Malaysia

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 Malaysia today will be **61 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is higher than the average for East Asia & Pacific region and Upper middle income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for Malaysia increased from 0.58 to 0.61. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5. 99** out of 100 children born in Malaysia survive to age 5.

- **Expected Years of School.** In Malaysia, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **12.5 years** of school by her 18th birthday.

- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Malaysia score **446** 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 **8.9 years**.

- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Malaysia, **88 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). 79** out of 100 children are **not** stunted. **21** 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 Malaysia, the HCI for girls is higher than for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.
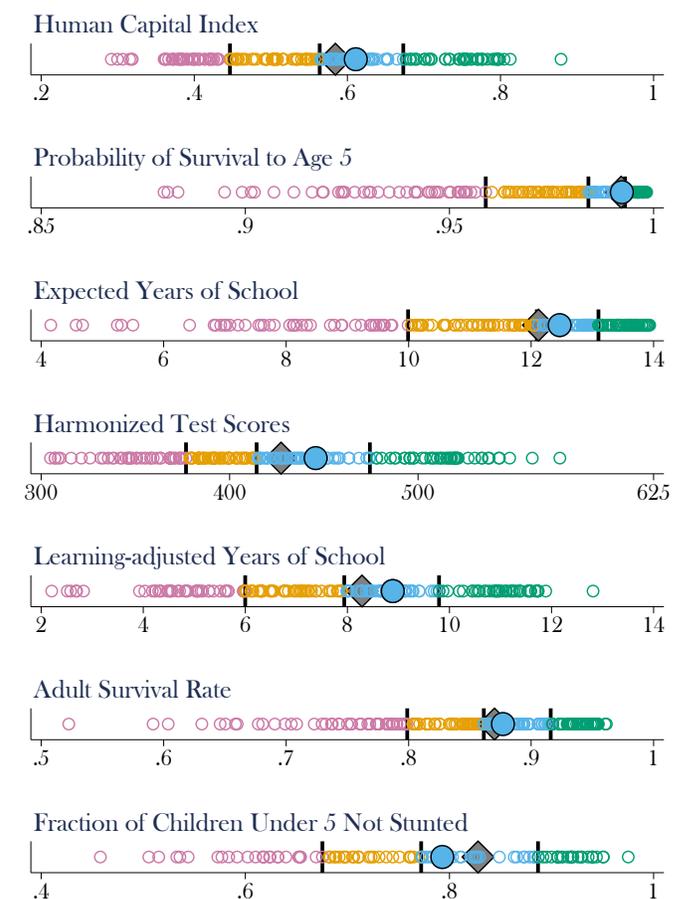
In Malaysia, there are not sufficient data to disaggregate HCI by socio-economic groups.

Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.59	0.63	0.61
Survival to Age 5	0.99	0.99	0.99
Expected Years of School	12.3	12.7	12.5
Harmonized Test Scores	439	452	446
Learning-adjusted Years of School	8.6	9.2	8.9
Adult Survival Rate	0.84	0.92	0.88
Not Stunted Rate	0.79	0.79	0.79
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)			-

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