

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2018



Progress in the child-friendliness
of African governments



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AFRICAN CHILD POLICY FORUM (ACPF)

The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) is an independent, not-for-profit, Pan-African institute of policy research and dialogue on the African child. ACPF was established with the conviction that putting children first on the public agenda is fundamental for the realisation of their rights and wellbeing and for bringing about lasting social and economic progress in Africa.

ACPF's work is rights based, inspired by universal values and informed by global experiences and knowledge and is committed to Internationalism. Its work is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and other regional and international human rights instruments. ACPF aims to specifically contribute to improved knowledge on children in Africa; monitor and report progress; identify policy options; provide a platform for dialogue; collaborate with governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society in the development and implementation of effective pro-child policies and programmes and promote a common voice for children in and out of Africa.



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Bringing hearts and minds
together for children

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The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2018

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACPF	African Child Policy Forum
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AfDB	African Development Bank
ANC	Antenatal Care
APEVAC	African Partnership to End Violence against Children
ARV	Antiretroviral
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CFI	Child-Friendliness Index
CGECCD	Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development
CLPC	Children's Legal Protection Centre
CoE	Council of Europe
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CROP	Comparative Research Programme on Poverty
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DFID	Department for International Development
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GGE	General Government Expenditure
GGHE	General Government Health Expenditure
HCIA	The Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IHRDA	Institute for Human Rights Development in Africa
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MC	Monte Carlo
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-government Organizations

ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OP3	The Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure
OPAC	The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
OPSC	The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PTR	Pupil to Teacher Ratio
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SD	Standard Deviation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIMLAB	Simulation Laboratory
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States Dollar
VAC	Violence against Children
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
ZIPAR	Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research

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FOREWORD

In 2013, the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, of which I was a member, issued a report that emphasized business-as-usual is not an option and called for transformative shifts in the way the international community relates to children. This report – **The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2018: Progress in the child-friendliness of African governments** – further reinforces this call. It urges African governments to go beyond fulfilling the usual obligations arising from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and calls on them to take concrete measures that would enable Africa to benefit from the demographic dividend of its growing child and youth population.

There have been remarkable achievements in improving the wellbeing of children across Africa. But this report rings alarm bells of an unfolding human development crisis – a crisis arising from three major developments:

- the persistently high levels of stunting and child malnutrition in the region;
- the intellectual and economic consequences of substandard education that a large number of Africa's children are receiving;
- and the underutilisation of a youth population that is growing at a rate that is unprecedented in Africa's history.

At ACPF, we are highly concerned with the above issues. We find it unacceptable that some 30 percent of African children are suffering from stunting. In some countries, more than half of children under five years of age are stunted. It is equally unconscionable that nine out of ten pupils in primary schools will not have the required skills, knowledge, and competencies that they are expected to acquire when they complete this basic stage of education. It is disconcerting that, despite knowledge of this reality, we are not investing enough on the children of this continent. This is a toxic combination that does not augur well for Africa's future. We cannot transform Africa and achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and AU's Agenda for 2063 without sustained commitment to a long-term investment in quality education, healthcare and nutrition, and without dedicating the necessary resources to create employment opportunities for the growing youth population.

The next coming years are therefore very critical for laying a strong foundation for Africa's transformation. We should build on the promising beginnings and the positive movements on behalf of children both at the global and continental level. What we need now is a transformational agenda that ensures the maximum commitment and efficient utilisation of our resources, the establishment of an architecture of child-friendly policies and laws, and an even greater effort toward the implementation of those policies and laws.

In so doing, one important principle should always be kept in mind: **every child matters**. Every boy and girl need to be given a fair and equal chance to develop to their full potential. This should be the premise of all laws, policies and programmes targeting children. We see from this report that is not the case now. There are groups that are continuously marginalised and not benefiting from public services. This is not acceptable. We have the collective responsibility to ensure that **no child is left behind**.

I am hopeful this report will be a useful resource to our African governments, business community, civil society organisations and development partners. It contains a wealth of information around the context within which our children live and the policy directions that should be taken to improve child wellbeing, to reap the demographic dividend and to assure Africa's sustained and equitable development. I recommend it for another unique and important factor: It is an African report by an independent African organisation that has been painfully honest in its assessment and uncompromising in its challenge to our own African governments to honour their promises to Africa's children and to build an Africa that claims and owns its future.

Graça Machel

Chairperson, International Board of Trustees, African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)

PREFACE

This year, 2018, marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of the 1st edition of our biennial ***African Report on Child Wellbeing*** series, a powerful advocacy tool on state accountability. This report – ***The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2018: Progress in the child-friendliness of African governments*** – tracks governments’ performance in improving the condition and wellbeing of children, and examines how countries are doing, for example, vis-à-vis their neighbours and over the years. We did this using the ***Child-Friendliness Index (CFI)***, a rights-based statistical methodology that ACPF developed and recently revised to measure, monitor and promote government performance in realising the rights and wellbeing of children.

This report draws attention to the fact that although many African governments have become child-friendly over the last ten years, there are equally many that are locked in the “less” or “least child-friendly” categories for many years now. Millions of children are therefore not benefitting from the legal protection they deserve and from the quality education, health and nutrition and minimum levels of social protection they very much need. It also draws attention to the widespread prevalence of disturbing levels of undernutrition and poor quality of education – the two major threats to the wellbeing of Africa’s children. The report therefore concludes with one exceptionally important and alarming message, namely that Africa is on the verge of a serious human development crisis with grave consequences for the social and economic wellbeing of its people and for the future of the continent.

Children have a special place in the African psyche. The news of the continent becoming home to a billion children around mid-century would only be received with a spirit of jubilation. But without transformative policies, this potential asset can end up being a threat or a ticking time-bomb that undermines peace, security and sustainable development. This report therefore tries to highlight the heightened sense of urgency to curb the looming human development crisis, the need for an African political and development agenda that puts children and youth first, and the imperative for extraordinary effort by African governments to address the extraordinary challenge facing Africa’s future.

Assefa Bequele PhD
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In little more than 30 years' time, Africa will be home to a billion children – an unprecedented growth which represents both a challenge and an opportunity. On the positive side, it is an opportunity to reap the demographic dividend and accelerate Africa's sustainable and equitable development. However, this will only happen if each and every African government commits to long-term investment in decent nutrition, healthcare, education and employment opportunities for its young population. Failure to do so would be an historic missed opportunity with enormous economic, social and political consequences. Children have the potential to transform Africa – but if neglected they could also increase the burden of poverty and inequality, whilst posing a serious risk to peace, security and prosperity.

This report has two aims. Firstly, using a sophisticated rights-based statistical methodology and drawing on a wide range of data, we examine how well African governments are delivering on their promises and commitments to children. We analyse how much effort governments are putting into realising the rights and wellbeing of children, whether they have become more or less child-friendly over the years, and why. Secondly, we go beyond simply scoring and ranking the relative performance of African governments over time to provide a comprehensive, quantitative and qualitative view of the current realities and trends in the state of child wellbeing in Africa, and their implications for the future.

We conclude with one exceptionally important and alarming message. Africa is on the verge of a serious human development crisis which carries grave consequences for the social and economic wellbeing of its people and for the future of the continent. Massive investment is needed over the next three decades to avoid the ticking time-bomb of a billion children and young people who are under-nourished, semi-literate or illiterate, jobless or under-employed. We urge African governments to go beyond simply fulfilling their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). They must commit to major transformative actions which ensure an Africa of one billion well-fed, well-educated and globally competitive boys and girls.

Encouraging advances

Africa's undoubtedly impressive social and economic progress over the last two decades underlines the "Africa Rising" narrative. The last few years in particular have seen positive political advances for children both at the global and continental level. In addition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there have been several initiatives designed to strengthen Africa's aspirations for transformation and development, to provide overarching frameworks for action, and to ensure that children are not left behind in Africa's economic and social development. These include, for example, the African Union (AU)'s Agenda for Children 2040 and its 10-year implementation plan; regional and national campaigns to eliminate harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage; and global and pan-African initiatives to combat violence against children.

The promising economic outlook offers improved opportunities for investment in children and young people. Projections suggest that the overall African economy will continue to grow in the coming years, boosted by efforts to improve domestic revenue mobilisation and

to combat corruption. There is a growing understanding that corruption is a major barrier to human rights and sustainable development. The AU recognised this by designating 2018 as African anti-corruption year – “Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation” – to initiate concrete actions aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability at all levels.

Together with other complementary initiatives, these actions have raised children's issues up the continental, regional and national agenda and have led to a significant shift from rhetoric to action. There have been remarkable improvements in the survival and overall wellbeing of African children, such as reducing child mortality almost by half over the last 15 years and significantly increased access to education, particularly at primary level. There is near-universal primary enrolment, although some children – especially girls from poor or remote rural households - have not benefitted from the expansion of primary education. There has also been a substantial increase over the past two decades in vaccination

Child mortality was reduced by almost half over the last 15 years and access to education, particularly at primary level, increased significantly.

against deadly childhood illnesses such as measles, and steady, albeit slow, progress in access to safe drinking water. Both overall and child poverty in Africa have declined, although it remains persistently high in large parts of the continent.

Threats from undernutrition and poor education

Perhaps the single biggest problem facing Africa's children is undernutrition. Overall, stunting among under fives has gone down by eight percent over the last 16 years, but the current average still stands at an unacceptably high 30.4 percent. More than half of all African countries have stunting rates above 30 percent, and in some of them more than half the under fives are stunted. Rates may have declined slightly, but according to the World health organisation (WHO), actual numbers of stunted children have risen from 50.4 million to 58.5 million over the last 15 years.

Stunting rates among children decreased from 38 to 30 percent between 2000 and 2016, but the actual number of stunted children rose by eight million during the same period.

Child undernutrition costs countries a significant proportion of their annual gross domestic product (GDP) – for example, it is estimated that Ethiopia and Uganda lose 16.5 and 5.5 percent of their respective GDP each year. Economic losses are one thing, but the cost in terms of human life is also substantial. Up to half of all deaths of children under age five are attributable to undernutrition, and even those who escape death suffer impaired physical and cognitive capacity which in turn translates into poor learning, low productivity, reduced income, and less likelihood to escape poverty.

The poor educational level of Africa's children is another major area of concern. UNICEF estimates that nearly two in every five children leave primary school without learning how to read, write or do simple arithmetic. According to UNESCO, 85 percent of boys and nine out of ten girls of primary school age in Africa are not learning. In other words, the majority of primary school children will not have the required skills, knowledge, understanding and

competencies expected for their age. This is a serious matter that goes beyond violating the rights of children and young people to quality education. It threatens Africa's aspirations for sustainable development, stability and security, and its ability to participate effectively in the increasingly competitive and technologically driven global economy.

Even before they get to school, many African children are being denied the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Early learning is crucial to enhance cognitive skills in reading and mathematics, yet little progress has been made to improve access to pre-primary education, especially for children from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds. Early learning creates opportunities for equal or improved opportunities, which in turn lead to enhanced education and career prospects later in life. Only one child in four has access to pre-primary education in Africa, depriving the overwhelming majority of the opportunity to learn at this critical stage of development. Equally disturbing is the low level of access to secondary

Only one in four children has access to pre-primary education in Africa. The overwhelming majority do not have the opportunity to attend school during this critical stage of learning.

education, especially for girls, more than half of whom do not have access to this important stage of learning. Children with disabilities are even more disadvantaged, with enrolment in secondary school around 30-50 percent lower than their able-bodied peers.

Good laws and bad enforcement

Exposing children to violence, abuse and exploitation, particularly in early childhood, has long-lasting detrimental effects on their health, education and behaviour, and failure to address child protection issues has a huge knock-on effect. The costs relating to the physical, psychological and sexual violence of children, for example, are estimated to be as high as eight percent of global GDP – many times higher than the investment required to prevent much of the violence from happening in the first place.

The 2018 Africa Report on Child Wellbeing assesses how governments are performing when it comes to the protection of children's rights. The child protection architecture, covering laws, policies and institutions, is by and large well developed and fairly well established in Africa. Most countries have enacted consolidated laws on children, and some have gone further and brought in special laws in specific areas such as child trafficking, sexual offences and harmful practices. Many have also adopted policies of free primary education, set a minimum age of employment in line with international standards, and introduced compulsory birth registration. However, two major challenges remain. Firstly, the law in many countries tends to be discriminatory and inconsistent with international standards. Secondly, in a significant number of countries there is a serious lack of enforcement and implementation of laws and policies. The continued high incidence of child labour, child marriage and violence against children demonstrates all too clearly the wide gap between rhetoric and action, as well as the serious challenge of poor enforcement and policy implementation.

Legislation out of step with international and AU standards

Although there has been considerable progress in law reform, much remains to be done to adopt international standards and harmonise legislation at domestic level. There are many

discrepancies between national law and international and AU standards. Take, for example, the issue of age and criminal responsibility. The CRC recommends 12 as the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and of the 52 African countries covered in this report, 39 have set their minimum age for criminal responsibility at 12 years or above. Six countries – Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique and São and Tomé Príncipe – have a higher minimum age of 16. However there still are several countries which have yet to comply with the UN standard – Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania set a minimum age of ten, it is nine in Ethiopia, eight in Kenya and Zambia, and seven in Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

Respect and dignity for the African girl

Despite the endless political rhetoric, and nearly thirty years after almost all African governments ratified the CRC and the African Children's Charter, African girls have yet to be given equal treatment either in law or before the law.

The minimum legal age for marriage serves as a good example. Of the 52 countries we looked at, 36 set the marriageable age at 18 or above for both sexes. The remainder set the minimum age for girls at below 18 (with some countries discriminating in favour of boys): 17 in Burkina Faso; 16 in Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Zambia; and 15 in Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Niger, Seychelles and Tanzania. Disturbingly, the minimum marriageable age for girls in the Sudan is just 10.

In some countries, there is a marked discrepancy between the minimum age of marriage and the minimum age of sexual consent. In Sudan, for example, the minimum age of sexual consent for a girl is 18, but girls as young as 10 are legally allowed to marry, and the law specifically

Of the 700 million women and girls worldwide who married before their 18th birthday, 125 million of them – about 17 percent – are from Africa. Child brides are especially prevalent in Chad, Central African Republic and Niger.

protects the husband from penal sanctions for sex within marriage to a girl under 18. Child marriage is slowly declining in Africa but rates remain high – of the 700 million women and girls worldwide who married before their 18th birthday, 125 million of them – about 17 percent – are from Africa. African child brides mostly live in rural areas and come from among the poorest segments of society, with girls from the poorest households twice as likely to marry before 18 as girls from the wealthiest. Overall, three out of every ten African children are married before their 18th birthday, although in some countries the rate is much higher: 41 to 48 percent in Eritrea, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria and Mozambique; 51 to 52 percent in Guinea, Mali, South Sudan and Burkina Faso; and 67 to 76 percent in Chad, Central African Republic and Niger.

The worsening impact of conflicts and crises

Africa is relatively more peaceful now than at any time in the recent past, but increasingly intense domestic conflicts and climate-induced disasters continue to have a devastating impact on children. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) estimates that children are 24 times more likely to die from illness or injury during armed conflict than in peacetime, while conflicts and crises increase the risk of girls being trafficked and exposed to sexual and gender-based violence. Millions of African

children have been displaced both internally and externally by conflict, violence and disasters, while more than a third of out-of-school children can be found in those countries affected by fighting. The plight of children in conflict zones is made worse by poorly organised and ineffective responses, and an absence of accountability which is key to preventing and ending conflict.

False promises and inadequate budgets

Signatories to the CRC and the ACRWC are obliged to provide adequate resources to meet children's basic needs, but in reality they rarely do. Budgets for programmes and sectors benefiting children differ widely – Zambia and Central African Republic, for example, allocate just one percent of GDP to education, while in Lesotho and Botswana it is more than 10 percent. Spending on education in Africa has stagnated at a median level of around four percent of GDP over the past two decades.

Budgets for health and social protection follows a similar pattern. The average level of expenditure for health across Africa is 6.3 percent of GDP, but some countries such as Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea, South Sudan and Eritrea allocated less than a third of that. When it comes to social protection, African countries invested on average only about four percent of their GDP despite the huge gaps in social services and the high prevalence of child poverty.

The median level of expenditure on education for Africa has stagnated at around four percent of GDP over the last two decades despite the poor quality of education at all levels.

Measuring the child-friendliness of African governments

How child-friendly are African governments? Are they meeting their obligations under the CRC and the ACRWC? The Child-Friendliness Index (CFI), developed by the African Child Policy Forum, uses quantitative data to monitor and assess governments' progress towards realising the rights and wellbeing of children. The CFI is based on the three pillars of the CRC and the ACRWC: Protection, Provision and Participation. Often referred to as the '3Ps', they enshrine government obligations to children as laid down in the two conventions.

A team of experts recently reviewed and validated the CFI, resulting in further improvements in measuring government performance in strengthening enforcement, capturing progress in the provision of social protection and reducing child poverty. The statistical techniques used for standardisation and aggregation were also further refined. This greatly improved measurement and analytical framework forms the basis of the 2018 CFI, with the scores and ranks of the 52 countries included in the assessment presented in the Table below.

Top of the league or the most child-friendly governments are Mauritius, Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Morocco and Lesotho. The relatively high scores of "most child friendly" governments reflect their consistent efforts to realise the rights and wellbeing of children through:

- (a) adoption and implementation of comprehensive laws and policies to provide adequate protection to children;

Table E1: Child-Friendliness Index values and rankings of African countries, 2018

Country	Score	Rank	Category
Mauritius	0.8424	1	Most child-friendly
Algeria	0.7846	2	
Tunisia	0.7823	3	
South Africa	0.7794	4	
Cabo Verde	0.7440	5	
Egypt	0.7416	6	
Namibia	0.7301	7	
Seychelles	0.7156	8	
Swaziland	0.7057	9	
Morocco	0.6995	10	
Lesotho	0.6774	11	
Gabon	0.6311	12	Child-friendly
Botswana	0.6176	13	
Ghana	0.5911	14	
Senegal	0.5648	15	
Kenya	0.5539	16	
Togo	0.5532	17	
Angola	0.5508	18	
Burundi	0.5453	19	
Rwanda	0.5383	20	
Malawi	0.5300	21	
Djibouti	0.5261	22	Fairly child-friendly
Benin	0.5127	23	
Burkina Faso	0.5099	24	
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.5070	25	
Madagascar	0.5022	26	
Sudan	0.4930	27	
Côte d'Ivoire	0.4821	28	
Nigeria	0.4729	29	
Gambia	0.4701	30	
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.4683	31	
Zimbabwe	0.4659	32	
United Republic of Tanzania	0.4542	33	Less child-friendly
Equatorial Guinea	0.4541	34	
Mali	0.4500	35	
Mozambique	0.4399	36	
Comoros	0.4382	37	
Sierra Leone	0.4313	38	
Mauritania	0.4263	39	
Uganda	0.4245	40	
Niger	0.4175	41	
Guinea-Bissau	0.4072	42	
Ethiopia	0.4037	43	Least child-friendly
Eritrea	0.3726	44	
Guinea	0.3707	45	
Democratic Republic of Congo	0.3658	46	
Liberia	0.3619	47	
Zambia	0.3515	48	
Cameroon	0.3420	49	
Chad	0.3142	50	
Central African Republic	0.3136	51	
South Sudan	0.1429	52	

Developed by ACPF, 2018

- (b) allocation of a relatively higher share of their available resources for programmes and sectors benefiting children; and,
- (c) improvement of children’s access to basic needs and services, and achievement of higher overall wellbeing.

The “least child-friendly” governments at the bottom of the 2018 table comprise South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Zambia, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and Eritrea. The legal and policy framework and the enforcement mechanisms in most of these countries remain inadequate and weak. They also invest the least in education, health and wellbeing, despite the prevalence of multiple deprivations amongst their children.

Child-friendliness and wealth

Is child-friendliness related to a country’s wealth? Our analysis suggests that national income is not necessarily the primary factor in determining a government’s child-friendliness. There are several African countries at the bottom of the economic ladder which nevertheless performed relatively well in the CFI. Lesotho and Togo, for example, have relatively low GDP per capita but enjoy higher scores and rankings in the 2018 CFI, demonstrating that child-friendliness is not necessarily linked to national income. Conversely, the Equatorial Guinea performs poorly in the CFI despite its very high GDP per capita, reinforcing the argument that child-friendliness is not just about resources but about directing and using available resources effectively for the benefit of children.

National income is not the only factor that determines government’s child-friendliness.

Trends in child-friendliness

Has Africa become a more friendly continent for its children over the past decade? The CFI shows that several countries have improved their performance during this period, while some – for example Mauritius (1st) and Tunisia (3rd) – have consistently maintained their ranking among the most child-friendly. Others such as Swaziland and Gambia made notable progress up the league table by carrying out law reform and by significantly improving children’s access to health-care services and reducing child mortality.

Despite these advances, two areas of concern remain. Firstly, some countries have dropped significantly down the CFI over the last ten years – Zambia, for example, has fallen to 48th place due to its reduced commitment to children’s basic needs, services and wellbeing.

Secondly, some countries have been locked into the less or least child-friendly categories for a decade. Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia, Chad and Central African Republic were ranked as least child-friendly in 2008 and again in 2018, while Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Comoros, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Ethiopia have been in or around the less child-friendly group over the same period.

In short the review shows an Africa with varying levels of child-friendliness, but one making modest progress for children. African governments are increasingly becoming more child-friendly; they are providing better protection, adopting more child-friendly laws and policies,

and spending more resources on their children than ever before. There are, however, many countries which are stuck towards the bottom of the CFI and which must try harder to improve the conditions and wellbeing of their children.

Looking beyond the CFI rankings, it becomes clear that progress so far is not good enough. We are faced with a looming demographic challenge. If Africa fails to invest adequately in its children, by mid-century it will be home to a billion malnourished, poorly educated and under developed children and young people unable to compete with their peers in other parts of the world, or to participate effectively in the world of science and technology.

Urgent priorities for action

The years between now and 2030 will be critical for laying a strong foundation for Africa's transformation. Investing in the continent's growing child and youth population should be front and centre of the development agenda, and government policies should be measured against their child-friendliness and how they impact on children's wellbeing. This must be the principle underpinning the formulation, implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and budgets.

The 2018 African Report on Child Wellbeing calls for action in six priority areas:

Nutritious food. Poor nutrition is perhaps the single most important challenge facing Africa's children, and nutrition should be an overriding policy priority. African governments must adopt integrated strategies to combat child undernutrition, including national programmes and campaigns to enhance better nutrition for children, especially in their early years; extensive provision of school and community-based feeding programmes; developing educational and information materials to counter traditional beliefs which hamper proper feeding practices; and filling the information gap on age-appropriate dietary diversity and frequency of feeding.

High quality education. African governments should prioritise enhanced educational quality at all levels as part of their socio-economic development policy, including substantially increased education budgets.

- Those governments which currently invest below the regional average of four percent should immediately raise education spending to at least this level, followed by further increases to reach the Dakar target of ten percent of GDP. Those currently spending more than four percent should aim to reach the Dakar target as soon as possible.
- Governments should substantially increase budgets for pre-primary education, given that early learning is the best investment they can make to promote equity and sustainable development.
- All governments should strengthen their oversight mechanisms to ensure budgets are used efficiently and effectively to deliver enhanced quality education at all levels.

Respect for the dignity of the child. Many contentious issues such as corporal punishment could be sensibly resolved if we put respect for the dignity of the child first. Just as the principle of 'Best Interest of the Child' underpins all legal considerations concerning

children, the notion of dignity should always inform our attitudes, laws, principles and policies relating to children.

Africa has an impressive child protection architecture, but it should be continuously reviewed and assessed, especially when it comes to the way policies and laws treat girls and boys differently. Specifically, any law reform or review must always ensure respect for the best interest and human dignity of the child, especially the girl child; give increased attention to enforcement and implementation; reach out to marginalised or neglected groups of children; ensure universal birth registration; and implement a policy of zero tolerance of violence against children, including the emerging problem of online abuse.

Human development. African governments must pursue a deliberate policy of human development and put human development at the centre of their growth and development strategy. Africa's economic growth is seriously out of balance – rising unemployment and inequality must be urgently tackled by implementing policies to create jobs and redistribute resources more fairly. Governments must prioritise mobilising domestic resources and proper financing of programmes and sectors benefiting children. Given that corruption and illicit financial flows are major obstacles to mobilising domestic revenue, governments should step up efforts to counter these corrosive practices.

Every child matters, and no child should be left behind. African governments must make every effort to reach out to marginalised groups and ensure they benefit from public budgets. Evidence from high-impact initiatives show that wellbeing significantly improves when investing in the most deprived, vulnerable and marginalised groups of children. Governments must use this evidence to design bespoke nutrition, health and education programmes which significantly improve the overall wellbeing of marginalised and neglected groups of children.

Public spending. Budgets should be judged according to their impact on child wellbeing, yet in most African countries, spending on children doesn't even meet government obligations under the CRC or ACRWC, let alone the substantially higher amounts needed for Africa's transformation. However, investing in children and young is not only about the amount of money, but how the budget is allocated, spent and managed to meet the special needs of children. This, in turn, requires strong, transparent public finance management and oversight systems, without which it is impossible to maintain genuinely open, engaging and responsive budgets.

Beyond child rights

This report carries one exceptionally important message which marks it out from other such reports: public policy concerning children in Africa must go beyond the conventional box-ticking approach to child rights. It is not enough for African governments to be satisfied with filing occasional reports to the UN and the AU about how well they are meeting their obligations under the CRC and the ACRWC.

We have highlighted many positive achievements which are cause for celebration. Africa's progress over the last two decades, and especially since 2008, has undoubtedly been

impressive and justifies, to some degree, the “Africa Rising” narrative. Africa’s children are healthier, live longer, are better schooled, and can aspire to a better life than those before. African governments are also becoming increasingly child-friendly by providing better protection, adopting more child-friendly laws and policies and spending more resources on their children than ever before.

These advances, however, cannot hide our underlying concern that progress on child rights in Africa is simply too slow and too patchy. African governments need to rethink their concept of ‘child-friendliness’ and to understand that it goes far beyond child rights per se. Africa faces significant threats to its economic and social development, including a future demographic of one billion children and the need to catch up with the rest of the world in science and technology. These are extraordinary challenges. They require an extraordinary effort by African governments and the adoption of a radical, transformative human development agenda.

1

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY TO CHILDREN

The seven million people who took part in the UN's 'My World' survey identified “Honest and responsive government” as a key priority for sustainable development (UN 2014). State accountability is essential for achieving equitable and sustainable development.

State accountability also underpins the promotion and realisation of child wellbeing, all the more so because children lack the power to influence those public policies and decisions that most affect them. Children depend on the authority and resources of government for their wellbeing, to grow in freedom and with dignity, to meet their special needs for protection, to access services, and to achieve their full potential.

Accountability means making sure the organs of state – ministries, departments, agencies and public authorities – are proactively responsive to the needs and best interests of all children. It means being open and transparent, and ensuring all relevant stakeholders, including children and their families, are engaged in developing and implementing the policies and programmes that affect them. It also means making sufficient resources available and using them efficiently to improve children's wellbeing, particularly for those in vulnerable circumstances.

The responsibilities of the state to promote and realise children's rights and wellbeing are clearly set out in both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). 2019 sees the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the CRC and the ACRWC – but amid the celebrations, some serious questions must be asked. How far have the promises been kept? Are African governments complying with the standards and principles stipulated in the treaties? Where has satisfactory progress been made, and where do challenges remain? The 2018 African Report on Child Wellbeing aims to answer these questions by providing an overview of the performance of African governments in delivering on their commitments to children.

1.1 Indexing state accountability to children

Accountability is central to understanding how children are treated in Africa today (Bequele and Mekonen 2016). As part of its drive for greater state accountability, the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) developed the Child-Friendliness Index (CFI) to measure and monitor accountability from a child-rights perspective. Most other similar instruments tend to measure wellbeing or survival outcomes using indicators such as under-five mortality and child wellbeing rankings. The CFI, however, is different because it focuses exclusively on state accountability, and therefore on how governments are performing when it comes to the rights and wellbeing of children. It is a powerful tool to measure and monitor government behaviour and performance, and for advocacy with governments, civil society, treaty bodies, and the African Union (AU) and its organs. It enables us to talk to governments about where they are doing well and where they are failing, and to put pressure on them to comply with their international and national obligations to children.

