

# South Africa

## Illustrative Human Capital Indicators

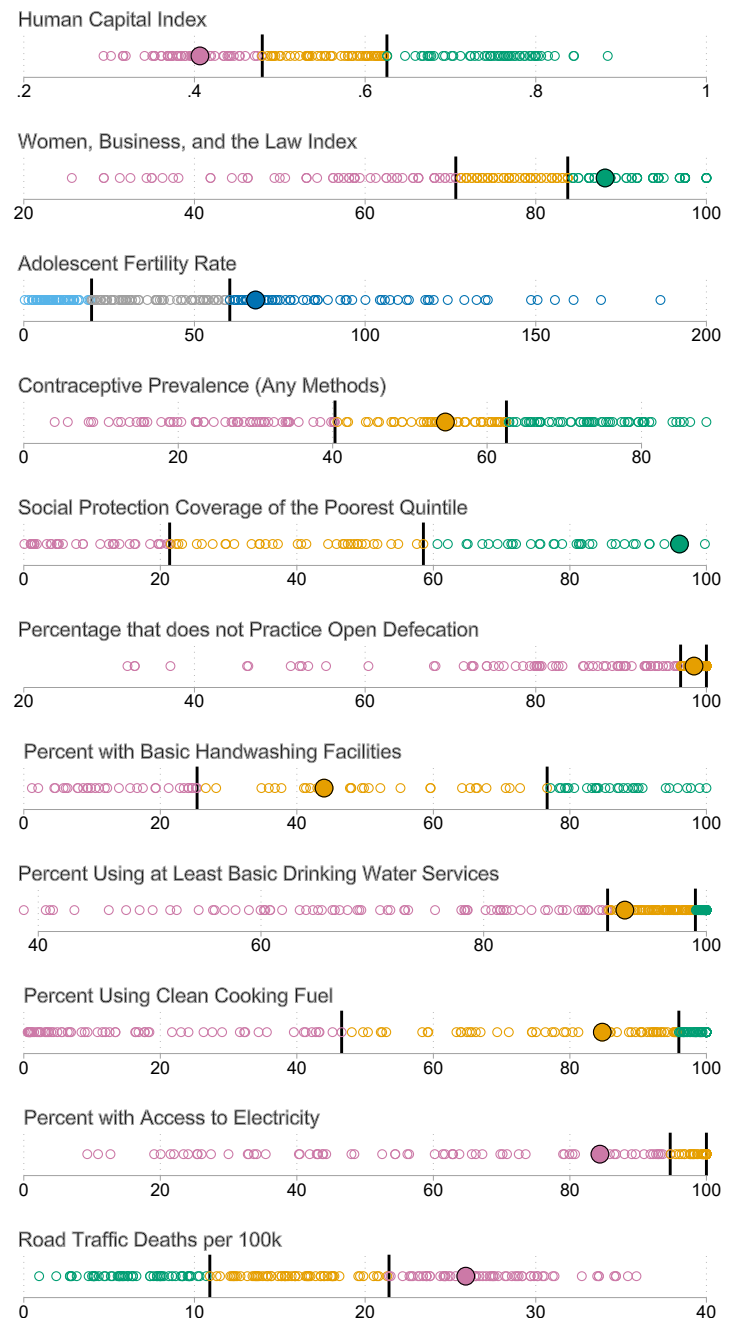
This country profile presents a snapshot of illustrative indicators to guide discussions during the Annual Meetings while the set of more strategic indicators are under development. It is intended to be a conversation starter on where a country is on various aspects of human capital development and, as such, it includes indicators from various sectors. It is to be noted that not all the indicators included here are relevant for each country. Information contained here should be complemented with other more context-specific indicators.

In South Africa the productivity as a future worker of a child born today is **41 percent** as much as it could be. The country ranks **126 out of 157** in the global HCI. For more information on human capital outcomes and the HCI, please see the country two-pager on [www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital](http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital).

