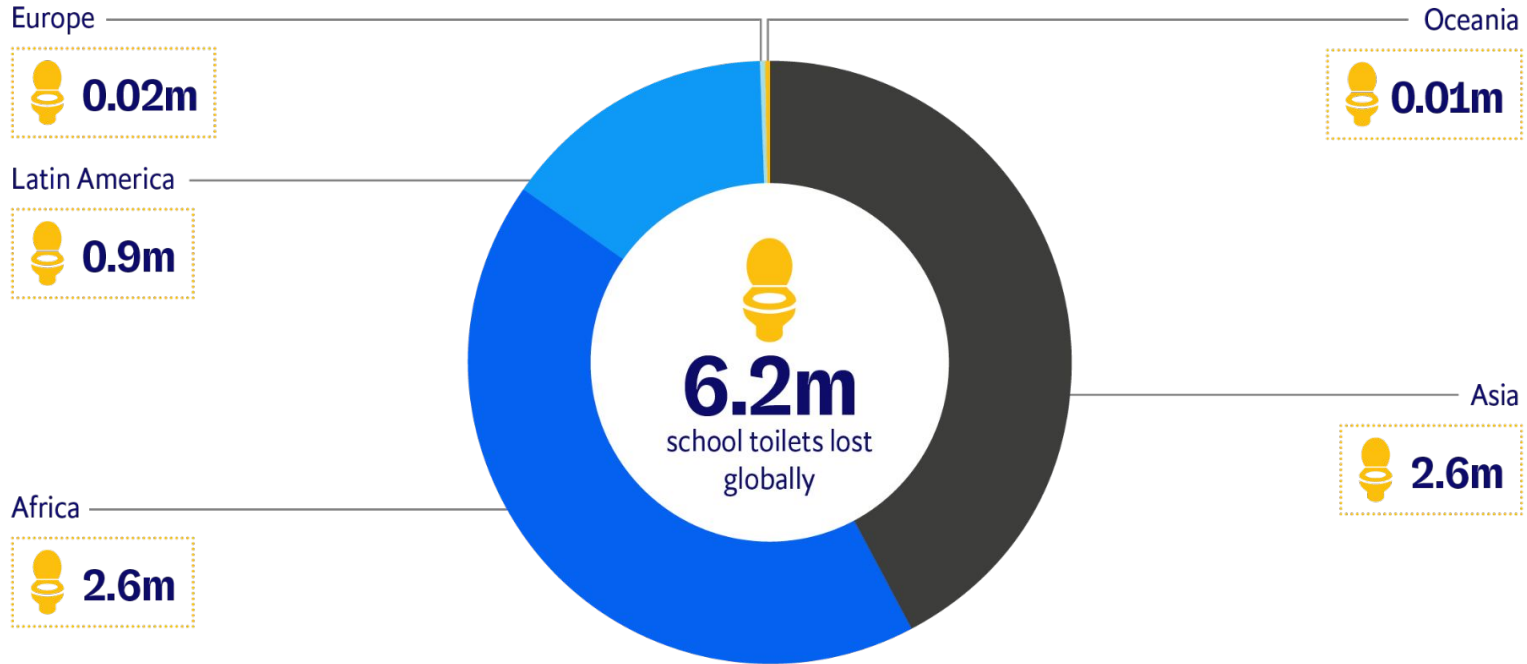
Our findings show that Toilet Loss is most prominent in developing regions, but is a global phenomenon

Number of schoolchildren without basic toilet access in schools, by region (2023)



6.2m school toilets built since 2015 have been “lost” due to lack of maintenance...

