

Malawi

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 Malawi today will be **41 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is slightly higher than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa region and higher than the average for Low income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for Malawi increased from 0.36 to 0.41. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 95 out of 100 children born in Malawi survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Malawi, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **9.6 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Malawi score **359** 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 **5.5 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Malawi, **74 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).** **61** out of 100 children are **not** stunted. **39** 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 Malawi, lack of data prevents comparison of HCI by gender. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components, where available.

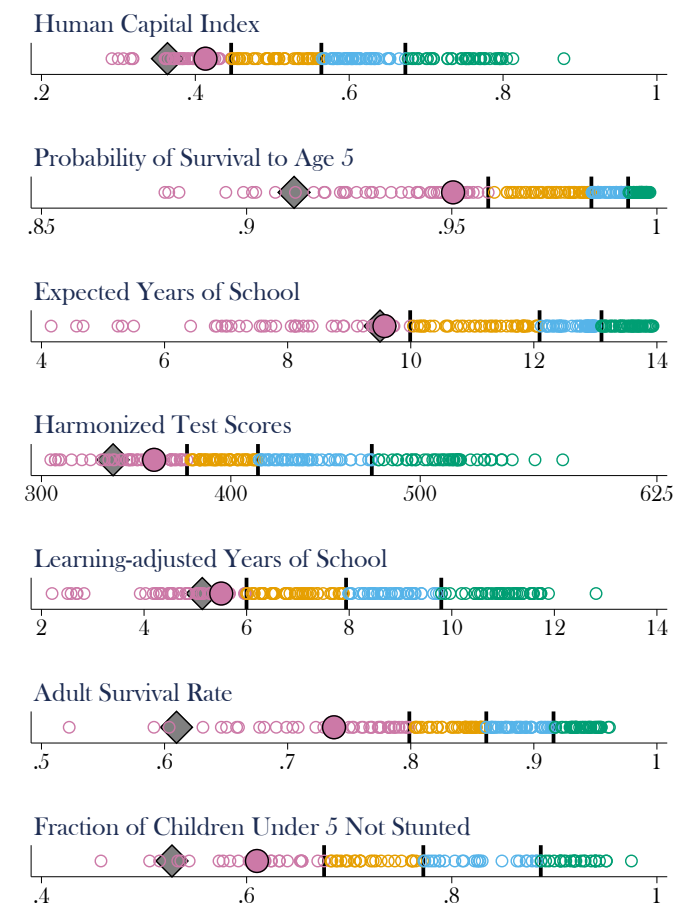
The ratio in HCI between the richest and poorest 20 percent of the population in Malawi is **1.20** (global average: 1.35; global range: 1.12-1.68).

Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	-	-	0.41
Survival to Age 5	0.95	0.96	0.95
Expected Years of School	9.5	9.6	9.6
Harmonized Test Scores	-	-	359
Learning-adjusted Years of School	-	-	5.5
Adult Survival Rate	0.68	0.79	0.74
Not Stunted Rate	0.59	0.63	0.61
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)			1.20

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