

# African Higher Education

## Opportunities for Transformative Change for Sustainable Development

## Opportunities

### Returns to Schooling by Education Level

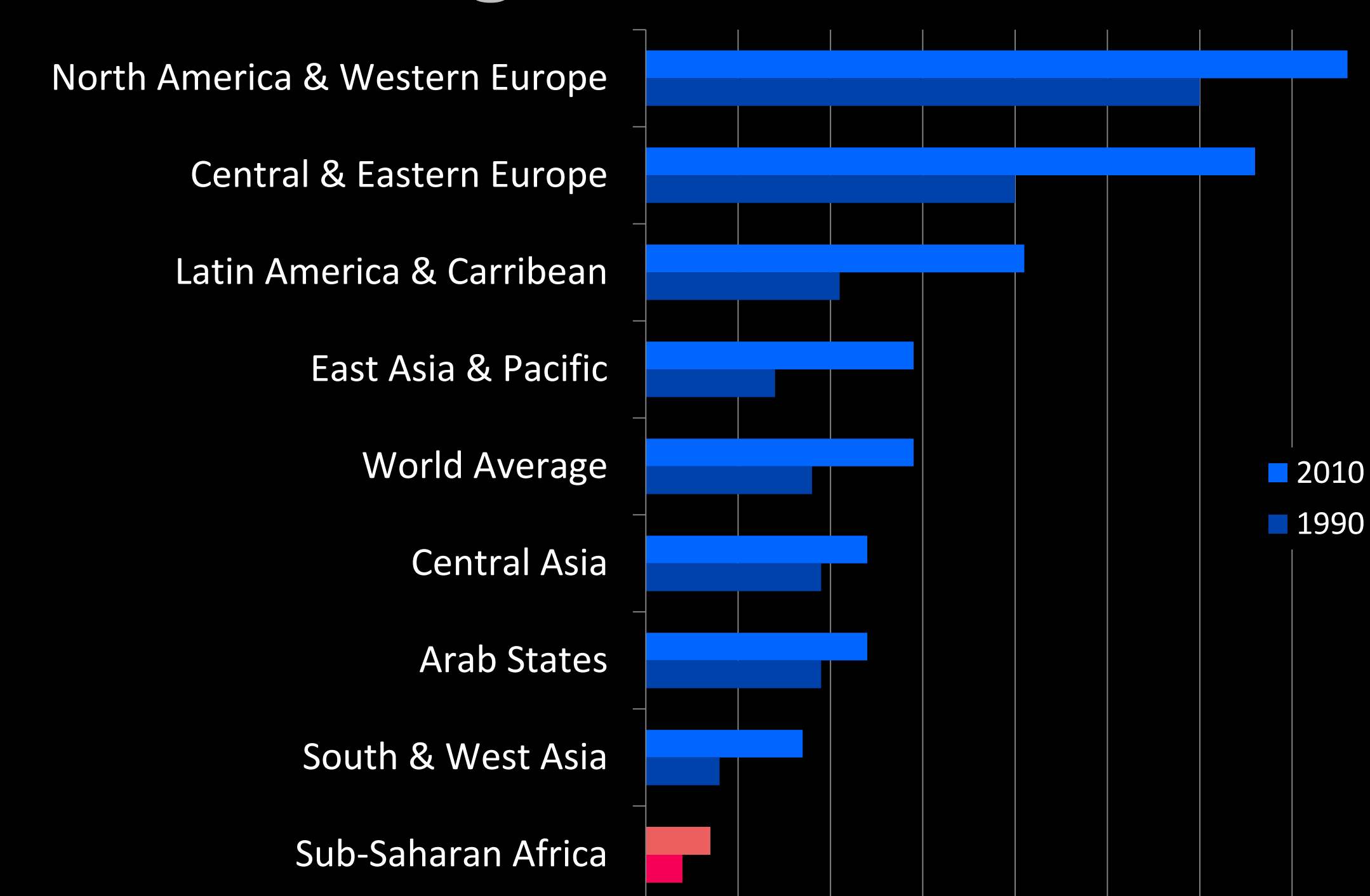
Region	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	GDP/pc (PPP 2005)	N
World	10.3	6.9	16.8	6,719	74
Middle East and North Africa	9.4	3.5	8.9	3,645	7
South Asia	9.6	6.3	18.4	2,626	4
Eastern and Central Europe	8.3	4.0	10.1	6,630	7
High Income Economies	4.8	5.3	11.0	31,748	6
East Asia and Pacific	11.0	6.3	15.4	5,980	6
Latin America and Caribbean	9.3	6.6	17.6	7,269	20
Sub-Saharan Africa	13.4	10.8	21.9	2,531	24

Source: "African Higher Education: Opportunities for Transformative Change" (APLU 2014)

Returns are at their highest in SSA, especially at the tertiary level. Higher education (HE) investments are important in SSA because globalization brings new competition and opportunities.

## Challenges

### Enrollment Levels in Higher Education



Source: Montenegro, C.E. & H.A. Patrinos (2013). Returns to Schooling Around the World. The World Bank.

Even though enrollment rates at HE institutions in SSA have increased in the last 20 years, they are still the lowest in the world. At the same time, public funding for HE only increased 6% annually from 1970-2008.

