

Data Visualization

Global Education: Where We Stand, and What Can Change

Antonius Jose - 2702273624

What is Education Inequality?

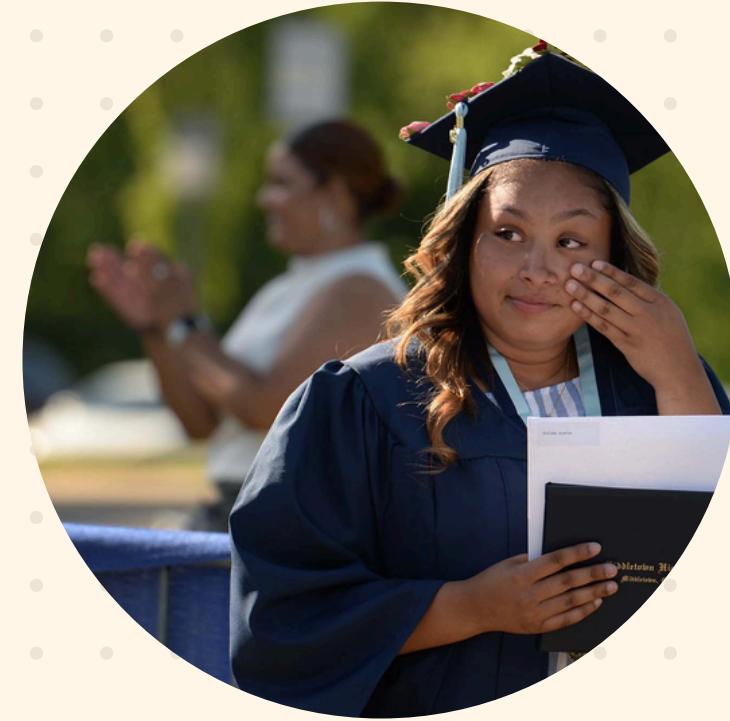
‘‘The unequal distribution of academic resources, including but not limited to school funding, qualified and experienced teachers, books, physical facilities and technologies’’



