



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Income Category: Low Income



Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth. This brief tracks progress by the DRC in building and using human capital. The Human Capital Complementary Indicators offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The brief uses the latest available data. It is benchmarked against regional averages and reports progress over the previous 5 years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Children who are developmentally on track.** In 2018, **57%** of children (ages 36-59 months) were developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **25** per 1,000 live births (2023), compared to 28 in 2018. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2024, **65%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 73% in 2019. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

SCHOOL AGE

- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **18** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2023), compared to 21 in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Children engaged in child labor.** The share of children (ages 5-17) who are engaged in economic activities is **15%** (2020). The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2019, **97%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **107** (2023), compared to 112 in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **88%** (2022), compared to 85% in 2016. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2024, **32%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 30% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

ADULTS

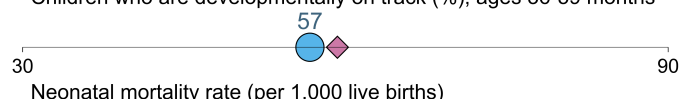
- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **62** years (2023), compared to 60 in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **76%** (2024), compared to 75% in 2019. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **4%** (2024). This remains unchanged since 2019. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

HUMAN CAPITAL COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

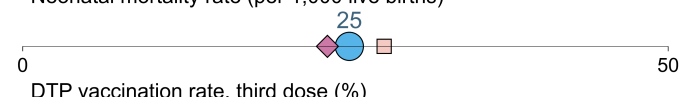
- Latest available data for the DRC (COD)
- COD approx. 5 years before
- Average for Sub-Saharan Africa

EARLY CHILDHOOD

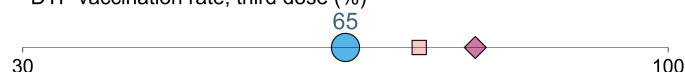
Children who are developmentally on track (%), ages 36-59 months



Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

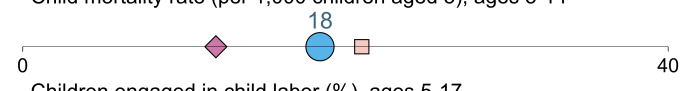


DTP vaccination rate, third dose (%)

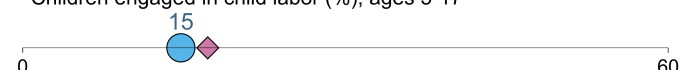


SCHOOL AGE

Child mortality rate (per 1,000 children aged 5), ages 5-14



Children engaged in child labor (%), ages 5-17

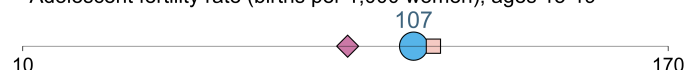


Learning poverty (%)

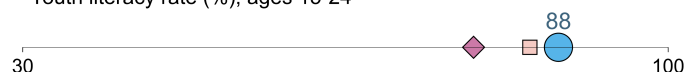


YOUTH

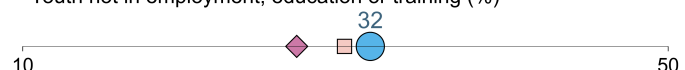
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women), ages 15-19



Youth literacy rate (%), ages 15-24

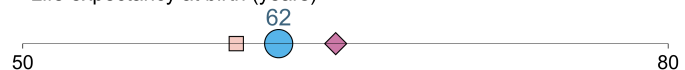


Youth not in employment, education or training (%)

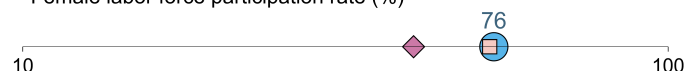


ADULTS

Life expectancy at birth (years)



Female labor force participation rate (%)



Adult unemployment rate (%)



Note: All values use internationally comparable public datasets. Missing symbols indicate unavailable statistics. Full details can be accessed through the QR code.

