REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Income Category: Lower Middle Income

This 2-page brief provides the 2020 Human Capital Index (HCI) released in September 2020, and a set of indicators that are complementary to the HCI. 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. Although the effects of COVID-19 on the HCI are yet to be measured due to the lack of data, we expect the post-pandemic HCI to be relatively lower due to the deep learning and health losses globally. **Data collection efforts to allow updates to the HCI remain critical for all countries to inform policies and programs to address the setbacks to human capital.**

THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

A child born in Republic of the Congo just before the pandemic will be **42 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is slightly higher than the average for the Sub-Saharan Africa region (40 percent) but lower than the average for Lower Middle Income countries (48 percent).
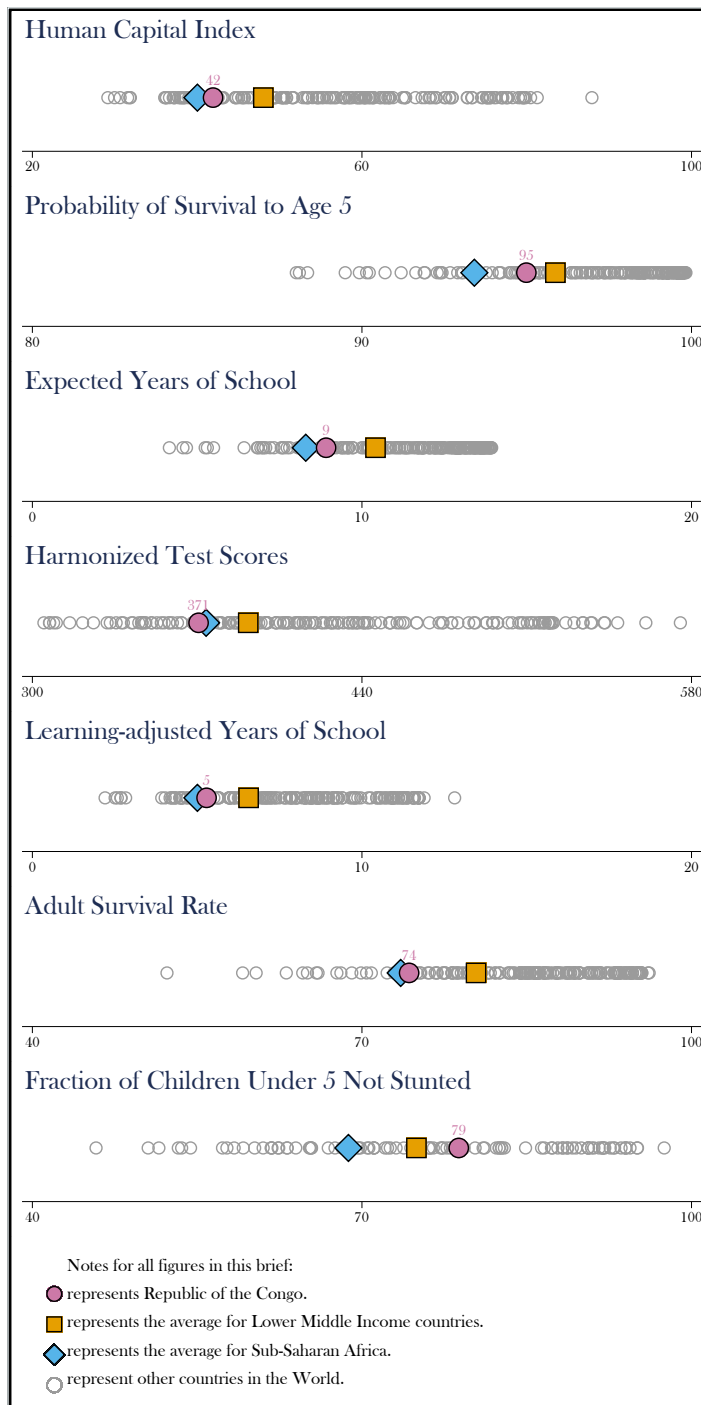
THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX COMPONENTS

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5. 95** out of 100 children born in Republic of the Congo survive to age 5.

