

The impact of Covid-19 around the world: How does the UK compare?

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Goal

Provide an overview of school COVID-19 induced closures around the world in comparison to the UK.

Disclaimer

I will not take a stance on whether school closures were and/or are the right measures.

Data

Sources: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.

Partial closures: Certain areas/grades or reduced schooling.

Full closures: Government-mandated closures affecting at least 80% of the enrolled.



21 months into the pandemic

British school children experienced 27w of partial or full school closures.



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21 months into the pandemic

British school children experienced 27w of partial or full school closures. On average they complete 13.2y of education.

Ugandan school children experienced 81w of partial or full school closures. On average they complete 6.2y of education.



21 months into the pandemic

British school children experienced 27w of partial or full school closures. On average they complete 13.2y of education. COVID-19 disrupted $\approx 5\%$ of their schooling.

Ugandan school children experienced 81w of partial or full school closures. On average they complete 6.2y of education. COVID-19 disrupted $\approx 33\%$ of their schooling.



21 months into the pandemic

British school children experienced 27w of partial or full school closures. On average they complete 13.2y of education. **COVID-19 disrupted \approx 5% of their schooling.**

That is a lot. For many children it will be a lot higher!

Ugandan school children experienced 81w of partial or full school closures. On average they complete 6.2y of education. **COVID-19 disrupted \approx 33% of their schooling.**

That is alarming!



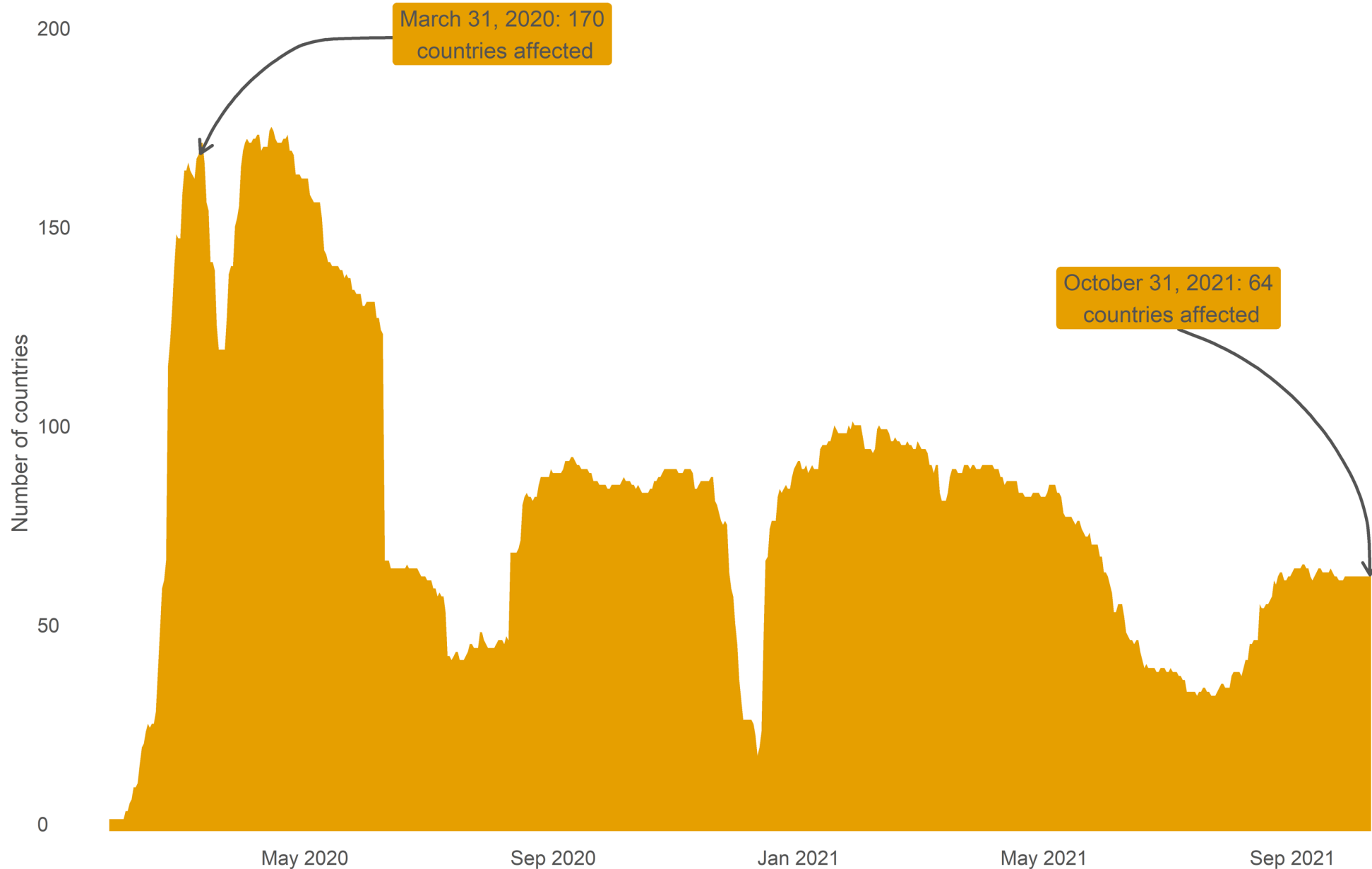
The big picture

School disruptions Feb 2020-Oct 2021



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Countries affected by COVID-19 school disruptions

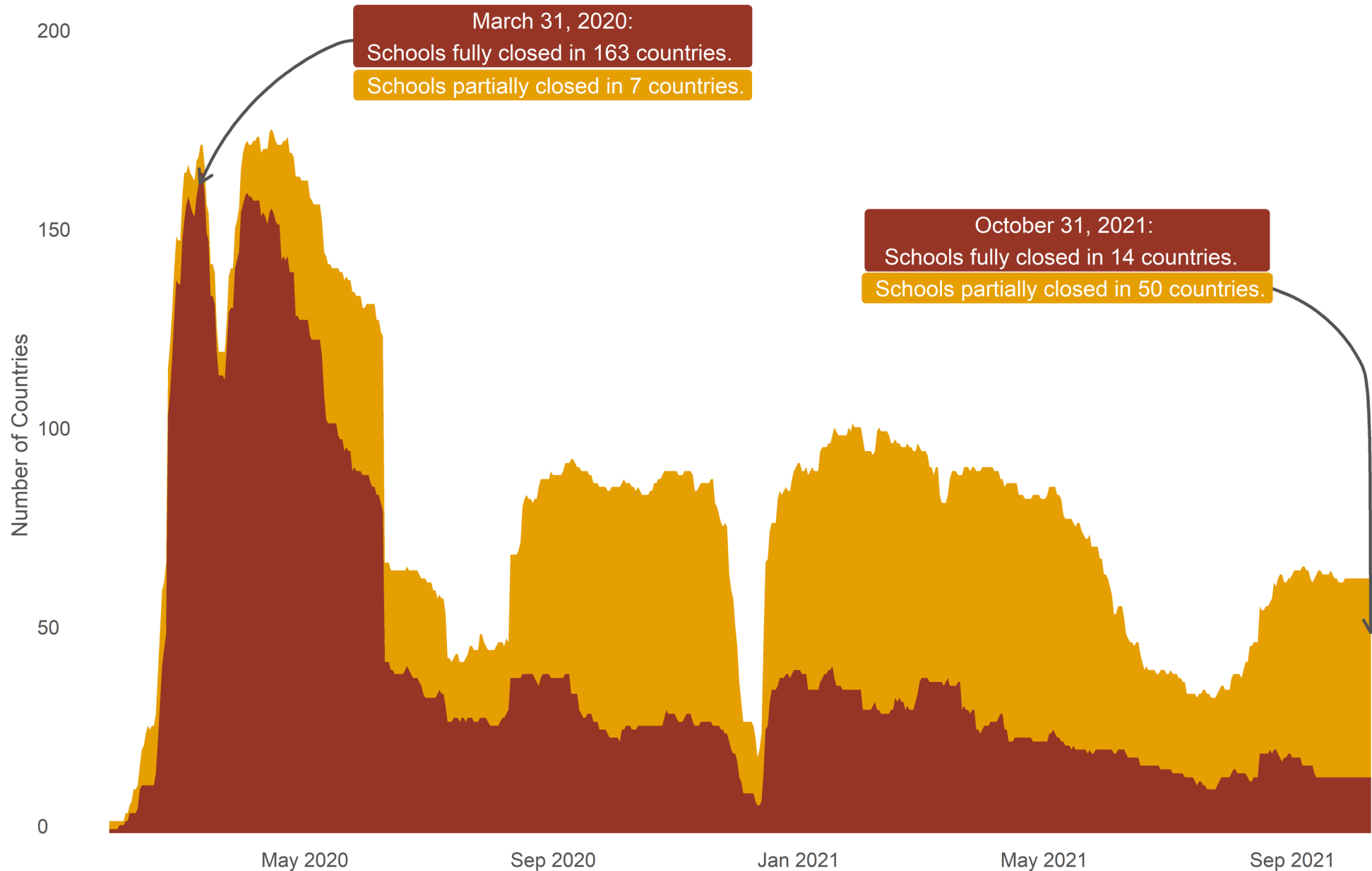


Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.



