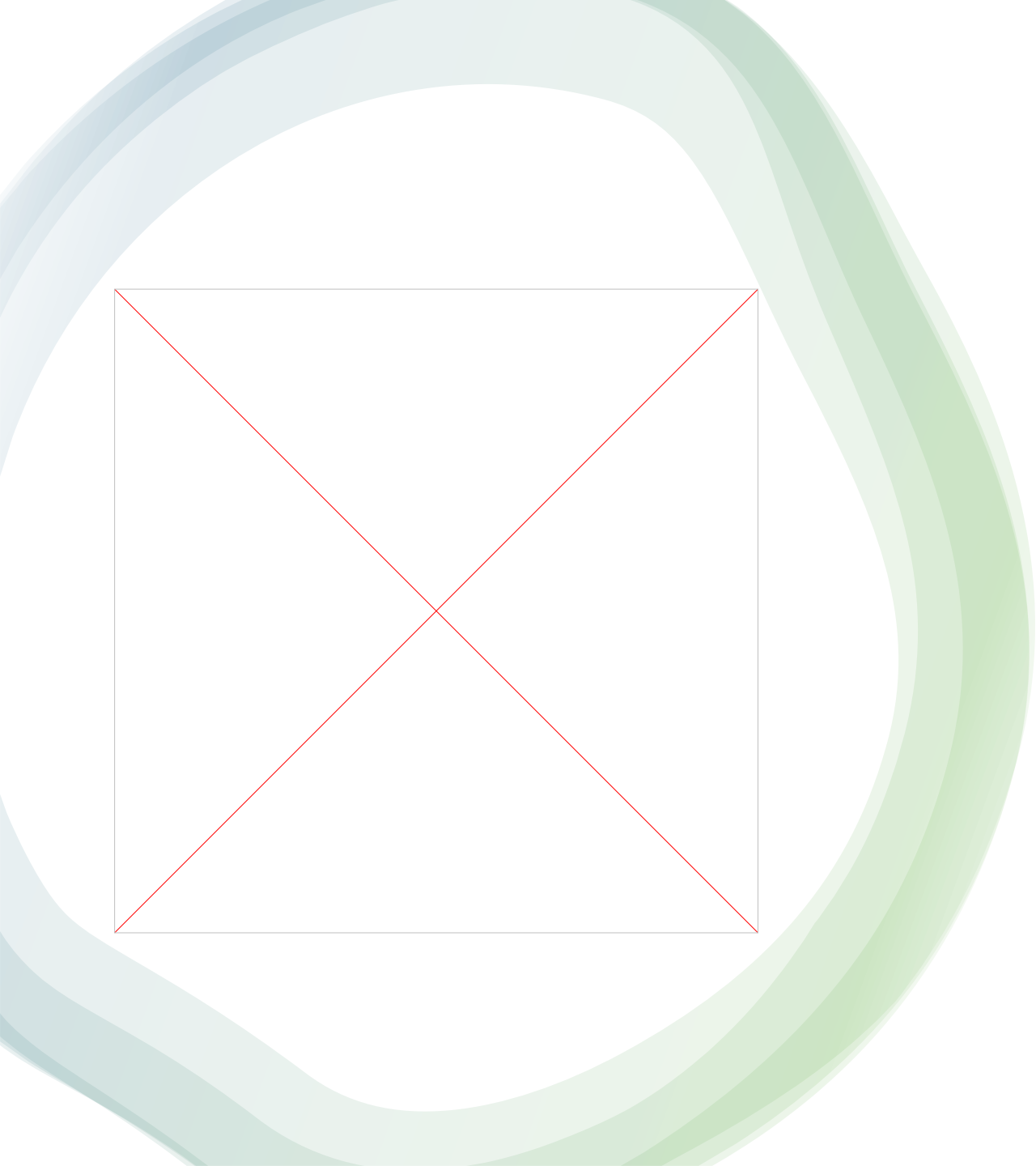


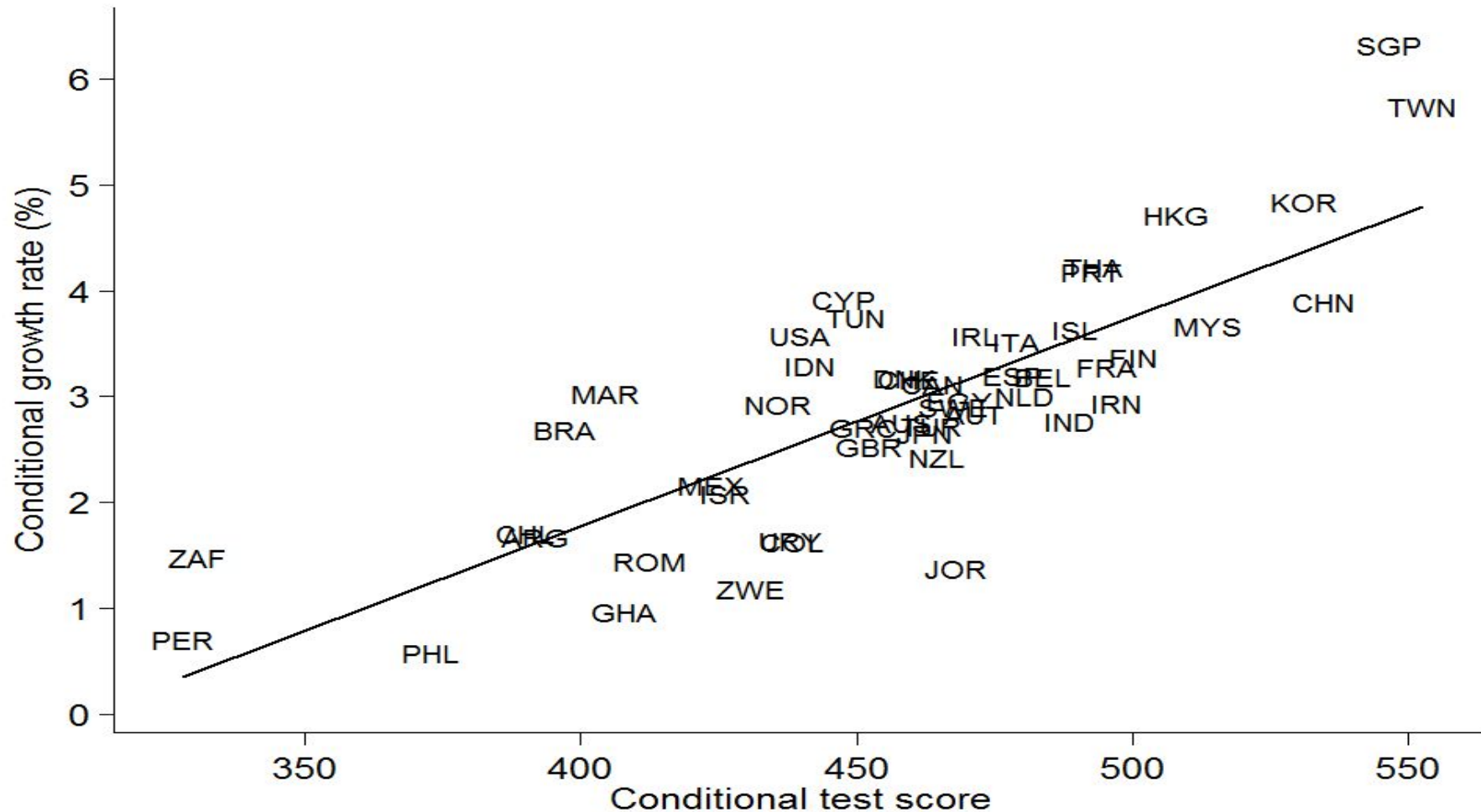


Unleashing Africa's Potential: Research to Policy

