



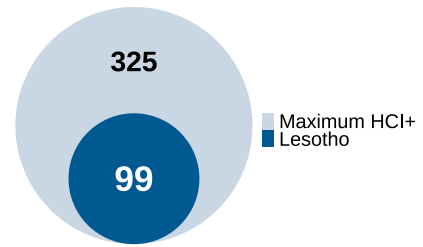
LESOTHO

Region: Sub-Saharan Africa
Income Category: Lower-middle Income

Human capital - people’s knowledge, skills, and health - drives productivity and growth. The Human Capital Index Plus (HCI+) measures the human capital a child born today can expect to accumulate over their working life, extending the original HCI by incorporating tertiary education and work experience. This brief summarizes **Lesotho’s** HCI+ score and its performance in building human capital.

What is Lesotho’s HCI+ and what does it mean?

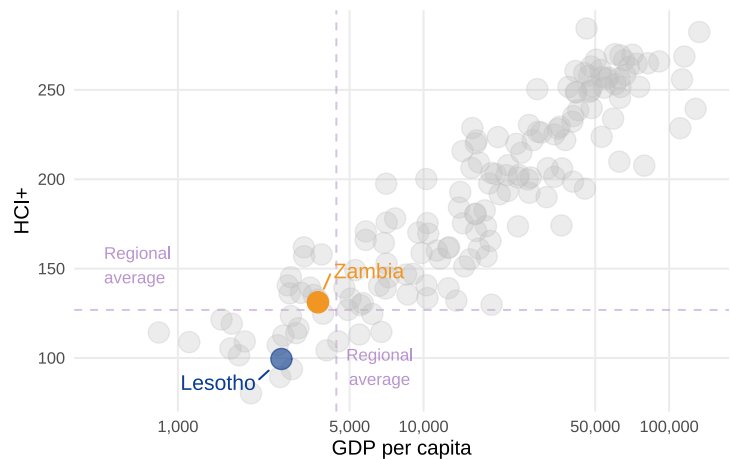
Lesotho’s HCI+ score is 99 (out of a maximum of 325), reflecting its investments in health, education, and employment. A 10-point increase in the index would translate into approximately 10 percent higher future income. Closing the current gaps in these areas relative to high-performing countries with similar GDP per capita would boost future income by 82%.



How does Lesotho’s HCI+ compare to other countries?

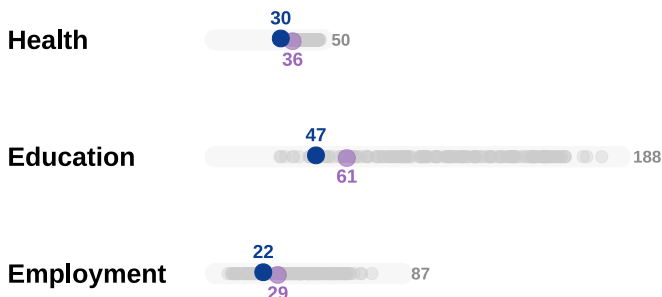
Lesotho’s HCI+ is lower than the average for the **Sub-Saharan Africa region (126)** and lower than the average for **lower-middle-income countries (153)**.

Lesotho’s HCI+ score is also **32 points lower than Zambia’s**.



What explains Lesotho’s HCI+?

The HCI+ has three components corresponding to health, education, and employment.



The HCI+ score for the **Health pillar is 30**, lower than the **regional average of 36**.

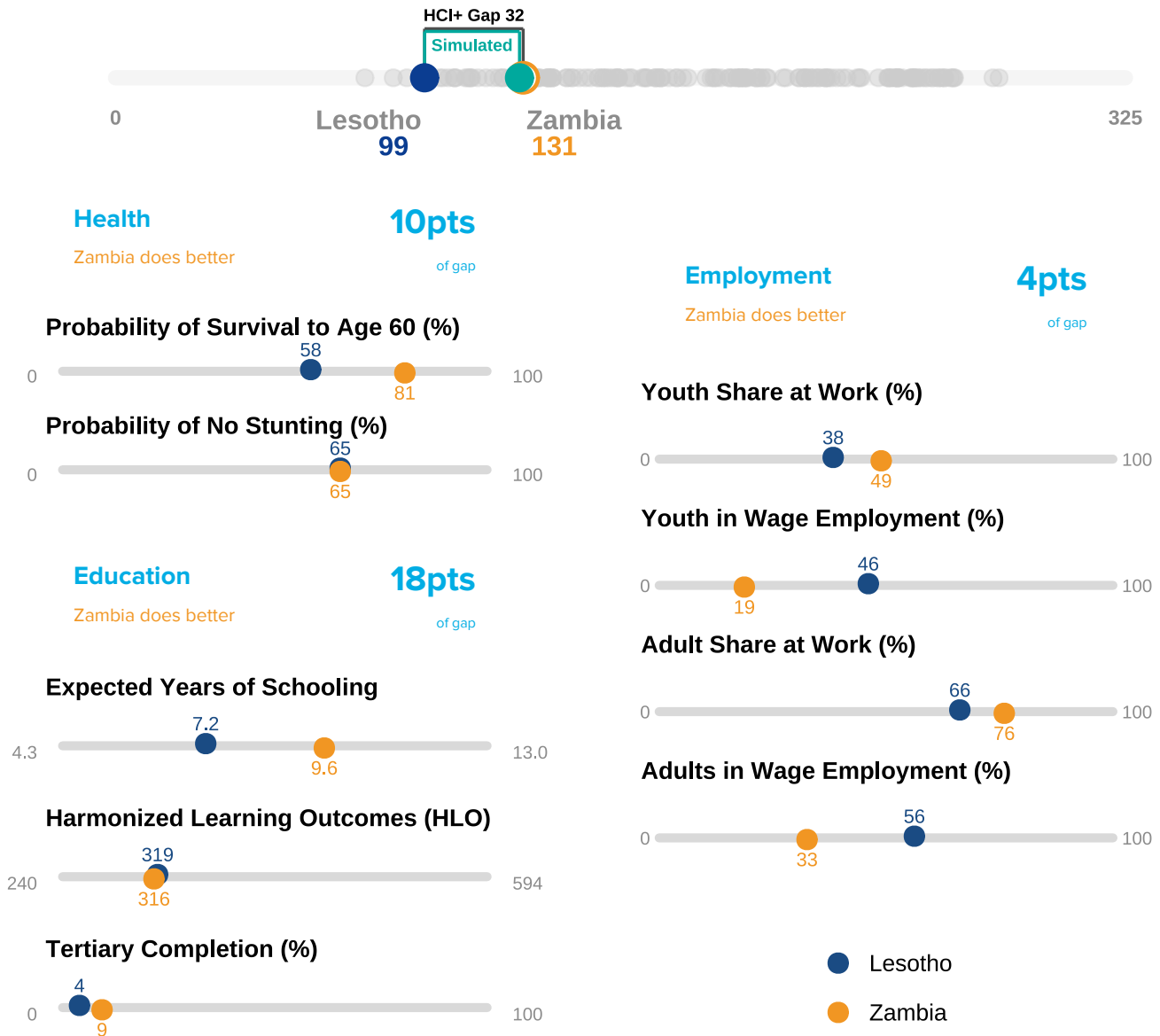
The HCI+ score for the **Education pillar is 47**, lower than the **regional average of 61**.

The HCI+ score for the **Employment pillar is 22**, lower than the **regional average of 29**.



What indicators are responsible for Lesotho’s HCI+ gap with Zambia?

Lesotho’s HCI+ score (99) is lower than Zambia’s (131). The indicators that account for the largest share of the HCI+ gap between Lesotho and Zambia are **expected years of schooling, probability of survival to age 60, and adult share at work**. Raising these indicators to Zambia’s levels would increase Lesotho’s score to 130, boosting future income by approximately 31%.



What is Lesotho’s HCI+ gender gap?

The HCI+ score for **women in Lesotho is 100** compared to **99 for men**. The 1-point gap indicates that women’s earning potential will be 1% higher than men’s due to differences in the human capital acquired by men and women in Lesotho.



Note: All values are derived from internationally comparable public datasets.