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Countries affected by COVID-19 school disruptions

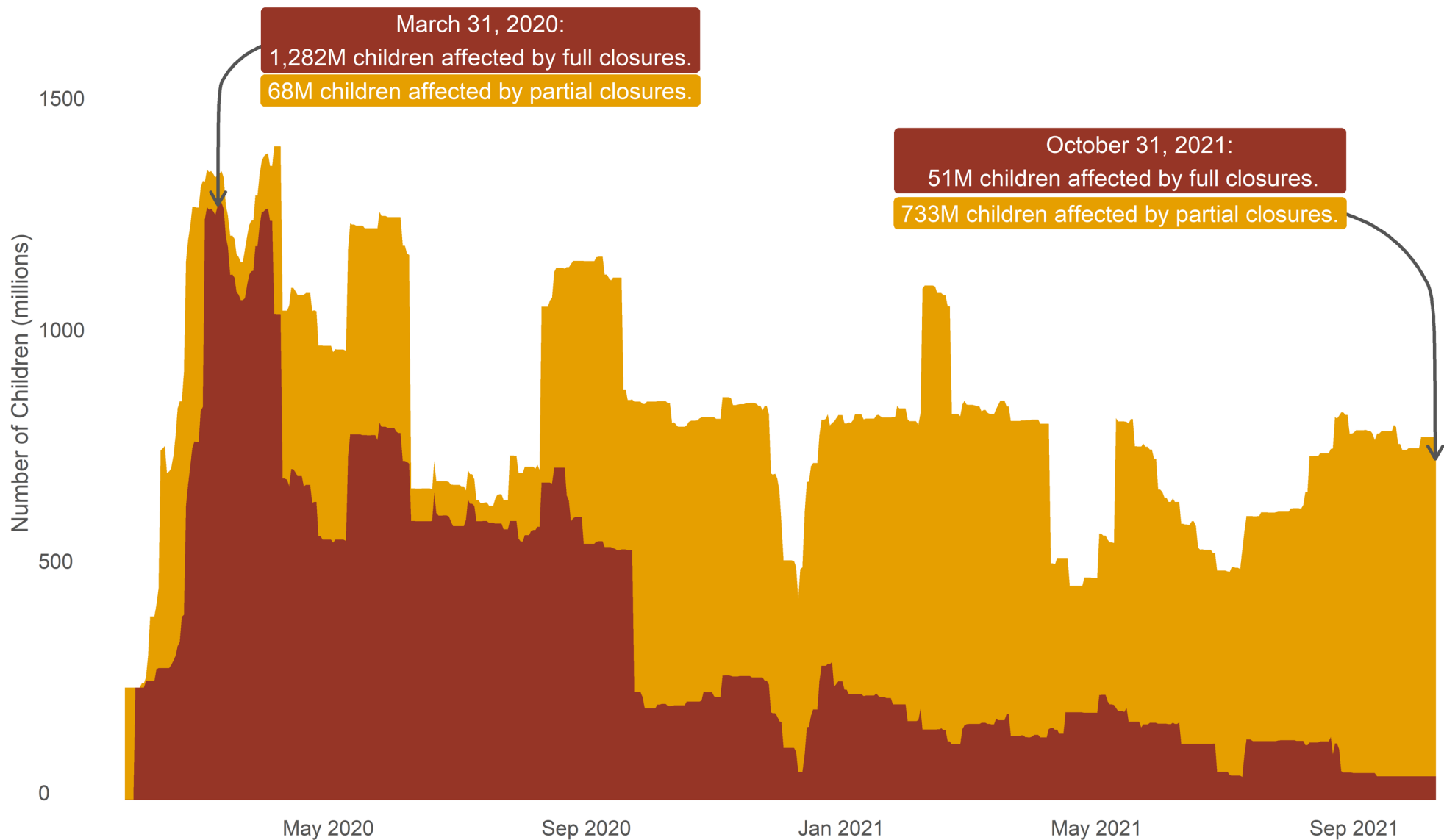


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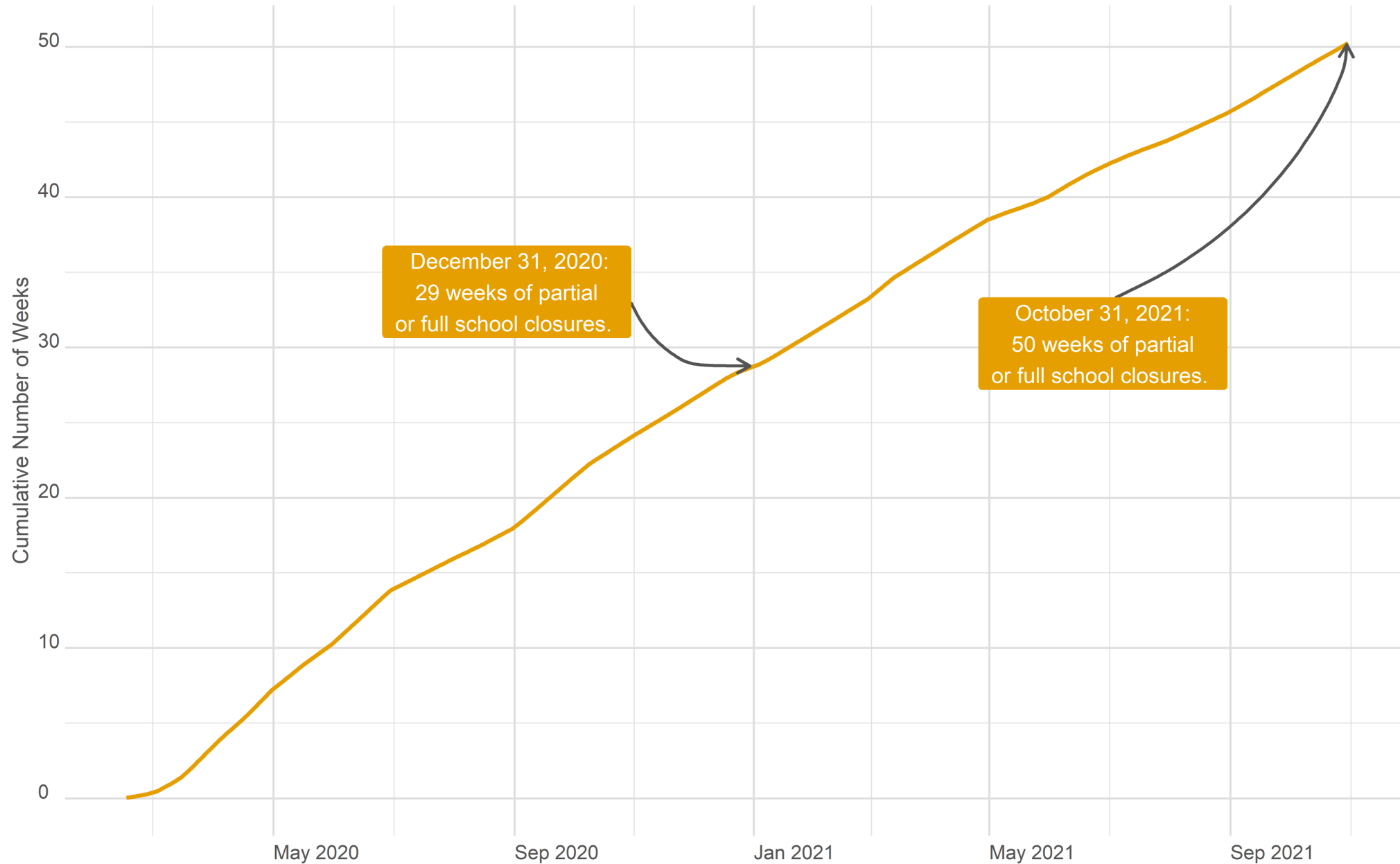
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Children affected by COVID-19 school disruptions



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Weeks of COVID-19 school disruptions