Eric Hanushek
Africa Fellows in Education Program

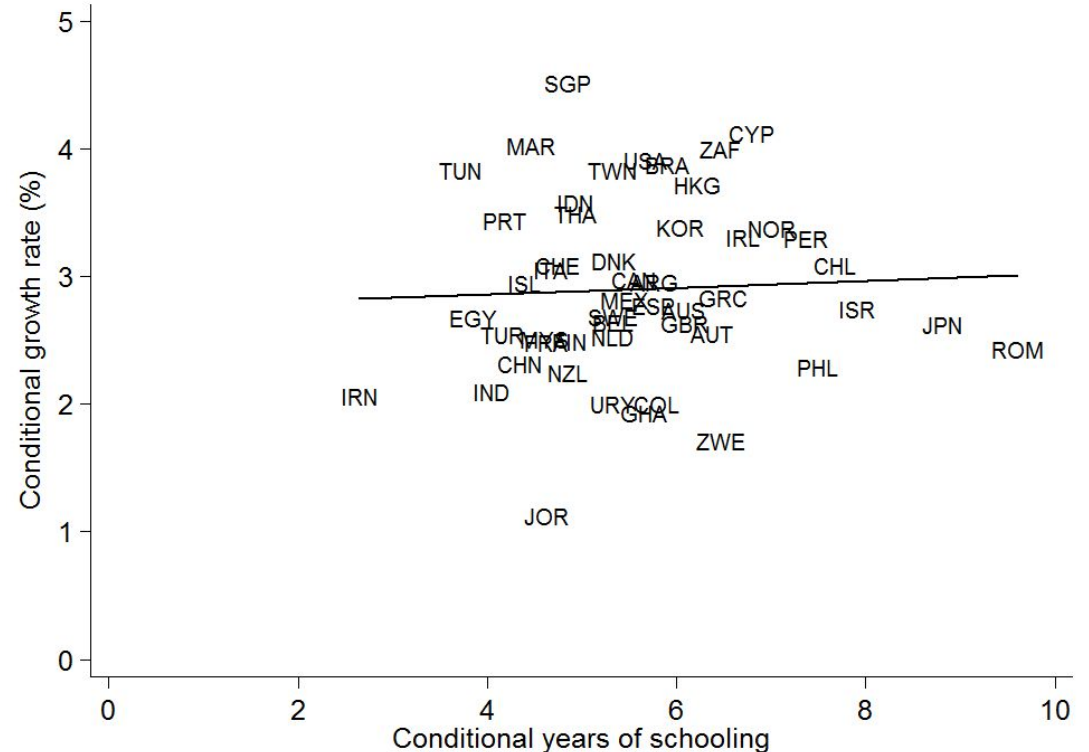