Accessibility

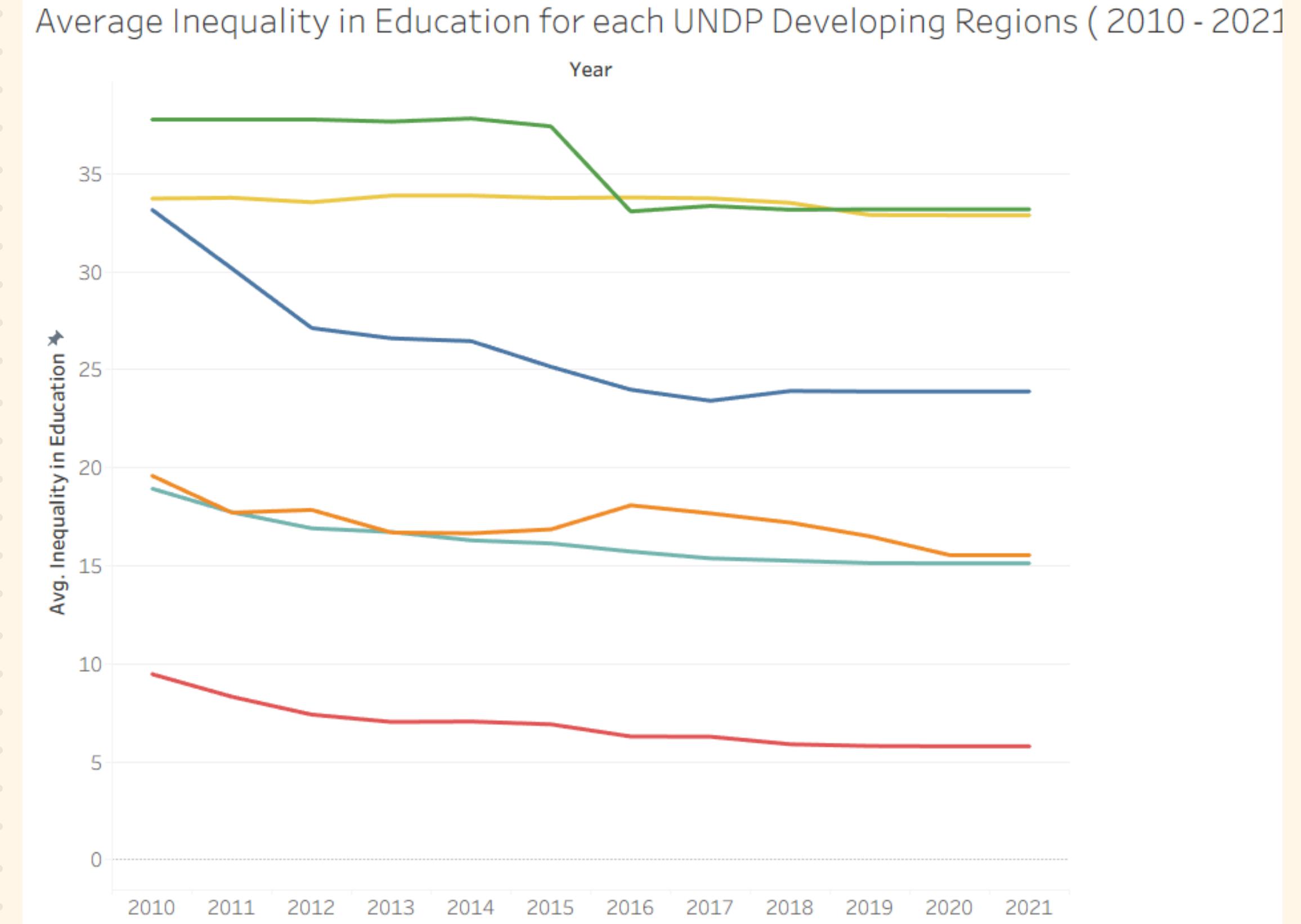


Learning Quality

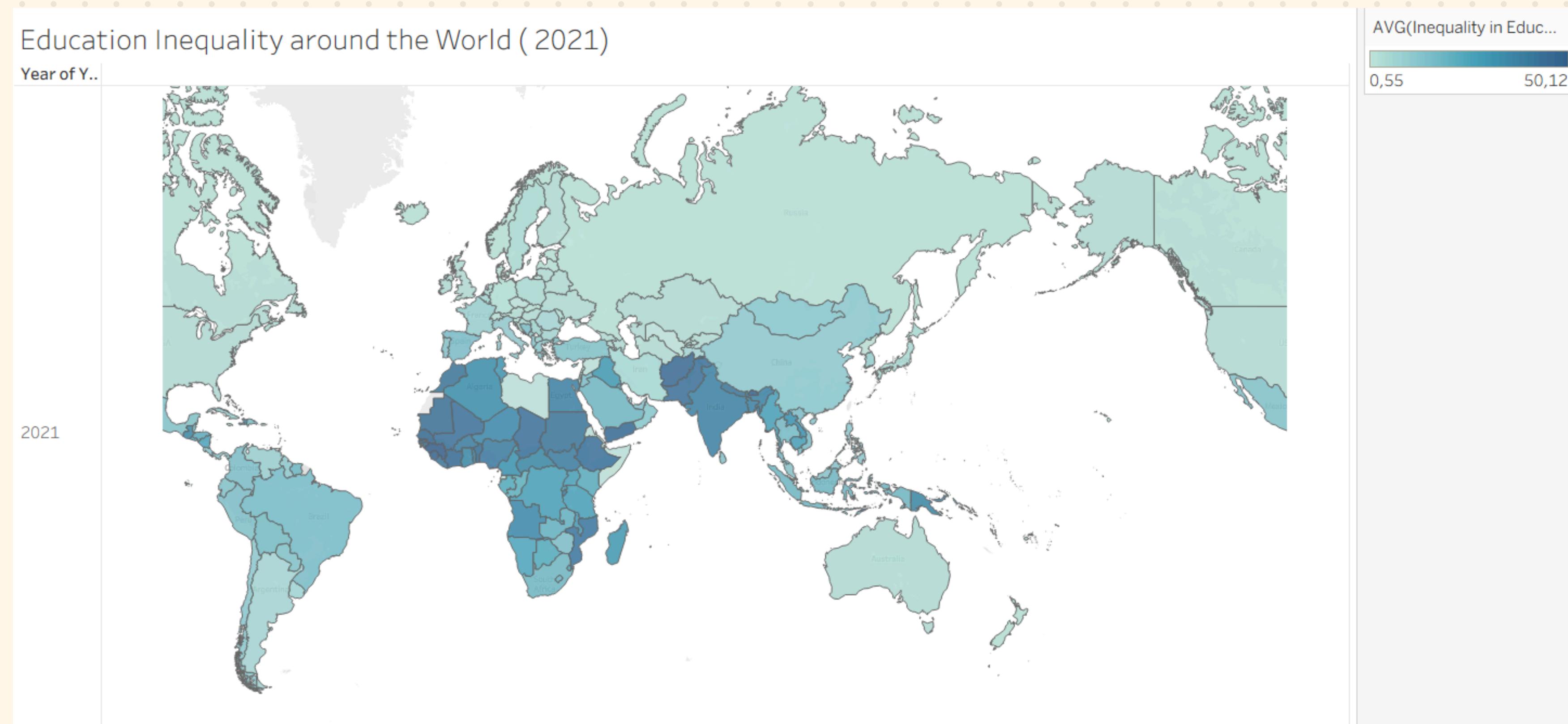


**Graduation
Outcome**