Toilet infrastructure loss in schools, by region (2015-23)



...equivalent to lost infrastructure investment of US\$18.5bn. This financial loss amounts to 10% of all investment in school sanitation

Total financial loss from neglecting school toilets, by region (2015-23)

Africa

US\$10.3 billion

16% of total sanitation investment

Europe

US\$0.2 billion

4% of total sanitation investment

Asia

US\$5.8 billion

6% of total sanitation investment

Oceania

US\$0.07 billion

6% of total sanitation investment

Latin America and the Caribbean

US\$2.3 billion

8% of total sanitation investment

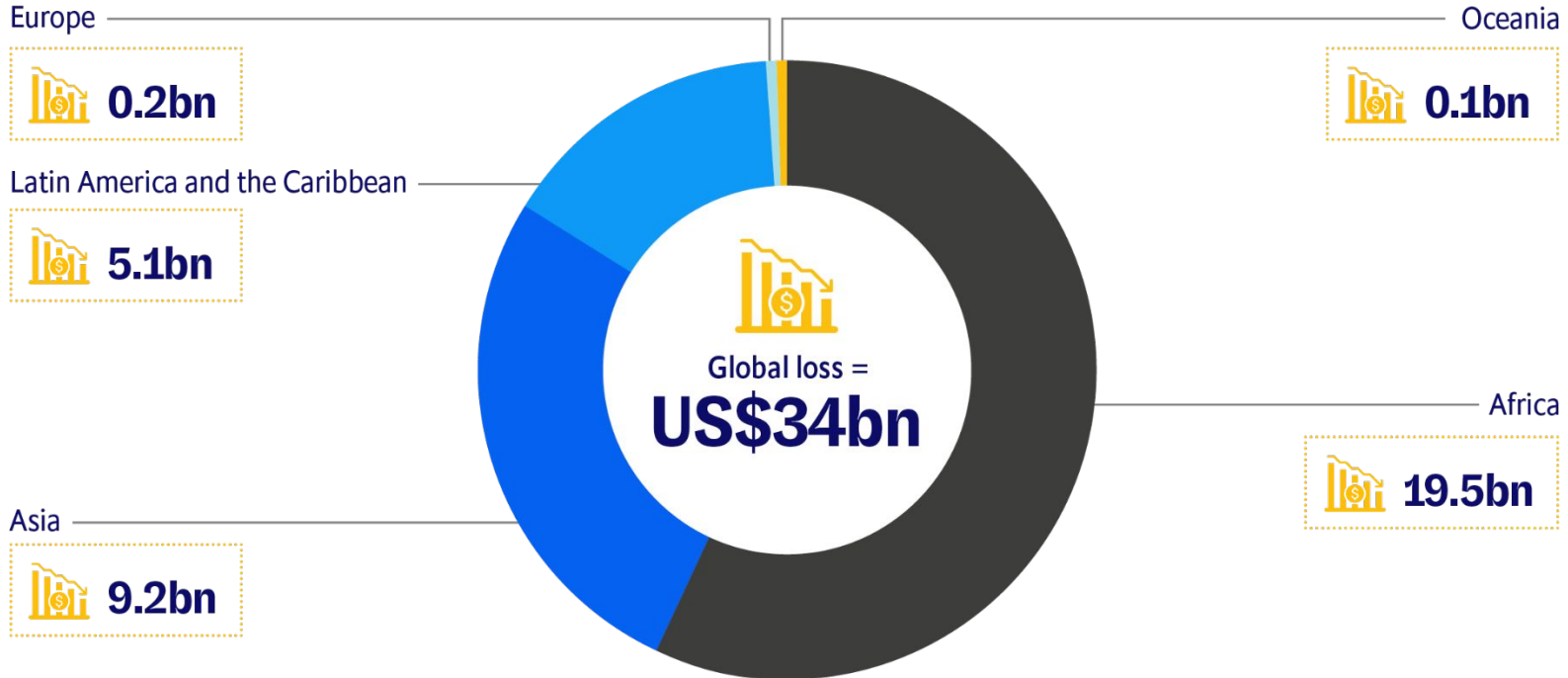
Global

US\$18.5 billion

10% of total sanitation investment

In addition to the financial losses, the global economy has suffered a US\$34bn hit from higher healthcare costs and reduced economic output