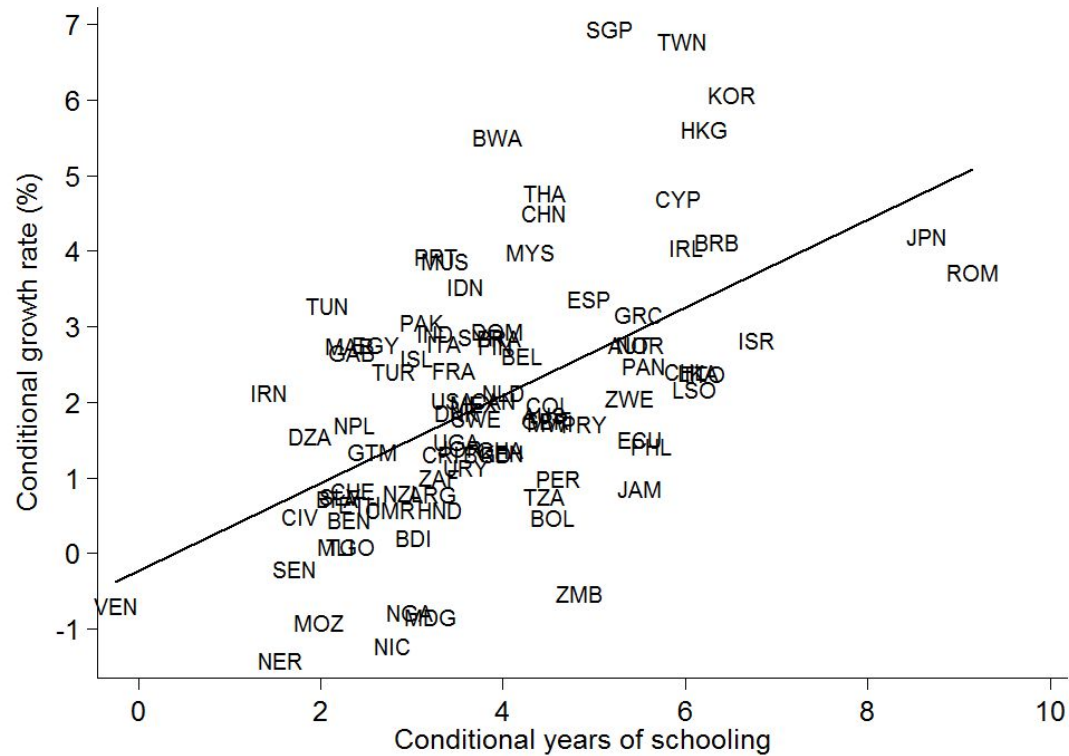
Dakar, Senegal
June 29, 2026

Countries with a more skilled labor force grow faster.