- **Expected Years of School.** In Republic of the Congo, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **8.9 years** of school by her 18th birthday.

- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Republic of the Congo score **371** 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 **5.3 years**.

- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Republic of the Congo, **74 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.

- **Fraction of Children Under 5 Not Stunted. 79** out of 100 children are **not** stunted. **21** out of 100 children are at risk of cognitive and physical limitations that can last a lifetime.

DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In Republic of the Congo, the HCI for girls is higher than for boys. The table below shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components. The ratio in HCI between the richest and poorest 20 percent of the population in Republic of the Congo is **1.32** (global average: 1.35; global range: 1.12-1.68).

HCI and its components	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.41	0.43	0.42
Survival to Age 5	0.95	0.95	0.95
Expected Years of School	8.7	9.1	8.9
Harmonized Test Scores	372	369	371
Learning-adjusted Years of School	5.2	5.4	5.3
Adult Survival Rate	0.72	0.76	0.74
Not Stunted Rate	0.78	0.80	0.79

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

Notes for all figures in this brief:
- represents Republic of the Congo.
- represents the average for Lower Middle Income countries.
- represents the average for Sub-Saharan Africa.
- represent other countries in the World.

Human capital, a crucial ingredient for economic growth, is multi-dimensional and cumulatively built over the lifecycle. Due to the slow moving nature of the HCI, an additional set of Human Capital Complementary Indicators (HCCIs) offer a snapshot of proximate dimensions of human capital in Republic of the Congo that can be monitored to measure simultaneous progress in intermediate outcomes. These selected HCCIs are based on the latest available data (*italicized* and shown in parenthesis) and benchmarked against regional and country income group averages. **They highlight where the need is for investment in people in each stage of life and for data collection and updates for evidence-based policy making.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births).** The neonatal mortality rate is **19 per 1,000 live births** *(2020)*, lower than the regional average (25) but higher than the income group average (18).

- **Pre-primary school gross enrollment (%).** The pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio is **14 percent** *(2018)*, lower than both the regional and income group averages.

- **Maternal mortality (deaths per 100,000 live births).** For every 100,000 live births, **605 women** *(2015)* die from pregnancy related causes. This is higher than both the average for its region (581) and the average for its income group (270).
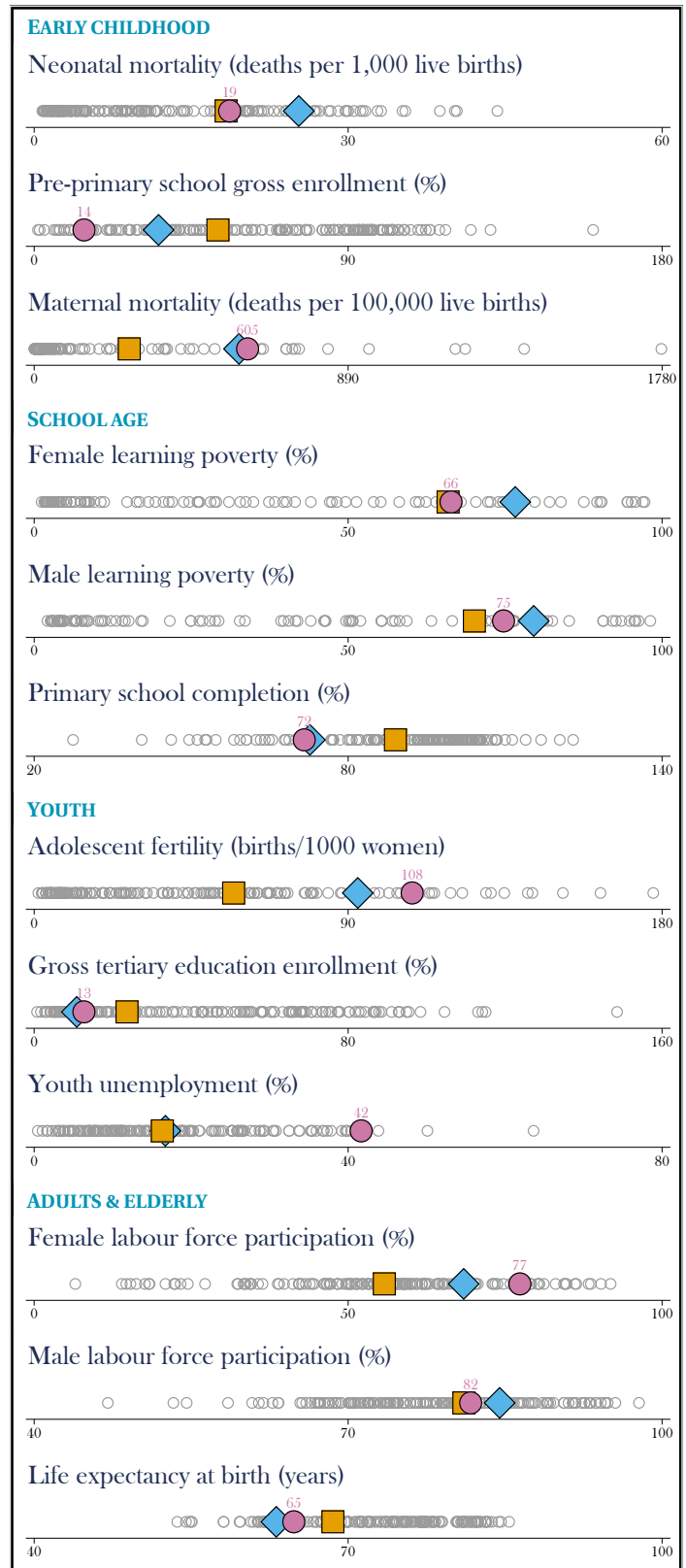
SCHOOL AGE

