The Republic of Congo

The state of inequality in human capital

The launch of the Human Capital Index (HCI) in October 2018 underscored a huge gap in human capital outcomes across regions and income groups. As a measure of the relative productivity of the next generation of workers, the HCI shows the effectiveness of current investments and the readiness of a country to be competitive in an increasingly complex world with constantly changing nature of work. Equally important as a country's average distance from the frontier is how different socio-economic groups fare in terms of their relative future productivity. In a world where rising inequality is a critical policy issue, narrowing differences in human capital outcomes across socio-economic groups could be a way to facilitate economic mobility.
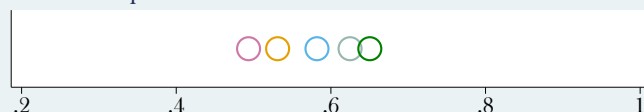
This country profile presents the data on disaggregation of HCI and its components (**child survival, expected years of school, harmonized test scores and non-stunted rate**) by socio-economic status. The objective of this exercise is to look at differences within countries and is not meant to be comparable with the cross-country HCI values published earlier. While the exercise employs a similar methodology, it is different in that it excludes adult survival rate and is based on household survey based enrolment rates of children ages 6-17. The disaggregation is available for 51 countries. Given that human capital outcomes may not be uniquely increasing/decreasing across socio-economic groups, this country profile provides a comparison of the richest and poorest 20 percent of households.

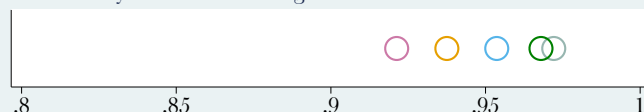## HOW DOES THE POOREST 20 PERCENT FARE COMPARED TO THE RICHEST?

- **Human Capital Index (HCI).** In Congo, Rep., the productivity as a future worker of a child born today in the richest 20 percent of households is **65 percent** while it is **49 percent** for a child born in the poorest 20 percent, a gap of **16** percentage points. This gap is about the same as the typical gap across the 51 countries (15 percentage points).

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** In Congo, Rep., the probability of survival of a child born today in the richest 20 percent of households is **97 percent** while it is **92 percent** for a child born in the poorest 20 percent, a gap of **5** percentage points. This gap is slightly larger than the typical gap across the 51 countries (4 percentage points).

- **Expected Years of School.** In Congo, Rep., a child in the richest 20 percent of households who starts school at age 6 can expect to complete **11.7 years** of school by her 18th birthday while a child from the poorest 20 percent can expect to complete **10.1 years** of school, a gap of **1.6 years** of school. This gap is smaller than the typical gap across the 51 countries (2.4 years).

- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students from the richest 20 percent of households in Congo, Rep. score **410** while those from the poorest 20 percent score **343**, a gap of **67 points**. This gap is larger than the typical gap across the 51 countries (56 points).

- **Healthy Growth (Not Stunted Rate).** In Congo, Rep., the percentage of children in the top 20 percent of households who are not stunted is **86 percent** while it is **70 percent** among the poorest 20 percent, a gap of **16** percentage points. This gap is smaller than the typical gap across the 51 countries (19 percentage points).

HCI and Components By Income Quintile
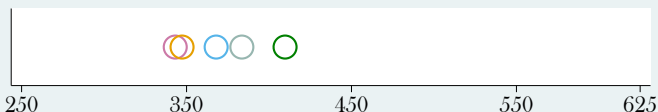

Human Capital Index

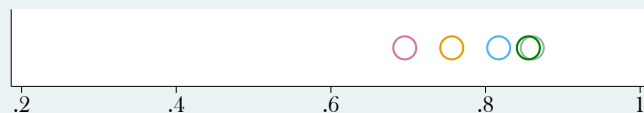Probability of Survival to Age 5

Expected Years of School

Harmonized Test Scores

Fraction of Children Under 5 Not Stunted

- Based on survey data from 2014
- Color code for quintiles (poorest=red, 2nd poorest=orange, middle=blue, 2nd richest=gray, richest=green)

The Human Capital Project is a global effort to accelerate the amount and quality of investments in people.

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