The concept of government child-friendliness rests on the three central pillars of the CRC and the ACRWC: Protection, Provision and Participation (the so-called '3Ps'). The CFI therefore focuses on three specific areas of government action:

- (i) Protection: the legal and policy framework governments put in place to protect children from abuse and exploitation.
- (ii) Provision: government spending on children's basic needs and achievement of better child wellbeing outcomes.
- (iii) Participation: government efforts to ensure children's participation in decisions that affect their wellbeing.

Over the decade since the CFI was first developed in 2008, we have continuously reviewed its strengths and weaknesses. We have consulted with statisticians, experts and practitioners to ensure the CFI is as robust as possible – including convening a recent roundtable meeting of senior experts held in March 2018.

It is clear from the various reviews and validation exercises that the conceptual framework and methodology of the CFI are generally sound and appropriate. However, the experts identified four areas where improvement was needed:

- capturing implementation efforts – for example, in enforcing laws and implementing policies;
- including indicators on child poverty to measure government efforts to reduce it;
- including budgetary commitment to social protection - central to providing for children's basic needs and a means of partially alleviating family and child poverty; and
- revisiting the statistical techniques used for standardisation and aggregation.

As a result, the revised CFI framework now includes the following new elements:

- a sub-dimension on achievement of protection outcomes, in order to assess efforts made to enforce and implement laws and policies;
- an indicator on child poverty to measure the efforts made to address it;
- data on public expenditure on social protection; and,
- better indicators of child wellbeing outcomes to gauge access to services and the effectiveness of national initiatives.

We also carried out a thorough review of the CFI's statistical techniques using the standard procedures and protocols recommended by the OECD (OECD 2008; Saisana and Saltelli 2010; Saisana, Saltelli and Tarantola 2005). As a result, we have strengthened the methodology and incorporated new and appropriate techniques for standardisation and aggregation of scores and sub-indices. Detailed information is available in the Technical Paper on the Revised CFI which is summarised in Annex 1.

Figure 1.1: The Revised Child-Friendliness Index of governments: Main dimensions and sub-dimensions

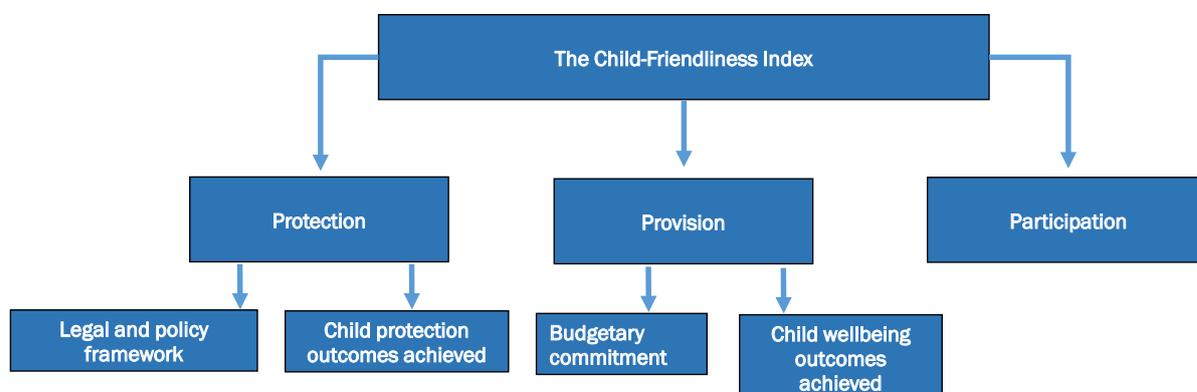
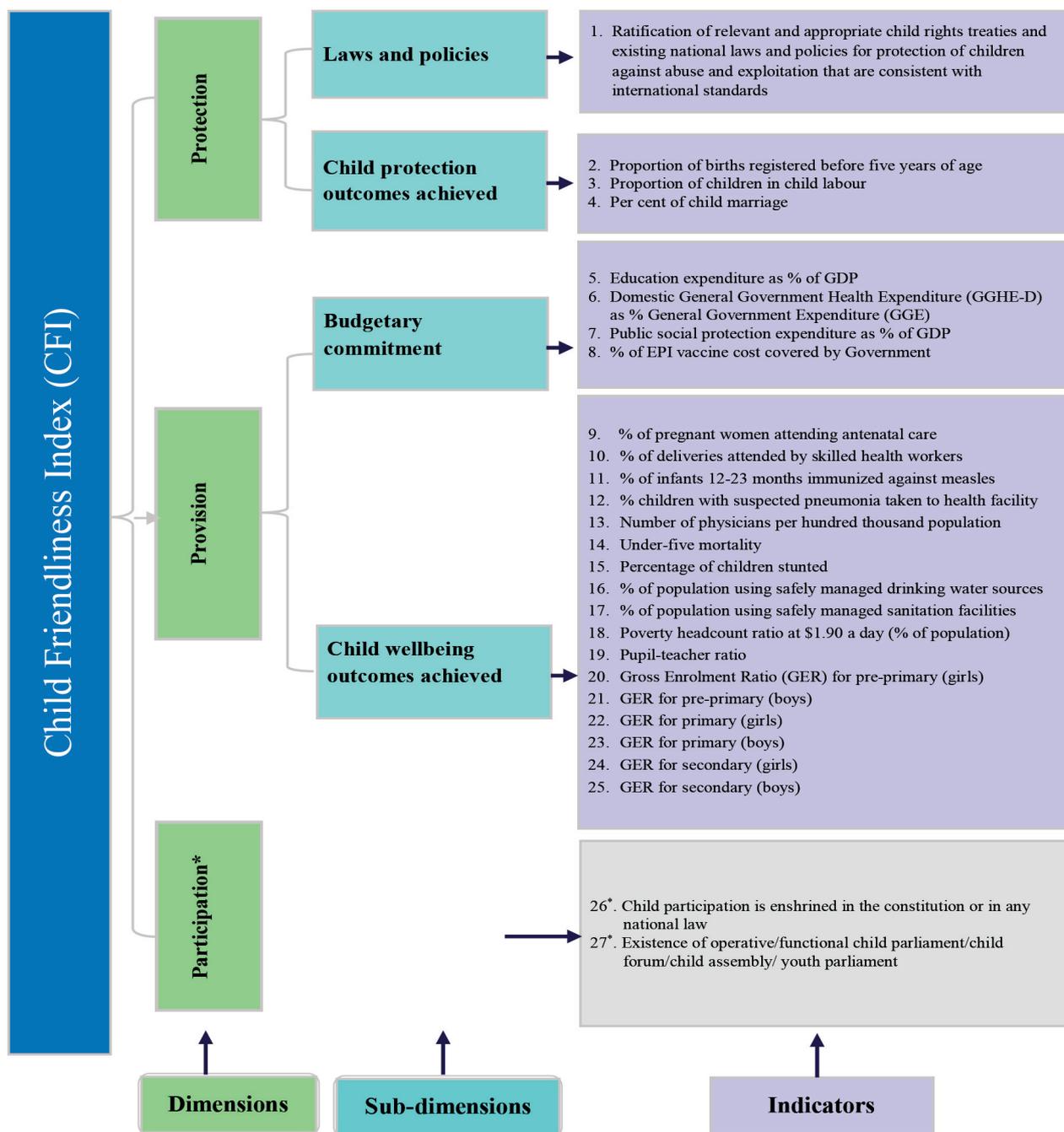


Figure 1.1 illustrates how the intellectual and analytical framework of the revised CFI remains anchored in the 3Ps of the CRC and the ACRWC. However, the revised CFI uses new sets of indicators for capturing implementation efforts to enhance child protection and reducing child poverty through investing in social protection programmes. In general, it uses both input indicators (for example, child protection laws and policies or budgets for programmes and sectors benefiting children), and outcome indicators (for example, coverage of birth registration, prevalence of malnutrition, child marriage rates and access to health and education services).

As with previous editions of the CFI, measuring *participation* remains almost impossible because of the lack of data, which is why we have included a postscript on strengthening government action to enhance child participation. As Figure 1.2 shows, this means the revised CFI is based only on *protection* and *provision*.

Figure 1.2: Dimensions, sub-dimensions and indicators of the revised Child-Friendliness Index



* Not included in the CFI analysis due to lack of data

1.2 Child-friendliness and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“There could be no development without security, no security without development and neither security nor development without human rights.”

~ Kofi Annan, quoted by Jeffrey Sachs in “Kofi Annan protected us from our worst instincts”, CNN, August 19, 2018.

A central tenet of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is that no-one should be left behind. It recognises the need to redress existing inequalities and ensure the inclusion of those who continue to be marginalised and deprived, including children. The principle of inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for human dignity is fundamental to all human rights instruments.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is clear that sustainable development and human rights go hand in hand. They are interrelated, complementary, mutually reinforcing and aim to improve the life and wellbeing of every individual. The preamble to the Declaration sets out how the Agenda seeks to realise human rights and equality for all, thus making human rights part and parcel of the framework. Conversely, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be achieved without progress on human rights - the two commitments are separate but complimentary.

The Agenda envisages a world which invests in its children and where every child grows up free from violence and exploitation; a world where every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and where all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment are removed; and a world free of poverty, hunger and disease where physical, mental and social wellbeing are assured for all. It is worth noting that the 17 SDGs include 44 child-related indicators.

These are also in effect the aspirations of the CRC and the ACRWC – to create a world fit for children where they live free of deprivation, live in dignity and free from violence, enjoy a healthy life, and have access to quality education. It is manifestly clear that the main premises and aspirations of the SDGs are very much aligned with those of the CRC and the ACRWC.

It is not surprising therefore that more than half the SDG targets – many of them relating to economic, social and cultural rights – are already being monitored, to varying degrees, by the UN and the AU. As a rights-based framework for assessing governments' performance, the CFI includes a number of indicators relating to child poverty, protection, and access to quality healthcare and education services - most of which are identified as targets in the SDGs (see Table 1.1). Progress towards realising the rights reflected in these indicators thus depends on achieving the child-focused SDGs. Moreover, the overarching aim of the CFI – to measure and encourage state accountability to children – is linked to the other main objective of the SDGs, that of a world where good governance and the rule of law prevail. In other words, monitoring and promoting government compliance with child rights obligations using evidence-based tools such as the CFI will undoubtedly help achieve the SDGs.

Table 1.1: Indicators of the Child-Friendliness Index reflected in the SDGs

Ser. No.	CFI Indicators	SDG Goal and Target
1	Proportion of population living below poverty line	Goal 1 (Target: 1.2.1)
2	Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age	Goal 2 (Target: 2.2.1)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel Under-five mortality rate Coverage of essential health services (ANC, immunisation, percent of children with symptoms of pneumonia taken to health facility are included in CFI) 	Goal 3 (Targets 3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.8.1 and 3.8.1)

continued to next page...

Ser. No.	CFI Indicators	SDG Goal and Target
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolment rates in primary and secondary education • Participation in pre-primary education • Pupil-teacher ratio 	Goal 4 (Targets 4.1 and 4.2.2)
5	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Goal 5 (Target 5.3.1)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services • Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services. 	Goal 6 (Targets 6.1.1 and 6.2.1)
7	Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	Goal 8 (Target: 8.7.1)
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary government expenditures for sectors benefiting children (health, education public social protection) • Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age 	Goal 16 (Targets 16.6.1 and 16.9.1)

Sources: Compiled by ACPF

Ultimately, the common aim of human rights and the SDGs is to enable each and every individual, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances, to lead a dignified and decent life. This shared objective creates a win-win opportunity to integrate child rights into national development policies whilst achieving both the goals set by the international community and the rights and wellbeing of children.

The years between now and 2030 are critical for building Africa's human capital and laying a strong foundation for the continent's transformation. Investing in children and young people, combined with the effective implementation of the SDGs – especially those focusing on children – can be the catalyst to change Africa for the better.

1.3 Conclusion

We are all responsible for children's wellbeing. But whilst it may take a village to raise a child, it is clear that in Africa – where many families and communities lack the resources to meet their obligations – it is the state which is the single most important force for ensuring a child's health and welfare.

The role of the state is pivotal for Africa's children, and ultimately for Africa's destiny in the world. That is why child rights activists and civil society advocates put state accountability front and centre of their campaigns for a 'children-first' African politics. We must be tireless in reminding our governments that they have signed up to an international compact to respect and protect the rights and wellbeing of children. We must be unrelenting in holding them to account in their duty to put children first in all policies and actions, to ensure they are legally protected, to provide for their needs, especially their physical and mental wellbeing, education, and to ensure full realisation of their potential.

2

THE STATE OF THE AFRICAN CHILD: MODEST PROGRESS, BUT OMINOUS TRENDS

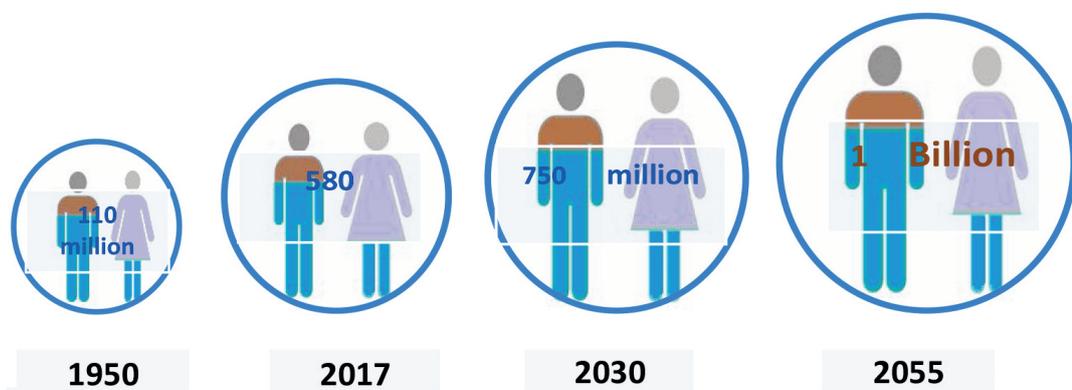
African children are at a crossroads. On the plus side, we are encouraged by the considerable improvements in child wellbeing and steady – if patchy – progress in the child-friendliness of African governments. Set against this, however, is the distressing, deep-seated nutritional, physical and educational deprivation faced by many African children, and its serious implications for the future. Given this threat, we urgently need to reinvigorate the campaign for greater government accountability and political commitment, in order to reverse current trends and transform the social and economic conditions that underpin child wellbeing in Africa.

This chapter analyses the current state of the African child. We highlight both encouraging progress and emerging concerns with the potential to hinder Africa’s promising trajectory for growth, peace and sustainable development. The data suggests that overall, we are witnessing modest though unsatisfactory progress. However, there are signs that a serious human development crisis is unfolding – a crisis caused primarily by the imbalance between a rapidly increasing child and youth population and inadequate investment to transform them into productive human capital.

2.1 The political and economic context

Africa’s child population is growing at an unprecedented rate – up five-fold since 1950 and predicted to reach 750 million by 2030 (UNICEF 2017c). By the middle of the century, Africa’s children will hit one billion, representing approximately 40 percent of the world’s child population (see Chart 2.1).

Chart 2.1: Child population in Africa, trends



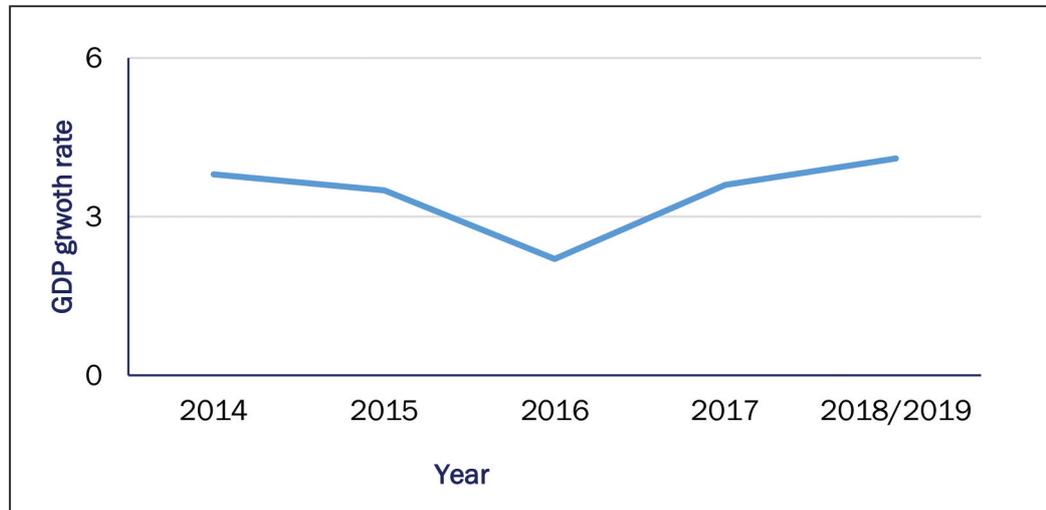
Sources: Based on data from UN 2018a; UNICEF 2017c.

This growth is an enormous opportunity for the continent. As their share of the working age population grows over the coming decades, two-thirds of African countries will be able to reap this ‘demographic dividend’ (World Bank and IMF 2016). On purely economic grounds, substantial investments in children coupled with employment policies for young people, are a no-brainer for creating a productive workforce to drive the economic and social transformation of Africa.

Failure to invest in African children and youth would mean missing out on the demographic dividend. Worse, the growing child and youth population will become a huge burden, exacerbating poverty, inequality, unemployment and instability across the continent and creating a serious human development crisis (UNICEF 2017; World Bank and IMF 2016). This crisis will only be avoided if governments invest heavily in children and young people.

Large scale investment requires a positive economic outlook, and growth in Africa has been robust over the last two decades. Chart 2.2 shows that real output growth in Africa was 3.6 percent in 2017, up from 2.2 percent in 2016, and is expected to reach 4.1 percent in 2019, while some nations have seen growth in excess of eight percent in 2018. Unfortunately, however, Africa’s economic progress has not been matched by progress on decent employment, equity or increased flows of domestic resources and government revenue.

Chart 2.2: Real GDP growth (percent), 2014-2019

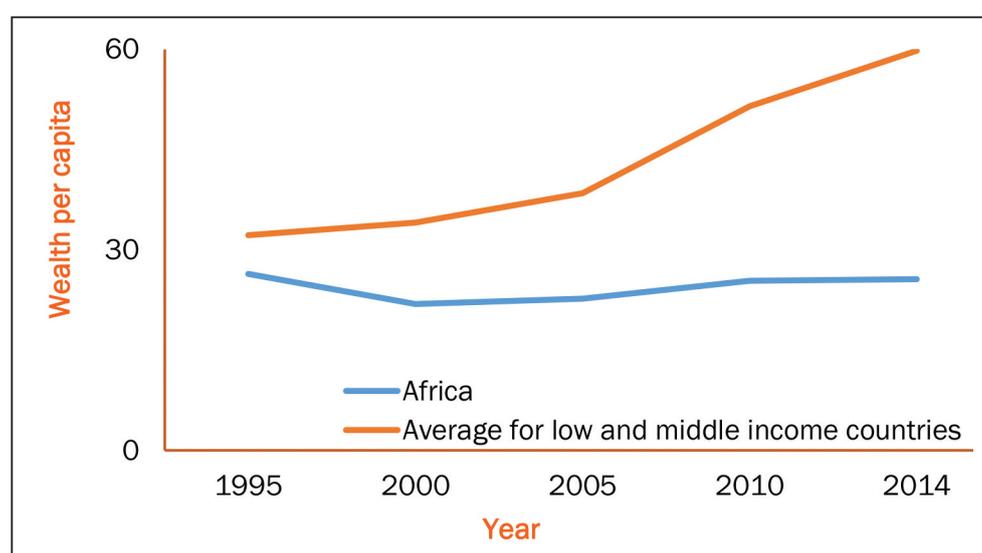


Source: Based on data from the African Development Bank, 2018.

Despite the continent's respectable economic performance over recent years – the so-called “Africa Rising” narrative – growth in the economy has not translated into lower unemployment or reduced poverty (AfDB 2018). Paradoxically, faster-growing countries generated fewer jobs over the past decade than those which grew more slowly. Lack of decent jobs in the face of economic growth will only exacerbate the frustration of young people, leading to deeper discontent and social unrest. The importance of creating a viable job market for the growing numbers of young people cannot be overemphasised.

Africa's economic growth is also at risk from rising inequality, environmental abuse and persistent poverty. Wealth generated by rapid growth and vast natural and mineral resources has not yet trickled down to the majority of Africans (UN; World Bank 2018a). When the World Bank examined the long-term economic wellbeing of countries, it found that most nations have achieved substantial gains in per capita wealth, with the sole exception of Africa. Indeed, Chart 2.3 shows there was a two percent fall in total wealth per capita in Africa over the past two decades, thus keeping the continent lagging further behind other developing regions. The decline – which is mainly due to high rates of population growth diluting the benefits from economic growth – does not bode well for achieving the SDG targets and harnessing the demographic dividend.

Chart 2.3: Trend in wealth per capita (in thousands US dollars) for Africa and other low and middle income countries



Source: Based on data from World Bank 2018a

Tax revenues are also crucial for investment in children and young people. Governments urgently need to improve domestic revenue mobilisation in order to expand the available resources and increase the amount of public expenditure in sectors benefiting children. Many African countries face significant tax collection challenges such as poor governance, weak tax and customs administrations, prevalence of hard-to-tax sectors, low taxpayer morale and lack of trust in public institutions (IMF 2018; Umar and Tsubira 2017).

In addition, persistent and wide-scale corruption hinders efforts to increase the money available to spend on child wellbeing. The African Union (AU), recognising that corruption is reaching epidemic proportions and is posing a major barrier to human rights and development, declared 2018 as African anti-corruption year, with the theme “Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation”. Corruption not only cripples the whole system of governance but reduces the efficiency and effectiveness of public investment and deprives families of much-needed health care, education and social protection. Building a better world for children requires commitment to combat corruption, wastage of resources and overall inefficiency in public services (see Box 2.1).

The data suggests that the economic context for child wellbeing and human development is promising, although clearly there are imbalances and deficiencies that need to be corrected. Today, African governments are generally far more conscious of, and committed to, economic development and pro-growth, equity-oriented macro-economic policies than their predecessors in the latter part of the last century. Unlike the lost decades of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, Africa's recent economic performance has been impressive and has the capacity to generate the resources needed to accelerate human development. However, there are also unmistakable signs that growth is not being matched by enhanced equity, increased employment and more investment in children and youth.

Box 2.1: Quality of public institutions and accountability mechanisms for better child wellbeing

Africa loses about USD 65 billion a year to illicit financial flows, mainly through those sectors of the economy, such as the extractive industry, which are heavily controlled by the political elite. The huge illegal draining of resources has robbed many Africans – especially women and children – of vital funds which could have been used to improve their wellbeing, and underline the need for robust accountability and transparency mechanisms.

Corruption and illicit financial flows are also major obstacles to mobilising the domestic revenue needed for sustainable development and human rights. Weak institutions and lack of accountability lead to inequality and dictatorship, and allow elites to plunder countries. While there are promising developments, most legislatures are ineffective in their oversight of the executive branch. Many governments are reluctant to pass laws giving citizens the right to information or to take concrete measures to curb corruption. Those countries that have transformed their economies demonstrate that open, accountable government is key for mobilising domestic revenue.

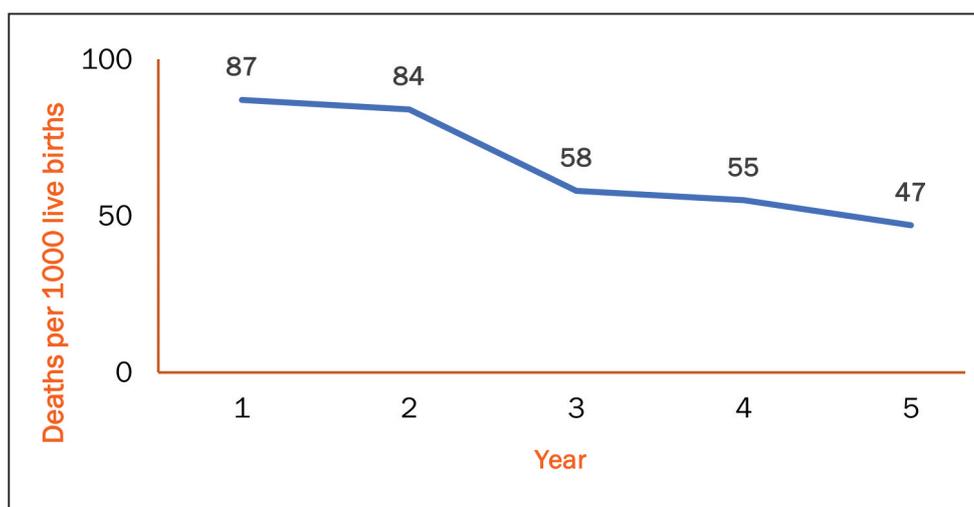
Sources: UNECA 2018; World Bank 2018a.

2.2 The State of the African Child: some progress, but not enough

The last few years have seen a positive political movement on behalf of children, and children's issues are higher on the African political agenda than ever before. In addition to the SDGs, there have been several Africa-specific initiatives to ensure that children are not left behind in economic and social development. These include, for example, the AU's Children Agenda 2040 and its 10-year implementation plan, as well as campaigns to tackle harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, violence against children and child undernutrition. Girls in particular have benefitted from these initiatives – for example, girls born today have a much greater chance of surviving and accessing health and education services than in previous decades. Nonetheless, girls still suffer from discriminatory attitudes and practices which exclude them from basic services and put them at higher risk of violence and exploitation.

Perhaps the most impressive achievement, as illustrated in Chart 2.4, is the remarkable reduction in child mortality over the past 15 years, which dropped by almost half from 87 to 47 infant deaths per thousand births. The Economist called this “the best story in development”, but much remains to be done given the wide variations between countries. Children in Somalia, Chad, Central Africa Republic and Sierra Leone, for example, are much more likely to die before reaching their fifth birthday than those in other African countries (UNICEF 2018a).

Chart 2.4: Decline in infant mortality rate (median for Africa)

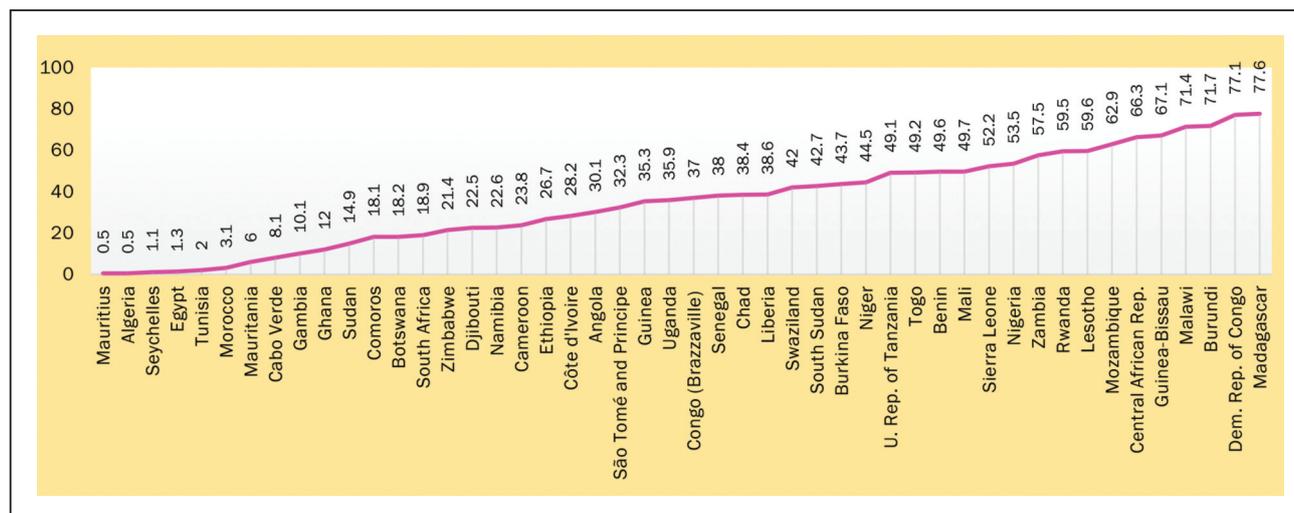


Source: Based on data from UNICEF 2018a; 2017a

2.3 Child Poverty: declining but still widespread

The UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights are clear that most people living in poverty are children, and that poverty in childhood leads to poverty as an adult. Even short periods of deprivation and exclusion can irreversibly harm a child’s chances of survival and development (OHCHR 2012).

