AFGHANISTAN

Region: South Asia
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 figures show the latest available data, benchmarked against regional averages. The figures also report progress over the previous 5 years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **35** per 1,000 live births (2022), compared to 40 in 2017. 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 2023, **60%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 67% in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
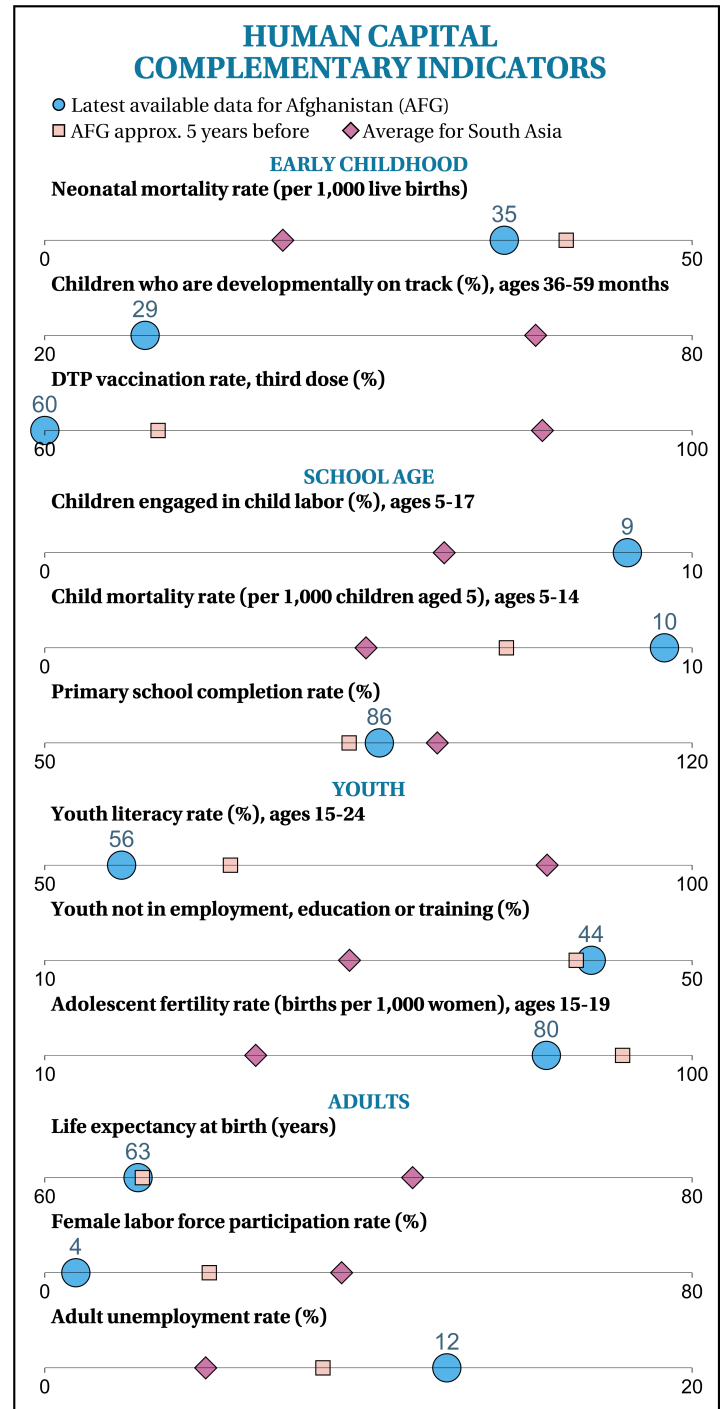
SCHOOL AGE

- **Children engaged in child labor.** The share of children (ages 5-17) who are engaged in economic activities is **9%** (2020). The indicator is higher than the regional average.

- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **10** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2022), compared to 7 in 2017. The indicator is above 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 **56%** (2021), compared to 64% in 2015. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2021, **44%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 43% in 2017. The indicator is above the regional average.

- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **80** (2022), compared to 90 in 2017. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

ADULTS

- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **63** years (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **4%** (2023), compared to 20% 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 **12%** (2023), compared to 9% in 2018. 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 South Asia

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
35 — range 0 to 50

Children who are developmentally on track (%), ages 36-59 months
29 — range 20 to 80

DTP vaccination rate, third dose (%)
60 — range 60 to 100

SCHOOL AGE

Children engaged in child labor (%), ages 5-17
9 — range 0 to 10

Child mortality rate (per 1,000 children aged 5), ages 5-14
10 — range 0 to 10

Primary school completion rate (%)
86 — range 50 to 120

YOUTH

Youth literacy rate (%), ages 15-24
56 — range 50 to 100

Youth not in employment, education or training (%)
44 — range 10 to 50

Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women), ages 15-19
80 — range 10 to 100

ADULTS

Life expectancy at birth (years)
63 — range 60 to 80

Female labor force participation rate (%)
4 — range 0 to 80

Adult unemployment rate (%)
12 — range 0 to 20

Note: Missing symbols indicate internationally comparable data are not available to generate the corresponding statistic.