Higher Education develops the  
**innovation environment** needed for  
social and economic development  
through four major missions:



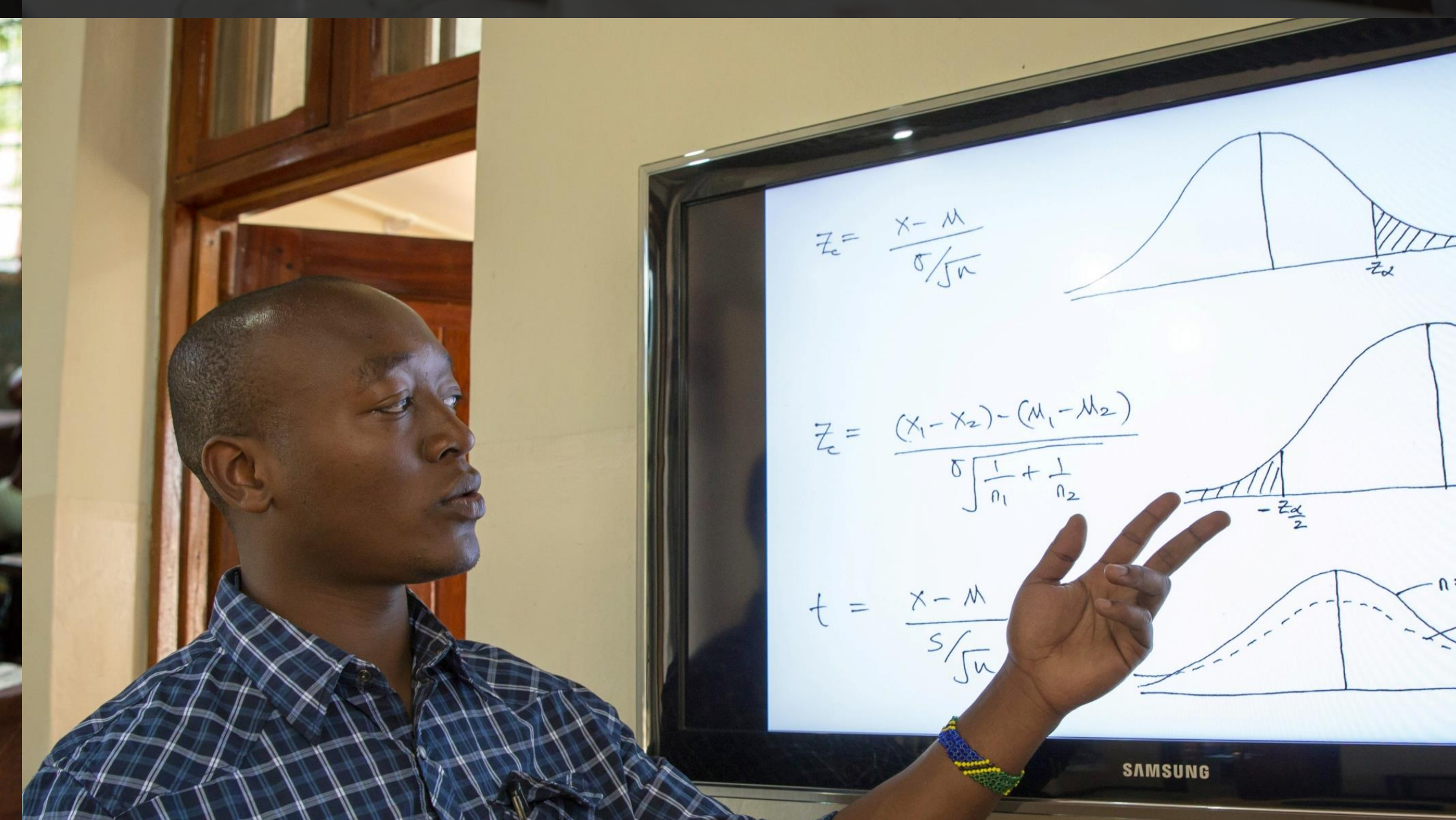
**The formation of  
human capital**  
(through teaching)



**The building of  
knowledge bases**  
(through research & knowledge development)



**The dissemination  
and use of knowledge**  
(through interaction with knowledge users)



**The maintenance of knowledge**  
(through inter-generational storage  
and transmission of knowledge)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations to USAID on the Development and Management of the Agency's Higher Education Portfolio

- Concentrate USAID investments and combine system level interventions with institution-level transformation
- Intervene at the institutional level through partnerships that are long-term, comprehensive and focused on *transforming* institutions, not just strengthening them

### Programmatic High Priorities at the Institutional Level

- Professional Development of Faculty and Staff
- Strengthening the Capacity of Institutions to use data to improve quality and relevance to labor markets
- Strengthening the use of and experimentation with e-learning in African higher education institutions
- Supporting the search for other-than public revenue for higher education

### Programmatic High Priorities at the Country Level

- Assessing and improving overall quality of higher education institutions
- Assessing and improving the responsiveness of HEIs to the labor market
- Strengthening e-learning and the use of ICT in Higher Education
- Working with ministries on finding solutions to the finance challenges of HE