Benin

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 Benin 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. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for Benin increased from 0.37 to 0.40. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5. 91** out of 100 children born in Benin survive to age 5.

- **Expected Years of School.** In Benin, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **9.2 years** of school by her 18th birthday.

- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Benin score **384** 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 **5.7 years**.

- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Benin, **77 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 Benin.

DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In Benin, the HCI for girls is similar to the HCI for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.
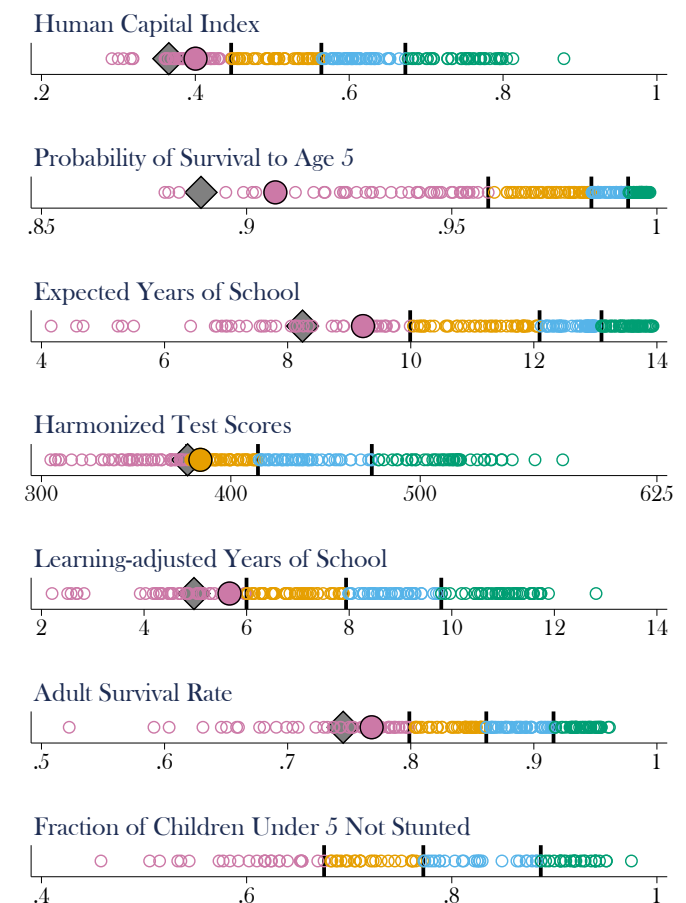
The ratio in HCI between the richest and poorest 20 percent of the population in Benin is **1.63** (global average: 1.35; global range: 1.12-1.68).

Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.40	0.40	0.40
Survival to Age 5	0.90	0.91	0.91
Expected Years of School	9.6	8.8	9.2
Harmonized Test Scores	384	384	384
Learning-adjusted Years of School	5.9	5.4	5.7
Adult Survival Rate	0.74	0.79	0.77
Not Stunted Rate	-	-	-
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)			1.63

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

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

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

The outlook for the next generation has been improving in most African countries. Efforts are being made to protect these human capital gains against setbacks such as COVID-19 and accelerate progress. The WBG Africa Human Capital Plan identifies game-changers for human capital, including women's empowerment to accelerate the demographic transition, a focus on fragile settings, increased use of technologies, and smarter investments at scale.
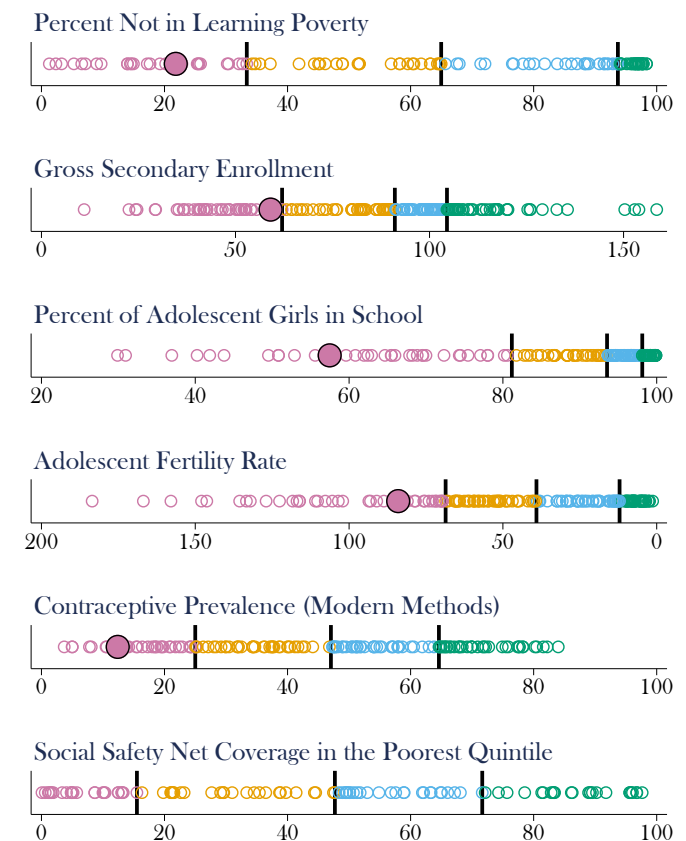
DOMESTIC RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND MOBILIZATION