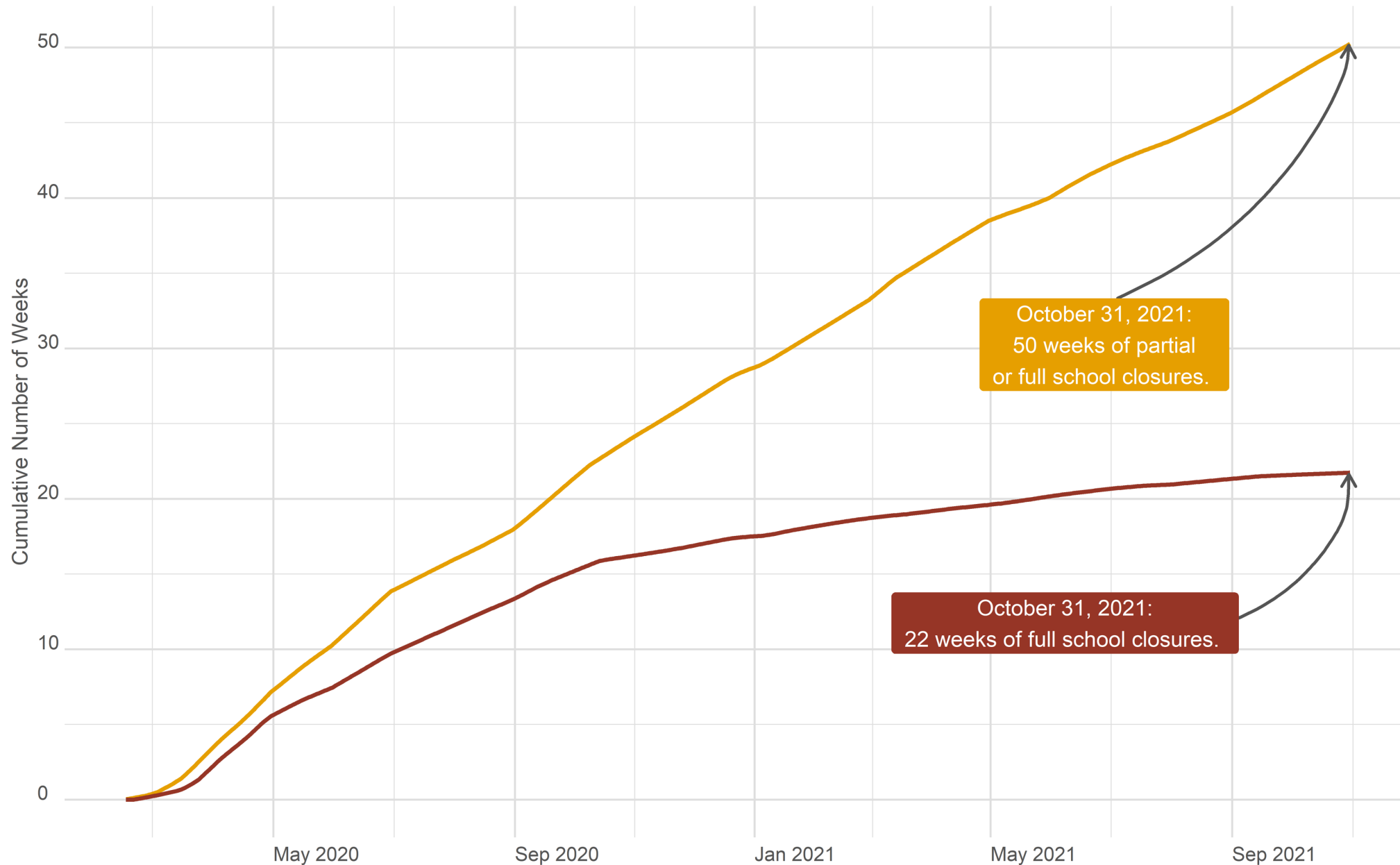


Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.



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Weeks of COVID-19 school disruptions



October 31, 2021:
50 weeks of partial
or full school closures.

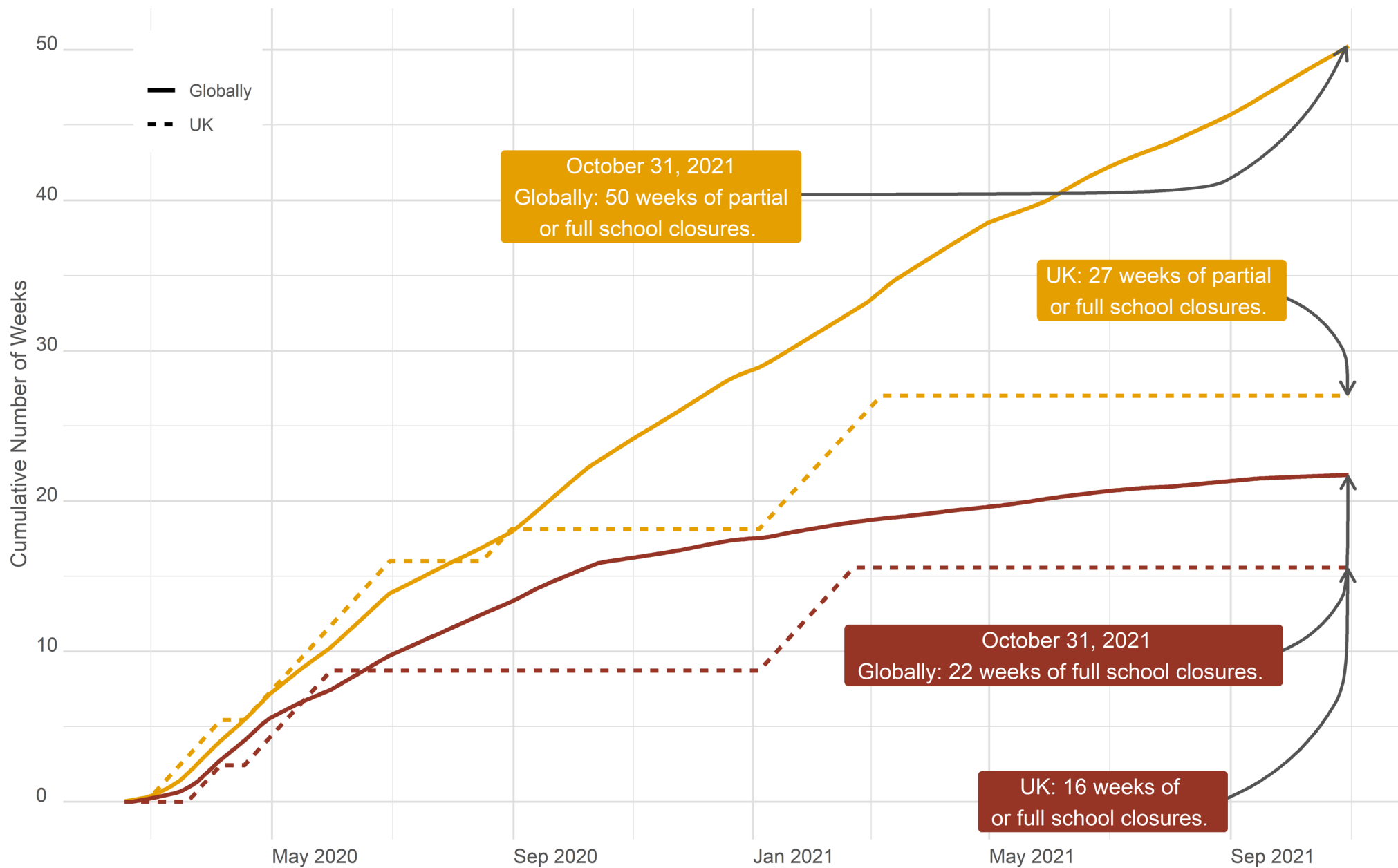
October 31, 2021:
22 weeks of full school closures.

Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.



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Weeks of COVID-19 school disruptions

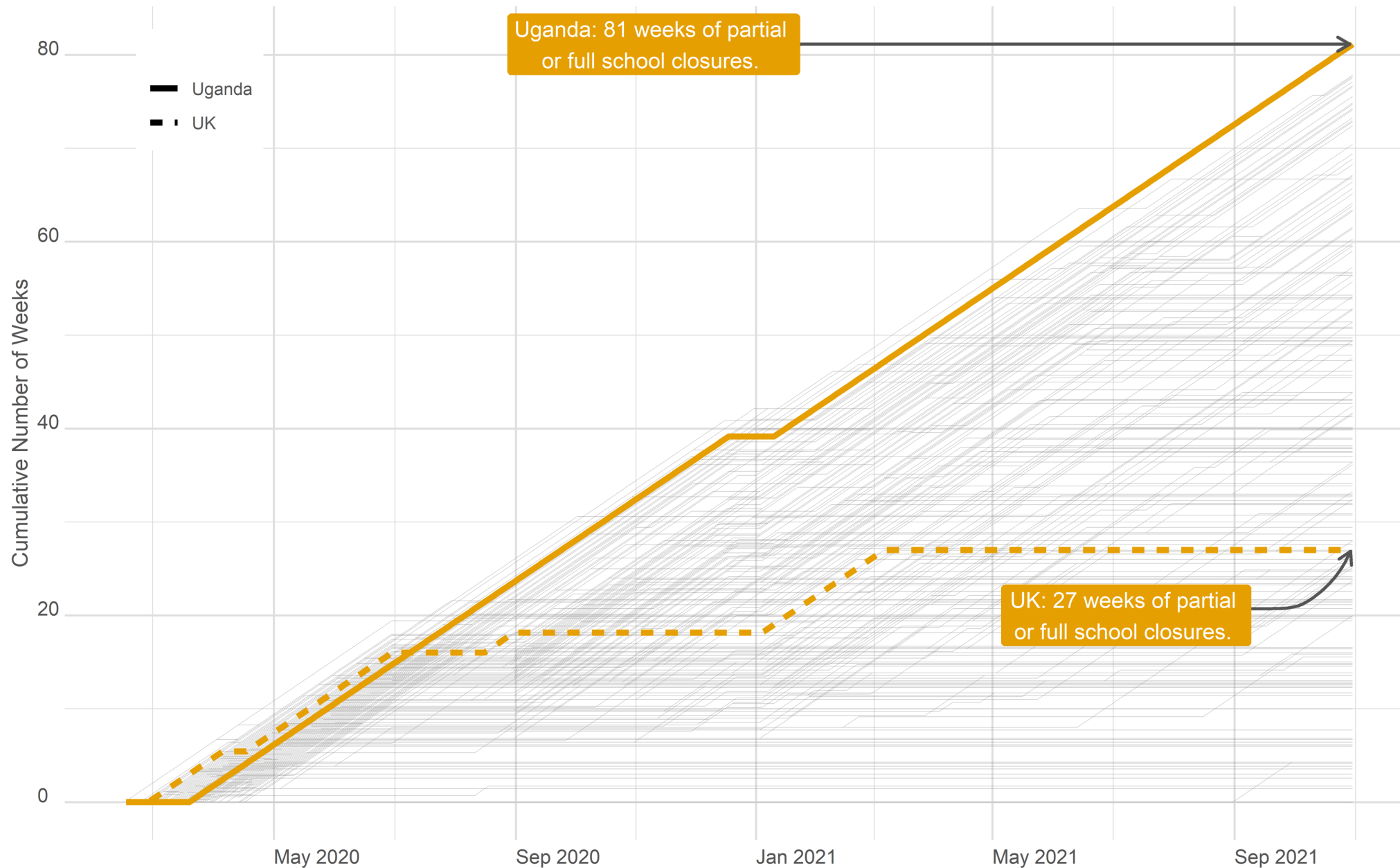


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Weeks of COVID-19 school disruptions

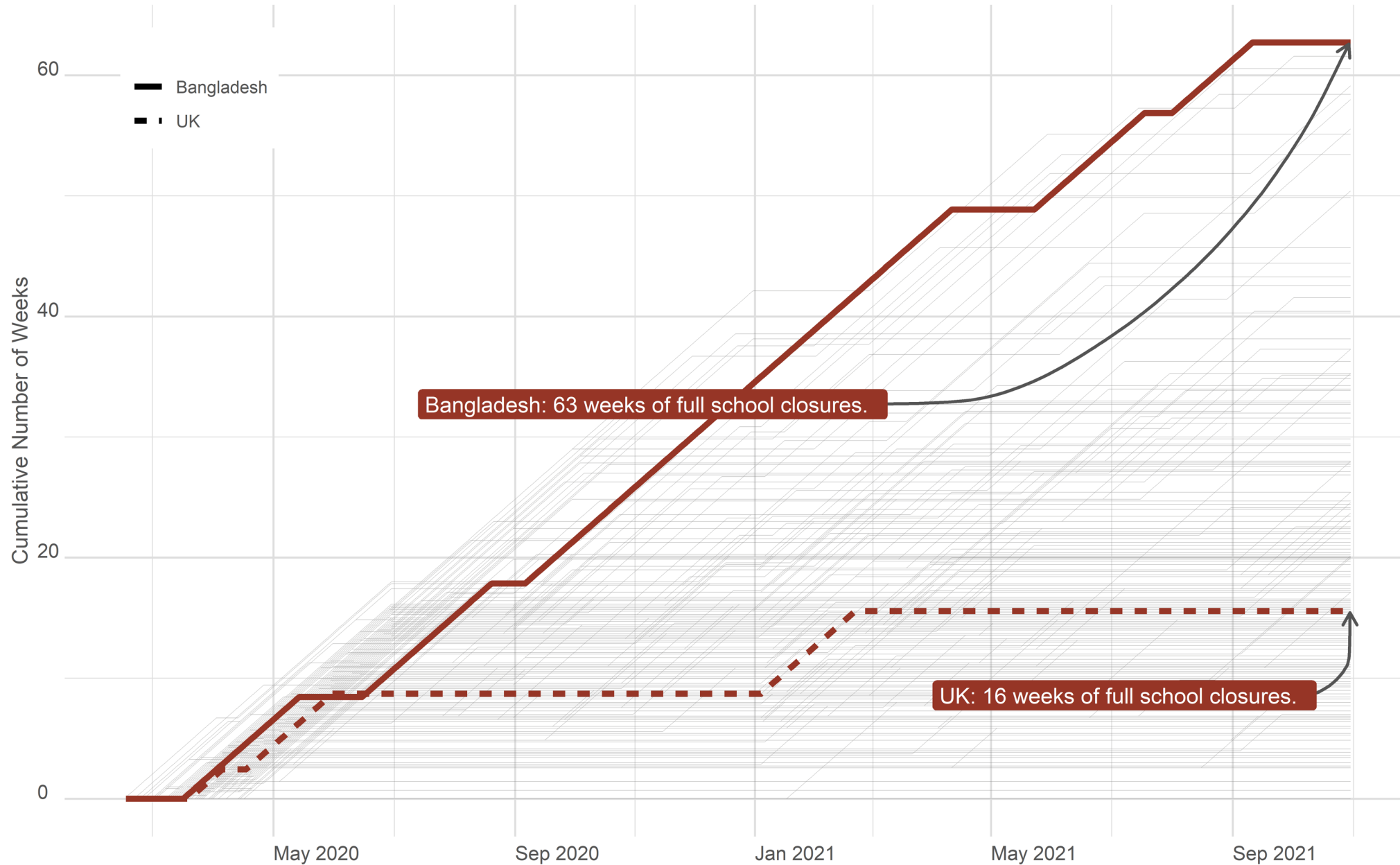


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Weeks of COVID-19 school disruptions