### ILLUSTRATIVE OUTCOME AND OUTPUT INDICATORS

- **Women, Business and the Law Index.** This index measures gender equality in the law (how the economic decisions women make are affected by the law), with a larger value showing higher gender equality. In South Africa, the value is **88** out of 100. This is higher than both the average for its region (70) and the average for its income group (76).
- **Adolescent Fertility Rate.** In South Africa, there are **68 births** per 1,000 women ages 15-19. This is lower than the Africa Human Capital Target for 2023 (83).
- **Contraceptive Prevalence.** In South Africa, **55 percent** of women ages 15-49 uses some form of contraceptive method. This is higher than the average for its region (32) but lower than the average for its income group (56).
- **Social Protection Coverage.** In South Africa, **96 percent** of the poorest quintile is covered by social safety nets. This is higher than the Africa Human Capital Target for 2023 (30).
- **Open Defecation.** In South Africa, **1 percent** of the population practices open defecation. This is lower than the Africa Human Capital Target for 2023 (15).
- **Hygiene.** In South Africa, **44 percent** of the population has basic hygiene services (soap and water). This is higher than the average for its region (22) but lower than the average for its income group (78).
- **Source of Drinking Water.** In South Africa, **93 percent** of the population has at least basic source of drinking water. This is higher than the average for its region (66) but lower than the average for its income group (95).
- **Cooking Fuel.** In South Africa, **85 percent** of the population primarily uses clean cooking fuels. This is higher than both the average for its region (22) and the average for its income group (81).
- **Access to Electricity.** In South Africa, **84 percent** of the population has access to electricity. This is higher than the average for its region (48) but lower than the average for its income group (96).
- **Road Traffic Deaths.** In South Africa, for every 100,000 people **26 people** die due to road traffic injury. This is lower than the average for its region (27) but higher than the average for its income group (17).

### 1. Key Indicators on Human Capital



- Large circle=South Africa ; small circles=other countries.  
 - Vertical lines separate terciles of the distribution.  
 - Colors indicate the terciles of the distribution across countries.

## DOMESTIC RESOURCE USE AND MOBILIZATION

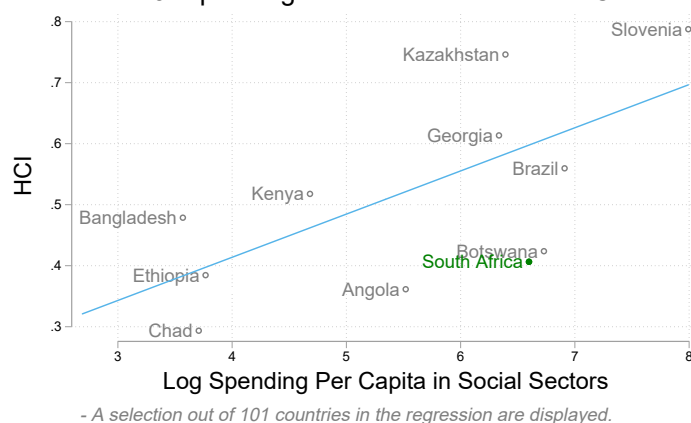
- **Health Spending.** South Africa spends **4.4 percent** of its GDP on health. This is higher than both the regional average (2) and the average for its income group (4.1).
- **Education Spending.** South Africa spends **5.9 percent** of its GDP on education. This is higher than both the regional average (4.2) and the average for its income group (4.8).
- **Social Assistance Spending.** South Africa spends **3.3 percent** of its GDP on social assistance. This is higher than both the regional average (1.6) and the average for its income group (1.7).

## 2. Government Expenditure on the Social Sectors



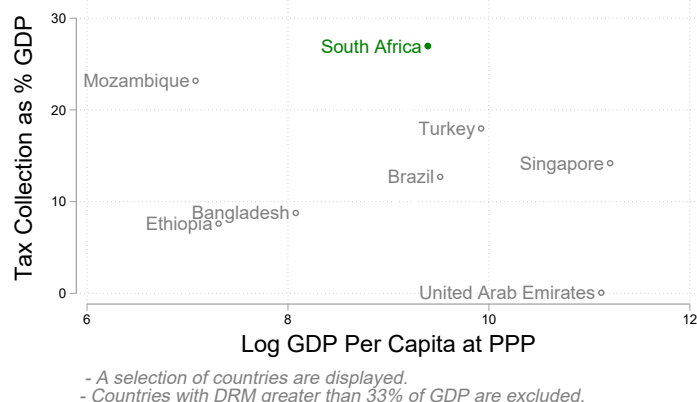
- **Efficiency of Spending.** The HCI in South Africa is **lower** than what would be predicted for its level of per capita government spending on the social sectors.

## 3. Spending on Social Sectors and HCI



- **Domestic Resource Mobilization.** The tax revenue in South Africa is **27 percent** of GDP. This is higher than both the regional average (15.7) and the average for its income group (16.8).

## 4. Domestic Resource Mobilization



## OTHER RELEVANT INDICATORS

- **Human Capital Project.** South Africa has not yet signed up to be a member of the Human Capital Project.
- **Building Human Capital.** In South Africa, data on the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment rating for building human resources do not exist. The average for the country's region is 3.5 percent and for its income group is 3.8 percent. This indicator assesses the national policies and public and private sector service delivery that affect access to and quality of health and education services.
- **Identification.** In South Africa, **26.7 percent** of the population is not registered. This is lower than the average for its region (33.8) but higher than the average for its income group (8.9).

This country profile is based on most recent data available under the Human Capital Project, the World Development Indicators, Atlas of Social Protection - Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) and Identification for Development (ID4D).

For more information on data sources, please contact the Human Capital Project team: [humancapital@worldbank.org](mailto:humancapital@worldbank.org).