Vietnam

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 Vietnam today will be **69 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 Lower middle income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for Vietnam increased from 0.66 to 0.69. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 98 out of 100 children born in Vietnam survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Vietnam, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **12.9 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Vietnam score **519** 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 **10.7 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Vietnam, **87 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).** 76 out of 100 children are **not** stunted. 24 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 Vietnam, the HCI for girls is higher than 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 Vietnam is **1.47** (global average: 1.35; global range: 1.12-1.68).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCI</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival to Age 5</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Years of School</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonized Test Scores</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning-adjusted Years of School</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Survival Rate</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Stunted Rate</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)** 1.47


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**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**

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