Source: Eric Hanushek and Ludger Woessmann, *The Knowledge Capital of Nations*, 2015.

Quality cannot be ignored.

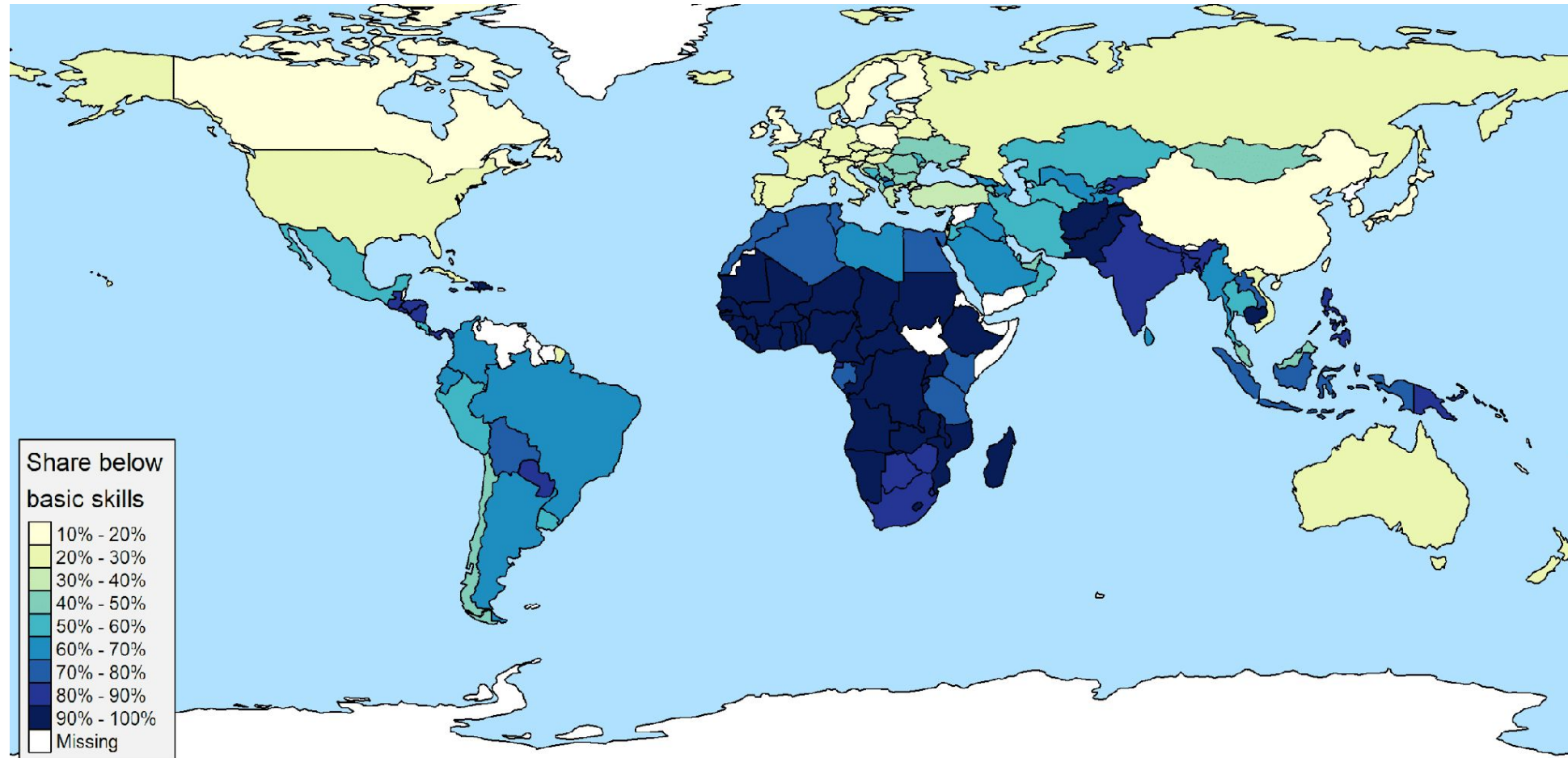


Source: Eric Hanushek and Ludger Woessmann, The Knowledge Capital of Nations, 2015.

**Who is prepared
for a modern
economy?**



Foundational skills are required for international competitiveness!



