

# Cameroon

## 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 Cameroon 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 Cameroon increased from 0.38 to 0.40. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 92 out of 100 children born in Cameroon survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Cameroon, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **8.7 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Cameroon score **379** 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 **5.3 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Cameroon, **70 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).** 71 out of 100 children are **not** stunted. 29 out of 100 children are stunted, and so are at risk of cognitive and physical limitations that can last a lifetime.

### DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In Cameroon, the HCI for girls is similar to the HCI for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.

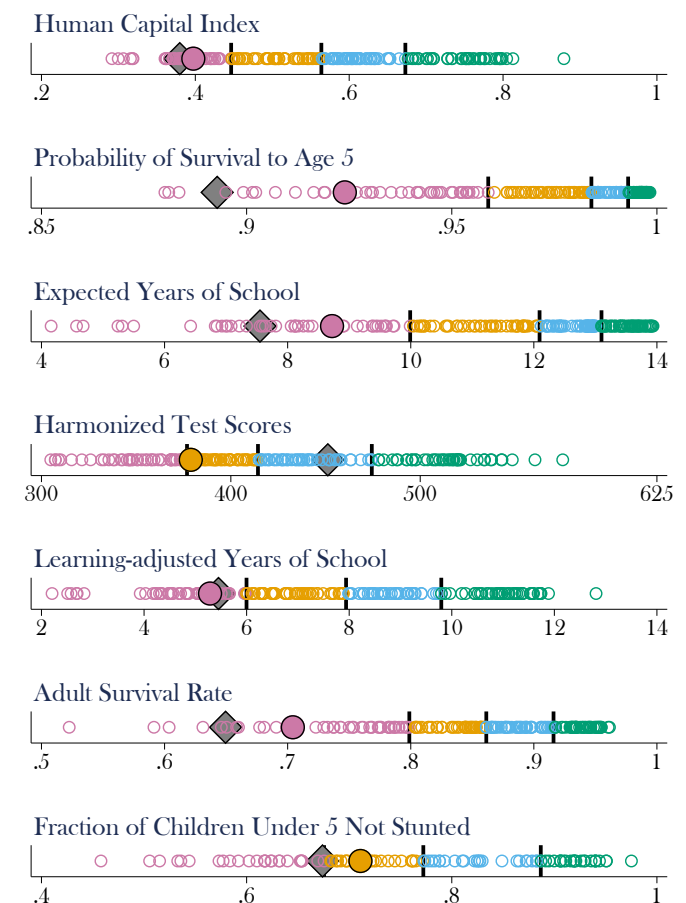
The ratio in HCI between the richest and poorest 20 percent of the population in Cameroon is **1.68** (global average: 1.35; global range: 1.12-1.68).

**Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group**

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.40	0.40	0.40
Survival to Age 5	0.92	0.93	0.92
Expected Years of School	9.1	8.3	8.7
Harmonized Test Scores	376	383	379
Learning-adjusted Years of School	5.5	5.1	5.3
Adult Survival Rate	0.69	0.72	0.70
Not Stunted Rate	0.69	0.73	0.71
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)			1.68

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

**Figure 1. HCI and Components**



Note:

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