

HCI+ 2025

A new index to measure a country's human capital





What is Human Capital?

Human capital is everything that makes people productive, from education and skills, to health and resilience.

These qualities help people learn, earn, grow, and contribute to their communities.

Why Does Human Capital Matter?

Human capital raises labor productivity and fuels economic growth. Differences in human capital account

2/3

of the cross-country differences in GDP per capita.

Sources: Jedwab et al. (2023)

How is Human Capital Measured? - **Introducing the HCI+**

HCI + measures the human capital that a child born in a given country today can expect to acquire over their working life if the current levels of **health, education, and employment** persist.



HEALTH

- (i) No Stunting
- (ii) Adult Survival Rates



EDUCATION

- (i) Expected Years of School
- (ii) Expected Years of PreSchool
- (ii) School Quality (HLO)
- (iii) Tertiary Completion



EMPLOYMENT

- Youth & Adult:
- (i) Labor Force Participation
 - (ii) Unemployment Rate
 - (iii) Share in Wage Employment

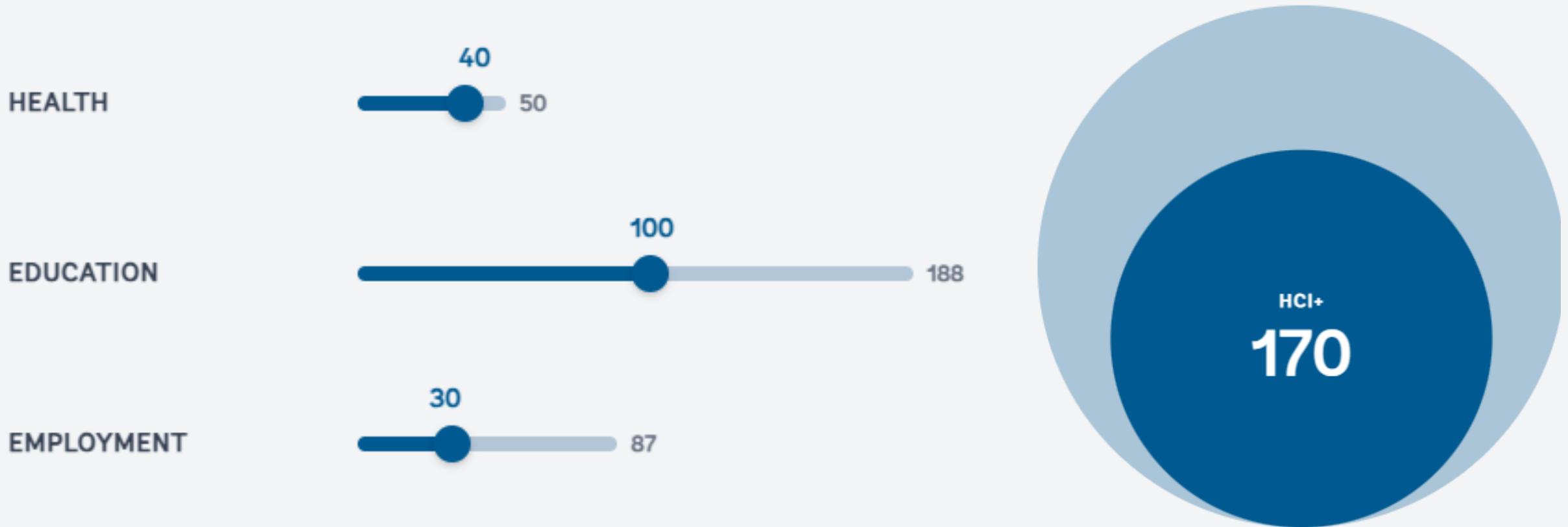
What does the HCI+ measure?

$$\text{HCI}^+ = \text{HCI}_{\text{health}} + \text{HCI}_{\text{education}} + \text{HCI}_{\text{employment}}$$