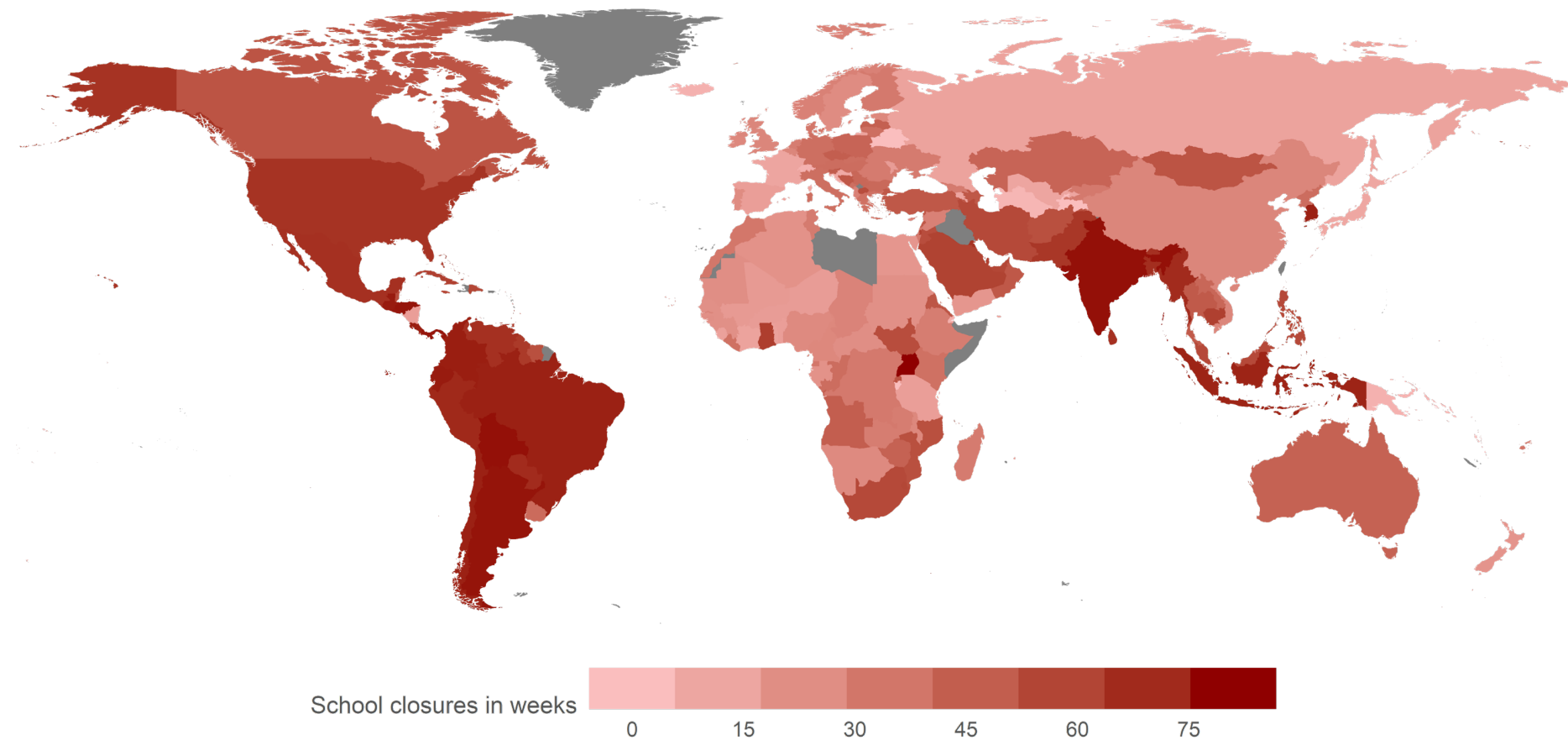


Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.



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COVID-19 induced partial and full school closures

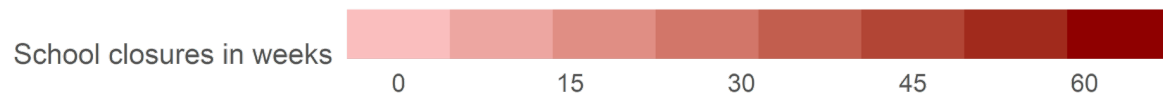
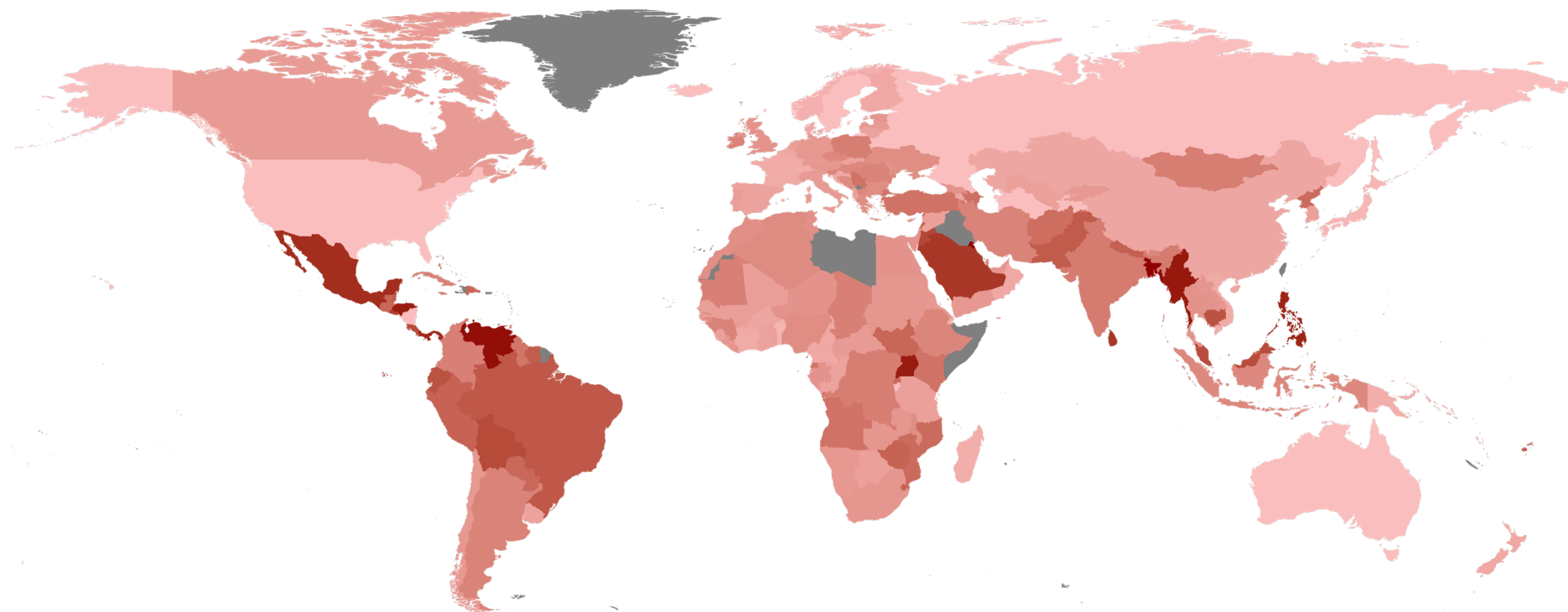


Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.



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COVID-19 induced full school closures

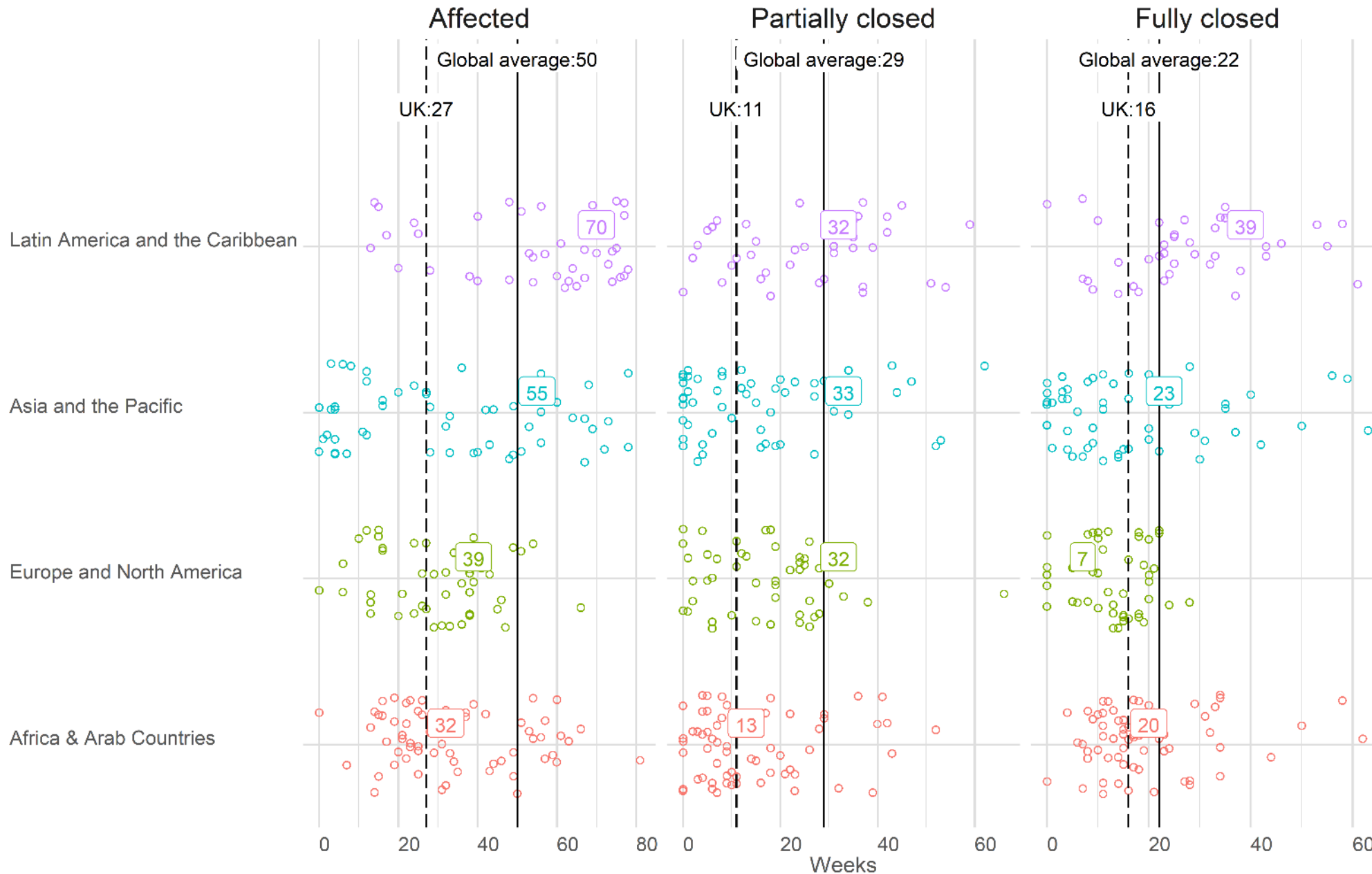


Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.