Education Inequality around the World



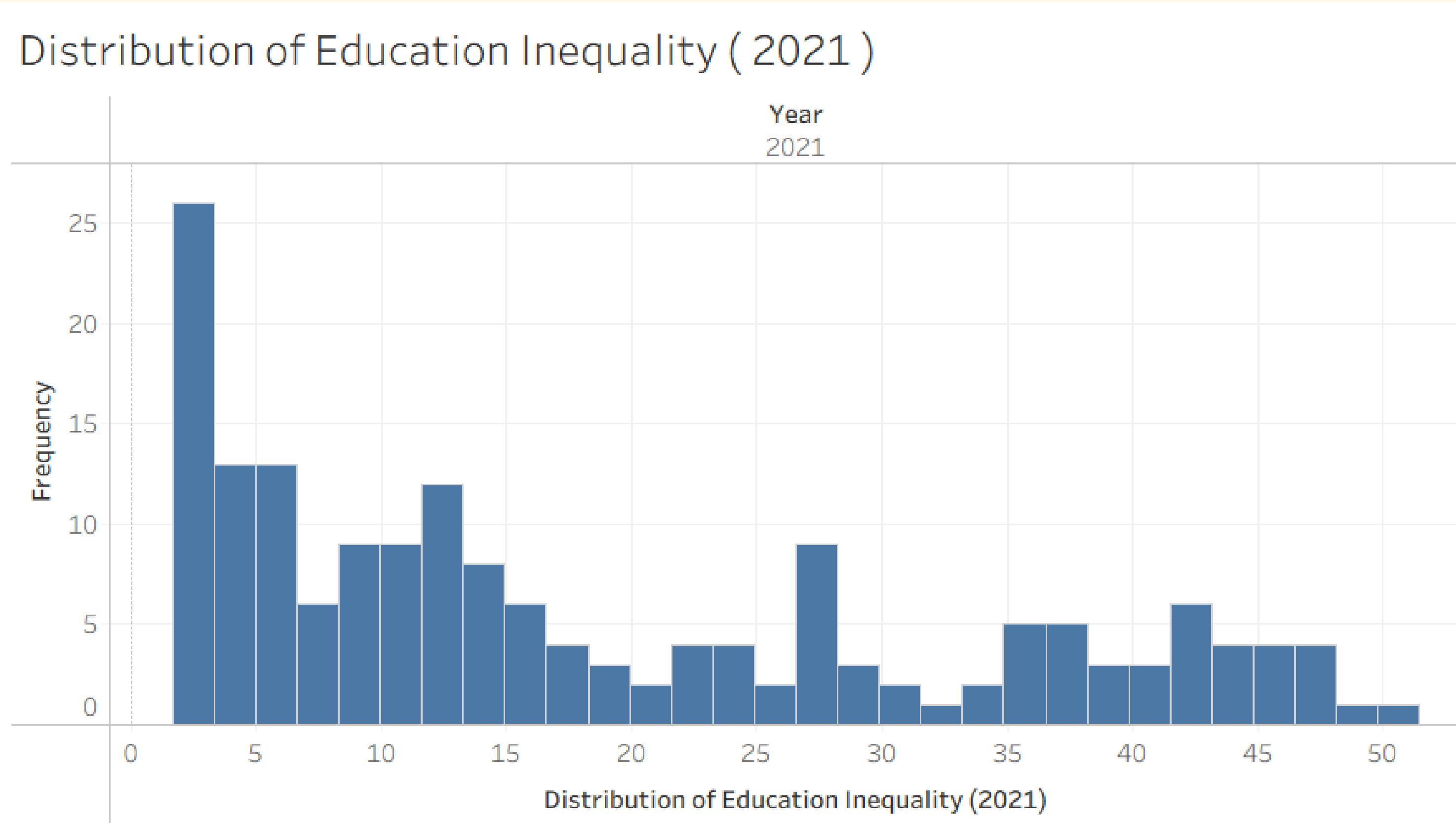
Education Inequality around the World



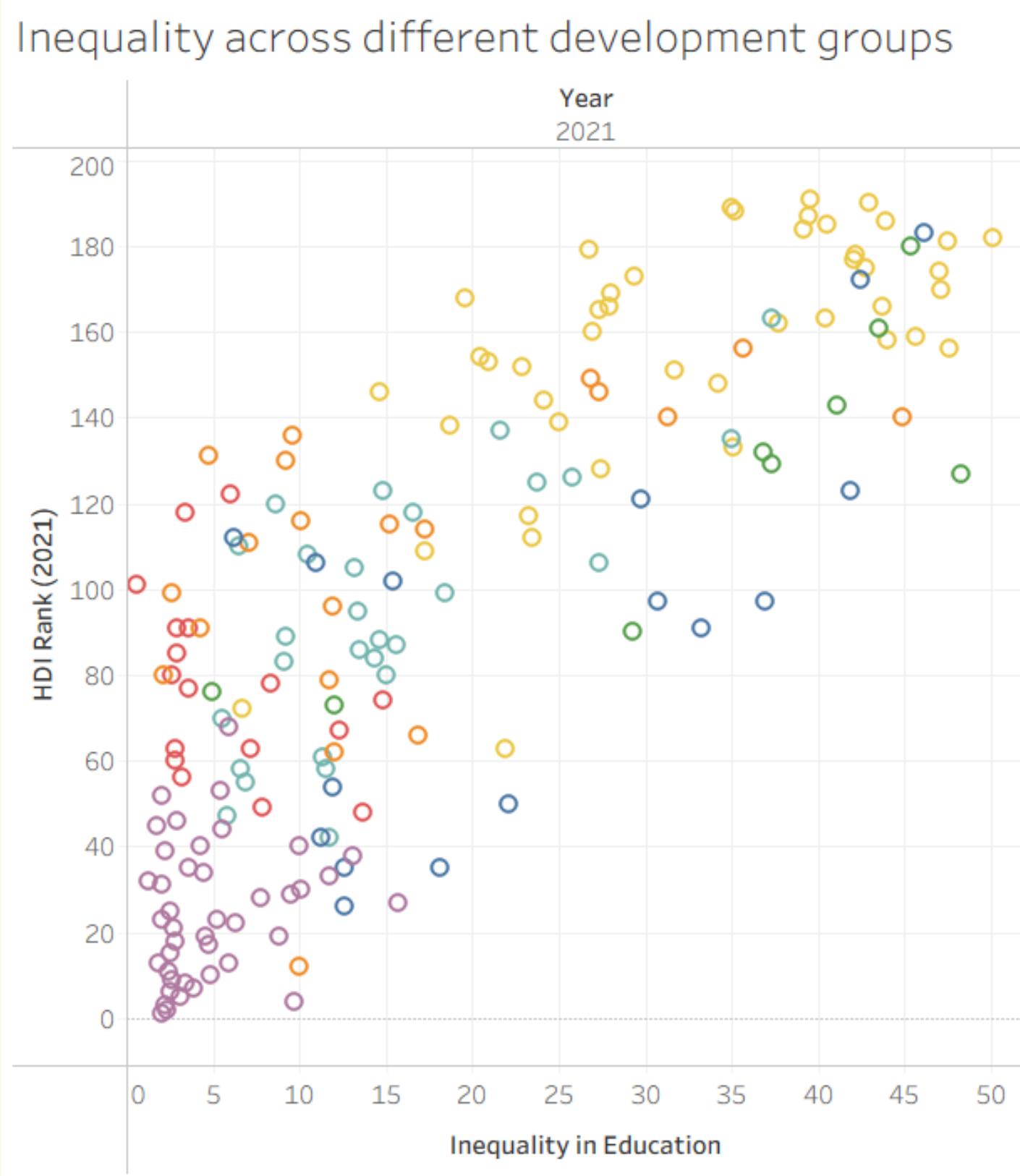
Education Inequality around the World

Average Education Inequality across different UNDP Developing Regions and Human Development Groups (2010-2021)