Poverty exposes children to many risks including exploitation, neglect and abuse, particularly for girls (UN 2017a). Poverty not only deprives families of food and other necessities, it impacts on children’s cognitive and physical development (World Bank 2018). Using a poverty headcount ratio of USD 1.90 a day as a proxy measure of child poverty, the most recent data shows an encouraging reduction in child poverty across Africa. However, wide discrepancies remain – at one end of the scale is Madagascar where 77.6 percent of the population live in poverty, whilst in Mauritius and Algeria it is fewer than one percent (see Chart 2.5).

Chart 2.5: Poverty headcount ratio at USD 1.90 a day (2011 PPP) by country (percent of population), 2016

Source: Based on data from the World Bank 2018c.

Globally, children are more than twice as likely as adults to live in poverty, with a poverty headcount ratio of around 20 percent compared to nine percent among adults (UNICEF and World Bank 2016). Poverty is relatively higher in young children than adolescents, especially in regions – including Africa – with high birth rates (UN 2018b; UNFPA 2017).

Overall, global poverty shows a trend away from relatively stable, low income environments, towards countries characterised by fragility, ineffective accountability and high inequality (Save the Children 2016). Poverty is rife in states where institutions are weak, where shocks and conflict are common or widespread, and where the state does not have the will or the means to take strong action on poverty reduction. Children living in such countries are likely to experience multiple deprivations and violence, and are likely to remain poor and raise their own children in poverty. This vicious intergenerational cycle will continue until all children enjoy equal opportunities starting at birth (see Box 2.2).

Box 2.2: A call for action to tackle child poverty and inequality in Africa

The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP), the ESRC-DFID Impact Initiative for International Development Research, the Ethiopian Centre for Child Research, UNICEF and the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), organised an International Conference on “Putting Children First: Identifying Solutions and Taking Action to Tackle Poverty and Inequality in Africa” in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 October 2017. The participants came up with six priority measures to combat child poverty in Africa and called upon African governments, with their national and international partners, to take urgent action to implement them and improve the lives of children languishing in poverty. These priorities are:

1. Recognise child poverty as an explicit priority area in national strategies, policies and programmes, and as a distinct component of the struggle, in Africa as elsewhere, to eliminate poverty in all its dimensions.
2. Develop programmes specifically targeted to address poverty and deprivations among girls and boys at all stages of childhood.
3. Measure child poverty in its various dimensions.
4. Strengthen existing national information systems to focus on and distinguish the situation of the poorest families and most deprived children.
5. Strengthen research and analysis on the many dimensions and causes of child poverty, in order to inform and motivate policy action.
6. Establish an African Child Poverty Centre in Africa led by African researchers and supported by other associated networks.

Source: Global Coalition to End Child Poverty 2017.

2.4 Child undernutrition: a life-long burden

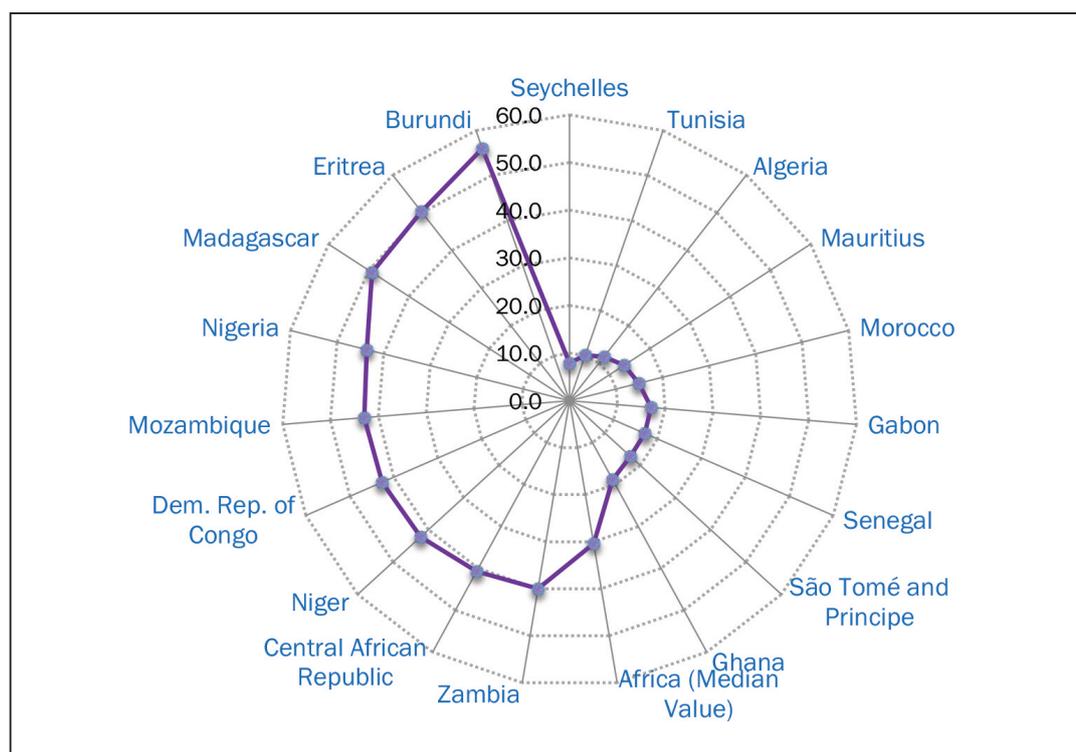
Perhaps the single most pressing challenge for Africa’s children is undernutrition. More than three-quarters of the world’s 151 million stunted children under five live in South Asia and Africa (WHO 2018a).

Although stunting among children under five years decreased (by eight percent) over the last 16 years, the current average level for the continent remains unacceptably high at 30.4 percent. However, the percentages hide the actual numbers of stunted children which has risen from 50.4 million to 58.5 million over the last 15 years (WHO 2017). In West and Central Africa, which carries a disproportionate burden, the number rose from 22.9 million in 2000 to 28.1 million in 2016 (Save the Children International 2018).

As with poverty, there are marked differences between countries. In Burundi and Eritrea, for example, more than half of all children under five suffer from stunting, rates in Madagascar remain persistently high, and more than half of African countries have rates above 30 percent (see Chart 2.6).

The grave consequences of child undernutrition are highlighted in the ‘Cost of Hunger in Africa’ study by the AU, UN Economic Commission for Africa and World Food Programme (WFP). Child undernutrition costs countries a significant proportion of their annual GDP – 16.5 percent in Ethiopia and 5.6 percent in Uganda, for example (AUC, NEPAD, UNECA and WFP 2014). The cost to human life is also substantial – up to half of all deaths in children under five are associated with undernutrition. Those who survive suffer impaired physical and cognitive capacity, leading to poor learning, low productivity, reduced income and fewer opportunities to escape poverty (UNICEF 2016).

Chart 2.6: Percentage of stunted children for selected countries in 2016



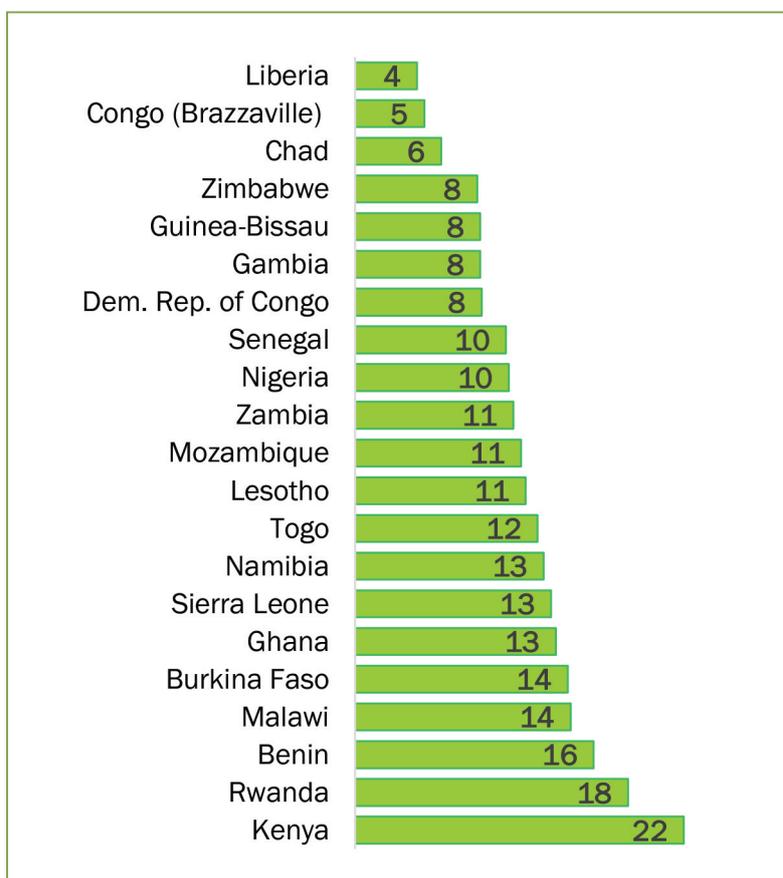
Source: Based on data from UNICEF 2017b

Chronic child undernutrition has many causes. Studies show that a diet lacking in proteins and micronutrients and other factors such as persistent famine, flooding and civil crises are among the main causes of the high levels of undernutrition in Africa (WHO 2017; Save the Children International 2018; Agbadi, Urke and Mittelmark 2017). The World Health Organisation (WHO) ‘minimum acceptable diet’ indicator shows if the food eaten by children aged 6–23 months is sufficiently diverse and frequent. Using this indicator, an average of just nine percent of African children receive a minimum acceptable diet. It is even lower in countries such as Liberia, Congo and Chad, but relatively higher in Kenya (see Chart 2.7).

Children living in food secure households are more likely than others to receive a minimum acceptable diet, but food security alone does not guarantee diversity. In 80 percent of food secure households, children still did not receive the WHO minimal acceptable diet (Agbadi, Urke and Mittelmark 2017). In other words, a household with enough food does not

necessarily mean well-nourished children. Studies in seven francophone West African countries shows that low maternal education, cultural taboos and limited access to information all contribute significantly to poor dietary diversity (Issaka et al. 2015).

Chart 2.7: Proportion of children aged 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet



Source: Based on data from WHO 2018a

Box 2.3: Breaking intergenerational practices contributing to child undernutrition

A study by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) designed to find ways to improve the diet and nutritional status of children in Malawi and Cambodia showed that poor infant and child feeding practices passed from older to younger mothers contributed to child undernutrition. Grandmothers in rural Malawi were encouraged to participate in community training sessions with remarkable results. The elderly women influenced young mothers to adopt new practices, and as a result there was a noticeable improvement in their infant feeding habits.

Source: FAO 2013

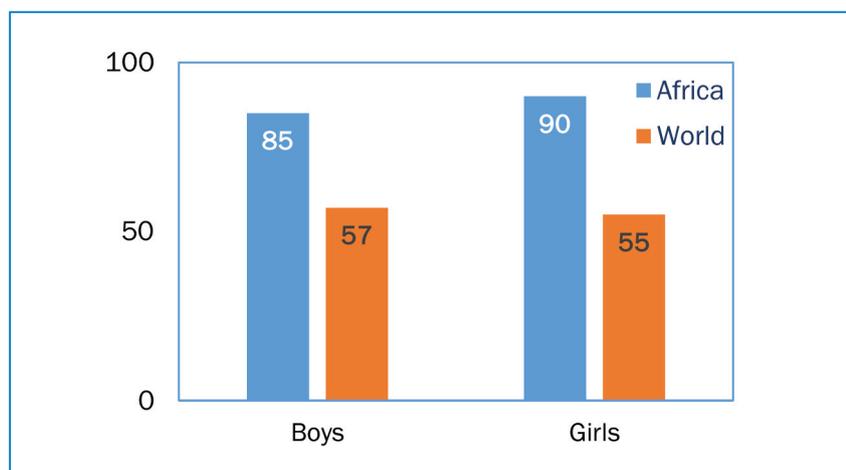
It is clear that tackling the root causes of child undernutrition – including inadequate diet, hygiene, feeding and care – is crucial for the social and economic transformation of Africa. There is need for integrated programmes to counter cultural beliefs which hamper proper feeding and to promote dietary diversity and frequency of feeding. There is also need specific programmes targeting marginalised groups in both rural and urban settings as well as generalised measures such as school feeding programmes. However, combating child undernutrition by itself will not build the human capital required to ensure sustainable growth in Africa. It needs to be complemented by radically increasing investment in high quality education and technology.

2.5 Children in school, but not learning

One of the main goals of the SDGs is to achieve inclusive, equitable, decent quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. Target 4.1 requires all children to complete primary and secondary education of a sufficient quality to ensure their learning, but recent findings suggest that while African children may attend school in large numbers, they are not learning.

Data published in September 2017 by UNESCO’s Institute for Statistics (UIS) is alarming: globally, more than half of children and adolescents are not learning. The overwhelming majority of these children are in Africa and southern Asia (UNESCO 2017a).

Chart 2.8: Proportion of primary school-age children in Africa not achieving minimum proficiency levels



Source: Based on data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), 2017b

Box 2.4: What is learning?

UNESCO defines learning as the acquisition of information, knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values, skills, competencies or behaviours through experience, practice, study or instruction. Primary education, for example, is categorised as level 1 in the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) and is designed to provide students with basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics. This in turn should establish a solid foundation for learning and understanding in core areas of knowledge, personal and social development, evaluated through a variety of methods including written, oral and practical tests or examinations.

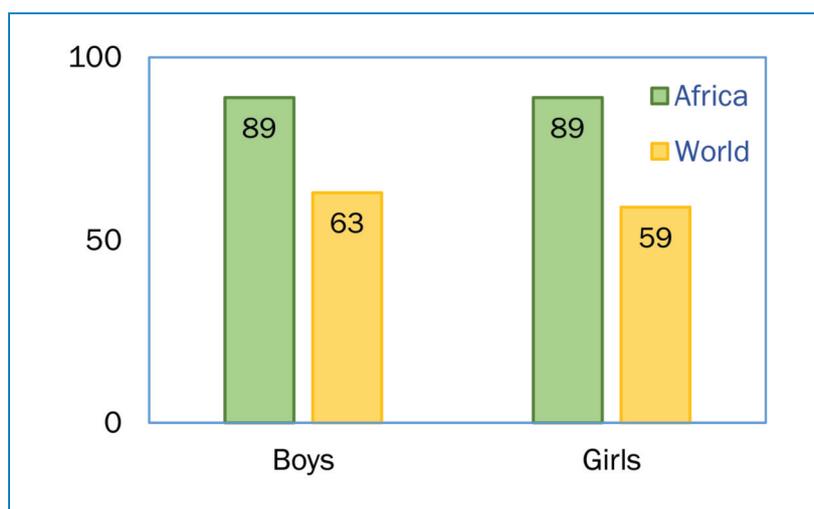
Children successfully completing primary education are therefore expected to show they have reached the required level for their age group by passing examinations or assessments specially designed to evaluate their knowledge, skills and competencies.

Every child of pre-primary, primary or secondary age should be supported to master the required knowledge, skills and competencies for these levels and to fulfil their cognitive, emotional and creative potential. A significant proportion of children failing to reach the expected level signals a poor quality of education and calls for urgent action to fix it.

Sources: UNESCO-UIS 2012; UNESCO 2004

The numbers may vary but they are all seriously alarming. According to UNICEF, nearly two out of every five children leave primary school without learning how to read, write or do simple arithmetic (UNICEF 2016). UNESCO (UNESCO 2017a) estimates that 85 percent of boys and 90 percent of girls in African primary schools are not learning (see Chart 2.8). The data for secondary education is equally concerning, as can be seen in Chart 2.9.

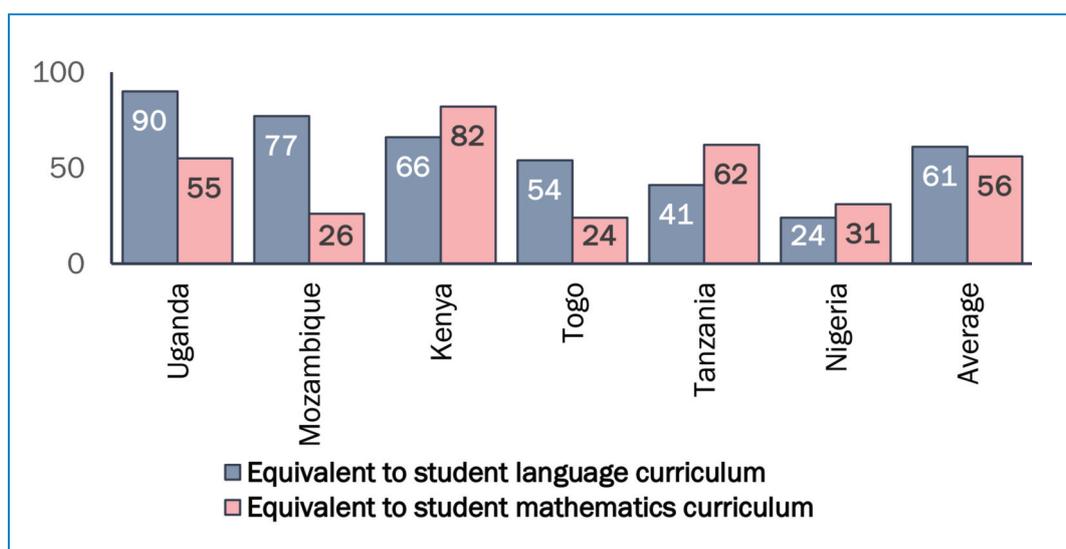
Chart 2.9: Proportion of lower secondary school-age adolescents in Africa not achieving minimum proficiency levels



Source: Based on data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), 2017a

The qualifications and knowledge of teachers are an important determinant of student learning, yet relatively few teachers reach the minimum standards on knowledge assessments and in most cases lack competence in the subjects they are expected to teach. Surprisingly, the average teacher performs little better in reading tests than the highest-performing grade six students. It is even worse when it comes to mathematics – assessments in six African countries, for example, showed that fewer than two-thirds of primary school teachers scored more than 80 percent for reading, and only just over half reached the same score in mathematics (see Chart 2.10). Classroom observations also showed that very few teachers are engaged in good teaching practices (World Bank 2018c).

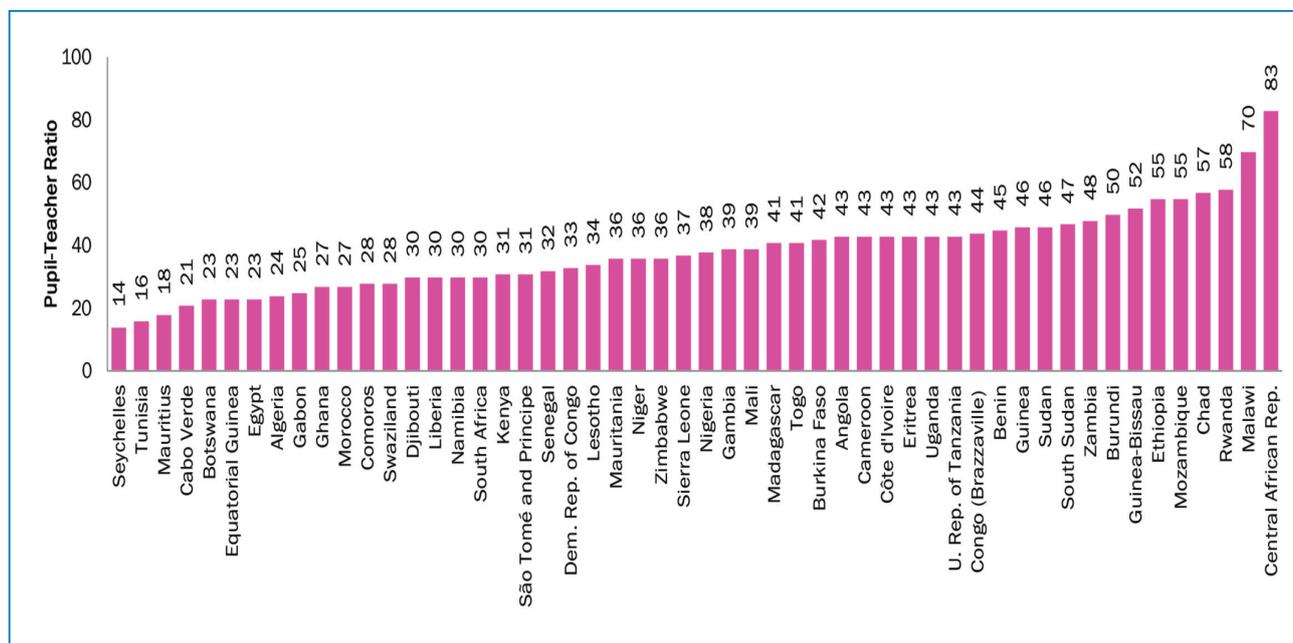
Chart 2.10: Percentage of primary school teachers who scored at least 80 percent on a test of grade 4 material



Source: Based on data from World Bank 2018c

Additional barriers to quality learning include teacher absenteeism and a high pupil-teacher ratio (PTR). Overcrowded classrooms with a PTR exceeding 40:1 make it exceedingly difficult to take lessons or provide quality education (Benbow et al., 2007), yet as Chart 2.11 shows, average PTR currently surpasses the recommended level and is particularly high in Central African Republic (83:1) and Malawi (70:1).

Chart 2.11: Primary education pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) by country



Source: Based on Data from the World Bank 2018c

Taken together, Africa's serious educational and learning deficiencies threaten to undermine social and economic development. By denying young people a decent education, African governments are wasting the chance to harness the demographic dividend and build human capital. Without urgent action to improve learning outcomes at all levels of education, most countries in Africa will miss SDG target 4.1.

2.6 Conflicts and crises: making a bad situation even worse

African children continue to suffer devastating effects from protracted conflicts and crises. Millions of Africans, many of them children, are displaced both inside and outside their country by war, violence and disasters (IDMC 2017). In South Sudan alone, more than four million children face famine, disease, forced recruitment and lack of access to schooling (UNICEF 2018b). Recurring drought, continuing conflict and chronic insecurity in eastern Africa has left many families with no other option but to move from their homes (Box 2.5). A lack of effective organised response has further exacerbated the plight of children in crisis zones (Save the Children International 2018).

A study by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) shows children are 24 times more likely to die from illness and injury during armed conflict than in peacetime. Conflicts and crises increase the risk of girls being trafficked or suffering sexual and gender-based violence (ACERWC 2016). The study also shows that infant deaths go up by 50 percent and child undernutrition by 15 percent during periods of conflict. Children caught up in conflicts are less likely to complete either primary or secondary school, and only half of them get the chance to complete lower secondary school (World Bank 2018c). More than a third of out-of-school children are found in conflict

zones. It is impossible to overstate the long-term damage caused by childhood conflict trauma and the life-long consequences on self-esteem, productivity and positive engagement in community and state building.

Box 2.5: Ethiopia now tops the number of people displaced due to conflict

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia has reached 2.8 million in September 2018 from 1.6 million at the beginning of the year. The recent conflicts in various parts of the country have contributed to the growing numbers of IDPs and to reports of horrific atrocities including rape of children and women.

Democratic Republic of Congo is the other country that suffered from an increase in internal conflict, particularly in the provinces of North and South Kivu. Around 922,000 people – up 50 percent on the previous year – were forced to flee their homes, sometimes multiple times. The Kivus now account for more than half of the 2.2 million people displaced in DRC, yet despite the escalating violence and displacement and two decades of conflict, DRC remains largely off the international radar.

Nigeria is another crisis hot spot, with more than 500,000 new displacements in the already-deprived Lake Chad region as a result of violence committed by Boko Haram and military operations against the group. The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan also deepened with 281,000 new displacements reported, some in areas previously considered stable.

As a result of these situations, Africa overtook the Middle East as the region with the highest number of people newly displaced by conflict.

Sources: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) 2017; UNICEF 2018b; Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, September 2018.

The terrible impact of conflict on children and women underlines the urgency of addressing its root causes. Lack of accountability both provokes conflict and hinders our ability to prevent and end it. Mounting grievances create tension between the state and its citizens, especially the poor and marginalised, and leads to violent conflict and displacement. Accountability is essential to halt the cycles of conflict and disaster and to create foster human rights for all, including children.

Box 2.6: Children with disabilities in Africa: a life of stigma, abuse and exclusion

Children with disabilities face extreme forms of violence, stigma and discrimination, primarily due to misconceptions rooted in cultural beliefs and traditions. Children with disabilities are twice as likely to become victims of violence than their able-bodied peers; fewer than 10 percent of children with disabilities in Africa receive any form of education and only two percent attend school. For example, 76 percent of children with disabilities in Sierra Leone and 67 percent in Central African Republic are absent from school. In addition, most are also denied access to adequate health care due to physical barriers or lack of transport.

Lack of integrated policies and cross-departmental programmes (even within government), disconnected national and sub-national initiatives, and poor provision of services are all major obstacles to inclusion and equitable access. There have been some improvements, but much more needs to be done to uphold the fundamental principle of non-discrimination and to promote, respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all children with disabilities.

Source: The African Report on Children with Disabilities (ACPF 2014c).

2.7 Every child matters: a fundamental principle

Regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, wealth or background, every child should be given a fair and equal chance in life. This fundamental principle must be the foundation on which laws, policies and programmes targeting children are formulated, implemented and monitored.

Africa includes nearly half the world's 19 most unequal countries, and inequality is a major barrier both to realising the rights and wellbeing of children and to achieving the SDGs (Save the Children 2018).

Box 2.7: Addressing extreme inequality

The benefits of economic growth continue to be concentrated in the hands of the few. As a result, the world is experiencing the extraordinary phenomenon of one new billionaire every two days. Their collective wealth increased by USD 762 billion in 2017 – enough to end extreme poverty seven times over.

Conversely, half the global population saw no increase in income at all. Oxfam estimates that 62 individuals now account for as much wealth as the poorest 3.7 billion. The richest one percent continue to own more wealth than the whole of the rest of the global population. Africa is no different. The richest man in Nigeria earns enough interest in one year to lift two million people out of extreme poverty. We need urgent action to close this yawning inequality gap.

Oxfam's 2017 "Commitment to Reduce Inequality Index" ranks 152 countries based on their efforts to close the gap between rich and poor. Predictably, many African countries feature low down in the rankings, with Nigeria at the bottom.

Continued to next page...