Source: Sarah Gust, Eric Hanushek , and Ludger Woessmann, *Journal of Development Economics*, 2024.

The need for improvement is clear.



World

35.2%
Not enrolled
in school



67.2%
Less than
Basic Skills

There are huge economic gains from basic skills



World



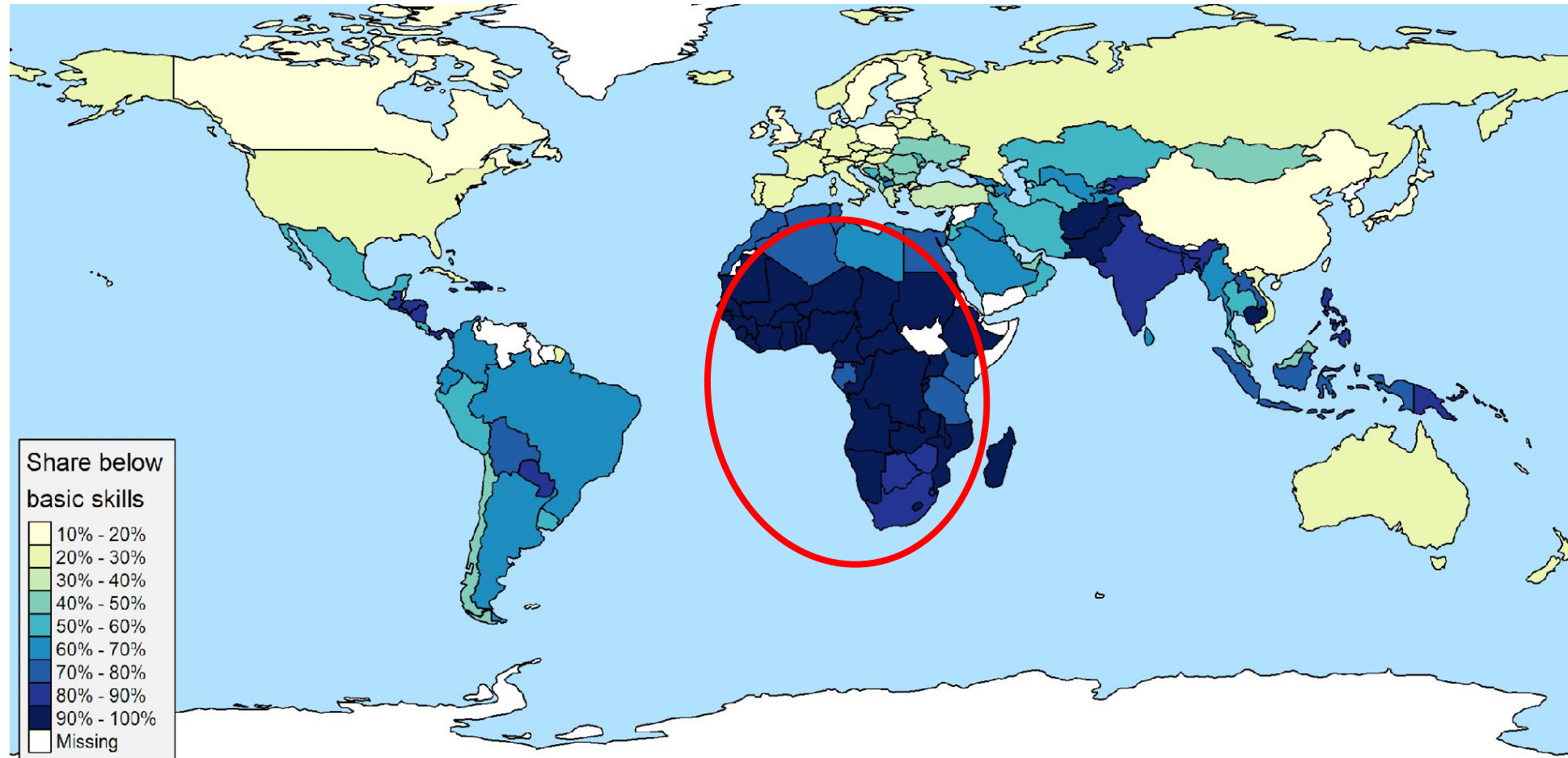
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The Challenge for Sub Saharan Africa



Foundational skills are required for international competitiveness!



Source: Sarah Gust, Eric Hanushek , and Ludger Woessmann, *Journal of Development Economics*, 2024.

