



AFGHANISTAN

Region: Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

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 Afghanistan 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

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **34** per 1,000 live births (2023), compared to 39 in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Children who are developmentally on track.** In 2023, **29%** of children (ages 36-59 months) were developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2024, **59%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 65% in 2019. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

SCHOOL AGE

- **Children engaged in child labor.** The share of children (ages 5-17) who are engaged in economic activities is **13%** (2023). The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **5** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2023), compared to 6 in 2018. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Primary school completion rate.** The primary school completion rate is **86%** (by the official entrance age of the last grade) (2019), compared to 83% in 2016. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **63%** (2022), compared to 36% in 2015. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **64** (2023), compared to 73 in 2018. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2024, **55%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 43% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

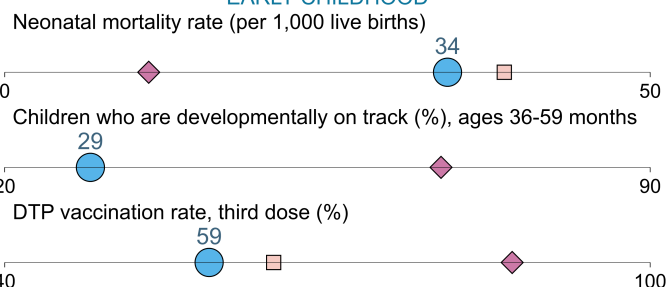
ADULTS

- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **4%** (2024), compared to 18% in 2019. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **66** years (2023), compared to 62 in 2018. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **11%** (2024), compared to 9% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

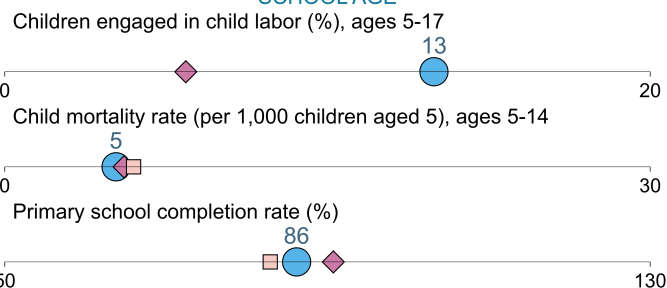
HUMAN CAPITAL COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

● Latest available data for Afghanistan (AFG)
 ■ AFG approx. 5 years before ◆ Average for MENAAP

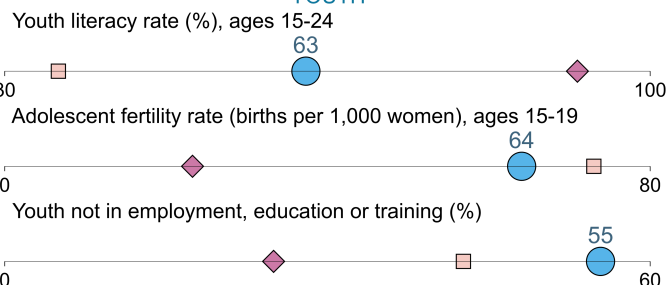
EARLY CHILDHOOD



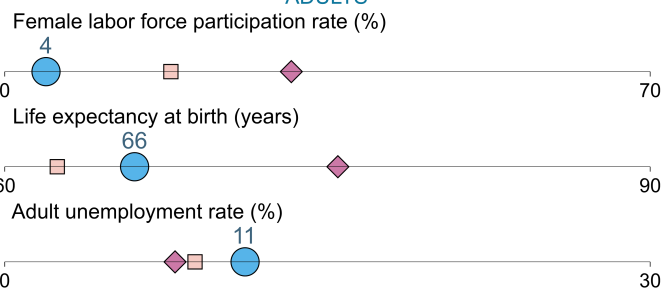
SCHOOL AGE



YOUTH



ADULTS



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