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COVID-19 induced disruptions by region

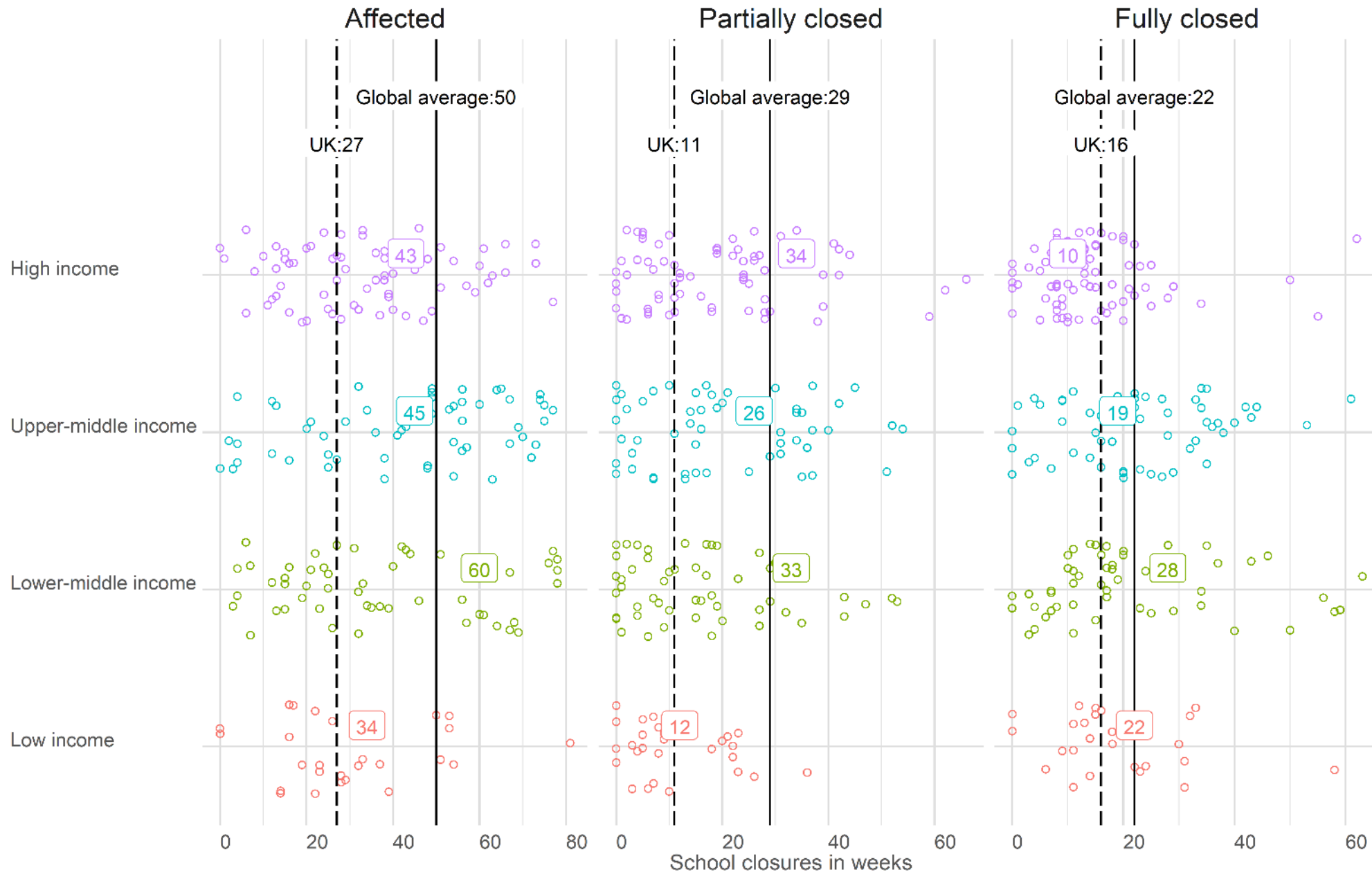


Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.



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COVID-19 induced disruptions by inc. group

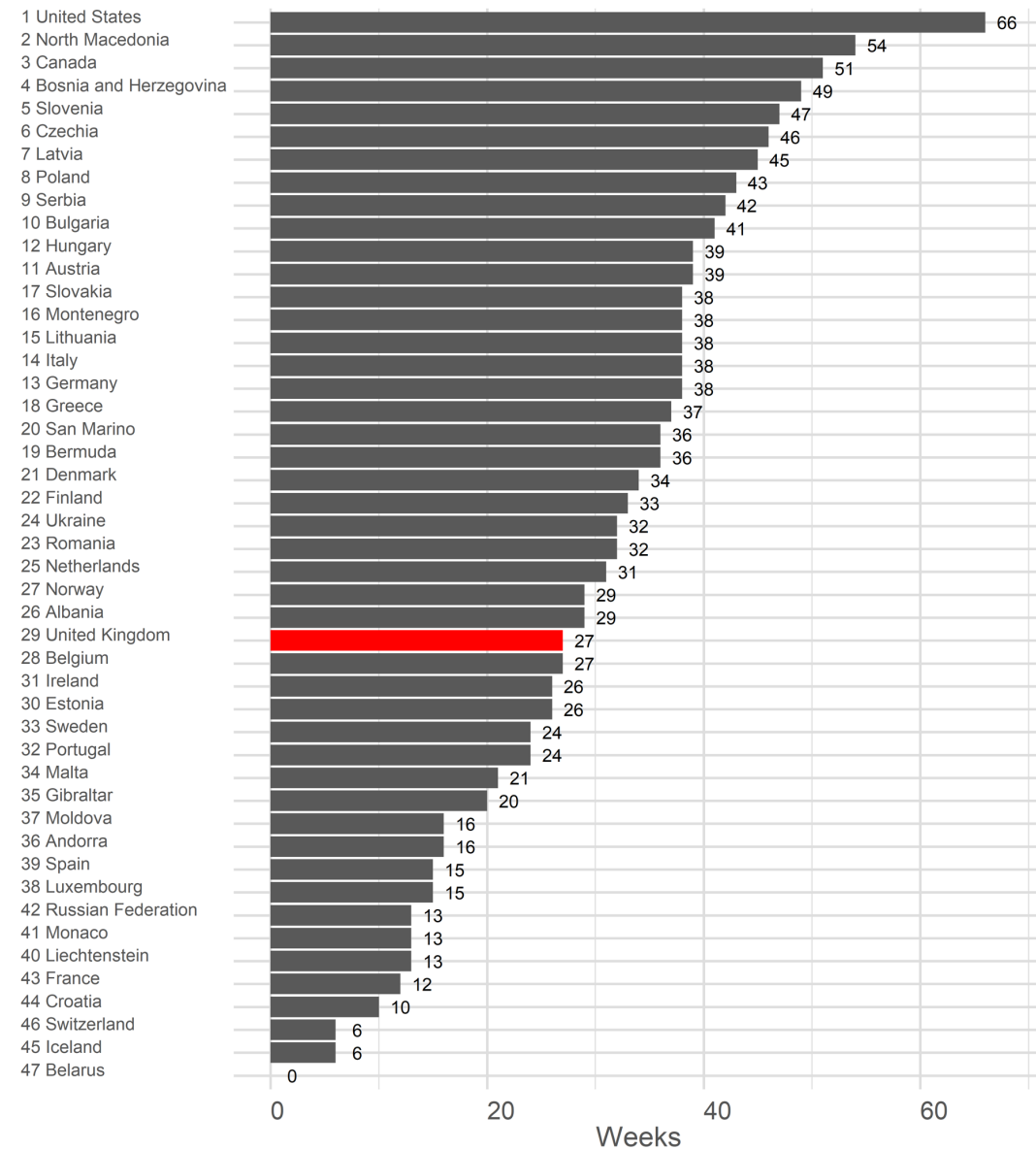


Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.