Least performing countries in Africa in reducing inequality

Country	Ranking
Nigeria	152
Swaziland	140
Madagascar	135
Cameroon	133
São Tomé and Príncipe	130
Cabo Verde	129
Guinea-Bissau	128
Egypt	126
Angola	123
Central African Republic	122

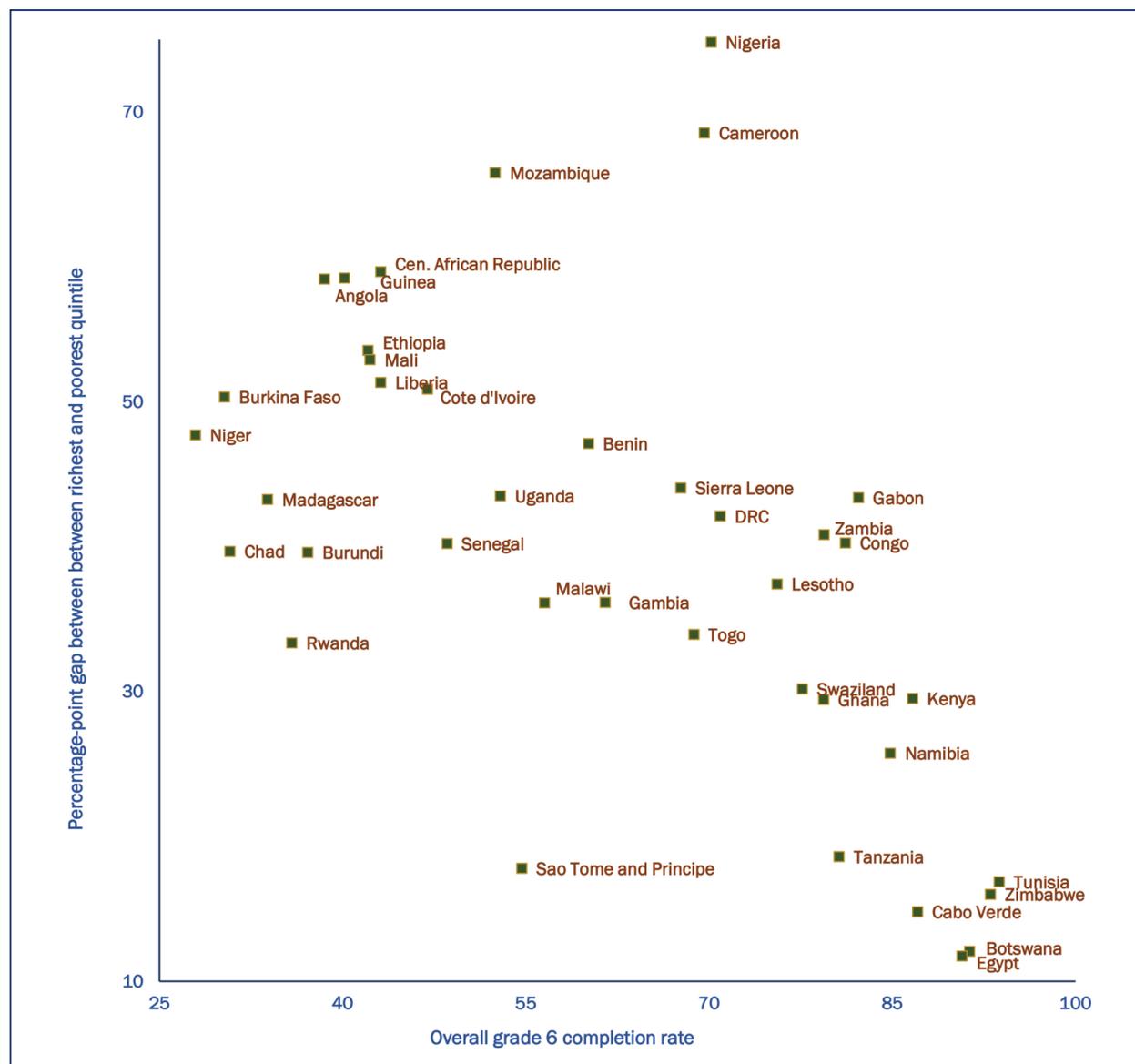
It is clear that African governments need to redouble their efforts to introduce policies aimed at reducing extreme inequality by redistributing wealth and limiting the influence of wealthy individuals and groups over economic and development policy priorities.

Source: Oxfam International 2018; 2017.

Poverty brings many challenges. Discrimination against poor people is widespread and widely tolerated; stunting and mortality rates are higher among children living in poor families (UNICEF 2016); school completion rates are visibly higher for children from wealthier families than those living in poverty (World Bank 2018c).

Chart 2.12 compares school completion rates between the richest and poorest quintiles in 40 African countries. The gap is especially wide in Nigeria (75 percent difference), Cameroon (70 percent) and Mozambique (65 percent). Countries with the smallest gaps include Egypt and Botswana (around 12 percent).

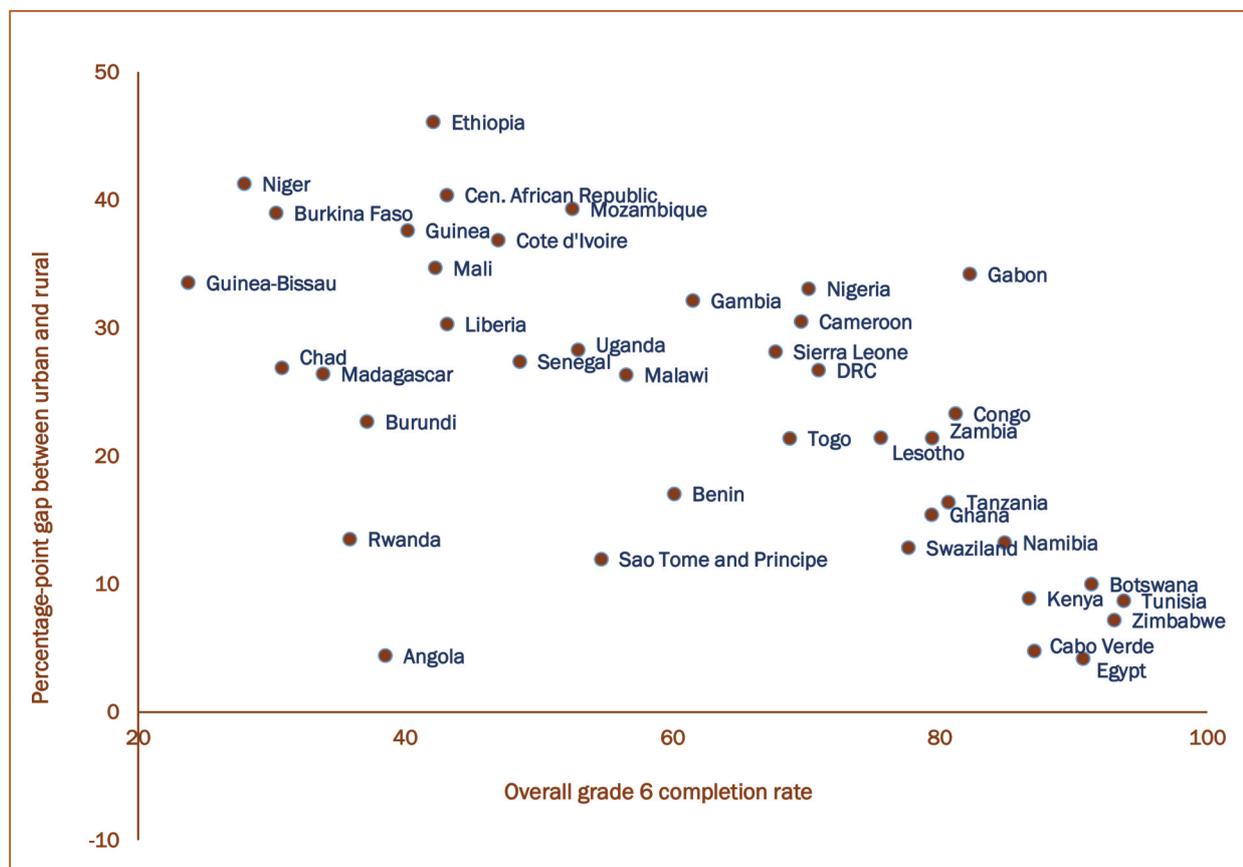
Chart 2.12: Gaps in grade six completion rates by household wealth



Source: Based on Data from the World Bank 2018a

Multi-country surveys such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) confirm access to services depends largely on whether you live in the city or countryside. Completion of grade six education, for example, varies widely according to place of residence – Ethiopia has a completion gap between children in urban and rural settings of 46 percent, while in Niger and Central African Republic it is more than 40 percent (see Chart 2.13).

Paradoxically, it is cities which tend to benefit from high-profile, high-budget projects, thereby exacerbating inequalities between rural and urban areas. In Zambia, much of the 2018 water and sanitation budget is being spent on building and upgrading infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas, to the potential detriment of health, water and sanitation facilities in poorer rural communities (UNICEF and ZIPAR 2017).

Chart 2.13: Gaps in grade six completion rates between children living in urban and rural settings

Source: Based on Data from the World Bank 2018a

Gender is also a factor in inequality, though not as significant as place of residence or wealth. In some countries such as Central African Republic, there was a 20-point gap between boys and girls completing grade six schooling. There were some exceptions, such as Lesotho and Swaziland, where the gap was reversed – completion rates were respectively 24 and 13 percent lower for boys than for girls. In general, however, girls from poor families living in rural areas are much less likely to complete both primary and secondary school (World Bank 2018a; UNESCO 2018).

Undernutrition also disproportionately affects certain groups of children. Children with disabilities and those living in rural parts of Africa are more likely to be stunted than those from urban environments and with no disabilities (Save the Children 2018; ACPF 2014c). In Burundi, for example, stunting rates are not only higher among children living in the poorest households, but are increasing. If current trends continue, stunting could be as high as 72 percent among the poorest 20 percent by 2030 (World Bank 2018c).

The data suggests that child wellbeing outcomes are much higher when investing in the most deprived, vulnerable and marginalised groups of children. UNICEF's study based on 51 countries shows that disparities narrowed as services to the poorest households and communities got better (see Box 2.7). Furthermore, every USD 1 million spent on health

services for the poorest children prevented on average nearly twice as many deaths as the equivalent sum spent on better off children (UNICEF 2017b). These experiences show the need for tailored programmes which support the disadvantaged and create equal learning, working and earning opportunities leading to a dignified and fulfilling life.

Box 2.8: Learning lessons from high-impact health and nutrition interventions targeting the poor

Eight years ago, a UNICEF global assessment of under-five mortality rates revealed they were falling faster among better-off children than those living in poverty. The analysis showed that the poorest children were nearly twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday as children growing up in better circumstances. The study provided compelling evidence of the need to target the very poor in order to narrow the gap (UNICEF 2017a).

High-impact interventions were introduced in Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Malawi to tackle the major causes of child death, including pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria. The programmes included expanding vaccinations, promoting insecticide-treated nets, and scaling up efforts to prevent child undernutrition. 4,300 village clinics were set up in hard-to-reach locations and child health days were organised twice a year to promote public awareness. The result was a rapid and equitable increase in, among other things, coverage of insecticide-treated nets, early initiation of breastfeeding and skilled attendance at birth, all of which significantly helped to reduce under-five mortality rates.

These experiences clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of high-impact interventions, and other countries with high child mortality rates should be keen to learn from them.

Source: UNICEF 2017a.

2.8 Conclusion

Africa's progress on school enrolment, health services, poverty and infant mortality is impressive, but is nowhere near enough for a continent which will be home to one billion children by 2050. Short-term successes such as more schools or clinics – welcome though they are – must not get in the way of long-term investment in children and young people.

Business as usual is simply not acceptable. Gradual improvements in child wellbeing are encouraging, but more radical and sustained efforts are needed. We must leap from an Africa of emaciated, undernourished, stunted, and poorly schooled children to one where they are fully physically and mentally developed, well equipped to compete with their peers in the rest of the world and engaged effectively in an ever more competitive and increasingly globalised world.

Given the parlous state of child wellbeing, the looming child population explosion and the need to compete in the global economy, African governments must go much further than the minimum obligations of the CRC and ACRWC. The future of Africa and its children requires an ambitious agenda to transform the current woefully poor condition of Africa's children.

3

CHILD PROTECTION IN AFRICA: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

3.1 Background

Governments are obliged by international law to adopt and implement appropriate laws and other measures to protect children (as reflected in Article 1, ACRWC; Article 4, CRC), and failure to do so brings huge costs. Child protection is not just about human rights but about the impact on development. Exposure to violence, abuse and exploitation, particularly in early childhood, has long-lasting detrimental effects on health, education, behaviour, productivity, earnings potential, and the ability to engage in social, economic and political life (UN 2018c). The financial cost related to physical, psychological and sexual violence of children is estimated to be as high as eight percent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – many times more than the investment required to prevent violence from happening in the first place (Pereznieto, Montes, Langston and Routier 2016).

African governments have made significant progress in child protection through law reform and national plans of action. Unfortunately, however, laws are often poorly implemented, plans of action rarely translate into concrete results, and child protection systems remain weak.

As we have seen, child protection is one of the three main dimensions of the Child-Friendliness Index (CFI) for tracking governments' relative performance in fulfilling their obligations to provide adequate protection to children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. In the revised CFI, performance in improving child protection is ranked by combining the scores from two sub-dimensions:

- a) the legal and policy framework relating to children, and
- b) child protection outcomes which reflect government efforts to enforce and implement laws and policies.

Box 3.1: Pioneering civil society child protection initiatives

African civil society organisations have been working hard, particularly over the past ten years to develop strategies for promoting and strengthening child protection. The Inter Agency Working Group on Child Protection Systems Strengthening, ACPF's Child Legal Protection Centre (CLPC), and the African Partnership to End Violence against Children (APEVAC) are all pioneers in the field.

In 2012, the Inter Agency Working Group devised a child protection system strengthening model based on interventions which complement and strengthen all other elements of the system. These holistic initiatives are still relatively uncommon and small scale in Africa, but increasing their scope and reach might be a way to expand preventive efforts. There is a need to establish stronger child protection systems which provide holistic services for children.

The CLPC – initially established by the ACPF in Ethiopia but now integrated into the government to ensure its sustainability – is a good example of a practical, functional child protection system offering legal advice, legal representation and psycho-social support. It not only successfully provides direct legal protection but also initiates pioneering interpretations of law in line with the CRC and ACRWC. The CLPC has contributed significantly to helping disadvantaged children in Ethiopia and is an example of good practice which could be followed when establishing similar centres in other African countries.

ACPF also initiated the African Partnership to End Violence against Children (APEVAC), a pan-African coalition which campaigns for eradication of violence against children to be taken seriously by the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). APEVAC collaborates closely with the Global Partnership to End violence against Children, especially in pathfinder countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda). It builds national capacity to roll out strategies to prevent violence against children using the new INSPIRE model: I for Implementation and enforcement of laws; N for Norms and values; S for Safe environments; P for Parenting and caregiver support; I for Income and economic strengthening; R for Response and support; E for Education and life skills.

Source: ACPF 2018b; 2011c

3.2 Progress in the legal and policy framework for the protection of children

We can measure progress on legal and policy frameworks using two criteria: ratification by governments of international and regional child rights instruments, and national laws and policies enacted to provide adequate protection.

3.2.1 Progress in ratification of international and regional child rights instruments

Ratification is an important first step to protect children, as it obliges governments to harmonise their domestic laws and implement them in line with the treaties' standards and principles (OHCHR 2012). The African Report on Child Wellbeing measures progress against nine international and regional child rights treaties:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC or 'African Children's Charter');
- Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC);

- Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC);
- Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OP3);
- ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (ILO 138);
- ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO 182);
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and
- The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption (HCIA).

African governments have made significant progress in ratifying these key legal instruments - for example, Table 3.1 shows that all but five countries have ratified the ACRWC. Over the last five years alone, 14 African countries have become party to the CRPD and there is near-universal ratification of ILO Conventions 138 and 182, with only one country in each case outstanding.

Table 3.1: Progress in ratification of child-related instruments in Africa, 2018

Ser. No.	Child rights instruments	Status of ratification
1	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)	All but 5 countries (DRC, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia)
2	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	All countries
3	Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC)	All but 7 countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan and Zambia)
4	The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC)	All, but 8 countries (Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Liberia, Mauritania, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan and Zambia)
5	The Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OP3)	Ratified by Gabon only
6	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	All but 7 countries (Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Libya and South Sudan)
7	ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (ILO 138)	All but Liberia
8	ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO 182)	All but Eritrea
9	The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption (HCICA)	Ratified by 20 countries (see Annex Table A3.3)

Source: Compiled by ACPF from different treaty based websites as of June 30, 2018.

Despite this encouraging progress, much work remains to be done. For example, Gabon is the only country so far to have ratified OP3, which entered into force in 2014. OP3 sets out a complaints procedure for child rights violations and is important because it both recognises children's agency and allows them to bring complaints directly to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (OHCHR 2014). OP3 is included in the revised CFI precisely because it is based on the principles of government child-friendliness.

Inter-country adoption has declined sharply in recent years, but it is still widespread. So far only 20 African countries have ratified the HCICA. ACPF's studies have shown that many African countries lack the necessary standards, procedures and systems to deal with it. Ratifying the HCICA would oblige governments to start putting effective protection mechanisms for adopted children in place.¹

Digitally-generated sexual abuse content is an increasingly serious problem, and both the CRC and ACRWC require governments to protect children from sexual exploitation, abuse and child pornography. Although not included in the CFI, the Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection, adopted by the AU in 2014, is important because it obliges states to criminalise the production, procurement, dissemination and possession of child pornography through a computer system. Yet the convention has only been signed by ten states² and ratified by just two,³ meaning it has not yet come into force. It is essential that African governments ratify the convention and follow up quickly with legislative and regulatory measures.

It must be noted that ratification of international and regional instruments is important, but it does not automatically prove commitment. Unless accompanied by political will and actions by governments, it will not translate into reality. Furthermore, ratification is sometimes accompanied by reservations concerning specific provisions. Sudan, for example, has made reservations to the ACRWC on Article 11(6) regarding the education of children who become pregnant before completing their education, and to Article 21(2) regarding child marriage. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child has called for an end to such reservations as they limit a government's obligations under the treaty, and for proof that they have been withdrawn.^{4,5}

¹ Para 5.3.6, General Comment No. 5 of the ACERWC, on State Party Obligations under the ACRWC (Article 1) and systems strengthening for child protection, 2018.

² Benin (28/01/2015), Chad (14/06/2015), Comoros (29/01/2018), Congo (12/06/2015), Ghana (04/07/2017), Guinea-Bissau (31/01/2015), Mauritania (26/02/2015), Sierra Leone (29/01/2016), Sao Tome & Principe (29/01/2016) and Zambia (29/01/2016)

³ Mauritius (06/03/2018) and Senegal (03/08/2016)

⁴ Current reservations to the ACRWC on child protection (see <http://www.acerwc.org/reservations/>)

- Botswana: Does not consider itself bound by Article 2 which defines the child.
- Egypt: Does not consider itself bound by Article 24 regarding adoption (although this is under review and a similar reservation to the CRC has already been removed); Article 30 (a-e) regarding the special treatment of children of imprisoned mothers; Article 44 which establishes that the Committee can receive Communications; and Article 45 (1) regarding the Committee conducting investigations in member states.
- Sudan: Does not consider itself bound by Article 11 (6) regarding the education of children who become pregnant before completing their education or Article 21 (2) regarding child marriage.

⁵ Para 5.3.6, General Comment No. 5 of the ACERWC, on State Party Obligations under the (Article 1) and systems strengthening for child protection, 2018.

3.2.2 National laws and policies

Ratification has no meaning unless treaties and conventions are fully incorporated into national legislation and effectively enforced. We have assessed how far national laws on children are harmonised with international standards and principles using three key criteria:

- i) Existence of domestic laws on:
 - child trafficking;
 - sexual exploitation of children;
 - corporal punishment;
 - harmful traditional practices;
 - free education.

- ii) Whether a minimum age has been set in accordance with international standards, for:
 - admission to employment;
 - criminal responsibility;
 - marriage (also whether it is gender discriminatory).

- iii) Existence of relevant structures and mechanisms for implementation which include:
 - a government body to coordinate and monitor a national strategy for children;
 - child-friendly courts;
 - a national plan of action for the survival, protection and development of children.

Legal protection of children from violence, harmful practices and trafficking

Violence against children (VAC) is widespread across Africa in homes, schools, communities, workplaces, and even care and justice systems (ACPF 2014b). Certain groups of children are particularly vulnerable to violence – girls, for example, have higher risks of being trafficked and exposed to harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

There has been little progress on the use of corporal punishment, which remains a common practice. As yet only six African countries (Cabo Verde, Republic of Congo, Kenya, South Sudan, Togo and Tunisia) have outlawed corporal punishment in all settings (Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, 2018). Corporal punishment is still practised in schools in more than half of African countries, although the vast majority (45 countries) prohibit it as a sentence for crime – the exceptions being Algeria, Botswana, Libya, Mauritania and Zimbabwe, with Nigeria and Tanzania having partial bans.

South Sudan remains the only country that does not criminalise different forms of sexual conduct involving children, including sexual exploitation and child pornography. More encouragingly, the 2007 Criminal Law Amendment Act of South Africa has broadened the definition of rape to include a wide range of crimes that commonly occur against children e.g. sexual grooming, sexual exploitation, and use of and exposure to pornography (ACPF 2013).

FGM is still a common harmful practice in some areas. However, it is criminalised in at least 28 African countries,⁶ of which 11 have separate statutes or policies on the prohibition of FGM or other harmful practices (See Table 3.2). Sanctions for FGM range from fines to imprisonment, and, where FGM results in the death of the victim, life imprisonment (in Uganda) or the death penalty (in Kenya). Some countries specify that consent of the victim cannot be a defence for the perpetrator, while in Benin, Djibouti and Eritrea failure to report FGM is a criminal offence.

Table 3.2: Countries with separate statutes or policies on FGM

Country	Statute
Benin	Law No. 2003-03 on the Suppression of Genital Mutilation of Women in Benin Republic
Chad	Act No. 06/PR/2002 on Reproductive Health
Central African Republic	Order No. 66/16 of 22 February 1966 on Abolition of Excision
Côte d'Ivoire	Law on Female Genital Mutilation (1998)
Eritrea	Proclamation 158/2007 to Abolish Female Circumcision
Kenya	Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2011
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enugu State FGM (Prohibition) Law of 2004 - Edo State Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prohibition Law 2000 - Bayelsa State FGM (Prohibition) Law of 2004
Togo	Act No. 98-016 of 17 November 1998 Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation in Togo
Uganda	Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act No. 5 of 2010
Cameroon	National Plan of Action to Combat Female Genital Mutilation
Mali	National Programme for Combating the Practice of Excision (2010-2014)

Source: Compiled by ACPF from the laws/policies of African States

Child trafficking in Africa is dealt with under two types of legislation - child-specific laws or those that cover all persons including children. The laws in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon and Togo focus on children, while most other countries have anti-trafficking laws that apply to the trafficking of all persons including children. Only Chad, Tunisia and Zimbabwe do not specifically criminalise child trafficking as a major violation of human rights (see Table A3.4 in the Annexes). Penalties include imprisonment (Algeria, Ghana, Niger, South Africa and Zambia), a fine or a fine plus imprisonment (Botswana, Congo and Sierra Leone), or the death penalty (Uganda).

⁶ These are Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

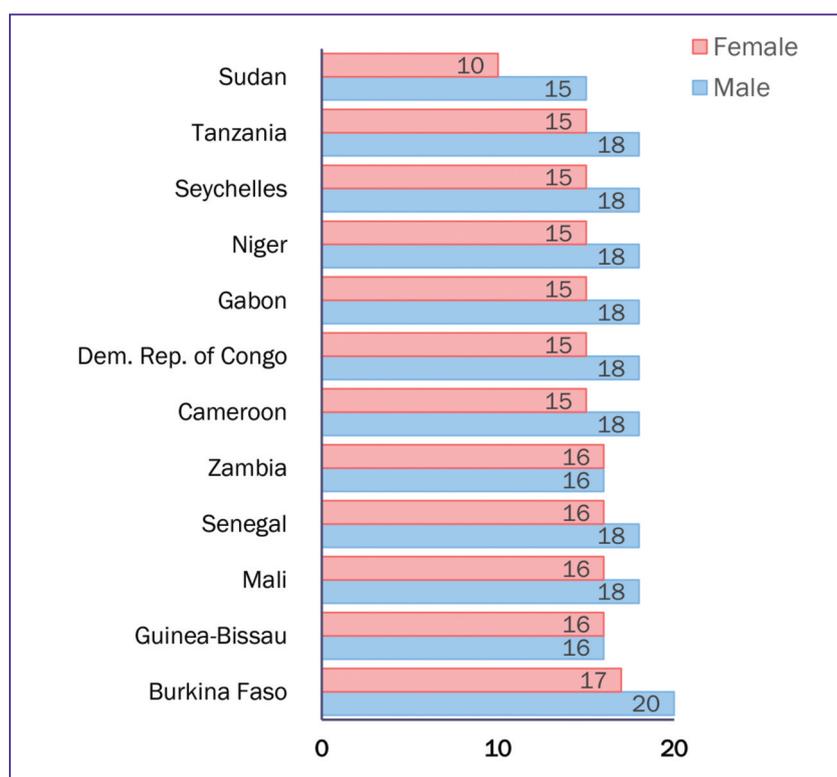
Minimum ages of marriage, employment, criminal responsibility and military recruitment

a. Minimum age of marriage

Many African countries have made progress in harmonising minimum ages of marriage, criminal responsibility and admission to employment in line with international and regional standards.

Of the 52 countries included in this assessment, 36 have set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years or above, equally for both girls and boys. Algeria, Lesotho and Rwanda have a higher minimum age with no gender discrimination, while in Burundi, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo it is 18 years or above for girls but higher for boys. The remaining countries either have a minimum age of marriage that is below 18 years for both girls and boys, or a discriminatory minimum age of marriage with that of girls being below 18 years (see Chart 3.1). In recent years, commendable progress has been made in some countries – notably Zimbabwe and Malawi – to bring the law on minimum age of marriage into line with international standards (see Box 3.2 for details).

Chart 3.1: African countries with minimum age of marriage below 18 years



Source: Compiled by ACPF from the laws/policies of African countries

Box 3.2: Harmonising the minimum age of marriage

In January 2016, Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court led the way when it unanimously ruled that section 22 of the Marriages Act, which set the minimum age of marriage at 16 years for girls and 18 years for boys, was unconstitutional and therefore invalid, as no person of either sex should be married before 18. However Parliament has yet to act on this decision and amend the Marriages Act.

Malawi is another example of using regional and international mechanisms to pressurise governments into passing laws to realise children's rights. In 2015, Malawi passed the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act which set the minimum age at 18 years for both boys and girls, but unfortunately this put the law at odds with the Constitution which allowed for children aged as young as 15 years to marry. Under Article 44 of the ACRWC, a communication on the definition of a child was filed with the ACERWC in *Institute for Human Rights Development in Africa (IHRDA) v Malawi*, and the Malawi government ended up amending the Constitution in February 2017 to raise the age of minority from 16 to 18. The constitutional amendment also repealed the provisions that allowed children to marry at 15 years with parental consent.

Sources: Loveness Mudzuru & Ruvimbo Tsopodzi v Minister of Justice, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs et al Judgment No. CCZ 12/2015, Const. Application No. 79/14; Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 3 of 2016; Malawi Constitution (1994).

b. Minimum age of sexual consent

Some countries set conflicting minimum ages for marriage and sexual consent (see Table 3.3). In Sudan, for example, the minimum age of sexual consent for a girl is 18 years, but girls as young as 10 years are legally allowed to marry. Furthermore, the law specifically protects the husband from prosecution for sex within marriage to a girl aged under 18 years (Section 316(a), Sudanese Penal Code, 2003). Given that many cultures view consummation as a prerequisite for a valid marriage, governments should act to ensure the minimum age of marriage is set higher than that of sexual consent, and where such consent is allowed for children aged below 18 years, it must never be given in the context of abuse or exploitation of the child (ACPF 2013).

Table 3.3: Minimum age of sexual consent in Africa⁷

Minimum age of sexual consent at 18 years (14 countries)	Minimum age of sexual consent below the age of 18 years			Discriminatory minimum age of sexual consent		
	At 16 years (16 countries)	At 15 years (8 countries)	Below 15 years (10 countries)	Country	Boys	Girls
Democratic Republic of Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda	Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia,, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe	Algeria, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Mali and Morocco	Angola, Cabo Verde, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Guinea, Madagascar, Niger, Tanzania and Togo	The Gambia	None	16
				Seychelles	14	15
				São Tomé and Príncipe	None	16
				Sierra Leone	None	14
				Sudan	None	18
				Tanzania	None	14
Tunisia	None	15				

Source: Compiled by ACPF from the laws/policies of African countries.

⁷ In Gambia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Tunisia, the law provides for a minimum age of sexual consent for girls only, and not for boys.

c. Minimum age of employment

ILO Convention 138 sets the general minimum age of employment at 15 years but allows for developing countries to set it at 14 (13 for light work). All African countries except Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda have domestic laws in line with the ILO, and 29 of them set the minimum employment age higher than 14 years. In practice, however, poor enforcement means many children start work at a very young age, and child labour continues to be a widespread phenomenon across the continent.

d. Minimum age of criminal responsibility

In 2007, the UN Committee recommended a minimum age of criminal responsibility of 12 years. Chart 3.2 shows that several African countries have yet to comply with the CRC standard, but 39 of the 52 countries we examined have set it at 12 or above, while Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique and São and Tomé Príncipe have a relatively older minimum of 16.