The challenge is greater in Sub Saharan Africa



Sub Saharan Africa

66.5%

**Not enrolled
in school**



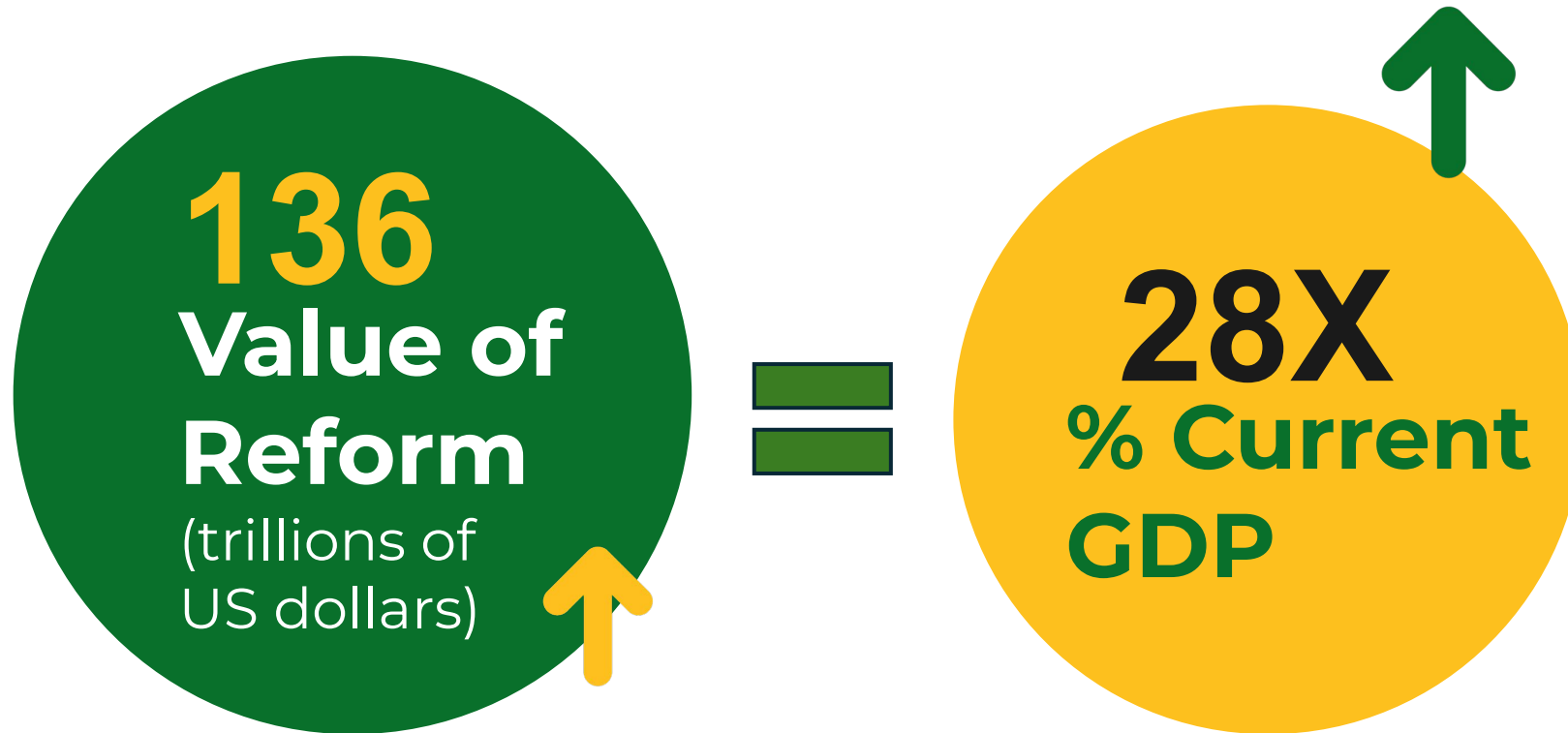
94.1%

**Less than
Basic Skills**

There are huge economic gains from basic skills



Sub Saharan Africa



Improvement is possible.



1. Sufficient investment

2. Broaden **access**

3. Access *with*
quality

We know more than is being applied!



Research provides direction

But,



- Must be **communicated** to policy makers
- Must recognize **local capacities**
- Must adjust to **local demands**

Cannot be imposed from outside



Need skilled locals



Thank You!



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Research to Policy

To achieve economic growth and development, there is no substitute for strong foundational skills.