Education Inequality around the World



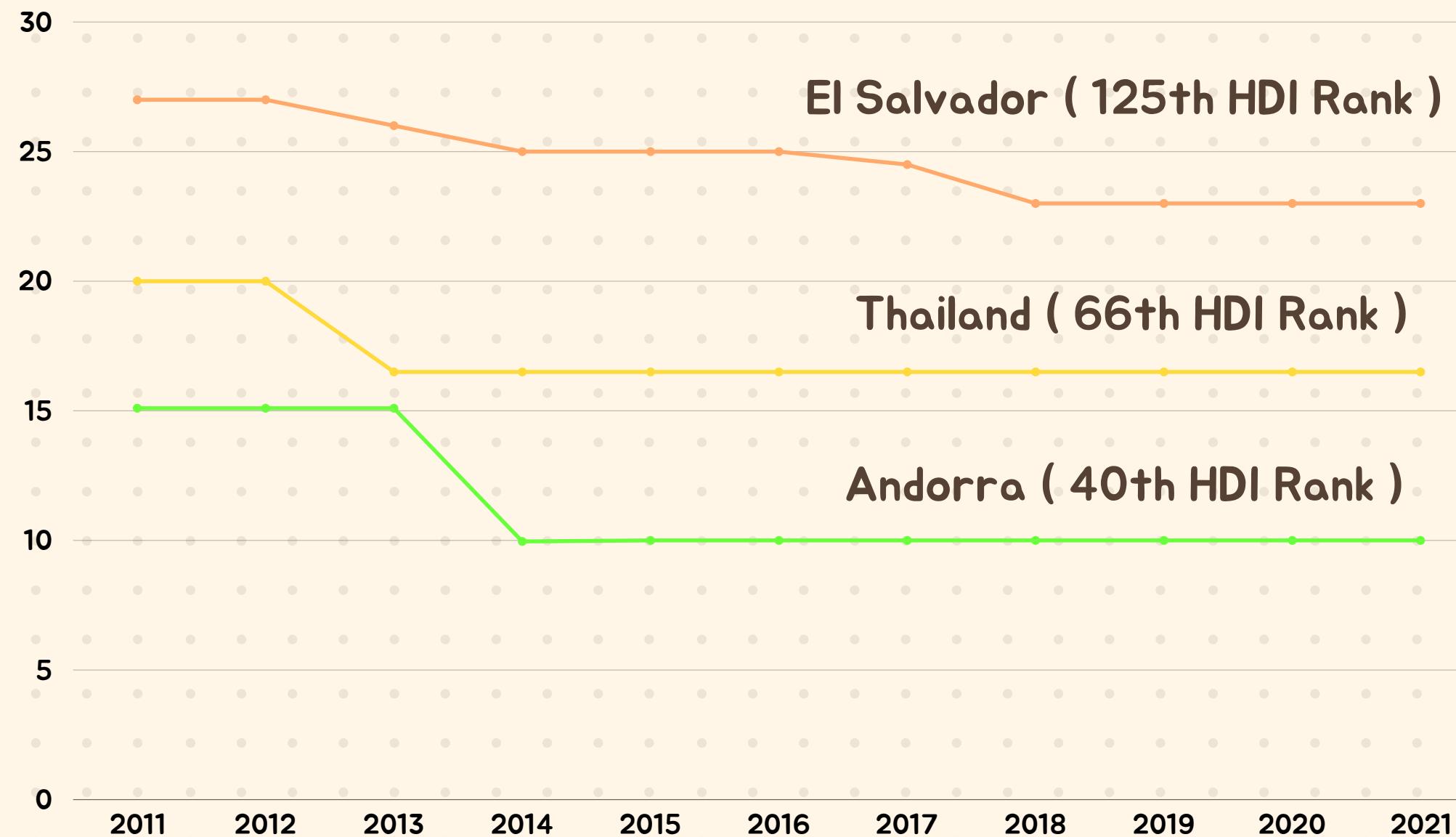
Even Developed Countries Struggle



- High development doesn't always mean low inequality. In 2021, the United Arab Emirates, despite being ranked 26th in global development, still had an education inequality rate higher than countries with lower HDI index like Albania, China and Mexico.
- This shows that even in advanced economies, gaps in access and opportunity persist. Development alone doesn't solve inequality. Making a real change requires intentional and inclusive education policies.



Change is Possible



In El Salvador, school access for rural students rose from 63% to 78%, corresponding to a 24% drop in inequality.

In Thailand, targeted investment in teacher training and secondary education increased overall access from 72% to 83%, reducing inequality by roughly 15%.

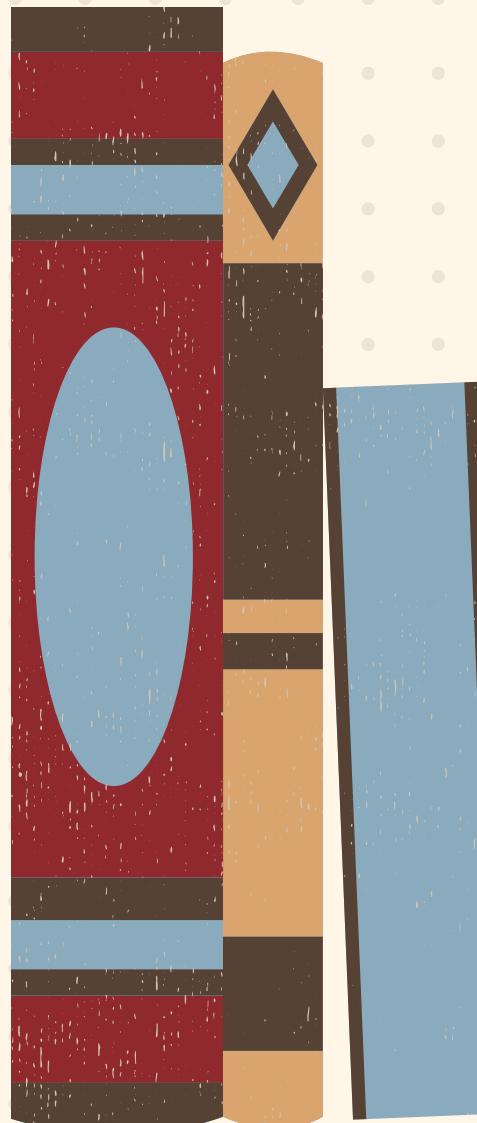
In Andorra, where education levels were already high, access improved marginally from 88% to 90%, yet inequality declined by only 4%, showing that development alone does not guarantee equity.

What we've learned about reducing inequality

Progress is never accidental

Countries like El Salvador, Thailand, and Andorra show that reducing education inequality is possible but it requires long-term, system-wide commitment.

These improvements didn't happen by chance. They came from targeted reforms and a broader view of how education systems work.