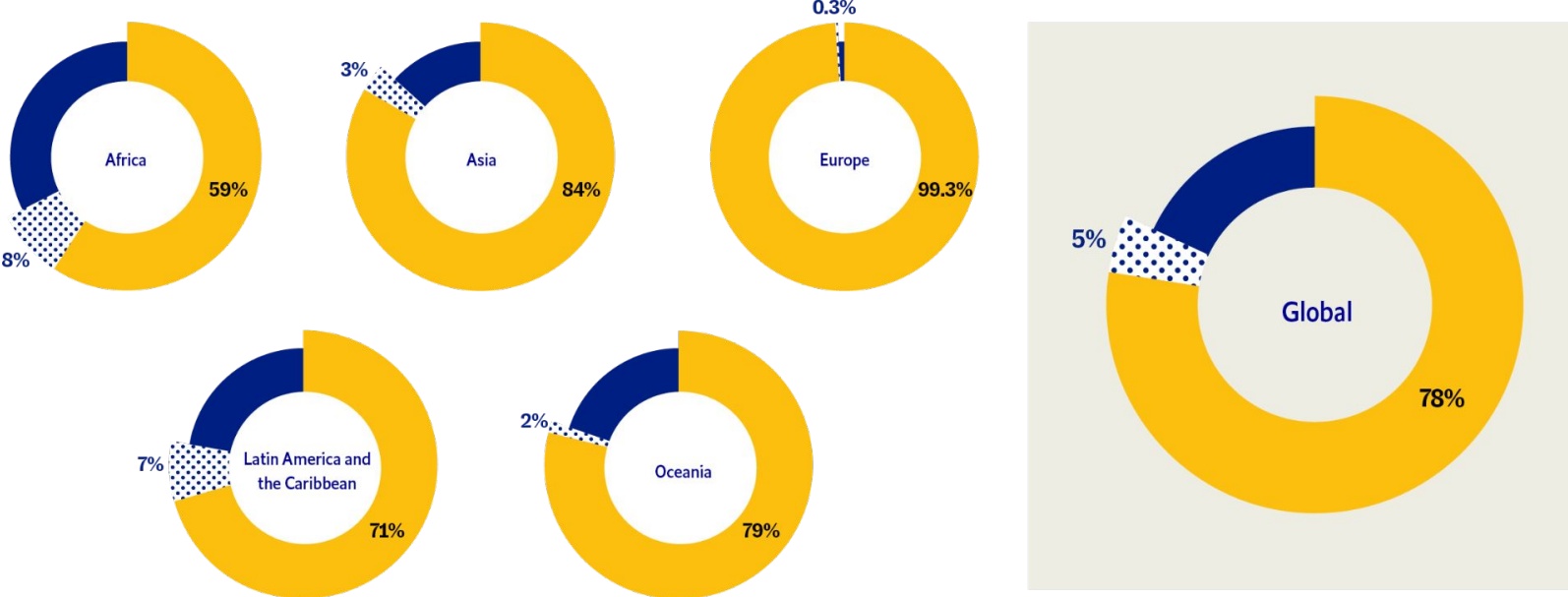
Total socio-economic loss from neglecting school toilets, by region (2015-23)



Where we could have been without Toilet Loss: 2.6m more basic school toilets globally with the same level of investment

Increase in basic access to school toilets from prioritising maintenance over construction (2023)

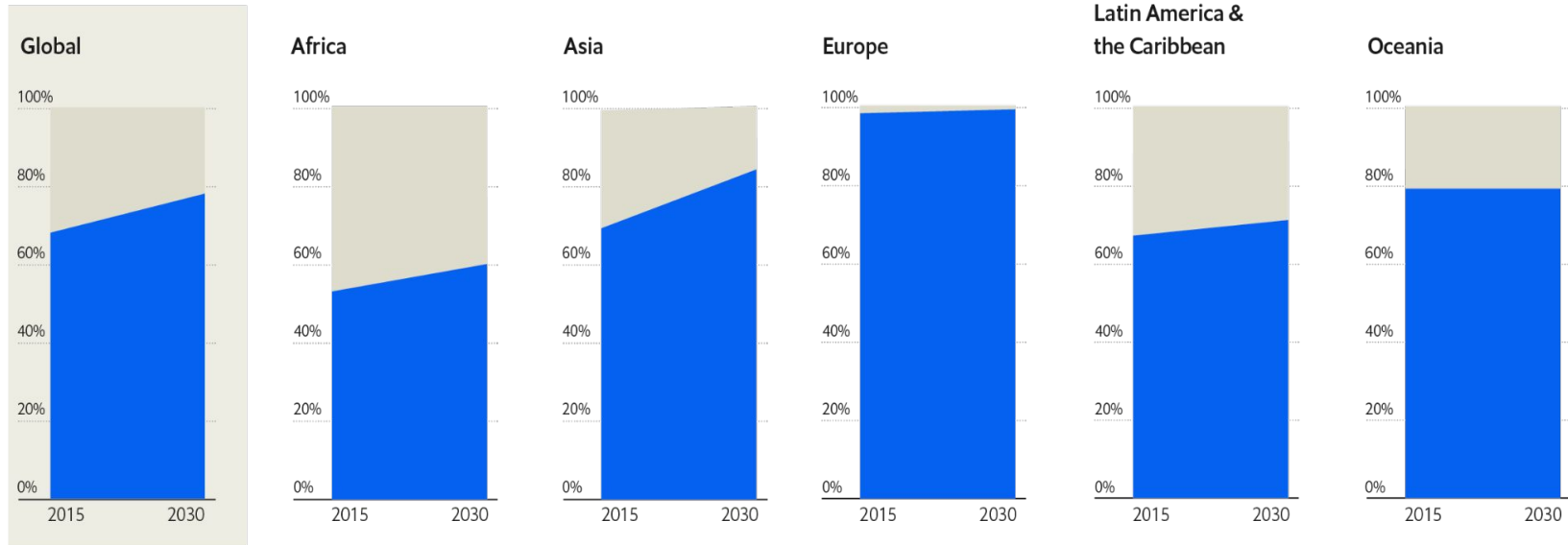
● Share of basic school toilets ● Gap in access ● Additional basic school toilets with greater O&M investment



Progress is being made: 162m more children now have access to basic school toilets than in 2015. But it is not fast enough

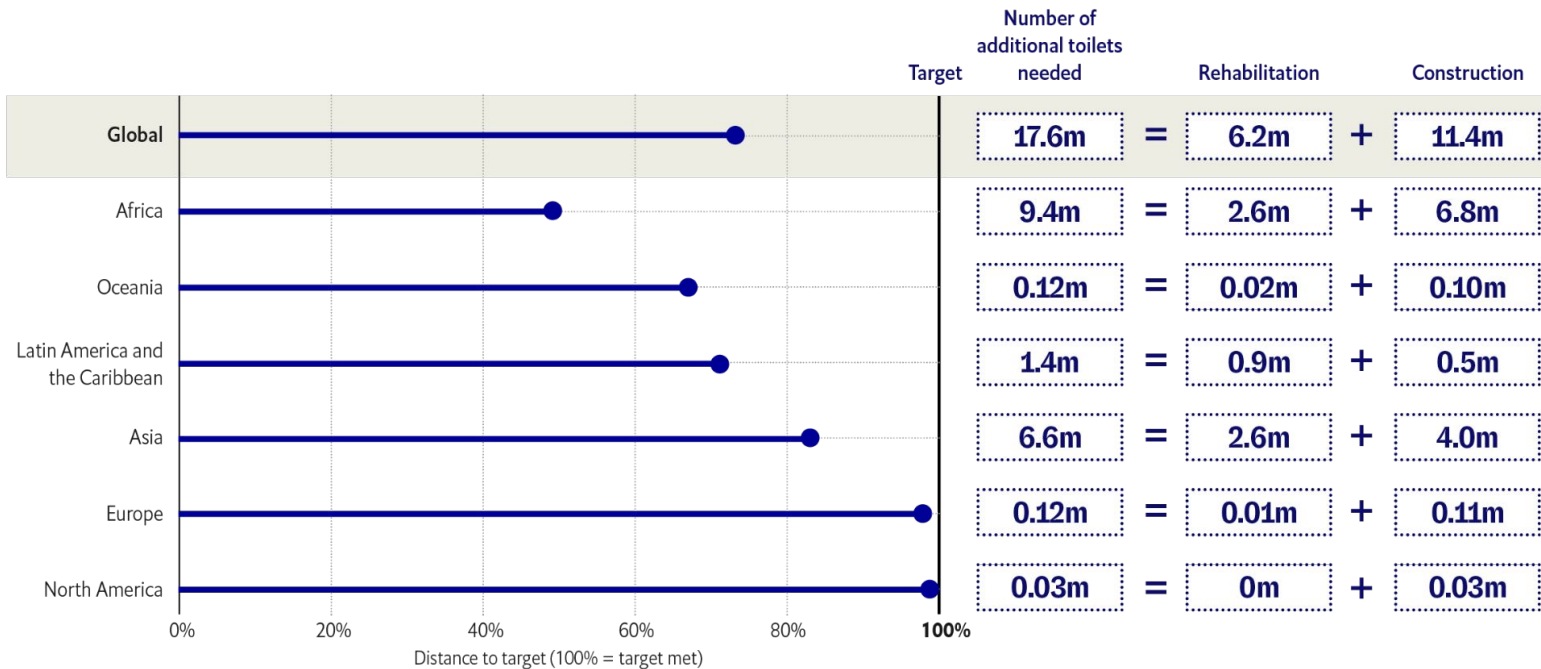
Comparing the share of access to school sanitation services (2015 versus 2023)

