

# Saudi Arabia

## 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 Saudi Arabia today will be **58 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 Middle East & North Africa region but lower than the average for High income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for Saudi Arabia increased from 0.55 to 0.58. 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 Saudi Arabia survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Saudi Arabia, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **12.4 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Saudi Arabia score **399** 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 **7.9 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Saudi Arabia, **92 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).** Data on stunting are not available for Saudi Arabia.

### DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In Saudi Arabia, the HCI for girls is higher than for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.

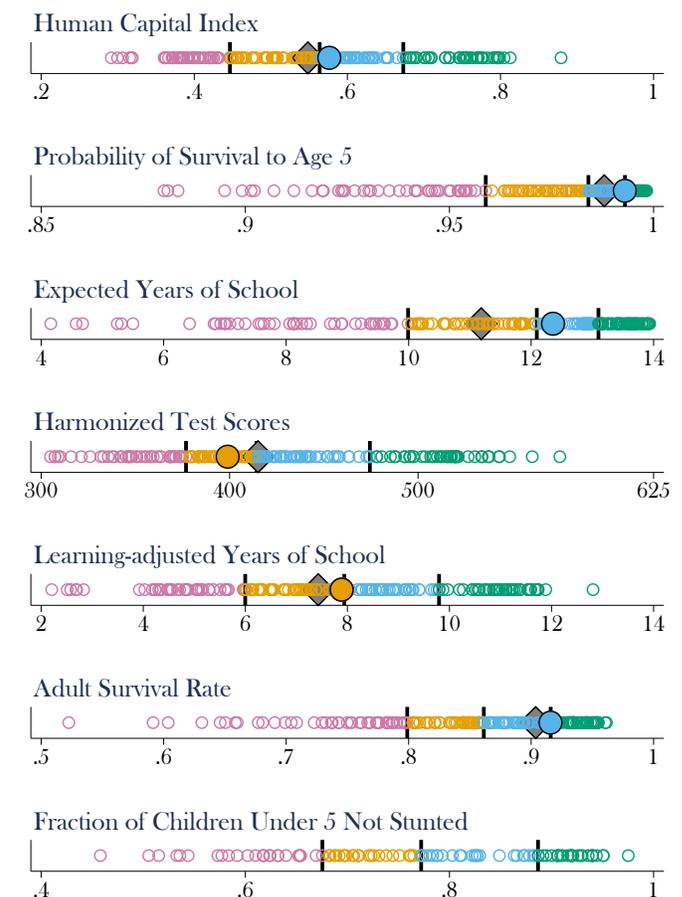
In Saudi Arabia, there are not sufficient data to disaggregate HCI by socio-economic groups.

**Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group**

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.56	0.60	0.58
Survival to Age 5	0.99	0.99	0.99
Expected Years of School	12.4	12.3	12.4
Harmonized Test Scores	383	416	399
Learning-adjusted Years of School	7.6	8.2	7.9
Adult Survival Rate	0.91	0.93	0.92
Not Stunted Rate	-	-	-
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 Saudi Arabia in 2020
- Diamond represents Saudi Arabia in 2010
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution

Despite recent progress, countries in the Middle East & North Africa could do much more to improve the state of human capital, its utilization, and gender equality. This requires adequate, efficient, and effective public investment to improve health and education outcomes, increase employment of women and youth to better utilize existing human capital, and strengthen social protection systems to help all people reach their full potential.