- **Health Spending.** Benin spends **1.5 percent** *(2017)* of its GDP in public spending on health. This is lower than both the regional average (2.4%) and the average for its income group (2.8%). **11 percent** *(2011)* of the population incurs catastrophic health expenditure measured as out-of-pocket spending exceeding 10% of household consumption or income.

- **Education Spending.** Benin spends **4.0 percent** *(2018)* of its GDP in government education spending. This is similar to the average for its region (4.0%) but lower than the average for its income group (4.5%).

- **Social Assistance Spending.** Benin spends **2.1 percent** *(2014)* of its GDP on social assistance. This is higher than both the regional average (1.5%) and the average for its income group (1.4%).

- **Government Revenue.** General government revenue in Benin is **13.6 percent** *(2018)* of GDP. This is lower than both the regional average (20.6%) and the average for its income group (27.3%).

COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

- **Learning Poverty.** In Benin, **78 percent** *(2014)* 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 (80%) but higher than the average for its income group (59%).

- **Gross Secondary Enrollment.** In Benin, the gross enrollment ratio in secondary education is **59 percent** *(2016)*. This is higher than the average for its region (50%) but lower than the average for its income group (70%).

- **Adolescent Girls Out Of School.** In Benin, **43 percent** *(2013)* of adolescent girls are out of school. This is higher than both the average for its region (33%) and the average for its income group (17%).

- **Adolescent Fertility Rate.** In Benin, there are **84 births** *(2018)* per 1,000 women ages 15-19. This is higher than the Africa Human Capital Target for 2023 (83).

- **Contraceptive Prevalence.** In Benin, **12 percent** *(2018)* of women ages 15-49 use modern contraceptive methods. This is lower than both the average for its region (28%) and the average for its income group (42%).

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio.** In Benin, for every 100,000 live births **397 women** *(2017)* die from pregnancy-related causes. This is lower than the average for its region (445) but higher than the average for its income group (208).

- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Index.** The index, ranging from 0 to 100, measures coverage of essential health services based on tracer interventions. In Benin, the UHC Index score is **40** *(2017)*. This is lower than both the average for its region (46) and the average for its income group (56).

- **Social Safety Net Coverage.** In Benin, data on social safety net coverage of the poorest quintile are not available. The Africa Human Capital target for 2023 is 30 percent.

- **Electricity.** In Benin, **42 percent** *(2018)* of the population has access to electricity. This is lower than both the average for its region (50%) and the average for its income group (80%).

- **Internet Connectivity.** In Benin, **14 percent** *(2017)* of the population uses the internet. This is lower than both the average for its region (22%) and the average for its income group (34%).

- **Open Defecation.** In Benin, **54 percent** *(2017)* of the population practices open defecation. This is higher than the Africa Human Capital Target for 2023 (15%).

Figure 2. Complementary Indicators

Percent Not in Learning Poverty

Gross Secondary Enrollment

Percent of Adolescent Girls in School

Adolescent Fertility Rate

Contraceptive Prevalence (Modern Methods)

Social Safety Net Coverage in the Poorest Quintile

Note:
- Large circle represents Benin
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution