

Zambia

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 Zambia 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.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 94 out of 100 children born in Zambia survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Zambia, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **8.8 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Zambia score **358** 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 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Zambia, **73 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).** 65 out of 100 children are **not** stunted. 35 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 Zambia, lack of data prevents comparison of HCI by gender. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components, where available.

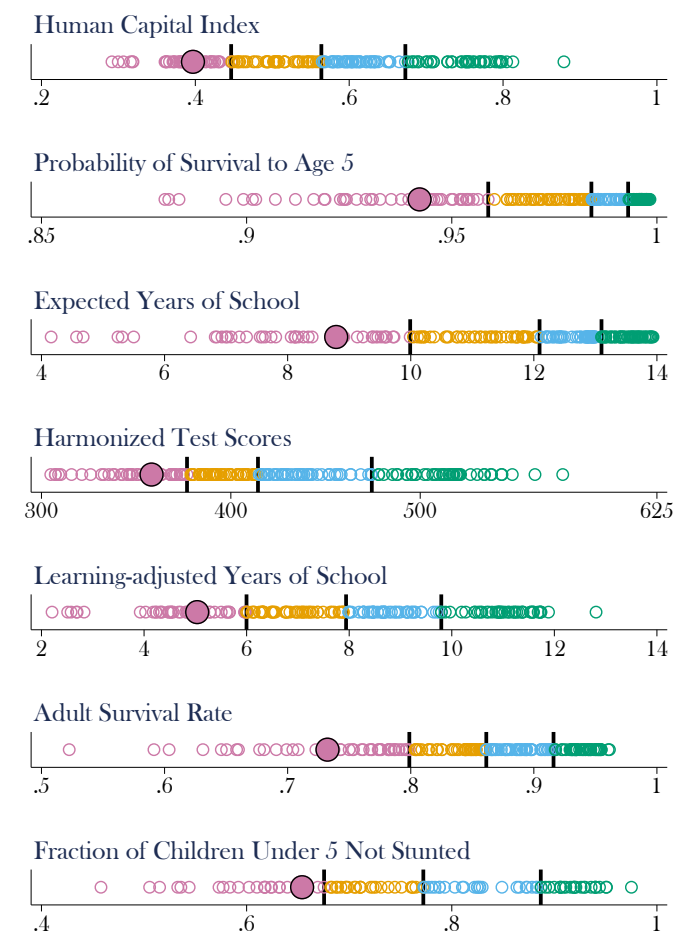
The ratio in HCI between the richest and poorest 20 percent of the population in Zambia is **1.28** (global average: 1.35; global range: 1.12-1.68).

Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	-	-	0.40
Survival to Age 5	0.94	0.95	0.94
Expected Years of School	8.8	8.8	8.8
Harmonized Test Scores	-	-	358
Learning-adjusted Years of School	-	-	5.0
Adult Survival Rate	0.68	0.78	0.73
Not Stunted Rate	0.62	0.69	0.65
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)			1.28

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 Zambia
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution