



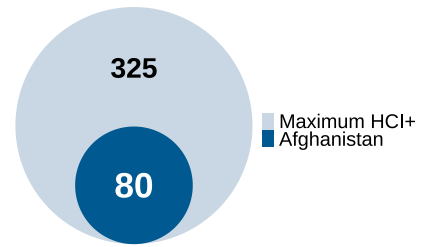
AFGHANISTAN

Region: Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan
Income Category: Low 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 **Afghanistan’s** HCI+ score and its performance in building human capital.

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

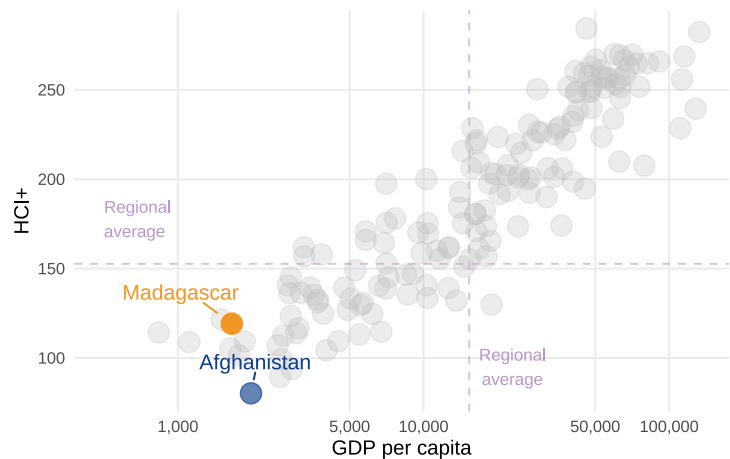
Afghanistan’s HCI+ score is 80 (out of a maximum of 325), reflecting its investments in health, education, and employment. A 10-point increase in the index would translate into approximately 10 percent higher future income. Closing the current gaps in these areas relative to high-performing countries with similar GDP per capita would boost future income by 103%.



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

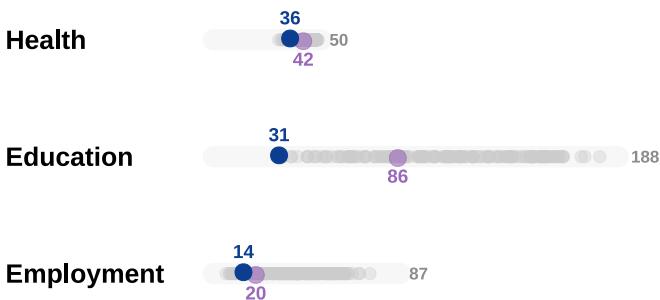
Afghanistan’s HCI+ is lower than the average for the **Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan region (147)** and lower than the average for **low-income countries (116)**.

Afghanistan’s HCI+ score is also **39 points lower than Madagascar’s**.



What explains Afghanistan’s HCI+?

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



The HCI+ score for the **Health pillar is 36**, lower than the **regional average of 42**.

The HCI+ score for the **Education pillar is 31**, lower than the **regional average of 86**.

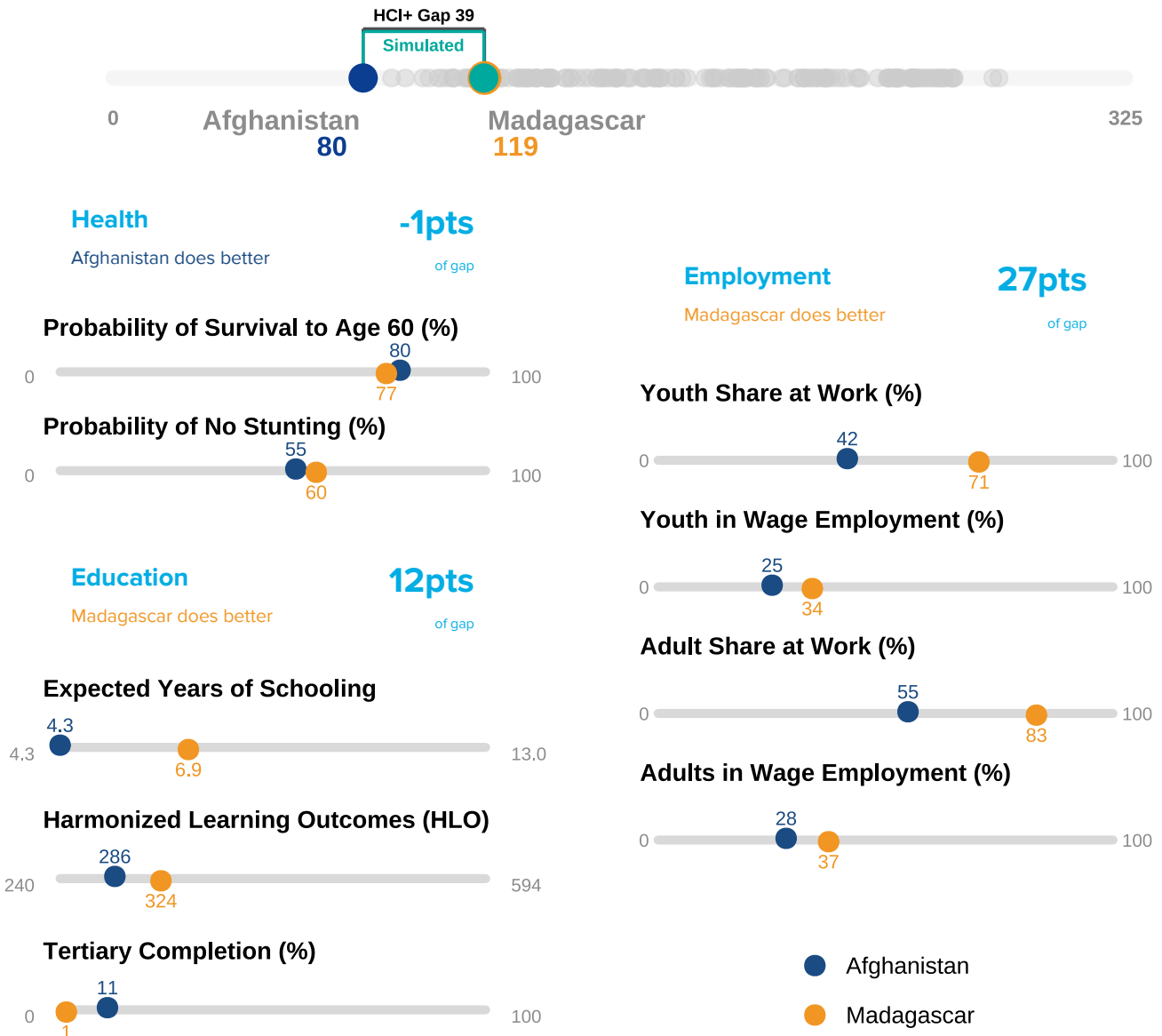
The HCI+ score for the **Employment pillar is 14**, lower than the **regional average of 20**.

Note: Data should be interpreted with caution, given the country’s classification by the World Bank as a conflict-affected situation.



What indicators are responsible for Afghanistan's HCI+ gap with Madagascar?

Afghanistan's HCI+ score (80) is lower than Madagascar's (119). The indicators that account for the largest share of the HCI+ gap between Afghanistan and Madagascar are **adult share at work, expected years of schooling, and youth share at work**. Raising these indicators to Madagascar's levels would increase Afghanistan's score to 119, boosting future income by approximately 39.2%.



What is Afghanistan's HCI+ gender gap?

The HCI+ score for **women in Afghanistan is 41** compared to **121 for men**. The 80-point gap indicates that women's earning potential will be 80% lower than men's due to differences in the human capital acquired by men and women in Afghanistan.



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