● Access to basic usable school toilets ● Limited¹¹ or no service



17.6m more basic toilets will be needed by 2030—a 40% increase in existing toilets—of which 6.2m exist but need repairs and 11.4m need to be built

Additional school toilets needed to eliminate Toilet Loss by 2030



Closing this gap will deliver immediate benefits to children: a 10% reduction (110m) in diarrhoeal infection cases, benefitting their health and education...

 Annual reduction in diarrhoeal infections, per 100 students

Reduction in diarrhoeal infections



North America

 ▼0.0

Global

 ▼5.1

Latin America and the Caribbean

 ▼6.5

Africa

 ▼8.6

Europe

 ▼0.2

Asia

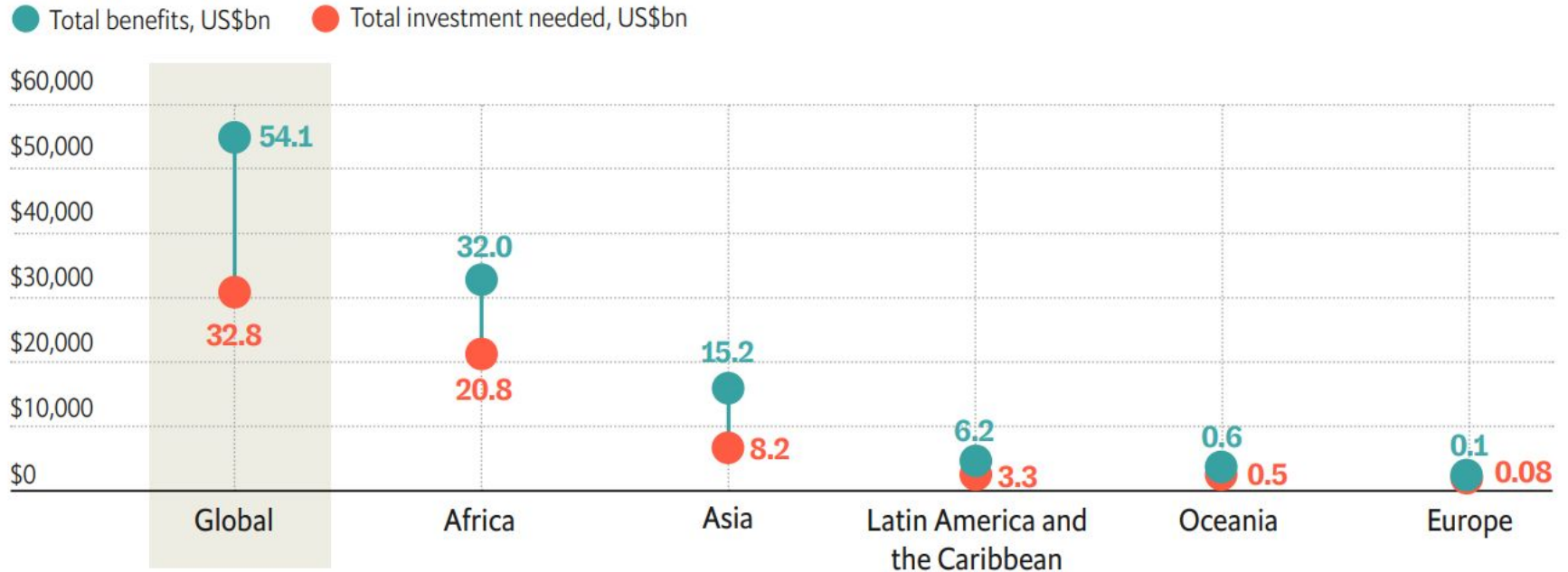
 ▼3.9

Oceania

 ▼4.9

... with additional benefits for their families and economies of US\$54bn globally, over the required investment of US\$33bn

Additional costs and benefits from providing access to school toilets (2023-30)



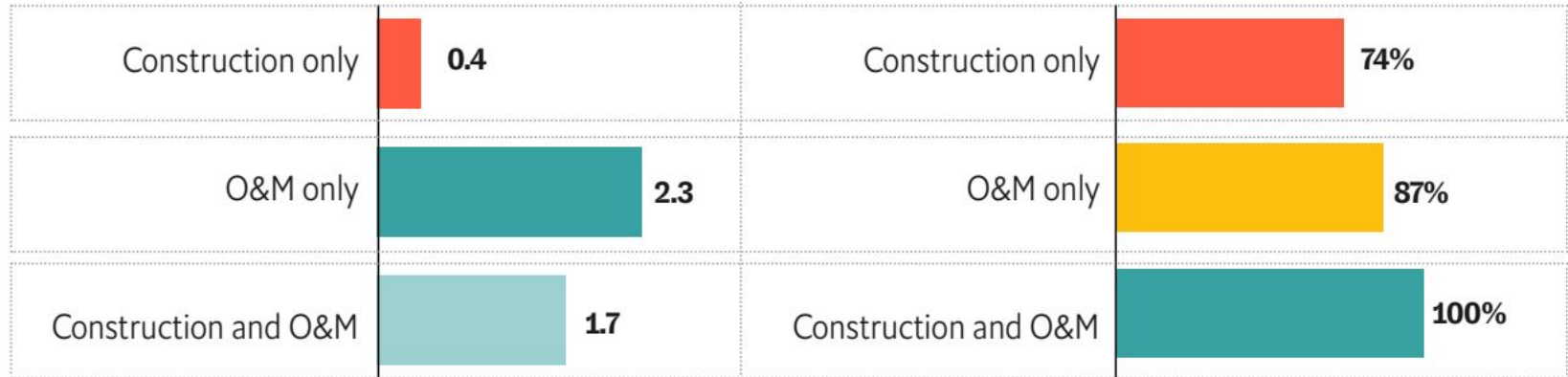
The returns are high: investing fully in construction and O&M to close the gap will deliver average returns of US\$1.7 for every dollar invested

Returns on investment in school sanitation

Least socially desirable |  |  |  | Most socially desirable

Returns (\$ for every \$1 invested)

Projected % of children with basic sanitation access (2030)



A three-step action plan for enhancing how school sanitation services are planned, delivered and managed

Accelerate future planning

No school toilet built without a plan and budget for operations and maintenance



Political commitment

Prioritise school sanitation across international, national and local policy levels



Better monitoring

Routine data collection using standardised global indicators to measure and monitor the current status and trends in sanitation service levels in all schools



Clear governance

Clarifying roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders providing sanitation services in schools



Thank you



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