Bhutan

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 Bhutan today will be 48 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 South Asia region and Lower middle income countries.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 97 out of 100 children born in Bhutan survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Bhutan, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete 10.2 years of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Bhutan score 387 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 6.3 years.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Bhutan, 81 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 Bhutan, the HCI for girls is similar to the HCI for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.

In Bhutan, there are not sufficient data to disaggregate HCI by socio-economic groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCI</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival to Age 5</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Years of School</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonized Test Scores</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning-adjusted Years School</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Survival Rate</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Stunted Rate</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent) -

Despite major progress across many human capital dimensions, South Asia faces large and persistent human capital deficits which limit current and future economic development. Based on the analysis of key challenges facing the Region, Human Capital Acceleration in South Asia requires a 4-pronged framework for action (4i4HCA): invest smarter and with quality; include those being left behind and empower them, especially adolescent girls and women; insure and prepare for potential shocks and risks; and innovate through data, technology, and multi-sector action.

**DOMESTIC RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND MOBILIZATION**

- **Health Spending.** Bhutan spends 2.5 percent (2017) of its GDP in public spending on health. This is higher than the average for its region (2.0%) but lower than the average for its income group (2.8%). 2 percent (2017) of the population incurs catastrophic health expenditure measured as out-of-pocket spending exceeding 10% of household consumption or income.

- **Education Spending.** Bhutan spends 6.6 percent (2018) of its GDP in government education spending. This is higher than both the regional average (3.8%) and the average for its income group (4.5%).

- **Social Assistance Spending.** In Bhutan, data on social assistance spending are not available. The average for its region is 1.1 percent and for its income group is 1.4 percent.

- **Government Revenue.** General government revenue in Bhutan is 30 percent (2018) of GDP. This is higher than both the regional average (21%) and the average for its income group (27.3%).

**COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS**

- **Learning Poverty.** In Bhutan, data on learning poverty are not available. In its region, 59 percent of 10-year-olds cannot read and understand a simple text by the end of primary school. The corresponding value for its income group is 59 percent.

- **Net Secondary Enrollment.** In Bhutan, 70 percent (2018) of secondary-school age children are enrolled in secondary school. This is higher than both the average for its region (63%) and the average for its income group (57%).

- **NCD Deaths.** In Bhutan, the probability of dying between ages 30 and 70 from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases is 23 percent (2016). This is higher than both the average for its region (22%) and the average for its income group (21%).

- **Contraceptive Prevalence.** In Bhutan, 65 percent (2018) of women ages 15-49 use modern contraceptive methods. This is higher than both the average for its region (40%) and the average for its income group (42%).

- **Social Safety Net Coverage.** In Bhutan, data on social safety net coverage of the poorest quintile are not available. The average for its region is 44 percent and for its income group is 39 percent.

- **Birth Registration.** In Bhutan, data on birth registration are not available. The average for its region is 62 percent and for its income group is 75 percent.

- **Human Capital Utilization.** In Bhutan, 61 percent (2017) of the working-age population is employed. This is higher than both the average for its region (51%) and the average for its income group (54%).

- **Female Labor Force Participation.** In Bhutan, the female labor force participation rate is 61 percent (2019). This is higher than both the average for its region (33%) and the average for its income group (50%).

- **Drinking Water.** In Bhutan, 97 percent (2017) of the population has at least a basic source of drinking water. This is higher than both the average for its region (90%) and the average for its income group (81%).

- **Road Traffic Deaths.** In Bhutan, for every 100,000 people, 17 people (2016) die due to road traffic injury. This is higher than the average for its region (15) but lower than the average for its income group (20).

- **Internet Connectivity.** In Bhutan, 42 percent (2016) of the population uses the internet. This is higher than both the average for its region (28%) and the average for its income group (34%).

- **Air Pollution.** In Bhutan, 100 percent (2017) of the population is exposed to ambient concentration of PM2.5 exceeding the WHO guideline value. This is higher than both the average for its region (81%) and the average for its income group (99%).

[Figure 2. Complementary Indicators]

This brief is based on the most recent data available from the Human Capital Project, World Development Indicators, Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE), UNESCO Institute for Statistics, WHO Global Health Observatory and Global Health Expenditure Database, IMF World Economic Outlook, selected national sources and World Bank staff estimates.

For more information on the definition of indicators and data sources, please visit: [www.worldbank.org/humancapital](http://www.worldbank.org/humancapital)