- **Female learning poverty (%). 66 percent** *(2019)* of 10-year-old girls cannot read and understand a simple text by the end of primary school, compared to 77 percent at the regional level and 66 percent at the income group level.

- **Male learning poverty (%).** And **75 percent** *(2019)* of 10-year-old boys cannot read and understand a simple text by the end of primary school, compared to 80 percent at the regional level and 70 percent at the income group level.

- **Primary school completion (%).** Primary school completion rate is **72 percent** *(2012)*, lower than both the regional (73%) and income group (89%) averages.

YOUTH

- **Adolescent fertility (births/1000 women).** The adolescent fertility rate, i.e., the number of births for every 1000 women aged 15-19, is **108** *(2020)*. This is higher than both the average for its region (93) and the average for its income group (57).

- **Gross tertiary education enrollment (%).** Tertiary education gross enrollment ratio is **13 percent** *(2017)*, lower than the income group (24%) average but higher than the regional average (11%).

- **Youth unemployment (%).** Youth unemployment is **42 percent** *(2022)*, higher than both the regional (17%) and income group (16%) averages.

ADULTS & ELDERLY

- **Female labour force participation (%).** The female labour force participation is **77 percent** *(2022)*, higher than both the regional (68%) and income group (56%) averages.

- **Male labour force participation (%).** The male labour force participation is **82 percent** *(2022)*, lower than the regional average (84%) and higher than the income group average (81%).

- **Life expectancy at birth (years).** Life expectancy at birth is **65 years** *(2020)*, higher than the regional average (63 years) and lower than the income group average (69 years).

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Neonatal mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births)
19
0 | 30 | 60

Pre-primary school gross enrollment (%)
14
0 | 90 | 180

Maternal mortality (deaths per 100,000 live births)
605
0 | 890 | 1780

SCHOOL AGE

Female learning poverty (%)
66
0 | 50 | 100

Male learning poverty (%)
75
0 | 50 | 100

Primary school completion (%)
72
20 | 80 | 140

YOUTH

Adolescent fertility (births/1000 women)
108
0 | 90 | 180

Gross tertiary education enrollment (%)
13
0 | 80 | 160

Youth unemployment (%)
42
0 | 40 | 80

ADULTS & ELDERLY

Female labour force participation (%)
77
0 | 50 | 100

Male labour force participation (%)
82
40 | 70 | 100

Life expectancy at birth (years)
65
40 | 70 | 100