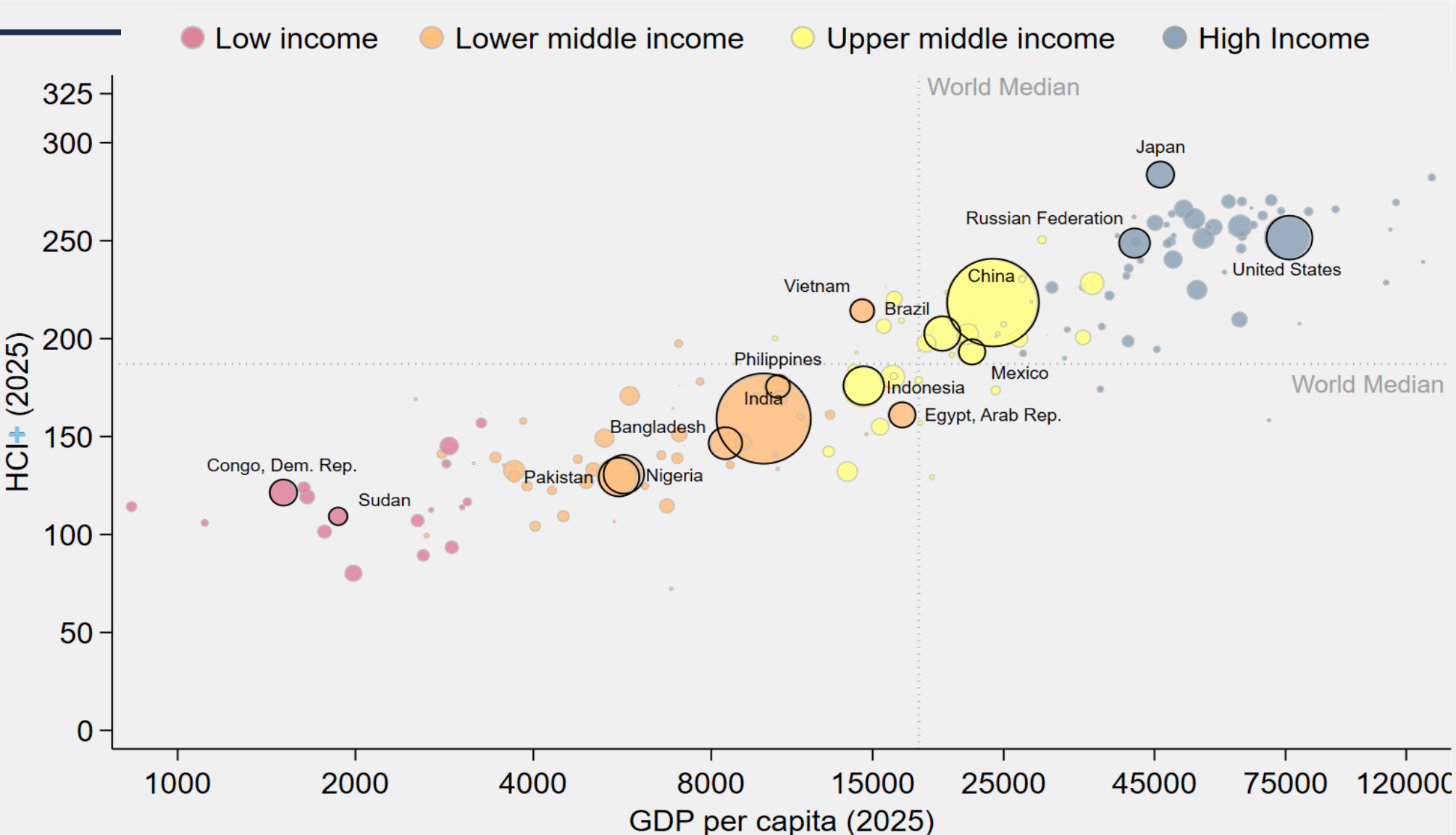
An HCI+ of **ZERO** reflects: universal stunting, no schooling, and no employment prospects.

What the HCI+ tells us? An Illustrative example



An HCI+ of **170** reflects the **total sum of country's X investments** in health (**40**), education (**100**), and work participation (**30**) across the lifecycle.

How does HCI+ vary by GDP per capita?



How Can the HCI+ Be Used?

The HCI+ shows where opportunity remains.

1

It measures how human capital affects economic outcomes: Improvements in HCI+ correspond to increases in income and productivity.

Every

10 point increase
in the HCI+

=

About

10% higher future
earnings

How Can the HCI+ Be Used?

The HCI+ shows where opportunity remains.

2

It signals areas requiring closer attention –
whether in health, education, or employment.

Health



Education



Employment

How Can the HCI+ Be Used?

The HCI+ shows where opportunity remains.

3

It reveals gender gaps in human capital, helping inform targeted policies.

Women HCI+

175

vs

Men HCI+

195

(Global avg.)

**Where to find
further
information?**

- 1) The Human Capital Project: [here](#)
- 2) HCI+ Visualization: [here](#)