### DOMESTIC RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND MOBILIZATION

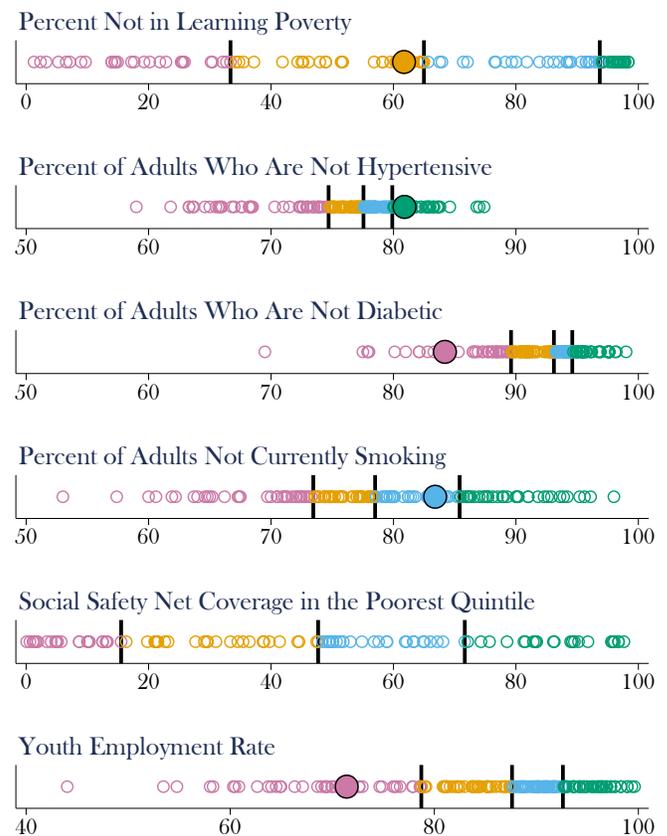
- **Health Spending.** Saudi Arabia spends **3.4 percent** (2017) of its GDP in public spending on health. This is similar to the average for its region (3.4%) but lower than the average for its income group (5.3%).
- **Education Spending.** Saudi Arabia spends **5.1 percent** (2008) of its GDP in government education spending. This is higher than both the regional average (4.4%) and the average for its income group (4.5%).
- **Social Assistance Spending.** Saudi Arabia spends **0.7 percent** (2012) of its GDP on social assistance. This is lower than both the regional average (1.4%) and the average for its income group (1.7%).
- **Government Revenue.** General government revenue in Saudi Arabia is **30.7 percent** (2018) of GDP. This is higher than the average for its region (30.2%) but lower than the average for its income group (37.3%).

### COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

- **Learning Poverty.** In Saudi Arabia, **38 percent** (2016) of 10-year-olds cannot read and understand a simple text by the end of primary school. This is lower than the average for its region (48%) but higher than the average for its income group (14%).
- **Pre-primary Gross Enrollment.** In Saudi Arabia, the gross enrollment ratio in pre-primary education is **21 percent** (2018). This is lower than both the average for its region (46%) and the average for its income group (91%).
- **NCD Deaths.** In Saudi Arabia, the probability of dying between ages 30 and 70 from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases is **16 percent** (2016). This is lower than the average for its region (17%) but higher than the average for its income group (14%).
- **Hypertension.** In Saudi Arabia, **19 percent** (2015) of the population age 18 and older has hypertension. This is lower than both the average for its region (20%) and the average for its income group (25%).
- **Diabetes.** In Saudi Arabia, **16 percent** (2019) of the population ages 20-79 has type 1 or type 2 diabetes. This is higher than both the average for its region (11%) and the average for its income group (9%).
- **Smoking.** In Saudi Arabia, **17 percent** (2018) of the population age 15 and older are current smokers. This is lower than both the average for its region (21%) and the average for its income group (22%).
- **Social Safety Net Coverage.** In Saudi Arabia, data on social safety net coverage of the poorest quintile are not available. The average for its region is 45 percent and for its income group is 70 percent.
- **Human Capital Utilization.** In Saudi Arabia, **54 percent** (2018) of the working-age population is employed. This is higher than the average for its region (51%) but lower than the average for its income group (70%).
- **Female Labor Force Participation.** In Saudi Arabia, the female labor force participation rate is **26 percent** (2020). This is lower than both the average for its region (31%) and the average for its income group (53%).
- **Youth Unemployment Rate.** In Saudi Arabia, the unemployment rate for youth ages 15-24 is **29 percent** (2019). This is higher than both the average for its region (22%) and the average for its income group (15%).

- **Road Traffic Deaths.** In Saudi Arabia, for every 100,000 people, **18 people** (2018) die due to road traffic injury. This is higher than both the average for its region (17) and the average for its income group (7).
- **Internet Connectivity.** In Saudi Arabia, **96 percent** (2019) of the population uses the internet. This is higher than both the average for its region (72%) and the average for its income group (85%).

Figure 2. Complementary Indicators



Note:

- Large circle represents Saudi Arabia
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution

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)