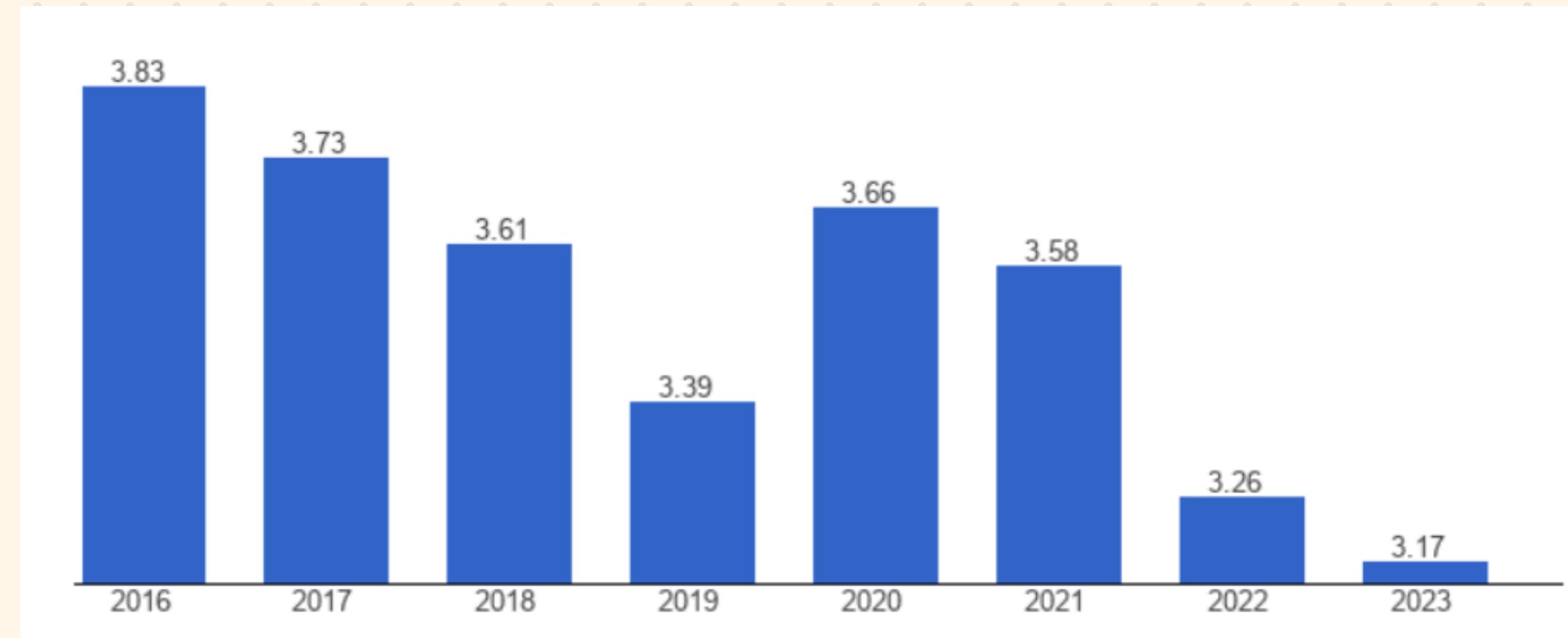
Tackling Inequality

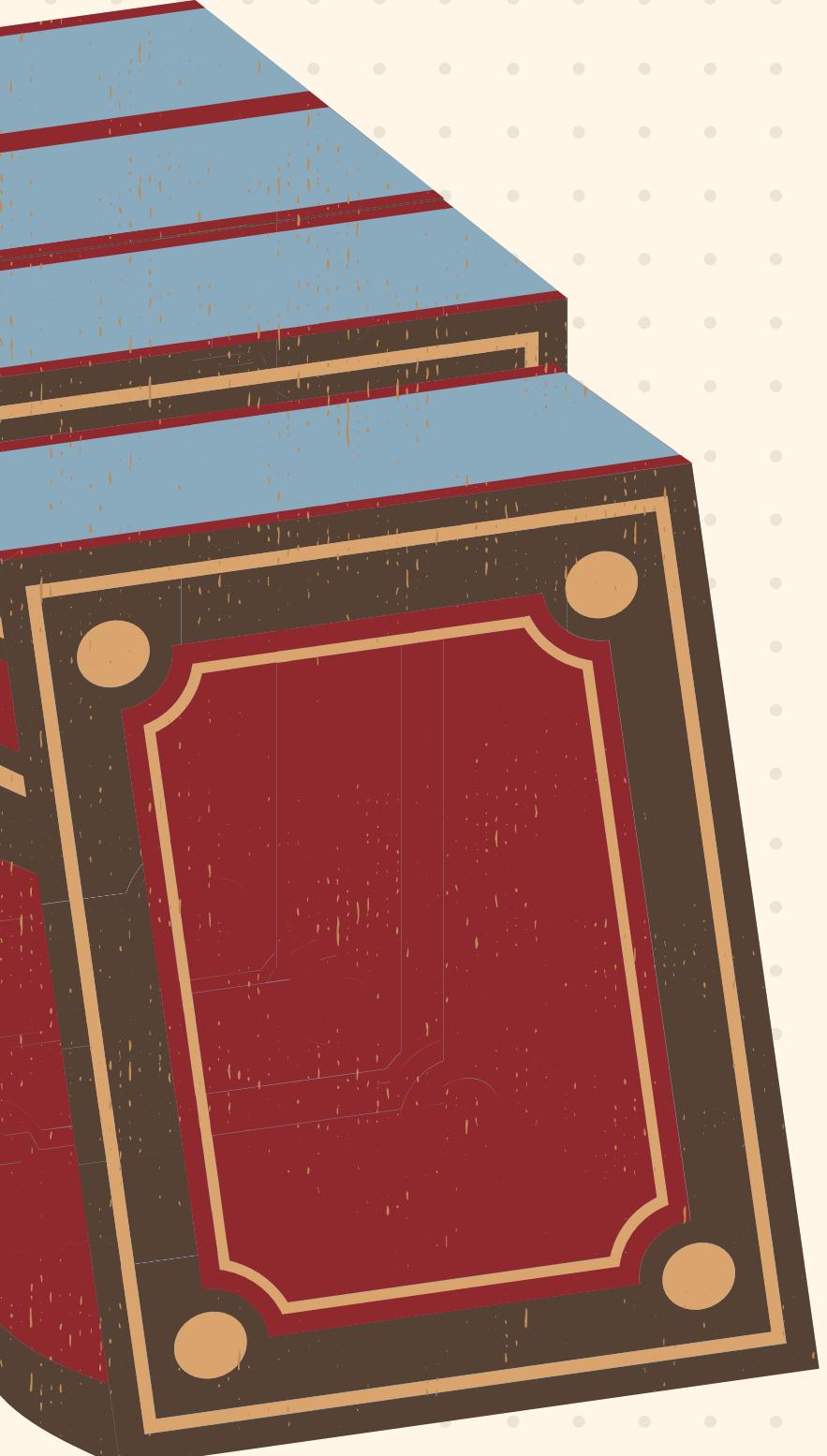
Tackling inequality means looking at the entire education system, not just one stage. Early childhood interventions help but only if they are followed by sustained investment at later stages. Likewise, systems must provide high-quality vocational and academic paths so that all students, not just a select few, can succeed in the modern world.

The Case of El Salvador

Even with significant progress in access, there are still significant gaps in the quality of education in El Salvador. For example, public investment in education stands at 3.4% of GDP, more than a full percentage point below the regional average of 4.8%, which limits resources for schools and teacher development. This has led to rural students to be remain in a disadvantage despite experiencing higher enrolment rates as their overall achievement levels are 20% lower than those of their urban counterparts, indicating the ongoing disparities in learning outcomes.

Public Spending on Education, % of GDP, Source: UNESCO





The Case of El Salvador

In recent years, El Salvador has made many efforts in education reforms, and its effect can be seen. The country's rural primary school enrolment has increased from 63 to 78 percent between 2011 and 2021, indicating that the reforms have made successful advancements.

Additionally, the government implemented needs-based compensatory programs to address the persistent disparities by allocating resources on areas with the fewest. Although only roughly one in four underfunded schools are reached by these programs, with a clear direction and consistent reforms, these efforts will result in gradual but significant change in El Salvador's education sector, from increasing enrolment to improving educational quality and ensuring more equitable opportunities for students across the country.

Investing in Early Childhood Has Transformative Potential for El Salvador



GIRLS' EDUCATION IN EL SALVADOR BECOMES A NATIONAL PRIORITY



Joe Albers '02 increases access to education in El Salvador with new school

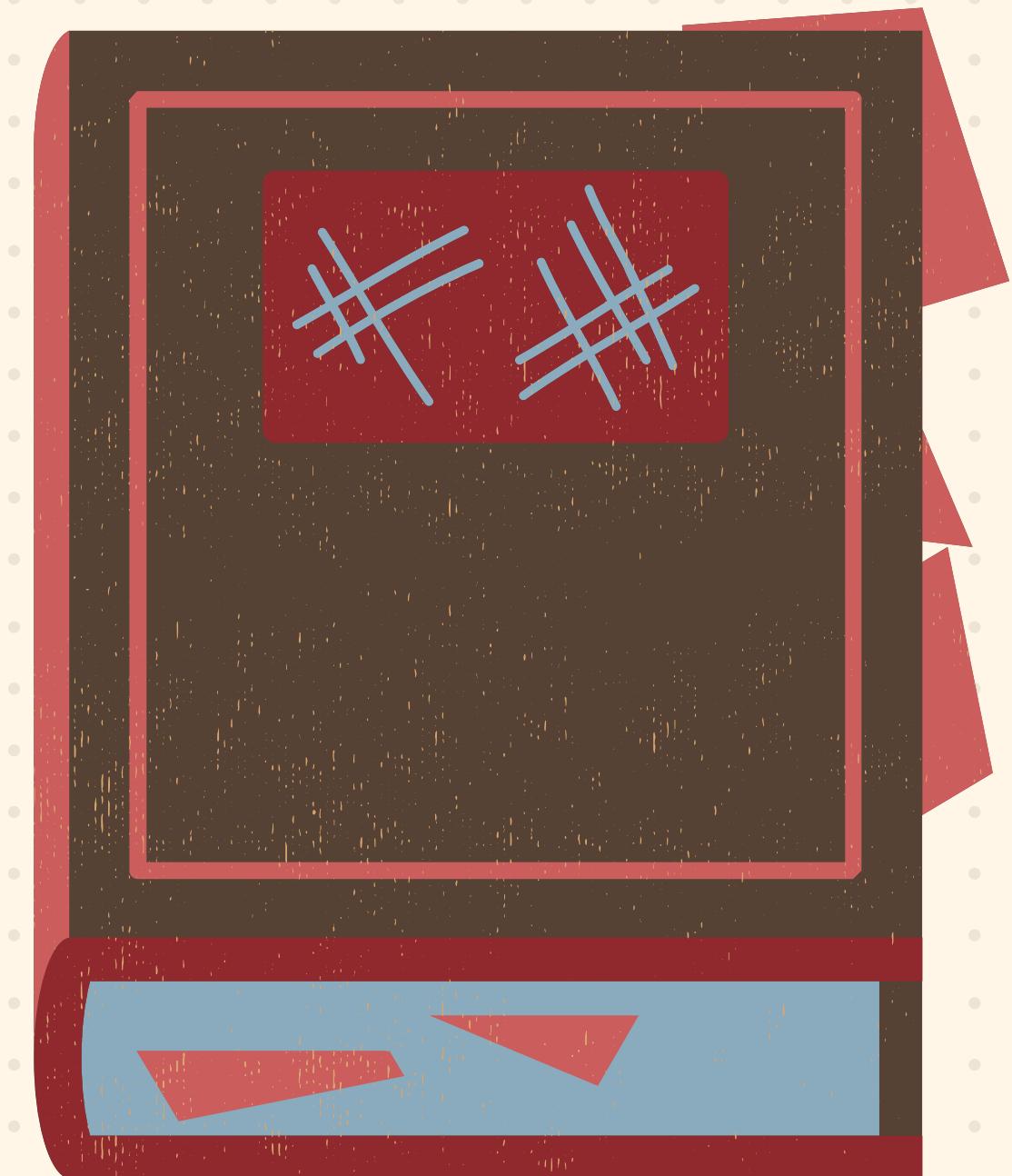
Two decades after an immersion trip as a senior, Cristo Rey San Jose principal starts a new chapter.