Chart 3.2: Countries with minimum age of criminal responsibility below 12 years in Africa



Source: Compiled by ACPF from the laws/policies of African countries

Although not included in the CFI, we also compared the minimum age of compulsory recruitment into the army against the OPAC recommendation of 18 years, and found that almost all countries in Africa meet this standard - including some which have not yet ratified the Optional Protocol.

(ii) Free and compulsory education

Education is both a fundamental human right per se and a means by which other basic rights can be exercised. Education is guaranteed as a substantive right in the Constitutions of most African nations,⁸ although some countries such as Benin, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Liberia and Nigeria merely recognise education as a duty of government or a principle of national policy, and not expressly as a right.

Primary education is free in all African countries except for Comoros, Mozambique, South Africa, while 47 countries make it both free and compulsory,⁹ and some impose a penalty for denying a child the right to education. For example, parents in Uganda who fail to send a child to school face penalties ranging from a fine to a year in prison, and it is a similar story in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

Free and compulsory education is just the start. Governments should set a common minimum age for leaving school and starting work, as any discrepancy between the two could result either in a child failing to complete compulsory schooling or starting work before the legal minimum age. To ensure this does not happen, most countries have a minimum age for completing primary education that is consistent with the legal minimum age for entering into employment. Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe are exceptions because the minimum age of compulsory education in those countries is higher than the minimum age of employment.

Most importantly, governments must endeavour not only to make education free and compulsory, but also inclusive for children with disabilities. In this regard, Algeria, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Libya and Morocco have included the right to inclusive education in their Constitutions, while a few other countries have it either in their subsidiary laws or policies.¹⁰

Structures, national plans of action and implementation

National laws, and international and regional treaties, need appropriate institutions and coordination to put them into practice (ACPF 2016). Government departments, agencies and ministries must be established to coordinate and oversee effective implementation together with parliament, the judiciary and law enforcement bodies.

Every African government has a coordinating body for children in the form of a council, ministry or department. As well as coordination and oversight, they are mandated to report regularly on progress in implementing the treaties. Most African countries have submitted their periodic reports to the CRC but, when it comes to the ACRWC, only 34 out of 47 State

⁸ These are Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Liberia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

⁹ All the countries listed above with the exception of Botswana and Sierra Leone, where free and compulsory education is provided for by an Act of Parliament.

¹⁰ In Child Acts (Benin, Liberia, Namibia, South Sudan and Sudan); in laws on persons with disabilities (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Tanzania, Uganda); in the Education Policy (Ethiopia, Lesotho, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Somaliland); and in the Education Act (Zambia).

Parties have submitted at least one report to the ACERWC - and of these, only eight¹¹ have submitted their periodic reports on the implementation of the Charter (ACERWC 2018).

The CRC makes it clear¹² that implementation of children's rights requires a national strategy leading to a common, unifying, comprehensive and rights-based programme of action. Many African countries have followed this guidance and developed a National Action Plan for children, which as the ACERWC noted, can serve as overarching frameworks for the coordination of national interventions.¹³ Unfortunately, the reality is that these documents have been largely ineffective in guiding national efforts to realise children's rights, mainly because they tend to be 'one size fits all' strategies which fail to take national realities into account, lack broad national ownership or political buy-in, set unrealistic targets and are almost always under-resourced (ACPF 2016).

The other important aspect of enhancing children's protection is improving access to justice. Children may come in contact with the law as the accused, as victims or as witnesses. The recent ACPF report *Spotlighting the Invisible: Justice for Children in Africa* revealed that despite significant progress, there are numerous barriers which prevent African children from accessing justice, and that vulnerable groups of children find it more difficult to access justice than others. Most countries lack the capacity in specialised judicial training and expertise in social work to handle children's cases appropriately (ACPF 2018b).

3.3 Child protection outcomes

One new element of the revised CFI is the sub-dimension on achievement of child protection outcomes, which aims to measure how well African governments are enforcing child protection laws and achieving concrete results in protecting children from abuse and exploitation. We have used birth registration, child labour and child marriage rates as outcome indicators to assess implementation. As data for sufficient number of countries was not available on prevalence of violence against children, it was not included in this sub-dimension.

¹¹ Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania and South Africa.

¹² General Measures of Implementation of the CRC, CRC/C/GC/5 (2003).

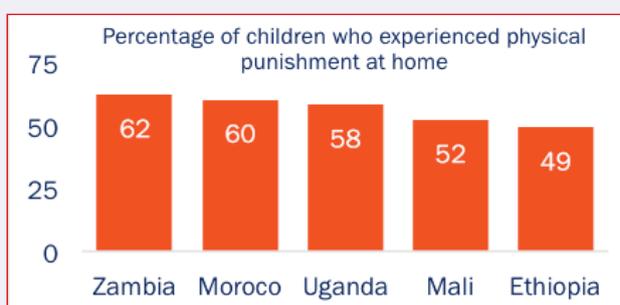
¹³ Para 6.6, General Comment No.5 of the ACERWC, 2018.

Box 3.3: Violence against children that should shame us all

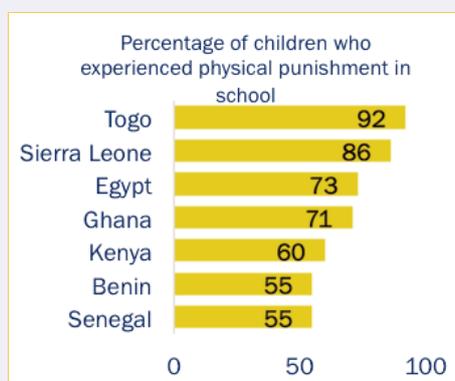
Violence against children (VAC) is a significant problem throughout Africa. It erodes family structures, jeopardises children's education, creates social insecurity and consumes precious national resources.

The most recent national survey on violence against children and youth in Rwanda, for example, shows that 37 percent of young women, and 60 percent of young men, aged 18-24 had experienced physical violence prior their eighteenth birthday – most of them more than once. Furthermore, of both the boys and girls who had experienced physical violence, around half reported severe episodes that compelled them to miss one or more days of school.

As shown in the chart at the right, 60 percent of children in Zambia, Morocco and Uganda, and around half of children in Mali and Ethiopia, experienced physical punishment. Although nearly 60 percent of children said that no major harm was inflicted on them, 16 percent reported that the most recent episode of physical punishment left scars on their body, and 25 percent that the pain inflicted on them had stopped them from going to school or playing outside the house.



Studies suggest that Physical violence against children occurs most frequently in schools. For example, 92 percent of pupils interviewed in Togo and 86 percent in Sierra Leone suffered physical violence from teachers or classmates (see chart).



Severe forms of sexual violence were more prevalent in schools than in the community. In Kenya, for example, schools were the second most common location for sexual violence against girls aged 13 to 17. School-related incidents accounted for 30 percent of all cases of rape in Sierra Leone, and in Rwanda, one in every four females and 10 percent of males aged 18-24 had experienced sexual violence prior to age 18. Of those reporting sexual violence, 76 percent of females and 69 percent of males had experienced two or more incidents of abuse before the age of 18. In Uganda among those aged 13-17 years, one in four girls and one in ten boys reported sexual violence in the year before the survey. Findings from the VAC surveys in Kenya, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Nigeria indicate that about one in three girls experienced sexual violence during their childhood.

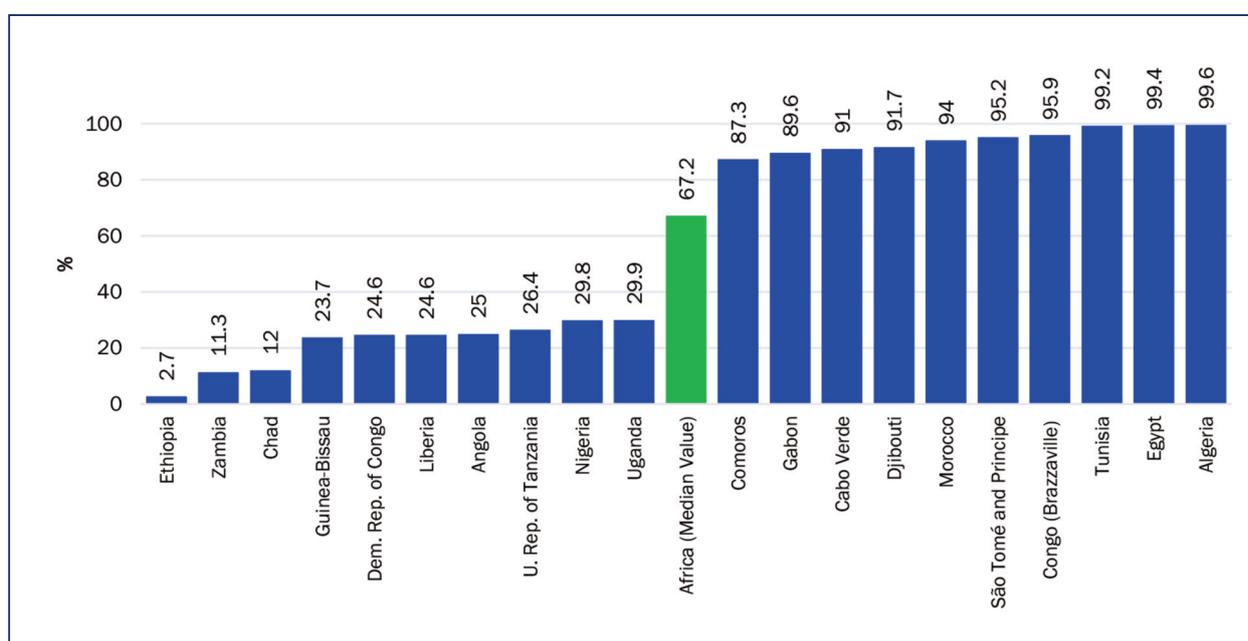
Progress has been too slow, too uneven and too fragmented to bring violence against African boys and girls to an end. We need a concerted effort across all sectors and levels to combat violence in all its forms.

Sources: Rwanda Ministry of Health 2017; African Report on Violence Against Children (ACPF 2014b); Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda 2015.

Birth registration coverage

Most African countries lack fully functioning civil registration systems despite mandatory laws for registering births.¹⁴ Chart 3.3 shows wide disparities – some countries (especially those in North Africa such as Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia) have universal birth registration, while coverage in many others is extremely low – just three percent in Ethiopia, for example. Population and geographical size appear to be a critical factor – smaller countries such as Cabo Verde, Djibouti and Gabon have relatively higher birth registration coverage compared to bigger countries with a large population. Fewer than a third of births in Nigeria and Uganda are registered, dropping to a quarter in Tanzania, DRC and Angola.

Chart 3.3: Countries with highest and lowest birth registration coverage (percent)



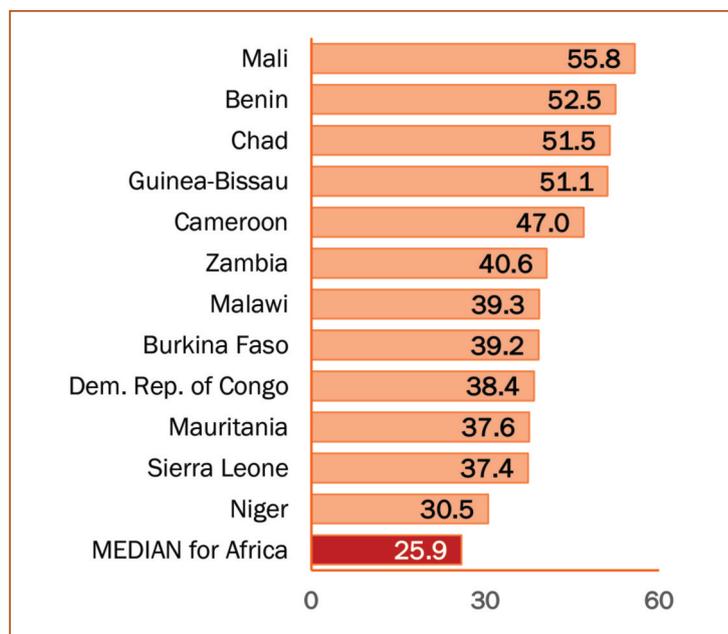
Source: Based on data from UNICEF, 2017b

Child labour

It is estimated that one in four African children are engaged in child labour, although rates vary widely by country. In Mali, Benin, Chad and Guinea-Bissau, for example, more than half of all children are engaged in child labour (see Chart 3.4). Children in poor families are three times more likely to be in child labour than those from wealthier backgrounds (Save the Children 2018).

Even more worryingly, child labour has gone up slightly across Africa in the last five years in contrast to the globally declining trend in other developing regions (Save the Children International 2018), driven in part by continuing conflict in many African countries. Chart 3.4 shows that despite most countries signing up to the two main ILO Conventions on child labour, it remains a widespread challenge.

¹⁴ ACERWC/GC/02 (2014), adopted by the Committee at its Twenty-third Ordinary Session (07 - 16 April, 2014), para 7.

Chart 3.4: African countries with highest prevalence of child labour

Source: Based on data from UNICEF, 2017b

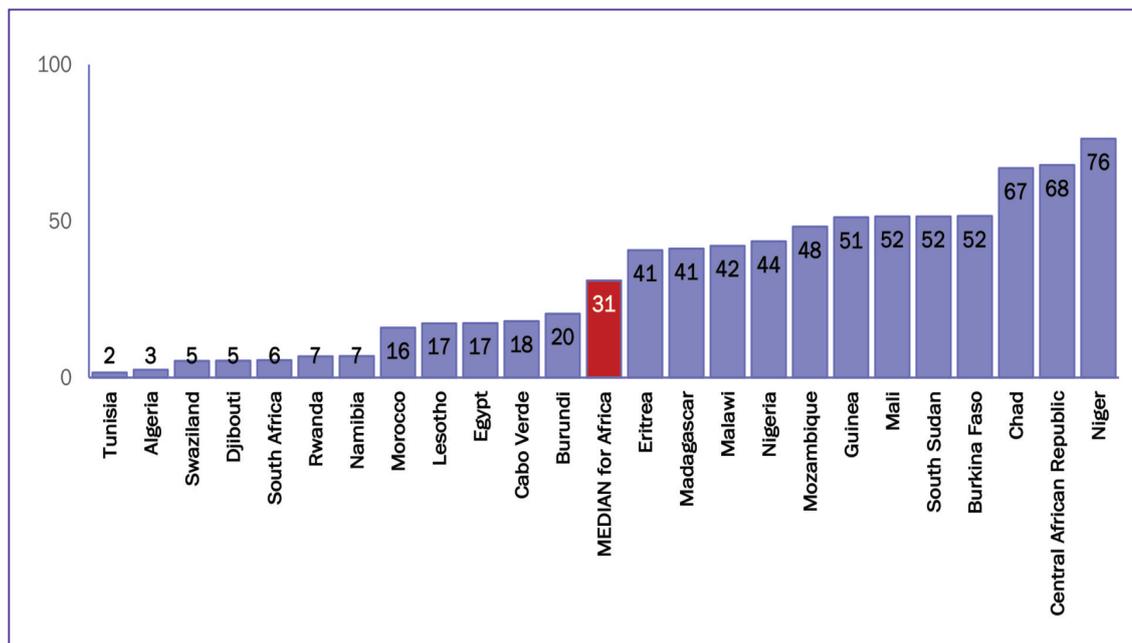
Child marriage

Child marriage violates practically all the human rights of children, especially girls who suffer life-threatening early pregnancies and who are disproportionately denied the opportunity of education and employment. It deprives girls of their autonomy over their bodies and lives, thereby perpetuating the cycle of poverty and exclusion (OHCHR 2018a).

Those countries such as Malawi that have managed to reduce rates of child marriage demonstrate that it is challenging but possible, through sustained commitment at both policy and grassroots level. The prevalence of child marriage is a significant indicator of how seriously a government takes child protection.

Child marriage is slowly declining in Africa but remains unacceptably high – three out of every ten African children are married before the age of 18 (see Chart 3.5). Of the 700 million women and girls worldwide who married before their 18th birthday, 125 million of them – about 17 percent – are from Africa. Child brides tend to be from rural areas, come mainly from the lowest income families and are twice as likely to marry before the age of 18 years as girls from the richest households (UNICEF 2015).

Chart 3.5: African countries with highest and lowest prevalence of child marriage



Source: Based on data from UNICEF 2017b

Box 3.4: The Marriage “Terminator”

In April 2017, President Peter Mutharika of Malawi signed a constitutional amendment into law banning child marriage in a country where two out of every five girls are brides before their 18th birthday.

While parliament wrangled for years, some communities took matters into their own hands. In Dedza District, for example, Senior Chief Theresa Kachindomoto made it her mission to abolish child marriage in the 551 villages under her jurisdiction. Chief Kachindomoto used her authority to convince 50 village heads to sign an agreement prohibiting and annulling child marriages in their communities, as well as dismissing five village heads for failing to observe the ban.

Working with village leaders and a network of parent groups, Chief Kachindomoto succeeded in breaking up 1,455 child marriages, gaining her a reputation as a fearless “marriage terminator”. In a country where marrying off a daughter is often seen as a way to boost family resources, she went door-to-door to convince parents to keep their girls in school and send young mothers back to the classroom. Her message has been consistent – educate your girl and she will take care of everything.

Chief Kachindomoto’s efforts were met with some resistance which included death threats, but her commitment remained solid. She also lobbied for the constitutional amendment, arguing that the minimum age of marriage should be 21 to give girls the chance to go to college.

Sources: OHCHR; Girls Not Brides 2018a.

3.4 The 2018 government child protection scores and rankings

Table 3.4 ranks countries according to their score in the 2018 Child Protection Dimension Index. Mauritius, Togo, Algeria, Egypt, Benin, South Africa, Cabo Verde, Seychelles, Namibia and Djibouti head the list following commendable progress to enact, implement and enforce appropriate laws for protection of children. They also score highly for child protection outcomes, especially reducing child marriage and child labour, and expanding birth registration. Mauritius, for example, has a Law Reform Commission – a statutory body which systematically reviews the laws of the country and makes recommendations for reform if they are inconsistent with international standards. Recently, Mauritius strengthened its Child Protection Act to give greater protection to children with potentially abusive parents or carers.

Togo stands out as one of very few countries to have completely banned corporal punishment, including in homes and schools, as well as introducing laws against child trafficking and sexual abuse. Togo's minimum age of criminal responsibility, marriage and admission to employment is also in line with international recommendations and the country has made significant progress in reducing child labour and child marriage. In 2016, for example, the Government of Togo significantly increased the number of labour inspectors and created the National Domestic Workers' Trade Union to help combat child labour and protect domestic workers of legal working age (Bureau of International Labour Affairs 2017).

Table 3.4: Scores and ranking of the Child Protection Dimension Index, 2018

Country	Score	Rank
Mauritius	0.95560	1
Togo	0.87254	2
Algeria	0.86633	3
Egypt	0.85188	4
Benin	0.82946	5
South Africa	0.82097	6
Cabo Verde	0.81639	7
Seychelles	0.81194	8
Namibia	0.80271	9
Djibouti	0.78684	10
Swaziland	0.78675	11
Tunisia	0.78462	12
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.78310	13
Morocco	0.77431	14
Rwanda	0.77313	15
Ghana	0.77055	16
Madagascar	0.76003	17
Senegal	0.75694	18
Lesotho	0.73209	19
Guinea	0.72988	20
Burundi	0.71259	21
Burkina Faso	0.70994	22
Mali	0.70248	23
Gabon	0.69688	24
Côte d'Ivoire	0.68573	25
Kenya	0.67407	26
Angola	0.66343	27
Malawi	0.66234	28
Central African Republic	0.65033	29
Comoros	0.63697	30
Uganda	0.63129	31
Sudan	0.60720	32
Sierra Leone	0.60153	33
Nigeria	0.58982	34
Niger	0.58155	35
Botswana	0.57976	36
Eritrea	0.57840	37
Mozambique	0.56611	38
Ethiopia	0.56458	39
Mauritania	0.56421	40
United Republic of Tanzania	0.54397	41
Gambia	0.54171	42
Guinea-Bissau	0.52714	43
Democratic Republic of Congo	0.51850	44
Equatorial Guinea	0.50880	45
Liberia	0.49483	46
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.49350	47
Zimbabwe	0.48977	48
Cameroon	0.44997	49
Chad	0.42661	50
Zambia	0.38722	51
South Sudan	0.21008	52

Source: Developed by ACPF, 2018

Propping up the bottom of the table are South Sudan, Zambia, Chad, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, São Tomé and Príncipe, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea-Bissau. South Sudan's poor performance can be put down to several factors. It is among the few countries without adequate legal protection against exploitation, including sexual abuse; it has not yet ratified six out of the nine most relevant child rights instruments; child marriage is unacceptably high and birth registration is unacceptably low. Most of the countries at the bottom of the list share similar characteristics.

3.5 Conclusion

The good news is that Africa's child protection architecture – its laws, policies and institutions – are generally well developed and established. Most countries have enacted consolidated laws on children, and some have gone further with specific legislation on trafficking, sexual abuse and harmful practices. Many have also adopted policies on free primary education, set the minimum age of employment in accordance with international standards, and made birth registration mandatory. The bad news is the serious failure to implement and enforce these laws and policies.

Equally concerning is the gender discrimination found in the laws of many African countries which perpetuates traditional views that girls are subordinate to boys. Unequal minimum ages for marriage, sexual consent and education reinforce discrimination against girls and increase their vulnerability. There should be no tolerance for treating girls differently from boys, and domestic laws must prohibit all forms of violence – including trafficking and harmful practices – against all children.

African governments must be constantly reminded of their obligations to adopt international and regional instruments into domestic law. The three branches of state – judiciary, legislature and executive – have a shared responsibility to enact, implement, interpret and enforce laws to protect children. They must also put adequately resourced and efficiently managed systems such as Children's Legal Protection Centres in place to facilitate and expedite access to justice for children. African governments must respect and implement the conclusions and recommendations of treaty bodies on complaints brought before them. Failure or any delay in doing so amounts to continued infringement of children's rights.

Child protection is not, however, the sole responsibility of government. Civil society and concerned groups and individuals have a duty to advocate and apply pressure through regional mechanisms and communications campaigns to advance the rights of children.

4

PROGRESS IN BUDGETING FOR CHILDREN

The second dimension of the Child-Friendliness Index (CFI) is provision for the basic needs of children. Provision is measured in terms of both budget and child wellbeing outcomes. In this chapter we look at progress in budgeting for children and the challenges of providing for basic needs and quality services.

4.1 Children and the Budget

In 2016, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) reaffirmed that governments have an obligation to fund interventions for implementing children's rights and to ensure that budget decisions lead to the best possible outcomes for the largest number of children – especially the most vulnerable. Budget commitments are one of the key measurements of a state's child-friendliness.

Unfortunately, despite calls from both the UN Committee and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), there is very limited disaggregated budget information about how much of the national budget goes to children. For the Child-Friendliness Index (CFI), therefore, we have assessed budgetary commitment based on spending on sectors and programmes benefiting children. These are:

- percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) spent on social protection;
- percentage of GDP spent on education;
- government funding for health as a percentage of total government spending;
- government financial contribution towards the routine Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).

4.1.1 Spending on social protection

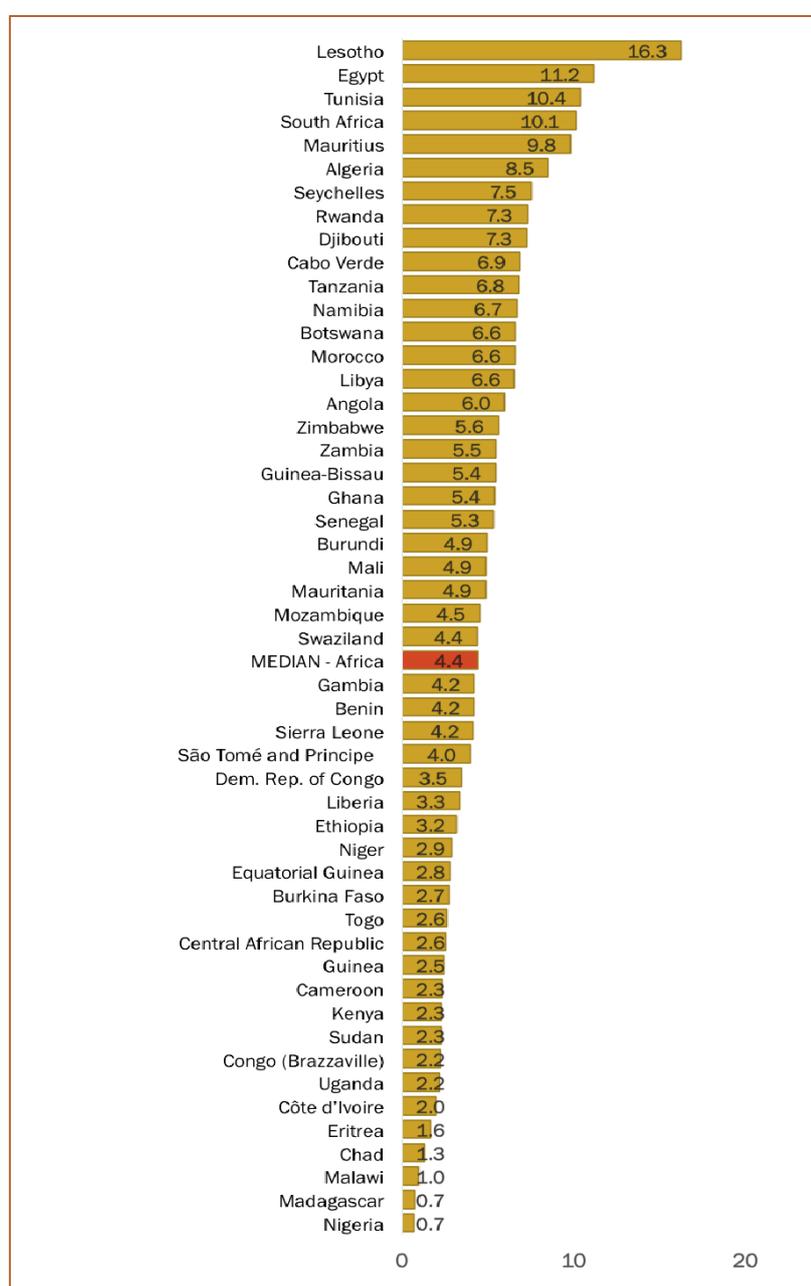
Social protection is a human right to which everyone, including children, are entitled. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) obliges signatories to help parents provide a decent standard of living for their children in accordance with national conditions and within their means. Social protection is also important for other children's rights such as survival, development and protection. To be effective, it must be provided at an early enough age to reduce deprivation and lay the foundations for good health, growth and cognitive development (UN 2018b). Social protection programmes are also essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are recognised in the 2015 African Union (AU) Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development.

Well-designed and shock-responsive social protection schemes in East Africa, for example, have helped vulnerable communities cope with the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation (Save the Children and UNICEF 2017). Cash transfer schemes have been shown to improve poor families' standard of living, boost children's nutrient consumption, reduce child labour, improve school attendance and increase access to

healthcare (ILO 2018a; ODI 2017), as well as meeting the special needs of children with disabilities, orphans and other disadvantaged children (UN 2018b). The evidence for increasing investment in social protection is clear, yet a huge gap in funding remains.

In 2016, only 16 percent of children around the world benefited from social protection schemes (ILO 2017), and the UN estimates that a mere 1.1 percent of global GDP is spent on social protection for children (UN 2018b). Data on budgets for child-specific social protection programmes is unavailable for most African countries, but using overall public social protection spending as a proxy measure shows exceptionally low and uneven distribution of social protection programmes in Africa (ILO 2017).