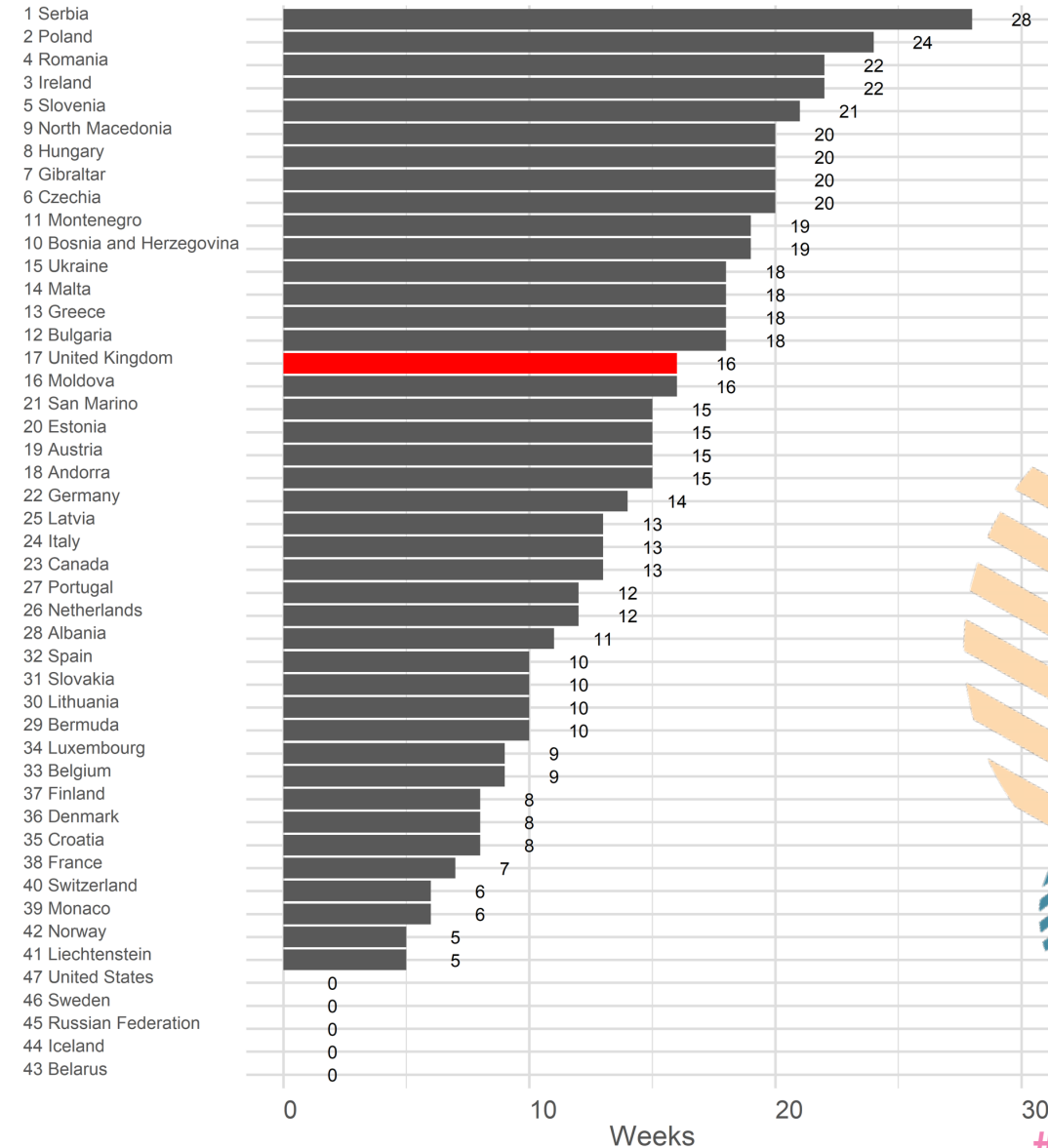
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Affected



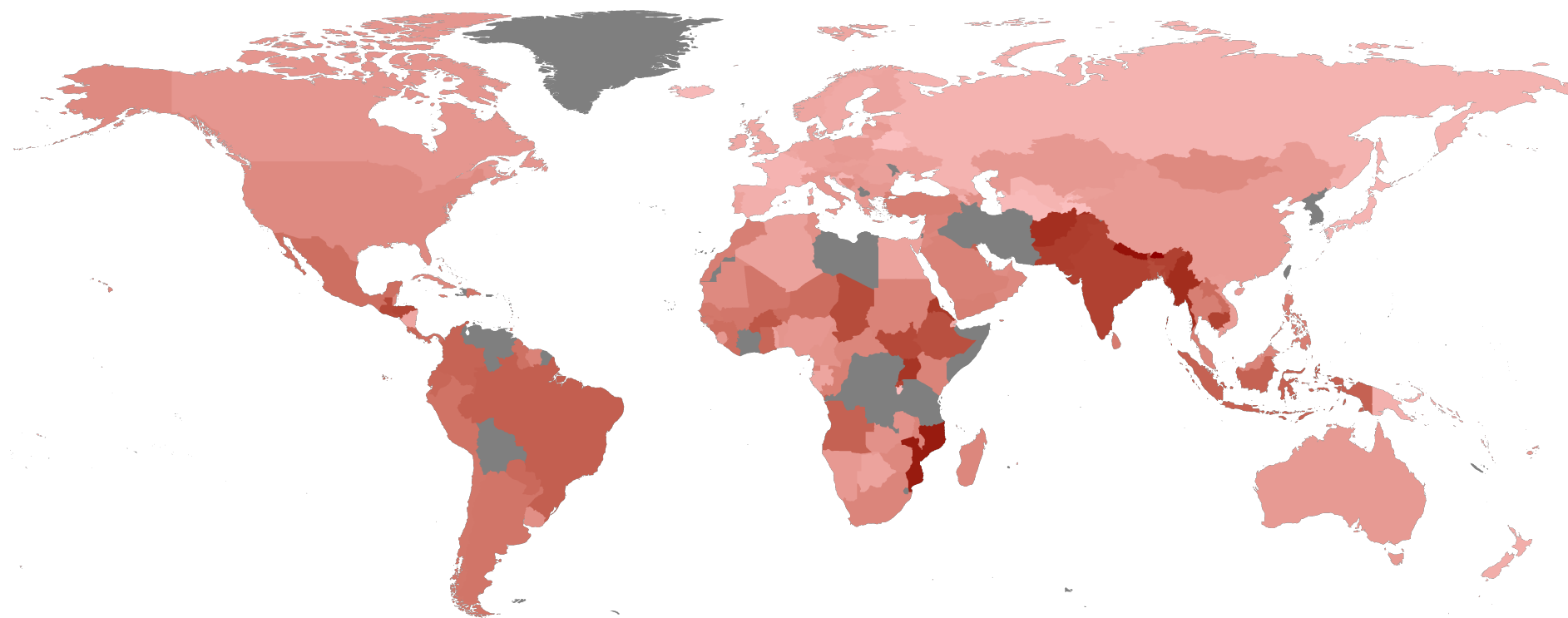
Notes: Own calculations based on data from UNESCO.

Fully closed



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Relative COVID-19 schooling disruptions