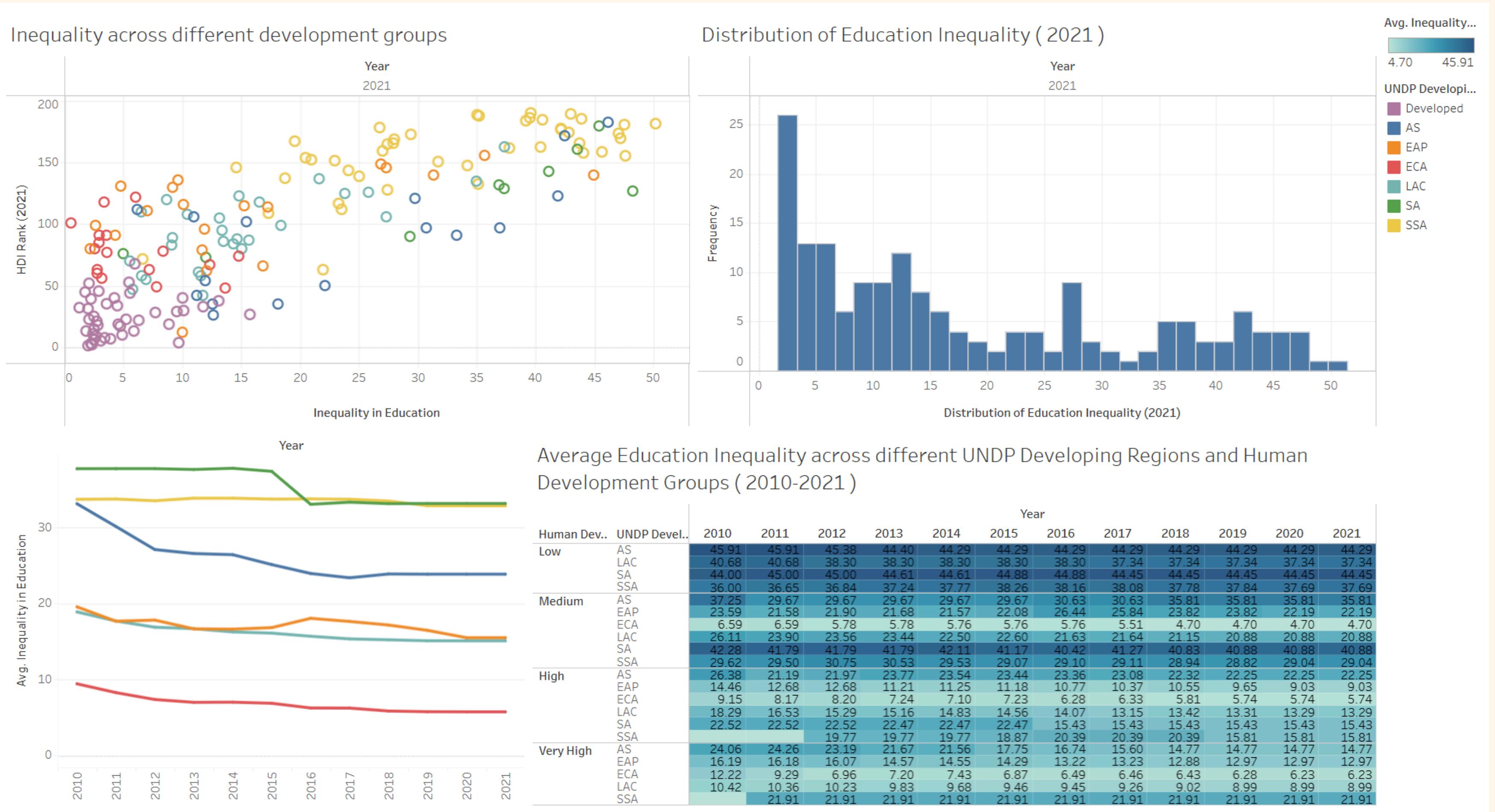
June 24, 2025 | By Angela Solorzano



Conclusion

Inequality in education is a policy decision, not a given. Although there are many disparities in outcomes and access, intentional, inclusive reforms can lessen them. Governments can create systems that empower every student by making early investments, assisting underprivileged schools, and placing equal value on all learning pathways. Making the correct decisions turns education into a basis for a more resilient and equitable society as well as a means of achieving opportunities.





**Thank You For
Listening!**