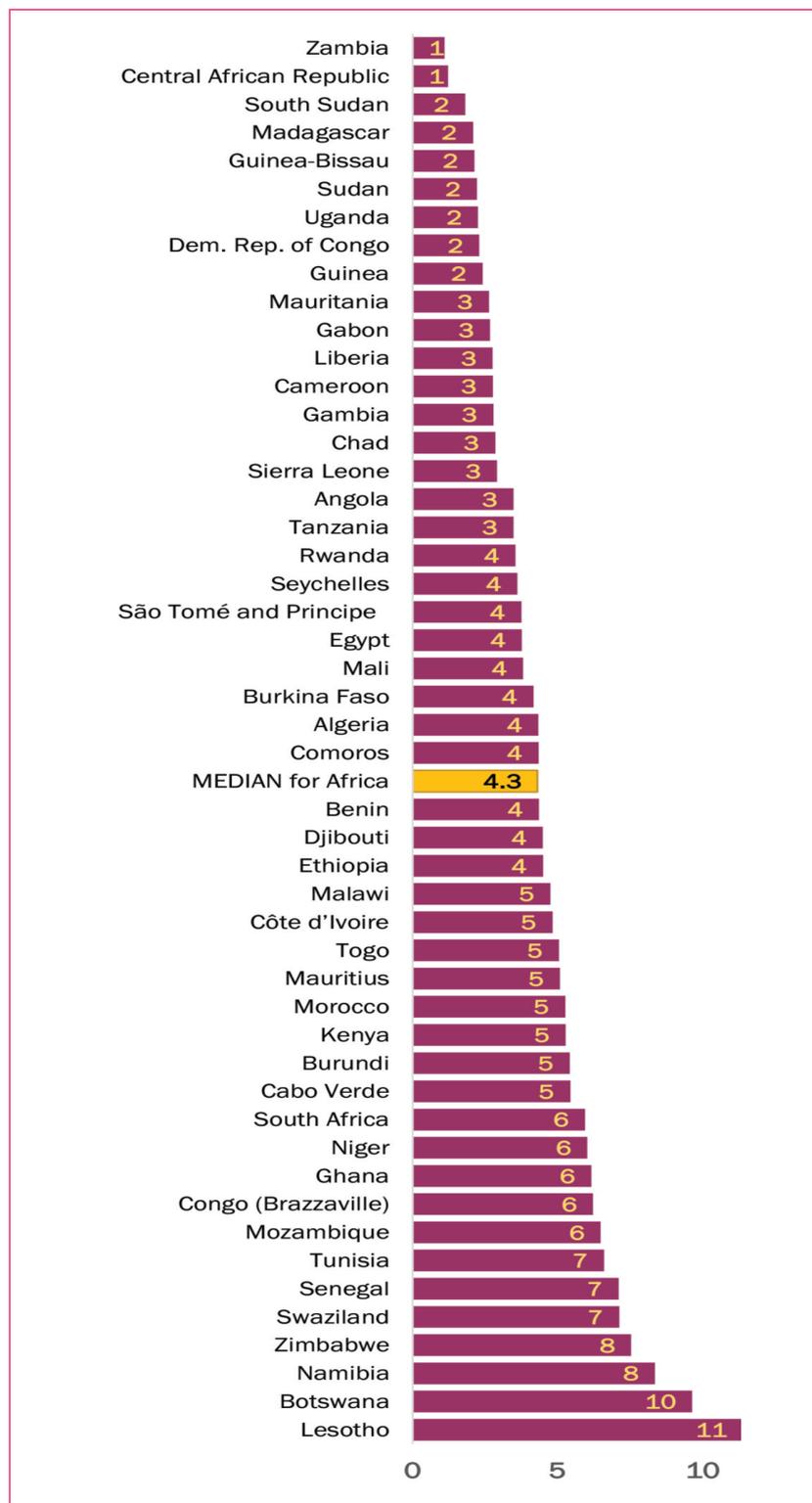
Chart 4.1: Public social protection expenditure (percent of GDP)



Source: Based on data from ILO 2018a

from early childhood has a lasting effect on the survival, development, protection and active participation of children in social, economic and political activities.

Chart 4.3: Total Public Expenditure on Education as percent of GDP



Source: based on data from UNESCO 2018b

Studies show that if all children born today in lower-middle income countries were educated to a basic level of literacy and numeracy, there would be a 13-fold increase in GDP over their lifetimes (UNICEF 2016). Given the evidence, how much is Africa investing in education?

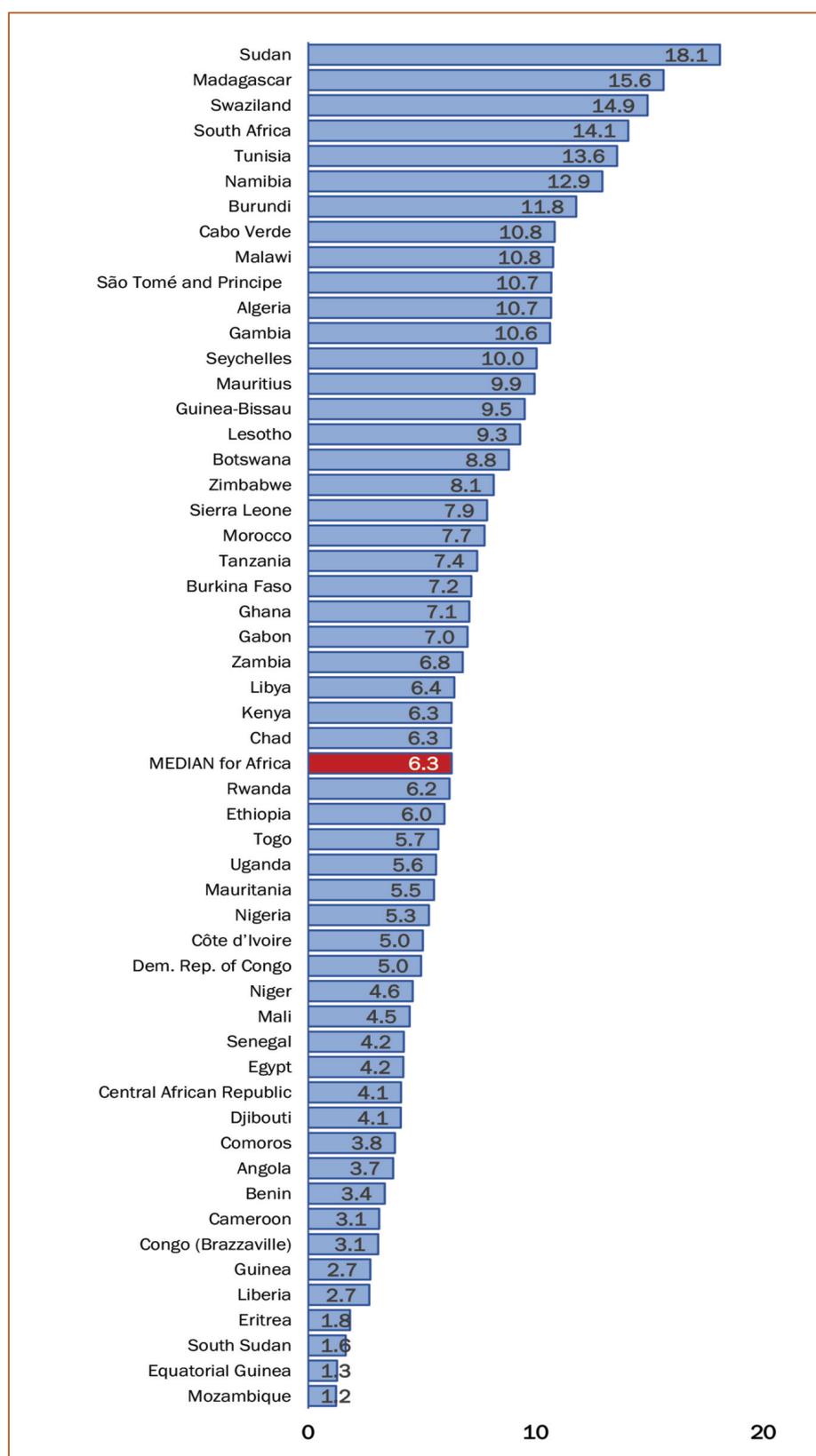
Again, spending commitments vary widely. Chart 4.3 shows, for example, that Zambia and Central African Republic allocated just one percent of GDP to education; for others such as Lesotho and Botswana it was more than 10 percent. Average spending across Africa has almost stagnated at around four percent of GDP over the past two decades or more – a worrying trend given that most African children and young people are failing to reach minimum standards at all levels.

4.1.3 Spending on children's health

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) entitles every child to the best possible physical, mental and spiritual health, while the CRC obliges governments to ensure children enjoy the highest standard of healthcare. Fulfilling these obligations requires significant public spending.

It costs about USD 86 per person per year to provide a basic universal health service – more than double the current average spending in low-income countries including those in Africa (WHO 2016). Chart 4.4 shows government health spending from domestic sources as a percentage of general government expenditure. This measure differs from the previous indicator which referred to general expenditure on health from both domestic and external sources.

Chart 4.4: Domestic government health expenditure as percent of general government expenditure



Source: Based on data from WHO, National Health Accounts Update, 2018

The revised indicator provides a better gauge of government commitment to the wellbeing of children because it measures allocations only from domestic revenue sources. As with other indicators, health spending varies widely across Africa – Sudan, Madagascar and Swaziland for example allocated relatively higher proportions of their domestic revenue – more than 15 percent – to the health sector than other countries. Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea, South Sudan and Eritrea allocated a paltry two percent or less – way below the African average of 6.3 percent – even though these are among the very countries with the highest burden of disease and undernutrition.

Commitment to children’s health and survival can also be measured by government spending on national Expanded Programmes of Immunisation (EPI). As Chart 4.5 shows, five countries – Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, South Sudan and Zimbabwe – make no financial contribution to the national immunisation programme, even though many children in these countries have no access to life-saving vaccines such as measles. Many others contribute as little as one percent. In contrast, fourteen governments do fully cover the cost of immunisation programmes.

Chart 4.5: Governments’ financial contribution to the national expanded programme for immunisation

No contribution	1% - 10%	11% - 20%	21% - 50%	51% - 71%	100%
Djibouti	Burundi	Benin	Burkina Faso	Kenya	Algeria
Guinea	Central African Republic	Cameroon	Chad	Nigeria	Angola
Guinea-Bissau	Comoros	Congo (Brazzaville)	Côte d’Ivoire	Seychelles	Botswana
South Sudan	Eritrea	Dem. Rep. of Congo	Lesotho		Cabo Verde
Zimbabwe	Ethiopia	Gambia	Malawi		Egypt
	Liberia	Ghana	Mozambique		Equatorial Guinea
	Madagascar	Mali	Senegal		Gabon
	Rwanda	Mauritania	Tanzania		Libya
	São Tomé and Príncipe	Niger	Togo		Mauritius
	Sierra Leone	Uganda			Morocco
	Sudan	Zambia			Namibia
					South Africa
					Swaziland
					Tunisia

Source: UNICEF 2017b

4.2 Budgetary Commitment Sub-Dimension Index: The status in 2018

Table 4.1. shows Lesotho, Tunisia, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Mauritius, Cabo Verde and Algeria as the top spenders on services for children. Lesotho heads the table because of its relatively higher investment in both education and social protection. Tunisia also deserves credit for its relatively high spending on health, education and social protection, as well as fully funding its national immunisation programme. South Africa also performs well on health, social protection and immunisation spending.

Table 4.1: Budgetary commitment sub-dimension index values and rankings of African countries, 2018

Country	Score	Rank
Lesotho	0.72492	1
Tunisia	0.72222	2
South Africa	0.70940	3
Namibia	0.69570	4
Botswana	0.66444	5
Swaziland	0.65803	6
Mauritius	0.62182	7
Cabo Verde	0.59664	8
Algeria	0.59416	9
Morocco	0.54197	10
Egypt	0.52690	11
Gabon	0.46780	12
Seychelles	0.45128	13
Angola	0.42955	14
Burundi	0.34664	15
Kenya	0.34437	16
Equatorial Guinea	0.34168	17
Zimbabwe	0.33743	18
Senegal	0.33192	19
Nigeria	0.32855	20
Malawi	0.32471	21
Ghana	0.31244	22
United Republic of Tanzania	0.31022	23
Sudan	0.30484	24
Burkina Faso	0.29242	25
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.27704	26
Gambia	0.27643	27
Mozambique	0.26685	28
Rwanda	0.25935	29
Togo	0.25550	30
Madagascar	0.24771	31
Niger	0.23970	32
Côte d'Ivoire	0.23301	33
Djibouti	0.23019	34
Guinea-Bissau	0.22379	35
Ethiopia	0.21263	36
Mali	0.21060	37
Benin	0.20947	38
Zambia	0.20630	39
Mauritania	0.20532	40
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.20346	41
Sierra Leone	0.20270	42
Chad	0.18708	43
Uganda	0.16436	44
Comoros	0.15795	45
Democratic Republic of Congo	0.15628	46
Eritrea	0.15091	47
Cameroon	0.12712	48
Liberia	0.12427	49
Guinea	0.08273	50
Central African Republic	0.07987	51
South Sudan	0.03307	52

Source: Developed by ACPF 2018

Bottom of the 2018 Budgetary Commitment Index come South Sudan, Central African Republic, Guinea, Liberia, Cameroon, Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Comoros, Uganda and Chad. These countries allocated the lowest proportion of their available resources to children's programmes and social sectors, despite having a much higher proportion of children suffering from multiple deprivations.

4.3 Progress in children's access to essential services

We have measured outcomes for children using two sub-dimensions: access to basic needs and services, and achieving concrete child wellbeing. Chapter 2 looked in depth at the state of child wellbeing in Africa and progress – or lack of it – on better wellbeing outcomes for children. We now turn to progress in children's access to essential services.

4.3.1 Children's access to education

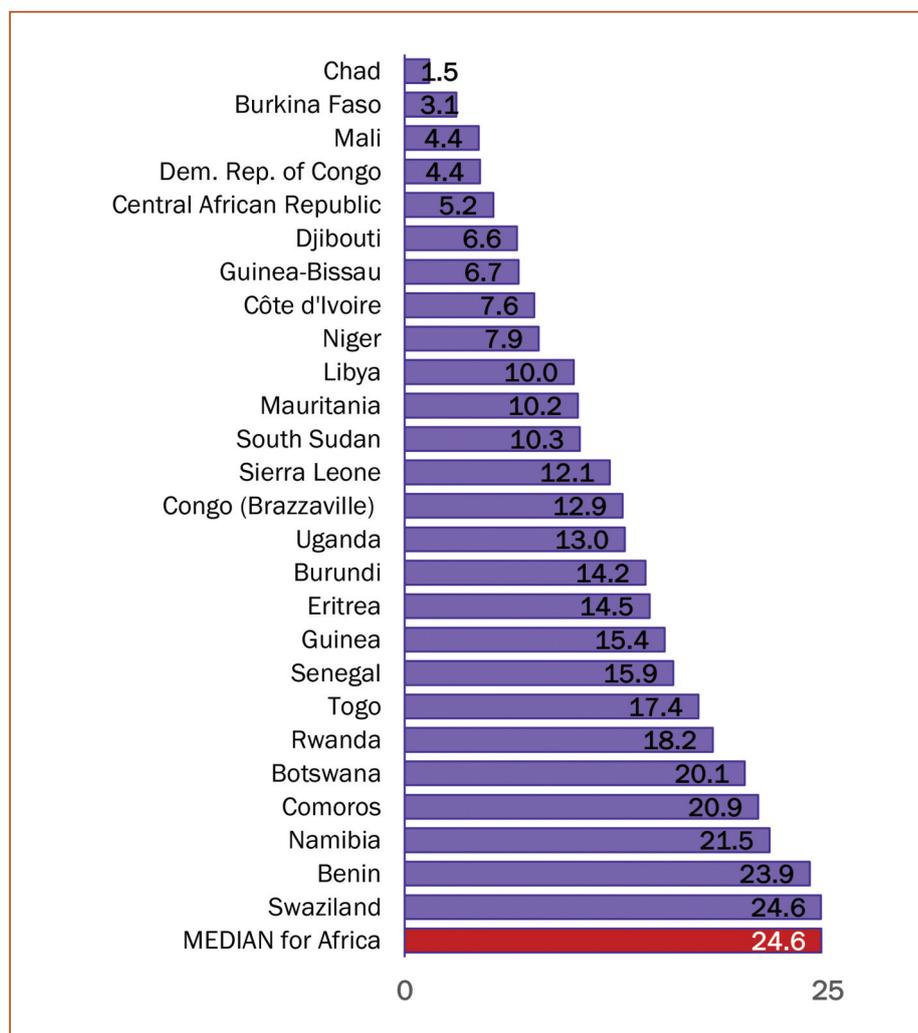
Despite much progress, it is evident from the steadily increasing number of out-of-school children that schools in many African countries are struggling to keep pace with population growth. Some 37 percent of all out-of-school children are in Africa – a 13 percent rise since 2000, in sharp contrast to other regions where the rate is declining (Save the Children International 2018).

Access to pre-primary education

Good quality pre-primary education lays the foundation for life-long learning and helps children make a smooth transition to primary school by enhancing cognitive skills in reading and mathematics. Early learning is particularly beneficial to the poorest and disadvantaged as it creates better opportunities, drives better learning outcomes and boosts earnings later in life (UNESCO 2012; Naudeau et al. 2011). A global study of 15-year-olds showed that students with at least a year of pre-primary school outperformed those without, even allowing for socio-economic background (Zubairi and Rose 2017; OECD 2016). It is estimated that US\$1 invested in early childhood care and education for the most disadvantaged children generates a return as high as USD 17 in later life (CGECCD, 2013).

Current trends suggest that children in Africa and the Middle East are most likely to miss out on pre-primary education (UNICEF 2018A). On average, only one child in every four has access to pre-primary education in Africa, with the worst enrolment rates found mostly in West and Central Africa. Chart 4.6 shows that gross enrolment in pre-primary education in Burkina Faso, Mali and DRC, for example, is lower than five percent and even less than that in Chad.

Woeful public pre-primary education has increasingly led to private sector provision, especially in cities, bringing its own challenges around quality and standards. In Gambia, for example, two-thirds of pre-primary children attend private institutions which are not subject to registration and accreditation (UNESCO 2017B).

Chart 4.6: Countries with low gross enrolment rate for pre-primary education

Source: Based on data from UNESCO 2018

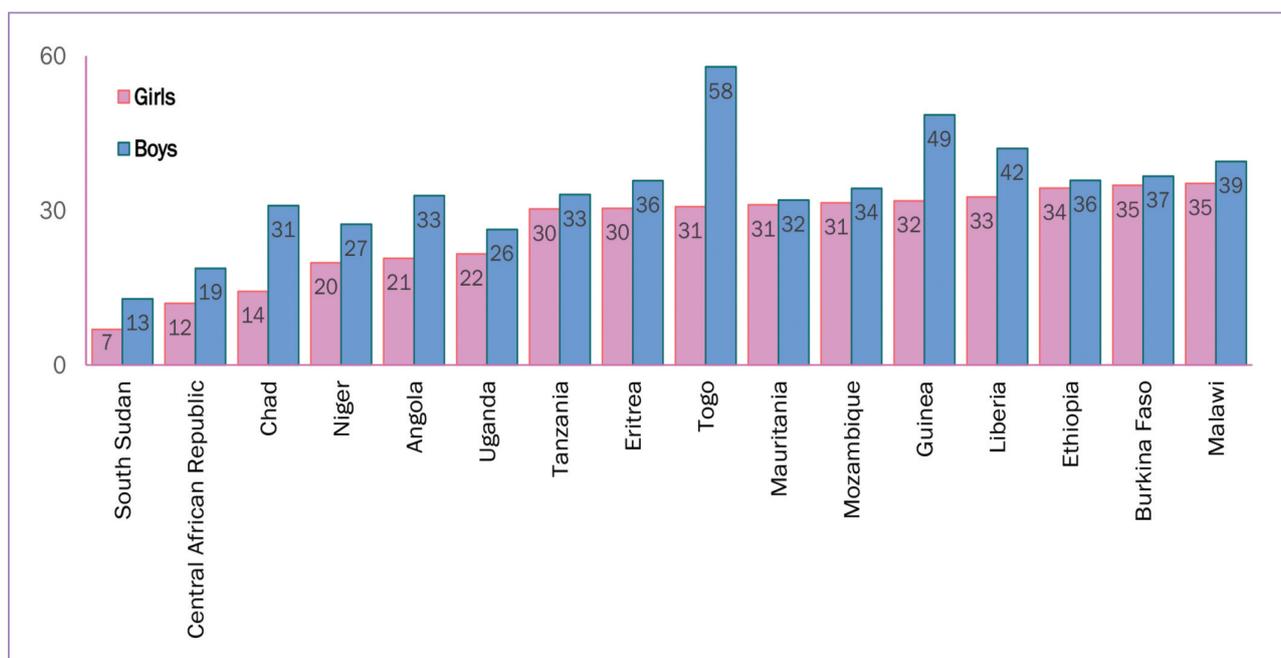
Access to primary and secondary education

Primary education is important for acquiring fundamental literacy and numeracy skills, and building understanding of the world, while secondary education is beneficial for both individuals and society. According to one study, if all mothers in Africa were to achieve secondary education, there would be 1.5 million fewer annual deaths of children under the age of five (UNICEF 2016).

Gross primary enrolment rates are almost universal (World Bank 2018c), but certain groups of children such as those from poor households and girls in remote rural areas are being excluded from expanded educational programmes (Rose et al. 2016). Poverty plays an increasingly important role in enrolment rates as children move into higher levels of education. In Nigeria, for example, only seven percent of poor children enter upper secondary level, compared to 80 percent of those from wealthier families. The proportion of children who drop out also increases as income decreases (UNICEF 2016).

Expansion of primary education has in turn led to a sharp increase in demand for secondary education. Compared to previous years, enrolment at secondary level has risen in most countries, but as Chart 4.7 illustrates, access to secondary education is still comparatively low across Africa, and rates are worse still for girls. In Chad, Guinea and Togo, for example, the rates of enrolment for girls are less than half of that for boys.

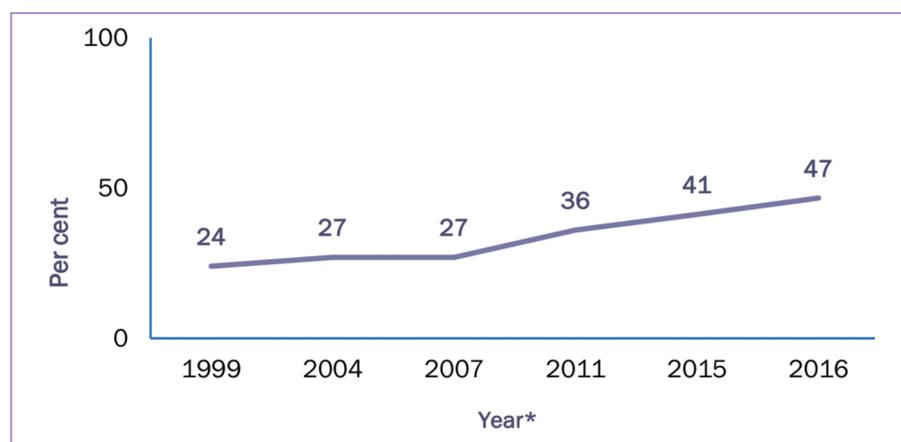
Chart 4.7: Enrolment in secondary education by gender in countries with lower rates



Source: Based on data from UNESCO 2018

Average enrolment for girls has grown from 24 percent in 1999 to 47 percent in 2016, but even now fewer than half of girls in Africa have access to secondary education. Chart 4.8 shows enrolment rates for girls have picked up in the last seven years compared to the previous ten, but this pace must continue if the SDG targets for secondary education are to be reached.

Chart 4.8: Girls gross enrolment ratio for secondary education between 1999 and 2016



Source: Based on data from UNESCO 2018

*The data refers to a range of years

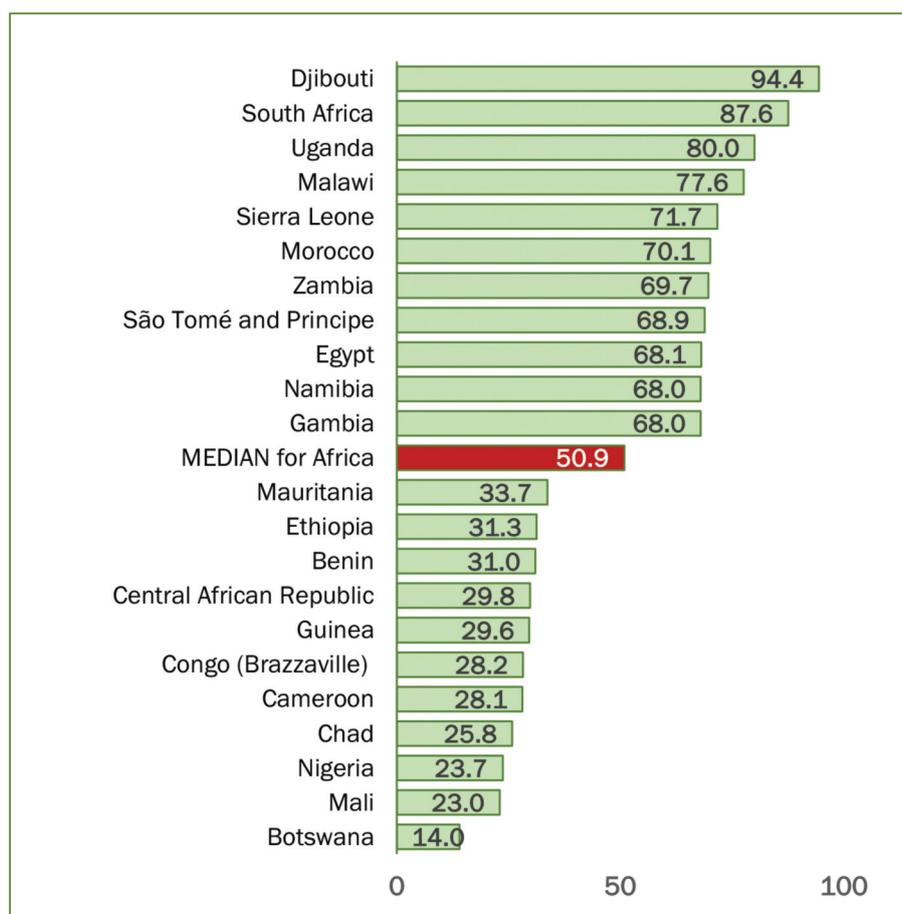
Children with disabilities remain among the most excluded from education. Enrolment rates are commonly 30-50 percent lower for children with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries than those with no disabilities, and even those who do manage it rarely complete the levels for which they enrolled (World Policy Analysis Centre 2016).

4.3.2 Children's access to healthcare and other services

Pneumonia is the leading cause of child mortality in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (Save the Children 2018), but it can be treated if diagnosed early. Access to early treatment is vital, particularly for the poorest and most marginalised children, and can be measured by the percentage of children with pneumonia taken to a health provider.

Access to treatment for pneumonia varies significantly by country. Rates are highest in Djibouti and South Africa, while children in Botswana, Mali, Nigeria and Chad are least likely to be treated. Overall, half of all African children suffering from pneumonia get no treatment from a health provider (see Chart 4.9), a rate which has barely changed in the past ten years, especially in rural settings (ACPF 2008).