% of average schooling affected

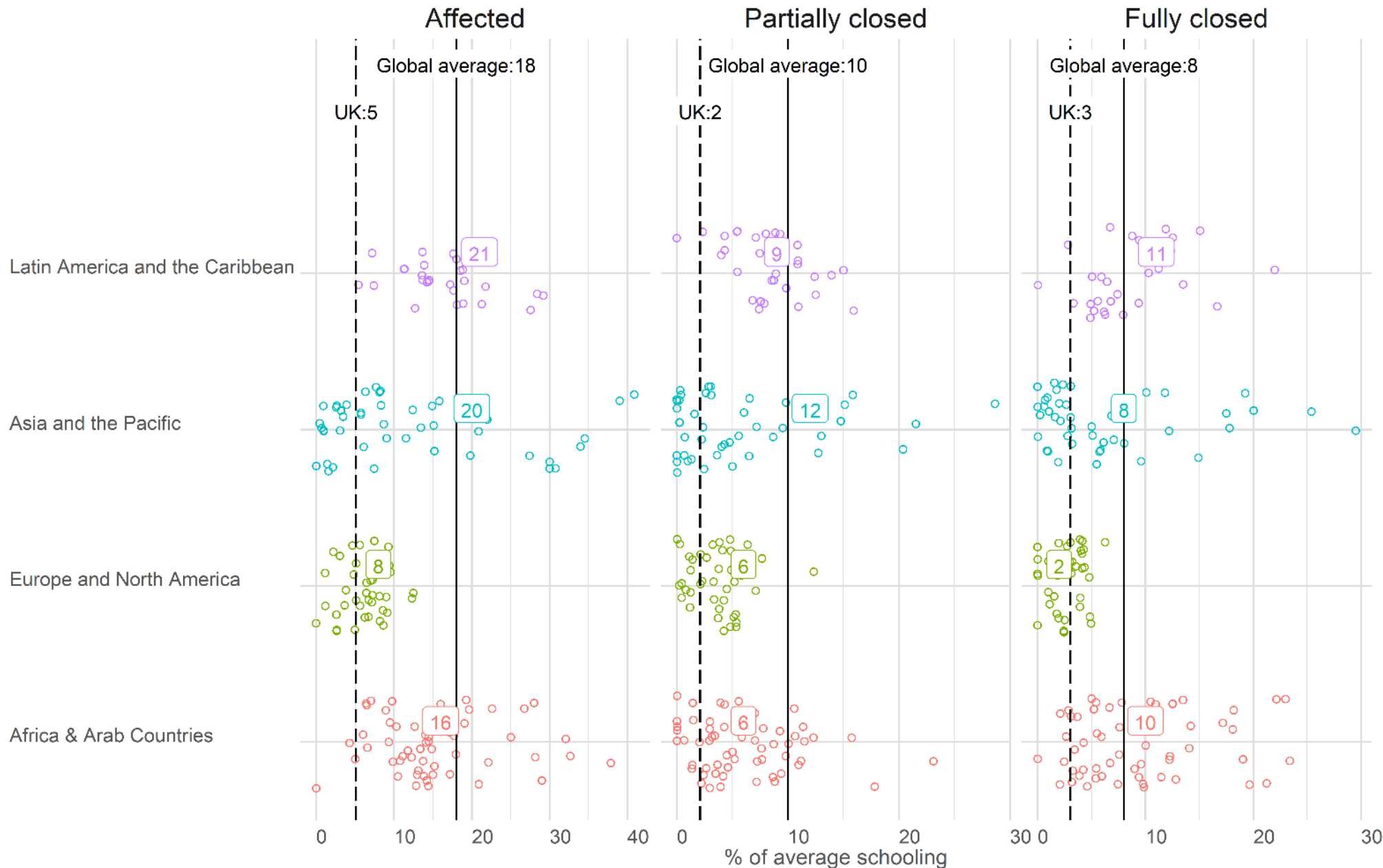


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Relative COVID-19 schooling disruptions

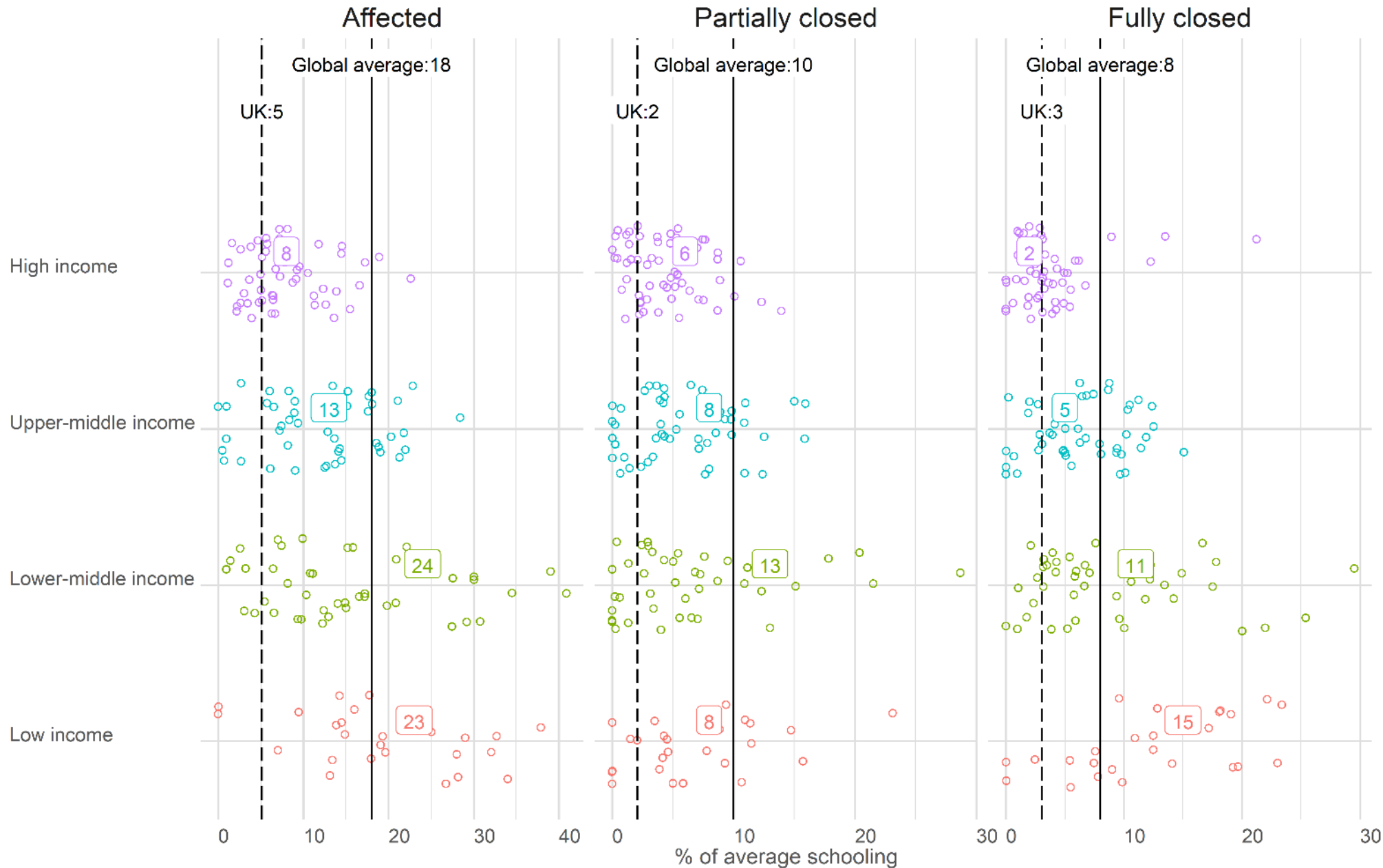


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Relative COVID-19 schooling disruptions



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Summary, 21 months into the pandemic

- British school children have been affected by 27w of disruptions.
- The global average is 50w.
- Compared to the average among high income countries, British school children have been less affected (27w vs. 43w).
- In terms of full school closures, British children have been



What are the consequences?

- Learning loss and increasing dropout rates (Moscoviz and Evans, 2022)
 - Poor kids are more affected (everywhere)

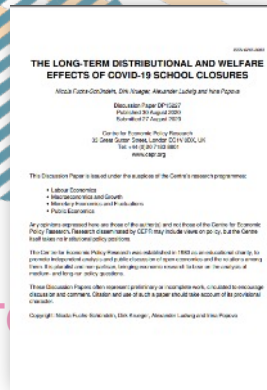
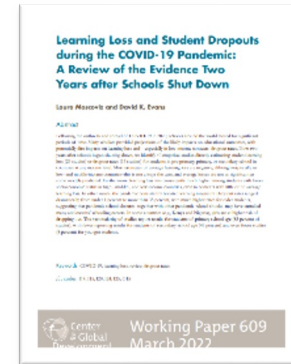
- OECD countries (Hanushek & Woessmann, 2020)
 - ~3% lower lifetime income.
(Worse for disadvantaged students.)
 - 1.5% lower annual GDP for the rest of the century

- Globally (Psacharopoulos et al, 2021)

“Assuming school closures of 4 months’ duration, our total estimated losses in foregone lifetime earnings for current enrolled students range from US\$168–US\$364 billion in low-income countries to US\$3.2–US\$6.9 trillion in middle-income countries, and US\$2.3–US\$5.0 trillion in high-income countries. The total global losses amount to US\$7–US\$15 trillion.”

- Structural modelling (for the US) Fuchs-Schündeln et al (2020)

“On average (across children aged 4 to 14 when the shock occurs), the model implies an increase in the future share of children without a high school degree of 3.8% and a reduction of the share of children with a college degree of 2.7% when both school closures and the economic recession is taken into account. On average, the earnings losses induced by reduced human capital accumulation and lower educational attainment amount to about –1%”



Thank you for your attention

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