Benin

Human Capital Index 2020

This brief provides an update to the Human Capital Index (HCI). First launched in 2018, the HCI measures the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. It conveys the productivity of the next generation of workers compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health. Worldwide a child born in 2020 can expect, on average, to be 56 percent as productive as she could be when she grows up. All data represent the status of countries pre-COVID-19.

THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

Human Capital Index. A child born in Benin today will be **40 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is slightly lower than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa region and lower than the average for Lower middle income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for Benin increased from 0.37 to 0.40. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5. 91** out of 100 children born in Benin survive to age 5.

- **Expected Years of School.** In Benin, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **9.2 years** of school by her 18th birthday.

- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Benin score **384** on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.

- **Learning-adjusted Years of School.** Factoring in what children actually learn, expected years of school is only **5.7 years**.

- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Benin, **77 percent** of 15-year olds will survive until age 60. This statistic is a proxy for the range of health risks that a child born today would experience as an adult under current conditions.

- **Healthy Growth (Not Stunted Rate).** Data on stunting are not available for Benin.

DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In Benin, the HCI for girls is similar to the HCI for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.
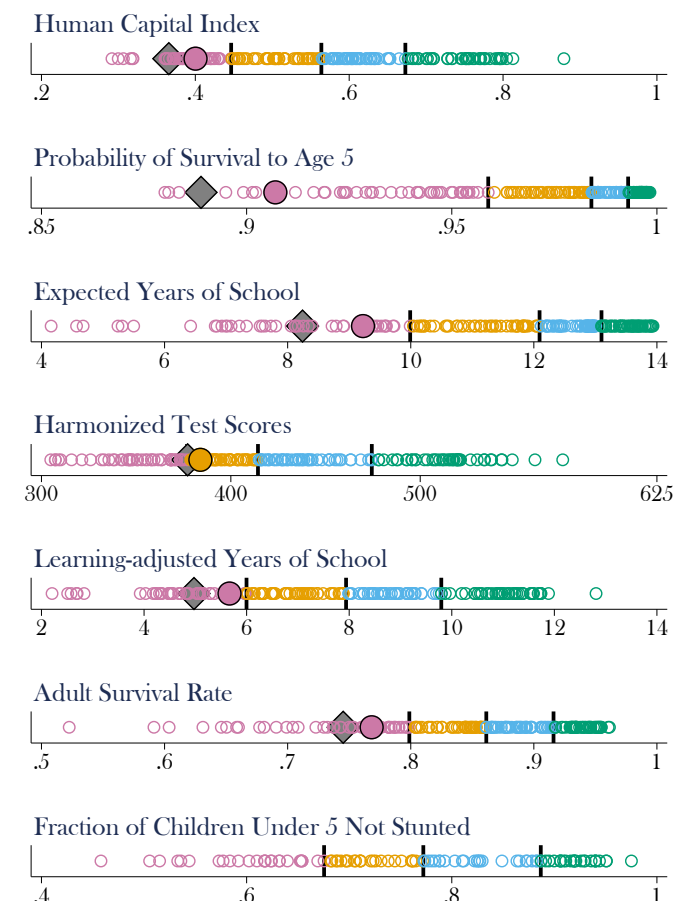
The ratio in HCI between the richest and poorest 20 percent of the population in Benin is **1.63** (global average: 1.35; global range: 1.12-1.68).

Figure 1. HCI and Components

Human Capital Index

Probability of Survival to Age 5

Expected Years of School

Harmonized Test Scores

Learning-adjusted Years of School

Adult Survival Rate

Fraction of Children Under 5 Not Stunted

Note:
- Large circle represents Benin in 2020
- Diamond represents Benin in 2010
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution

Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.40	0.40	0.40
Survival to Age 5	0.90	0.91	0.91
Expected Years of School	9.6	8.8	9.2
Harmonized Test Scores	384	384	384
Learning-adjusted Years of School	5.9	5.4	5.7
Adult Survival Rate	0.74	0.79	0.77
Not Stunted Rate	-	-	-
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)			1.63

For more on socioeconomic disaggregated HCI, please visit
https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/brief/insights-from-disaggregating-the-human-capital-index