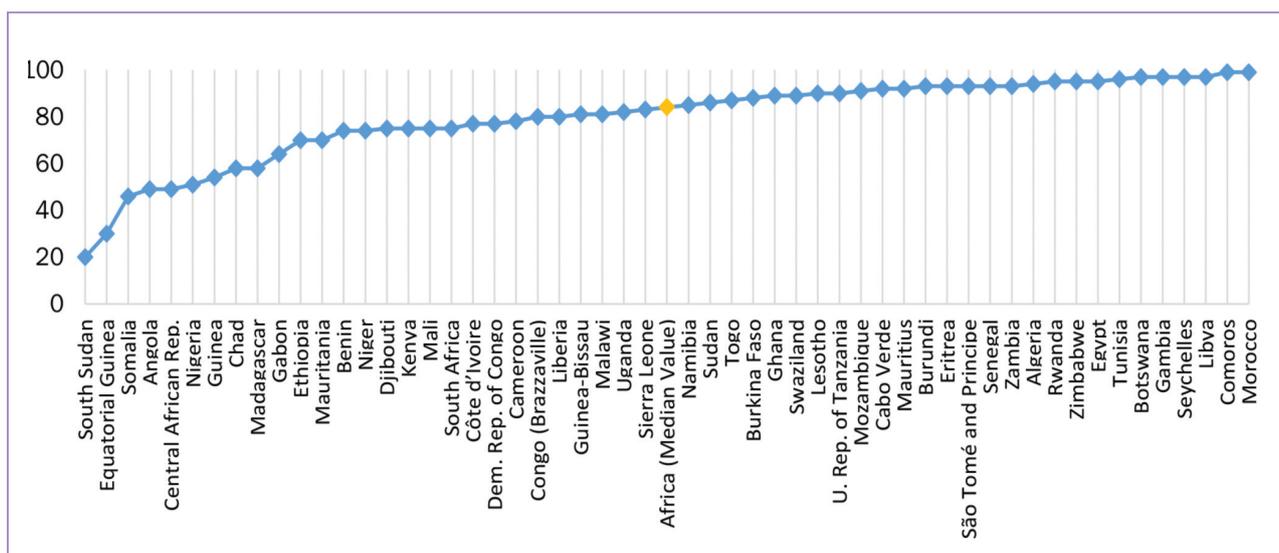
Chart 4.9: Countries with the highest and lowest percentage of children with pneumonia taken to health providers



Source: Based on data from UNICEF 2017b

Vaccinations for deadly childhood illnesses such as measles are another significant indicator of government commitment. Around 85 percent of African children aged 12 to 23 months were vaccinated against measles in 2016, but rates vary enormously. South Sudan managed to vaccinate only 20 percent of its children, and Equatorial Guinea, one of the richest countries on the continent, just 30 percent. Angola, Central African Republic and Nigeria perform better at around 50 percent, while access to measles vaccination is almost universal in Morocco and Comoros (see Chart 4.10).

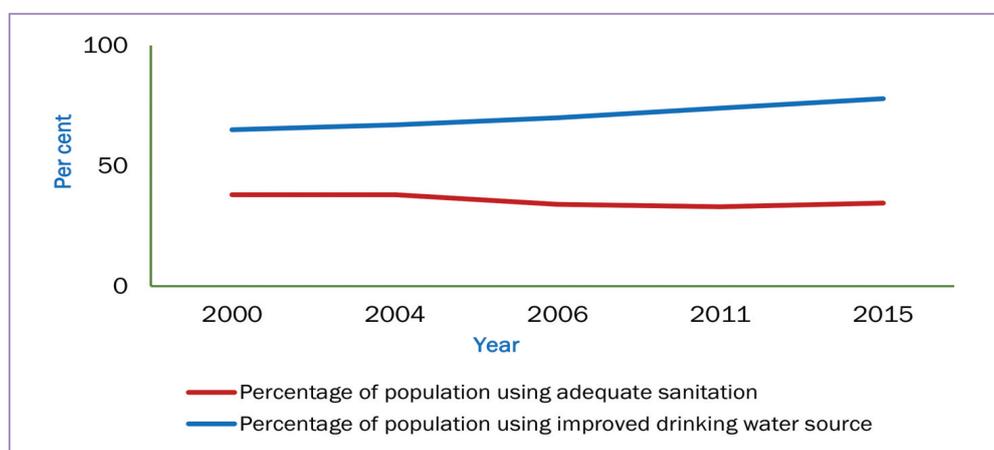
Chart 4.10: Measles immunisation coverage by country



Source: Based on data from UNICEF, 2017b

Finally, we looked at basic sanitation and safe drinking water, both of which have a direct impact on children’s health. There has been steady, albeit slow, progress over the last 15 years, especially in northern African countries and Mauritius which now have almost universal access to safe drinking water. However, around a third of all Africans are still denied this basic need (see Chart 4.11).

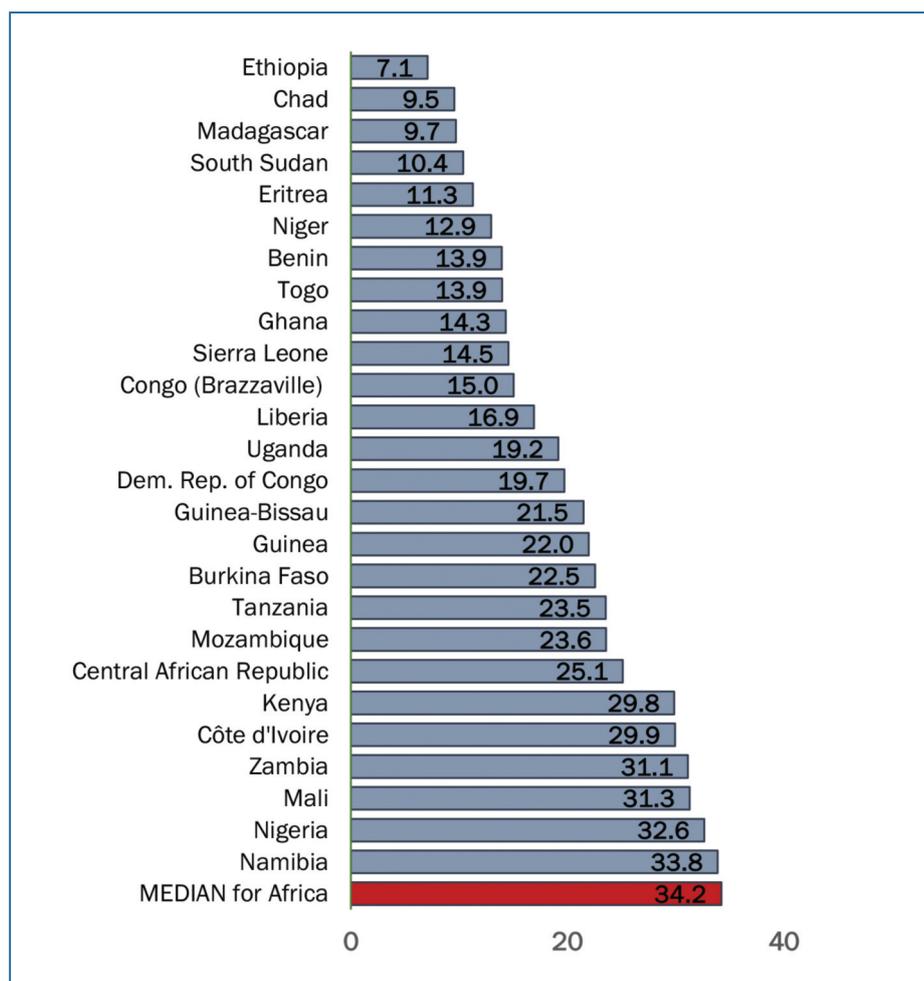
Chart 4.11: Trends in access to adequate sanitation facilities and safely managed drinking water sources



Source: Based on data from UNESCO 2018

Access to adequate sanitation, on the other hand, shows little progress – indeed Chart 4.12 shows a slight decline in recent years although the average remains around 35 percent (UNICEF 2018a). Population growth, particularly in rural areas, means proportionally fewer people have access to adequate sanitation – in some countries such as Ethiopia, Chad and Madagascar it is less than 10 percent of the population.

Chart 4.12: Countries with the lowest percentage of people with access to adequate sanitation, 2016



Source: Based on data from UNICEF 2017b

4.4 Status in provision of basic needs for children: The 2018 Provision Dimension Index

In order to capture both spending commitment and tangible results, the index for Provision combines two sub-dimensions: budgetary commitment and achievement of outcomes for children. Tunisia tops the table followed by Mauritius, South Africa, Algeria, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Botswana, Egypt, Swaziland and Morocco. Poorest performers include South Sudan, Central African Republic, Guinea, Chad, Eritrea, DRC, Cameroon, Liberia, Uganda and Mali.

Table 4.2: Index of Provision of Basic Needs: Values and ranking of African countries, 2018

Country	Score	Rank
Tunisia	0.77994	1
Mauritius	0.74269	2
South Africa	0.73995	3
Algeria	0.71050	4
Cabo Verde	0.67802	5
Namibia	0.66399	6
Botswana	0.65796	7
Egypt	0.64563	8
Swaziland	0.63293	9
Morocco	0.63199	10
Seychelles	0.63064	11
Lesotho	0.62683	12
Gabon	0.57160	13
Angola	0.45731	14
Kenya	0.45518	15
Ghana	0.45346	16
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.44431	17
Zimbabwe	0.44326	18
Malawi	0.42418	19
Senegal	0.42142	20
Burundi	0.41733	21
Gambia	0.40803	22
Equatorial Guinea	0.40521	23
Sudan	0.40021	24
United Republic of Tanzania	0.37921	25
Nigeria	0.37918	26
Rwanda	0.37474	27
Burkina Faso	0.36622	28
Djibouti	0.35170	29
Togo	0.35072	30
Mozambique	0.34178	31
Côte d'Ivoire	0.33898	32
Madagascar	0.33184	33
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.32822	34
Mauritania	0.32211	35
Zambia	0.31916	36
Benin	0.31697	37
Guinea-Bissau	0.31459	38
Sierra Leone	0.30930	39
Comoros	0.30149	40
Niger	0.29971	41
Ethiopia	0.28861	42
Mali	0.28823	43
Uganda	0.28551	44
Liberia	0.26462	45
Cameroon	0.25993	46
Democratic Republic of Congo	0.25805	47
Eritrea	0.24006	48
Chad	0.23135	49
Guinea	0.18828	50
Central African Republic	0.15124	51
South Sudan	0.09717	52

4.5 Conclusion

Child-friendliness from the perspective of budgeting means allocating as much money as possible and using it efficiently and effectively to bring about positive change, particularly for children who are marginalised and left behind. African countries have made notable advances, but the pace, depth and quality of progress remains uneven and unsatisfactory. Child wellbeing outcomes measured by birth registration, child marriage, exposure to violence, educational achievement, and access to schooling, nutrition and health services remain inadequate.

Domestic investment in human capital remains pathetically low in far too many African countries. Median spending on child-targeted social protection and education is only 4.4 and 4.3 percent of GDP respectively, while health remains at 6.3 percent of the general government budget. African governments must strive to fulfil their obligations to children by spending more, spending it efficiently and by being more accountable.

5

CHILD-FRIENDLINESS OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS: STATUS AND PROGRESS

5.1 Child-Friendliness Index of African governments 2018

Countries are grouped into five categories: Most child-friendly, Child-friendly, Fairly child-friendly, Less child-friendly and Least child-friendly. Unlike the previous symmetrical grouping of countries into five equal categories, the revised CFI introduces statistical cluster analysis to take account of the different score values of countries, resulting in the following five categories based on the 2018 CFI scores:

- Most child-friendly: 11 countries with a mean CFI of 0.7457 and standard deviation (SD)=0.0479
- Child-friendly: 10 countries with a mean CFI of 0.5676 and SD=0.0342
- Fairly child-friendly: 12 countries with a mean CFI of 0.4887 and SD=0.0228,
- Less child-friendly: 10 countries with a mean CFI of 0.4293 and SD=0.0168
- Least child-friendly: 9 countries with a mean CFI of 0.3261 and SD=0.0723.

Box 5.1: What is a child-friendly government?

The concept of government child-friendliness broadly refers to state compliance with child rights standards and principles. It is a rights-based notion imbedded in the obligations of states stipulated in international and regional child rights instruments especially the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC or 'African Children's Charter').

A child-friendly government is one which is maximising efforts to meet its obligations to respect, protect and fulfil children's rights and ensure their wellbeing. This includes (i) efforts made to adopt, implement and enforce laws and policies for the protection of children; (ii) public expenditure committed to children's basic needs and how effectively it achieves concrete child wellbeing outcomes; and (iii) efforts made to include children in decisions that affect their wellbeing.

The Child-Friendliness Index (CFI) covers all African countries except Libya, Somalia and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, which have not been included primarily because of the absence or difficulty of getting comparable data.

Table 5.1 presents the scores and rankings of the 2018 Child-Friendliness Index. Mauritius, Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Morocco and Lesotho top the table. Their high scores reflect their consistent efforts to realise the rights and wellbeing of children by (a) adopting and implementing comprehensive laws and policies to provide adequate protection, and (b) allocating relatively higher shares of their available resources to child-related sectors.

These countries have also been effective in improving children's access to basic needs and services, as well as in achieving better outcomes in child protection and overall child wellbeing.

The most child-friendly countries in 2018

Mauritius, Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Morocco and Lesotho

Table 5.1: Child-Friendliness Index values and rankings of African countries, 2018

Country	Score	Rank	Category
Mauritius	0.8424	1	Most child-friendly
Algeria	0.7846	2	
Tunisia	0.7823	3	
South Africa	0.7794	4	
Cabo Verde	0.7440	5	
Egypt	0.7416	6	
Namibia	0.7301	7	
Seychelles	0.7156	8	
Swaziland	0.7057	9	
Morocco	0.6995	10	
Lesotho	0.6774	11	
Gabon	0.6311	12	Child-friendly
Botswana	0.6176	13	
Ghana	0.5911	14	
Senegal	0.5648	15	
Kenya	0.5539	16	
Togo	0.5532	17	
Angola	0.5508	18	
Burundi	0.5453	19	
Rwanda	0.5383	20	
Malawi	0.5300	21	
Djibouti	0.5261	22	Fairly child-friendly
Benin	0.5127	23	
Burkina Faso	0.5099	24	
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.5070	25	
Madagascar	0.5022	26	
Sudan	0.4930	27	
Côte d'Ivoire	0.4821	28	
Nigeria	0.4729	29	
Gambia	0.4701	30	
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.4683	31	
Zimbabwe	0.4659	32	
United Republic of Tanzania	0.4542	33	Less child-friendly
Equatorial Guinea	0.4541	34	
Mali	0.4500	35	
Mozambique	0.4399	36	
Comoros	0.4382	37	
Sierra Leone	0.4313	38	
Mauritania	0.4263	39	
Uganda	0.4245	40	
Niger	0.4175	41	
Guinea-Bissau	0.4072	42	
Ethiopia	0.4037	43	Least child-friendly
Eritrea	0.3726	44	
Guinea	0.3707	45	
Democratic Republic of Congo	0.3658	46	
Liberia	0.3619	47	
Zambia	0.3515	48	
Cameroon	0.3420	49	
Chad	0.3142	50	
Central African Republic	0.3136	51	
South Sudan	0.1429	52	

Developed by ACPF, 2018

Why has Mauritius, at the top of the table, performed so well? It reduced stunting and poverty, increased access to sanitation and safely managed drinking water, and set the minimum employment age at 16 – higher even than the ILO recommendation. Minimum ages for criminal responsibility and marriage are also in line with international guidelines. In addition, Mauritius has ratified almost all relevant international and regional child rights treaties and has incorporated them into domestic laws and policies.

Similarly, Algeria has also ratified nearly all relevant child rights international instruments (the exceptions being The Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption (HCICA) and the prohibition of corporal punishment). Algeria's birth registration, at 99.6 percent, is the highest in Africa, while child labour and child marriage is among the lowest in the continent. Algeria also scored the third highest for child-related provision outcomes, an indication of the effectiveness of its policy interventions in improving child wellbeing.

Tunisia's high score results from reducing child labour and child marriage to levels that are among the lowest in Africa (2.1 percent and two percent respectively), while coverage of birth registration is also the third highest (99.2 percent). Tunisia was the third highest spender on social protection programmes, after Egypt and Lesotho, and has a poverty level of just two percent, on slightly higher than the top scorers Algeria and Mauritius (0.5 percent).

The next group, referred to here as "Child-Friendly", includes Gabon, Botswana, Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, Togo, Angola, Burundi, Rwanda and Malawi. However, it is important to note that 'child-friendly' does not necessarily mean they have fully realised their commitments or complied fully with all their obligations – simply that their performance was relatively better than many others covered in the index.

Languishing in the 'least child-friendly' group at the bottom of the 2018 CFI, we find South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Zambia, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and Eritrea, all of whom perform badly on several different indicators. South Sudan, for example, has inadequate laws and policies to protect children, has yet to ratify most of the relevant child right instruments, has a high rate of child marriage (52 percent) and the lowest rate of measles vaccination (20 percent). South Sudan is also among the lowest investors in children – its budget for education, for example, is a mere 1.8 percent of GDP – only Central African Republic and Zambia spend less. South Sudan's government allocated only 1.6 percent of its budget to health and made no financial contribution to the national immunisation programme.

It is a similar story in Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad (respectively second and third from bottom). Neither country has adequate laws to protect children and they spend the lowest in the region on education and health. Their limited enforcement of laws and policies shows in the high rates of child marriage, low birth registration and, of course, high incidence of poverty. The pupil-teacher ratio in CAR is also the highest in Africa where classes average 83 students to each teacher – double the recommended ratio of 40:1. CAR's poverty levels are also among the highest in Africa, with two-thirds of the

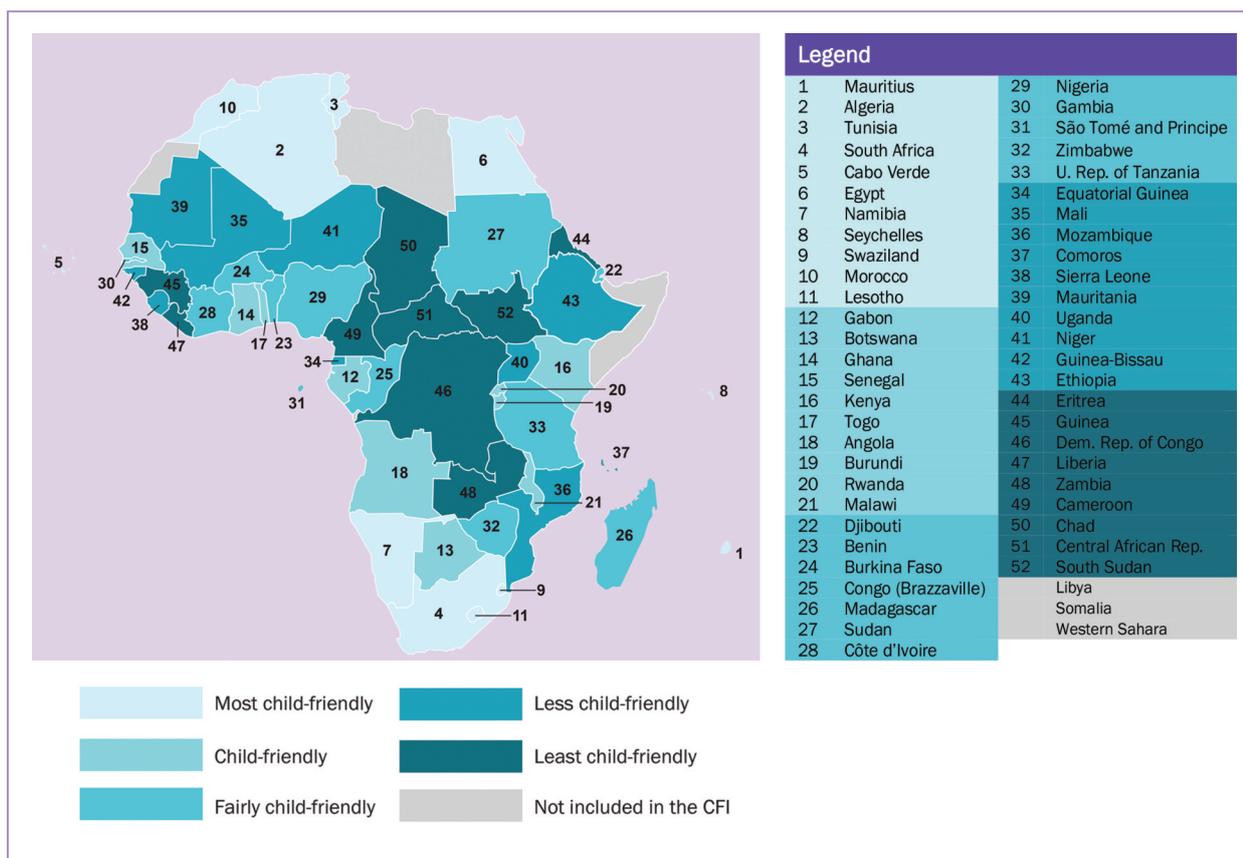
The least child-friendly countries in 2018

South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Zambia, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and Eritrea.

population living on less than USD 1.90 per day. CAR has yet to ratify any major child rights and human rights instruments, and has no specific law to prohibit child trafficking.

Chad, meanwhile, has the highest under-five mortality rate (127 deaths per 1,000 live births) – perhaps not surprising given its contribution to the national immunisation programme is only three percent. Chad has the highest rates of child marriage and child labour, clearly showing the lack of effective law enforcement to protect children from harm and exploitation.

Map 5.1: Spatial distribution of child-friendliness in Africa, 2018



Source: ACPF, 2018

Map 5.1 shows that northern and southern Africa are the best regions for child-friendliness – between them they have eight out of 11 countries in the top group. At the other end of the scale, the central African region accounts for four out of nine of the least child-friendly countries.

5.2 Child-friendliness and National Income

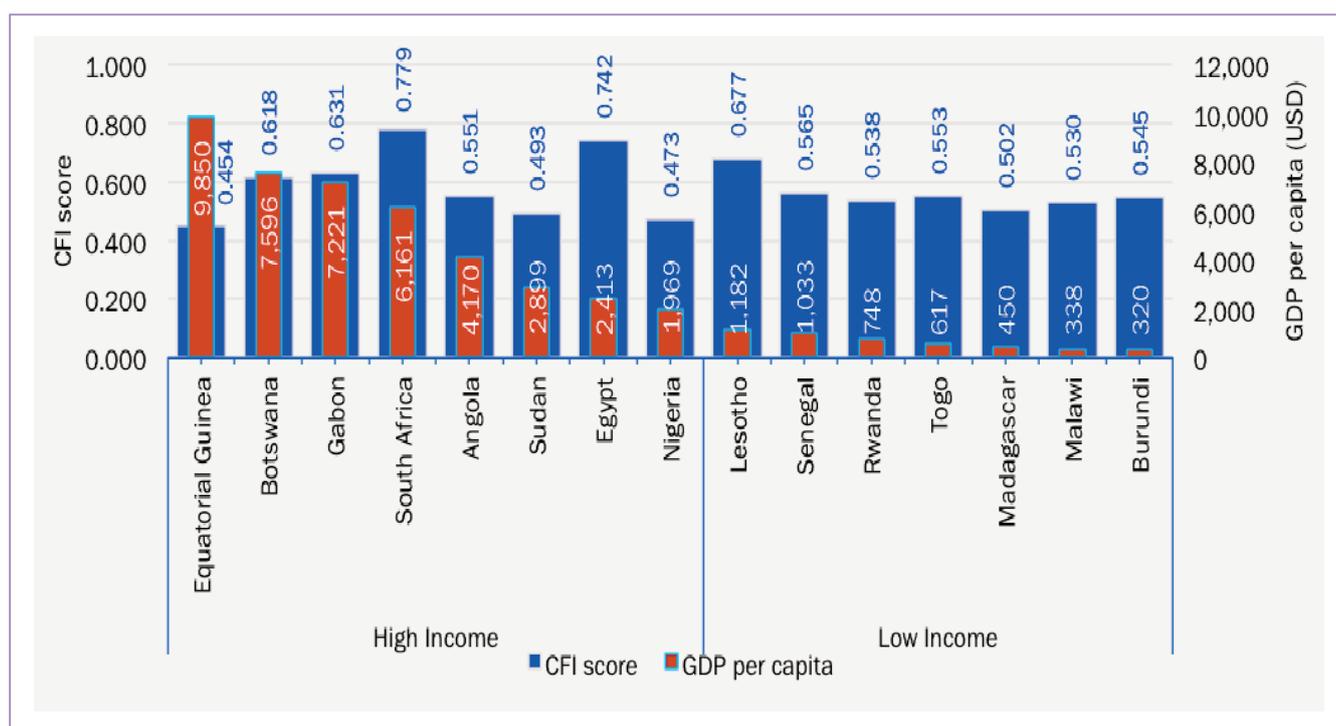
Higher national income does not always guarantee child-friendliness. Table 5.1 shows that while countries with a higher GDP per capital tend to be more child-friendly, countries such as Lesotho, Togo and Burundi show that income is not necessarily the primary determinant.

Lesotho, for example, has a relatively low GDP per capita but performed well enough in the 2018 CFI to join the most child-friendly group. Togo and Burundi also performed impressively despite being relatively poor – suggesting that national income, though an important element, is not the only or main factor in determining a government’s child-friendliness. Several other countries towards the bottom of the economic ladder have performed relatively well in the CFI (see Chart 5.1).

The opposite also holds true: those with a higher national income do not always perform well in the CFI. Equatorial Guinea, for example, is one of the few countries in Africa with a relatively high GDP per capita, estimated at about USD 9,850, yet is ranked only 34th, putting it in the in the 'less child-friendly' group along with Sudan and Nigeria, both of whom also have a high GDP per capita relative to the rest of Africa.

It seems that child-friendliness is not just about resources – it is above all about commitment to effectively direct and use available resources for the benefit of children. Wealth definitely matters, but so do political will and commitment.

Chart 5.1: Relationship between the scores of the 2018 CFI and GDP per capita for selected countries



Source: prepared by ACPF 2018.

5.3 Progress in child-friendliness over the last decade

Tracking progress from 2008 to 2018 is not straightforward. The revised CFI includes new indicators and new methodologies which make direct comparisons difficult. Nonetheless, it is safe to assume that the revised and earlier CFIs, when taken in their entirety, are reasonable reflections of government performance in realising the rights and wellbeing of children and therefore we can fairly track and compare progress over time (see Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Trend in Child-Friendliness Index rankings of African countries between 2008-2018

Country	Rank			Change in rank
	2008	2013	2018	2008-2018
Mauritius	1	1	1	0
Algeria	9	8	2	7
Tunisia	3	3	3	0
South Africa	7	2	4	3
Cabo Verde	10	5	5	5
Egypt	17	4	6	11
Namibia	2	26	7	-5
Seychelles	16	11	8	8
Swaziland	45	9	9	36
Libya	4	12	-	-
Morocco	5	10	10	-5
Lesotho	19	7	11	8
Gabon	24	29	12	12
Botswana	14	16	13	1
Ghana	29	18	14	15
Senegal	15	15	15	0
Kenya	6	21	16	-10
Togo	26	13	17	9
Angola	35	41	18	17
Burundi	20	23	19	1
Rwanda	11	6	20	-9
Malawi	8	14	21	-13
Djibouti	30	25	22	8
Benin	41	28	23	18
Burkina Faso	12	19	24	-12
Congo (Brazzaville)	34	32	25	9
Madagascar	13	24	26	-13
Sudan	39	38	27	12
Côte d'Ivoire	36	44	28	8
Nigeria	22	17	29	-7
Gambia	49	20	30	19
São Tomé and Príncipe	48	50	31	17
Zimbabwe	37	49	32	5
U. Rep. of Tanzania	23	31	33	-10
Equatorial Guinea	38	42	34	4
Mali	18	22	35	-17
Mozambique	25	35	36	-11
Comoros	43	48	37	6
Sierra Leone	40	33	38	2
Mauritania	28	43	39	-11
Uganda	21	30	40	-19
Niger	32	39	41	-9
Guinea-Bissau	52	40	42	10
Ethiopia	42	37	43	-1
Eritrea	51	51	44	7
Guinea	44	34	45	-1
Dem. Rep. of Congo	31	45	46	-15
Liberia	47	27	47	0
Zambia	27	36	48	-21
Cameroon	33	46	49	-16
Chad	46	52	50	-4
Central African Rep.	50	50	51	-1
South Sudan	-	-	52	-

Source: ACPF 2008, 2013, and 2018

Mauritius and Tunisia are both consistent in maintaining their ranking – first and third respectively – while Swaziland and Gambia have shown significant improvements. Swaziland has, over the last ten years, reformed its laws in line with international standards and principles. Over the same period it greatly improved children’s access to health care, resulting in a marked reduction in child mortality, an increase in measles vaccination of around 50 percent, and a considerable improvement in access to basic sanitation services. Under-five mortality rates fell from 110 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 70 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016.

Over the last ten years, Gambia has adopted international standards and raised the minimum age for criminal responsibility to 12 and the age of marriage to 18 both for boys and girls. It also initiated programmes and interventions to improve child wellbeing, all of which moved the country up the 2018 CFI. Angola, São Tomé and Príncipe, Ghana and Benin have also shown noticeable improvements in their rankings over the last ten years.

Reflecting their relative shift in commitment to child wellbeing, several countries have gone the other way and have dropped significantly down CFI over the last decade. These include Zambia (down 21 places to 48th), Uganda (down 19 to 40th), Cameroon (down 16 to 49th), Mali (down 17 to 35th), DRC (down 15 to 46th) and Malawi (down 13 to 21st).

5.4 Conclusion

African governments are becoming increasingly child-friendly. More countries are putting comprehensive legal and policy frameworks in place to protect children from abuse and exploitation. Others are increasing their spending on sectors benefiting children. The move from rhetoric to action is underlined by improvements in law reform, law enforcement, budgets and efficiency.

But progress remains uneven. Some countries lag far behind in protecting their children and have yet to adopt child-friendly laws and policies or to align them with African and international legal instruments. Girls continue to be treated unequally, especially when it comes to the minimum age of marriage and sexual consent. The age of criminal responsibility is lower than the international standard in many countries. Many countries fail to invest anywhere near enough in programmes benefiting children. Many children die from preventable causes and millions remain deprived of quality education and healthcare services. Africa is home to the highest number of out-of-school and malnourished children. Many are trapped in child labour, and child marriage is still widespread.

Clearly therefore there is no room for complacency. Africa needs a transformational agenda. Government must invest in children and young people, not only to meet their obligations under the CRC and the ACRWC but to reap the demographic dividend and build a much-needed foundation for peace, security and sustainable development.

6

CONCLUSIONS AND CALLS TO ACTION

6.1 Conclusions

African governments vary widely in their child-friendliness from consistently good to disturbingly poor. The last two decades have witnessed steady, sometimes impressive, improvements in child wellbeing, but the overall picture remains gloomy. A serious human development crisis is unfolding. African children continue to suffer deep-seated nutritional, physical and educational deprivation, with ominous implications for the continent's future, especially given the looming child and youth population explosion. In order to arrest and reverse this downward spiral, we urgently need to reinvigorate the campaign for greater government accountability and commitment to transform the social and economic prospects for African children.

Economic growth is not enough

Africa's child population has grown more than five-fold since 1950. It is expected reach 750 million by 2030 and one billion by 2050, by which time two out of every five children in the world will be African. Taking advantage of this demographic dividend to accelerate sustainable and equitable development requires long-term investment in quality education, nutrition, and employment. Failure to do so will have enormous economic, social and political costs. Instead of transforming Africa's future, the child population explosion could further increase the burden of poverty, inequality and instability.

Robust economic growth is predicted for the coming years, bringing the possibility of more investment in jobs, infrastructure and institutional development, but it will not happen without pro-poor economic strategies coupled with equitable tax and wealth redistribution policies. Governments must understand the significant link between child rights and macro-economic policies, given the importance of generating and allocating adequate funding for the needs, rights and wellbeing of children.

Corruption is a major barrier to using public funds effectively for the benefit of children. The African Union (AU), among others, says epidemic levels of corruption – aided by poor government accountability – are hindering human rights and development. The amount of money lost to corruption and illicit financial flows could easily finance the necessary investments in children and youth.

Conflict and children

Africa is relatively more peaceful than at any time in the recent past but is still plagued by domestic strife and conflict which has an exceptionally adverse impact on children. Conflict accounts for about half of the increase in infant deaths and a 15 percent increase in undernutrition. Conflict-affected countries are home to more than a third of out-of-school children, and children in conflict situations are exposed to higher risks of abuse and exploitation. Girls are trafficked and exposed to sexual and gender-based violence, often on a massive scale.

Peace is a prerequisite for action on children's rights and wellbeing. We urge governments, the AU and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) to strive for an Africa which is safe, secure and peaceful for the African child.

Targeting child poverty

We need urgent action to tackle the poverty which exposes children – especially girls – to exploitation, neglect and abuse. Children are more than twice as likely as adults to live in poverty, and despite considerable progress, it remains stubbornly widespread. For example, the poverty rate in some 20 African countries is well above 40 percent. Poverty remains persistently high especially or mainly in states where institutions are weak, where shocks and conflict are common and widespread, and where the state does not have the will or the means to prioritise poverty reduction. Children living in such countries are locked into a vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty which will only be broken by pro-poor budgets, social protection, better targeting, and equal opportunities for all children, starting from the early stages of development.

Persistent child undernutrition

Undernutrition is arguably the biggest problem facing Africa's children. More than half the countries in the region have stunting rates above 30 percent, and in some countries the rate of stunting among under-fives is more than 50 percent. Undernutrition reduces physical and cognitive capacity and leads to poor learning, low productivity, reduced income, and fewer chances to escape poverty. The cost in human life is also substantial - some studies estimate that up to a half of all deaths of children under age five relate to undernutrition.

Child undernutrition also has a huge economic impact. Ethiopia and Uganda, for example, respectively lose 16.5 percent and 5.6 percent of their annual GDP through child undernutrition. Only around nine percent of African children get a minimally acceptable diet, while poor maternal practices and a lack of safe drinking water and sanitation add to children's poor health and malnutrition.

Schooled but not educated

Poor education is another serious challenge, particularly in disadvantaged and underserved areas. Despite some impressive advances in school enrolment, nine out of ten African children still cannot read or do maths properly by the time they leave primary school. This is not simply a violation of the right to quality education, it threatens Africa's future development, stability and security. A billion unqualified and unskilled young people will not drive Africa's economic development or achieve its aspirations for peace and prosperity.

Pre-primary education is vital for those from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds as it improves their chances for life-long learning, yet the overwhelming majority of African children are denied this opportunity. Only one child in four has access to pre-primary education, often restricted to private schools in cities.

Enrolment rates at primary level may be reaching universal coverage in nearly all African countries, but access to secondary education is still low. Girls and the very poor, especially those living in rural areas, are particularly disadvantaged, while children with disabilities are even worse off, with enrolment rates 30-50 percent lower than their peers.

Laws not always in line with international and AU standards

Despite considerable progress, there are many cases of discrepancies between domestic law and international and AU standards. For example, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommends a minimum age of criminal responsibility of 12, but several countries have yet to comply: ten in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania; nine in Ethiopia; eight in Kenya and Zambia; and seven in Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

Respect and dignity for Africa's girls

Nearly thirty years after most African governments ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), African girls have yet to be given equal treatment in law. The minimum age of marriage serves as an example – of the 52 countries we assessed, 36 have set the minimum age of marriage at 18 or above for both sexes, but others discriminate by setting the minimum age for girls below 18, while for boys it is 18 or older. The discrimination is compounded in some countries which have different minimum ages for marriage and sexual consent.

Child marriage in Africa is slowly declining but remains unacceptably high – three in ten children are married before the age of 18. Africa accounts for 17 percent of all women and girls who marry before their 18th birthday – most of them from rural areas and the lowest-income families who are twice as likely to marry before the age of 18 as girls from the richest households.

Making things happen

As Graça Machel said at ACPF's Sixth International Policy Conference on the African Child, "The challenge for us here in Africa is making things happen." Many African governments make increasingly child-friendly pronouncements on policies, law reform and funding, but in many cases the words fail to translate into action. Others have yet to adopt child-friendly laws and policies bring them in line with AU and international standards.

We need urgent action on law enforcement and policy implementation. Birth registration, for example, is a widely accepted legal principle across Africa, yet in some countries it remains extremely low – just three percent in East Africa. Child labour and child marriage tell a similar story: there is no lack of political rhetoric or legislation to deal with these problems but, unfortunately and all too often, this is not accompanied by effective enforcement of laws and full implementation of policies.

Many promises but little money

Budgets for programmes and sectors benefiting children range across countries from a paltry one percent to a more respectable ten percent of GDP, and the average budget of around four percent has stagnated for two decades. Health, education and social protection budgets are all woefully inadequate in most African countries despite the fact that children need them most. The average expenditure on child-targeted social protection programmes is almost zero – at around 0.6 percent of GDP.

Modest but unsatisfactory progress in government child-friendliness

African Governments have becoming increasingly child-friendly over the past decade. In the 2018 CFI ranking, Mauritius, Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Morocco and Lesotho top the table by dint of their laws, policies and budgets that benefit children, and their effectiveness in achieving relatively high child wellbeing outcomes.

Most child-friendly countries	Score	Rank
Mauritius	0.8025	1
Algeria	0.7474	2
Tunisia	0.7452	3
South Africa	0.7425	4
Cabo Verde	0.7087	5
Egypt	0.7065	6
Namibia	0.6955	7
Seychelles	0.6817	8
Swaziland	0.6722	9
Morocco	0.6664	10
Lesotho	0.6453	11

Conversely, those at the bottom of the table – South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Zambia, Liberia, DRC, Guinea, and Eritrea – have inadequate laws and policies and suffer from a poor record in enforcement and implementation. They also spend relatively little, despite their children having the biggest need.

Least child-friendly countries	Score	Rank
South Sudan	0.1361	52
Central African Republic	0.2988	51
Chad	0.2993	50
Cameroon	0.3258	49
Zambia	0.3349	48
Liberia	0.3447	47
Democratic Republic of Congo	0.3485	46
Guinea	0.3531	45
Eritrea	0.355	44

The Child-Friendliness Index (CFI) shows that several countries, including Swaziland and Gambia, improved their ranking significantly over the past ten years. Some – though few – like Mauritius and Tunisia maintained their high positions. Unfortunately, there were also

governments that fell sharply down in the rankings, for example, Zambia, Uganda, Cameroon, Mali and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), reflecting a shift in their commitment to children and failure to comply with their obligations under the CRC and the ACRWC.

In short, there has been significant progress in child wellbeing across Africa, but most governments have yet to honour the commitments they made when they adopted or ratified close to 30 years ago the African Children's Charter and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6.2 Priority areas for action

The years between now and 2030 will be critical for investing in Africa's growing child and youth population and to therefore lay the foundation for sustainable economic and social development. To this end, this report calls for action in six priority areas:

Nutritious food. Poor nutrition is perhaps the single most important challenge facing Africa's children. African governments must adopt integrated strategies to combat child undernutrition, including national programmes and campaigns to enhance better nutrition for children, especially in their early years; extensive provision of school and community-based feeding programmes; developing educational and information materials to counter traditional beliefs which hamper proper feeding practices; and filling the information gap on age-appropriate dietary diversity and frequency of feeding.

High quality education. African governments should prioritise enhanced educational quality at all levels as part of their socio-economic development policy and substantially increase their education budgets.

- Those governments which currently invest below the regional average of four percent should immediately raise education spending to at least this level, followed by further increases to reach the Dakar target of ten percent of GDP. Those currently spending more than four percent should aim to reach the Dakar target as soon as possible.
- Governments should substantially increase budgets for pre-primary education, given that early learning is the best investment they can make to promote equity and sustainable development.
- All governments should strengthen their oversight mechanisms to ensure budgets are used efficiently and effectively to deliver enhanced quality education at all levels.

Respect for the dignity of the child. Many contentious issues such as corporal punishment could be sensibly resolved if we put respect for the dignity of the child first. Just as the principle of 'Best Interest of the Child' underpins all legal considerations concerning children, the notion of dignity should always inform our attitudes, laws, principles and policies relating to children.

Africa has an impressive child protection architecture, but it should be continuously reviewed and assessed, especially when it comes to the way policies and laws treat girls and boys differently. Specifically, any law reform or review must always ensure respect for

the best interest and human dignity of the child, especially the girl child; give increased attention to enforcement and implementation; reach out to marginalised or neglected groups of children; ensure universal birth registration; and implement a policy of zero tolerance of violence against children, including the emerging problem of online abuse.

Human development. Africa's economic growth is seriously out of balance. Human development should be the central objective and at the core of all development efforts. Rising unemployment and inequality must be urgently tackled by implementing policies to create jobs and redistribute resources more fairly. Governments must prioritise mobilising domestic resources and proper financing of programmes and sectors benefiting children. Given that corruption and illicit financial flows are major obstacles to mobilising domestic revenue, governments should step up efforts to counter these corrosive practices.

Every child matters, and no child should be left behind. African governments must make every effort to reach out to marginalised groups and ensure they benefit from public budgets. Evidence from high-impact initiatives show that wellbeing significantly improves when investing in the most deprived, vulnerable and marginalised groups of children. Governments must use this evidence to design bespoke nutrition, health and education programmes which significantly improve the overall wellbeing of marginalised and neglected groups of children.

Public spending. Budgets should be judged according to their impact on child wellbeing, yet in most African countries, spending on children doesn't even meet government obligations under the CRC or ACRWC, let alone the substantially higher amounts needed for Africa's transformation. However, investing in children and the young is not only about the amount of money, but how the budget is allocated, spent and managed to meet the special needs of children. This, in turn, requires strong, transparent public finance management and oversight systems, without which it is impossible to maintain genuinely open, engaging and responsive budgets.

The six key priority areas for action

1. Adopt integrated strategies to combat child undernutrition by enhancing children's access to nutritious food, especially in their early years.
2. Enhance the quality of education at all levels.
3. Embed respect for the human dignity of the child in protection principles and policies, establish supportive and empowering child protection systems where they do not exist, and strengthen them where they do.
4. Underpin economic growth with human development by providing funding for decent education and employment.
5. Ensure that every child matters through government programmes to target the most deprived, vulnerable and marginalised children.
6. Put children at the heart of the budget by applying the underlying principle that funding decisions must always take account of their impact on child wellbeing.

Beyond child rights

This report carries one exceptionally important message which marks it out from other such reports: public policy concerning children in Africa must go beyond the conventional box-ticking approach to child rights. It is not enough for African governments to be satisfied with filing occasional reports to the UN and the AU about how well they are meeting their obligations under the CRC and the ACRWC.

We have highlighted many positive achievements which are cause for celebration. Africa's progress over the last two decades, and especially since 2008, has undoubtedly been impressive and justifies, to some degree, the "Africa Rising" narrative. Africa's children are healthier, live longer, are better schooled, and can aspire to a better life than those before. African governments are also becoming increasingly child-friendly by providing better protection, adopting more child-friendly laws and policies and spending more resources on their children than ever before.

These advances, however, cannot hide our underlying concern that progress on child rights in Africa is simply too slow and too patchy. African governments need to rethink their concept of 'child-friendliness' and to understand that it goes far beyond child rights per se. Africa faces significant threats to its economic and social development, including a future demographic of one billion children and the need to catch up with the rest of the world in science and technology. These are extraordinary challenges. They require an extraordinary effort by African governments and the adoption of a radical, transformative human development agenda.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT ACTION ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATION

By Gerison Lansdown

Article 12, United Nations CRC (CRC)

- 1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.*
- 2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.*

Articles 4 and 7, the African Children's Charter (ACRWC)

If children can voice their opinions, then those opinions should be heard and taken into consideration during legal and administrative proceedings (Article 4)

Every child who is capable of communicating his or her own views should be allowed to express his or her opinions freely (Article 7)

1. Background

Every African government has ratified the CRC, and most of them have also ratified the ACRWC. In so doing, they committed to ensuring that every child capable of forming a view has the right to express that view and have it given due weight in accordance with age and maturity. 30 years ago when the treaties were drafted, there was relatively limited understanding of what this meant in practice. Today there is far greater clarity on what governments must do to give it effect.

The right to express views – to participate – is a fundamental right of every child.¹⁵ The CRC defines it thus: '*Girls and boys (individually and/or collectively) form and express their views and influence matters that concern them directly and indirectly*'. Participation is not just about human dignity, but is a means of realising other rights such as freedom of expression, association, thought, conscience and religion, privacy, and information.¹⁶

Freedom to exercise these rights is a prerequisite for the right to express views, have them taken seriously, and influence matters of concern. This represents a profound challenge to

¹⁵ CRC General Comment No.12, The Right of the Child to be Heard, CRC/C/GC/12, 2009

¹⁶ ACRWC Articles 8, 9 and 10

the traditional status of children by recognising, for the first time in international human rights law, that children are not simply passive recipients of adult protection, but are entitled and able to influence issues which impact their lives.

2. Significance of children's participation

There are many compelling reasons to listen to children and take their views seriously in decisions that affect them. These include:

Improved services and policies. Children's unique insight into their lives, needs and concerns, and their ideas and views derived from direct experience, can both help to make better decisions affecting their lives, and enhance the fulfilment of their rights.

Strengthened accountability. Participation in legal processes, complaints and redress mechanisms and policy making can help challenge violations and uphold rights. Confidence and belief acquired from an early age encourages children to speak out against injustice and corruption and, as adults, to hold politicians accountable.

Enhanced protection. The right and the space to be heard in safety acts empowers children to challenge violence, abuse, threats, injustice or discrimination. In many societies, abusers operate with impunity because children cannot report abuse for fear they will not be believed or will be further punished. A culture of speaking out, together with effective channels for so doing, empowers children to challenge and expose violations of their rights.

Capacity development. Meaningful participation enables children to enhance their skills, competencies, aspirations and confidence, as well as building tolerance and respect for others. Societies benefit from citizens with the ability and commitment to promote accountability and good governance. Participation in family, school, community and national affairs, or joining clubs, councils and parliaments all contribute to reduced drop-out and better job prospects.

Contributing to communities. Children have a major contribution to make to the communities in which they live. Their energies, skills, aspirations, creativity and passion can strengthen democratic discourse, challenge injustice, build civil society, engage in peace-building and non-violent conflict resolution, and explore innovative solutions to intractable challenges.

3. What should governments do to promote children's right to participation?

Governments can make or break children's participation. We urge them to act in the following five key areas:

- i) Remove social and cultural barriers

Children in all countries encounter some degree of social and cultural barriers to participation. Deep-seated and long-established hierarchies are often justified as upholding traditional gender roles, stability and discipline. Girls, children with

disabilities and younger children frequently experience particular exclusion. Governments should challenge and try to change these cultural practices by demonstrating the benefits of children's participation. For example, it is important to challenge the perception held by some parents that the right to participation means always giving in to their children's wishes.

ii) Establish laws and policies

The right of all children to be heard must be underpinned by laws and policies which strengthen and guarantee that right. Legal rights should be incorporated into properly funded policies to create an environment in which participation is recognised as an entitlement for all children and embedded across schools, health care and the justice system.

iii) Promote awareness

Children cannot exercise their rights if they are unaware they exist. Unless adults working with and for children understand, promote and put those rights into practice, children will continue to be voiceless. We call for the strengthening of human rights education in schools, and education on human rights for adult professionals.

iv) Build skills and capacities

In societies where children are "seen but not heard" we need to build their skills, confidence and capacities to exercise their participation rights without fear. At the same time, we must provide adults with the knowledge, skills and capacities to enable them to work with children in a participatory and inclusive manner, consistent with their human rights.

v) Create opportunities

Children need more than one-off consultations to voice their opinions and influence decisions affecting them. The time and space to be heard must be embedded in the culture of home, schools, local communities, health care, child protection, work places, judicial systems and national processes. School councils, children's clubs, youth forums and parliaments all offer opportunities to be heard. Young people should be encouraged and supported to organise, identify issues of concern to them and gain access to relevant policy makers – for example through opportunities for research, developing strategies for action, providing mutual support and campaigning for change both on- and offline.

4. Learning from good practice elsewhere

African governments can take a lead from their European counterparts who adopted measures towards the greater realisation of children's participation rights. In 2012 the Council of Europe (CoE) committed to progress in three areas:

- a) measures to protect the right of children to participate,
- b) measures to raise awareness of that right among both adults and children and

- c) measures to create spaces, such as youth forums or student councils where children can participate.¹⁷

A Child Participation Assessment Tool was developed with ten indicators against which governments can measure progress in introducing and implementing the necessary laws and policies.¹⁸ The indicators do not yet measure the changes in children's lives, as member states took the view that the first step should be to put systems for participation in place.

Box PS 1: The 10 indicators for measuring progress towards realisation of children's rights to participation

Indicators measuring protection of participation rights

1. Legal protection for children and young people's right to participate in decision-making is reflected in the national Constitution and legislation
2. Explicit inclusion of children and young people's right to participate in decision-making in a cross-sectorial national strategy to implement children's rights
3. An independent children's rights institution is in place and protected by law
4. Existence of mechanisms to enable children to exercise their right to participate safely in judicial and administrative proceedings
5. Child-friendly complaints procedures are in place

Indicators measuring awareness of participation rights

6. Training in children and young people's right to participate in decision-making is embedded in training programmes for professionals working with and for children
7. Children are provided with information about their right to participate

Indicators measuring the existence of spaces for children's participation

8. Children are represented in forums, including their own organisations, at local, regional and national levels
9. Child-targeted feedback mechanisms on local services are in place
10. Children are supported to participate in monitoring the UNCRC and ACRWC shadow reporting.

The Tool defines each indicator, suggests sources of data, and assesses progress on a scale of 0 to 3, and is accompanied by a comprehensive guide to data gathering and assessment. It was piloted in three countries in 2016, and extensively revised based on the findings. Three further countries have now completed the assessment and a further five or six have expressed interest for the coming year. Based on progress against the ten indicators, governments develop an action plan to strengthen its implementation of Article 12

¹⁷ Recommendation CM/Rec (2102)2 of the Committee of Ministers

¹⁸ Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/participation>.

of the CRC. Positive feedback from participating countries suggests that undertaking the assessment has raised awareness, promoted interest and stimulated a commitment to strengthen opportunities for children's participation.

Clearly this approach was designed to be used in Europe, but African states could easily adapt it, taking into account Article 12 of the CRC, Articles 4 and 7 of the ACRWC and the realities on the ground in order to ensure buy-in. Such a commitment could promote opportunities for millions of African children to start, both as individuals and collectively, to transform their lives and the communities around them.

5. Call to action

The right to be heard and taken seriously enshrined in the CRC has unleashed an opportunity to radically transform the lives of all children. There has been significant progress over the past three decades in the law, policy and practice of many countries towards children's participation and what it means. There is still, however, a long way to go. Many millions of children throughout Africa are still silenced and impotent to influence their own lives – forced to leave school to work, or stuck in authoritarian institutions which deny them the right to question, challenge or discover; denied access to justice or mechanisms for complaint or redress; forced into marriages without consent; refused opportunities to choose their own religion or friendships; subject to laws, policies and programmes which fail to reflect their realities, their best interests or their aspirations; lacking access to civic or political decision-making. Where investment in participation is made, it tends to be short-term, piecemeal and reaches only a tiny minority of children.

African governments must empower children to speak out, to influence the matters that affect them, to learn that they can make a difference and to challenge violations of their rights. So doing will not only enhance the lives of children but strengthen communities, and contribute to the building of more transparent, open and accountable societies. Action is long overdue. African governments must take urgent, sustainable legal, policy and administrative measures to ensure children have appropriate platforms to share their views, to consider their concerns in the policy practices and uphold their best interests in all socio-economic development initiatives.

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ANNEX I:

THE REVISED CHILD-FRIENDLINESS INDEX:

ABRIDGED METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

Introduction

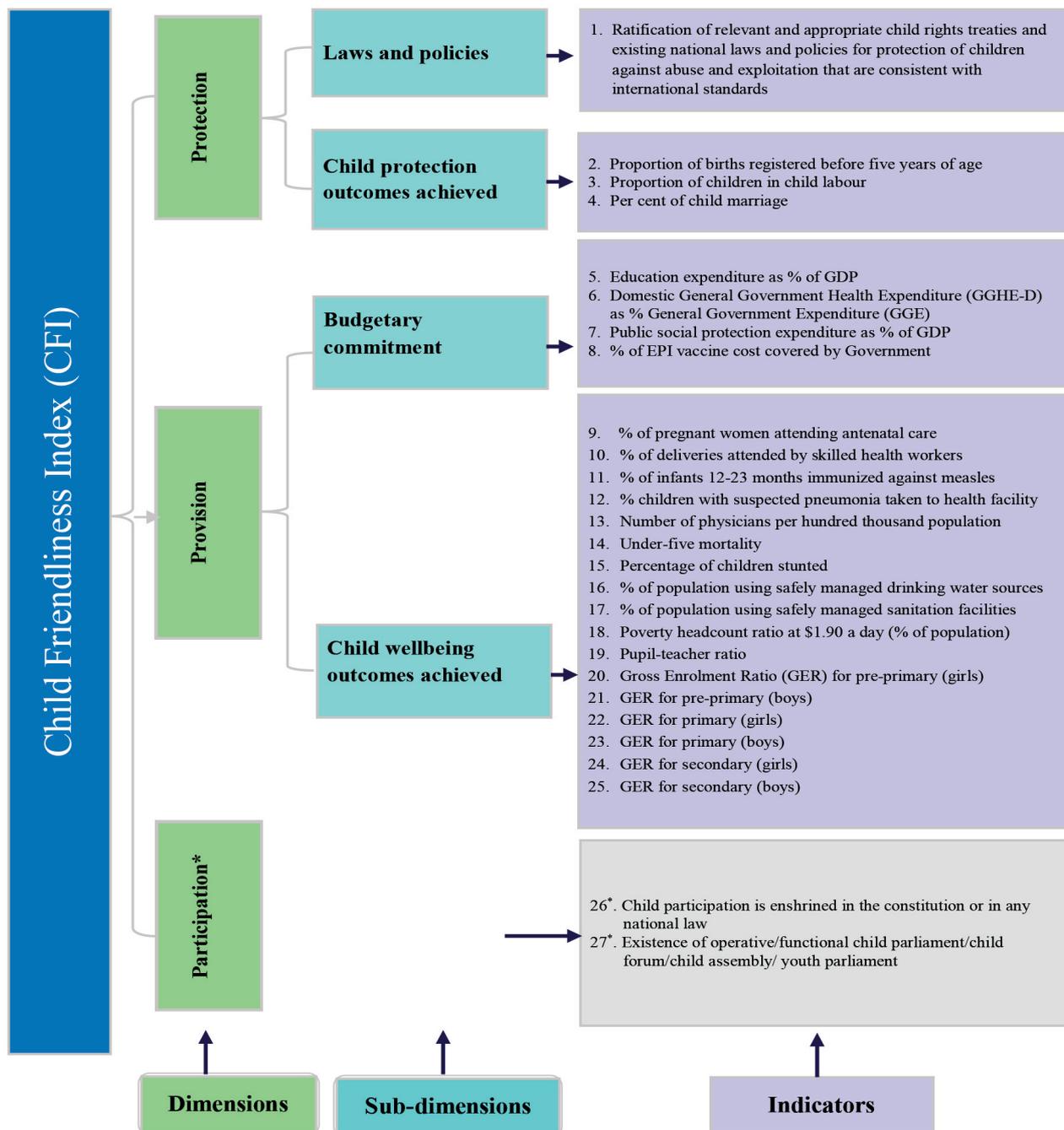
The Child-Friendliness Index (CFI) is a measurement and monitoring framework developed to track governments' performance in fulfilling the rights and wellbeing of children. This annex briefly describes both the conceptual and analytical methodology used in the development of the CFI. We followed these standard indexing steps to create the revised CFI:

- develop a theoretical framework to select and combine single indicators into an index;
- select indicators on the basis of relevance to the phenomenon being measured;
- account for outliers/extreme values as they may influence subsequent steps in the process of building the index;
- input missing data;
- choose a normalisation scheme;
- select a weighting scheme and aggregation method in line with the underlying theoretical framework;
- assess internal coherence to further refine the index structure;
- and finally, conduct uncertainty and sensitivity analysis to gauge the robustness of the index.

The revised conceptual framework

The revised CFI measures how far governments have lived up to expectations of progressively realising children's rights, based on their obligations to provide adequate protection, provision, and participation. Protection has two components (laws and outcomes achieved in relation to child protection) as does provision (budget expenditure and child wellbeing outcomes achieved). As Figure 1 shows, 27 indicators are used to capture the three dimensions and create the index.

Figure A1: Revised framework for CFI



* Not included in the CFI analysis due to lack of data

Data sources

We used accurate, up-to-date, and complete data from various sources including UNICEF, UNESCO’s Institute of Statistics, the UN Statistics Division, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United National Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Population Division. In addition, we drew on the databases of other regional and international institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB).

Data or information on legal and policy frameworks comes from UN treaty collections, including reports submitted to, and concluding observations by, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the African Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the ‘African Children’s Charter’ or ACRWC), national laws; and progress reports on the implementation of the African Union (AU) Plan of Action on children, Africa Fit for Children.

Checking for outliers

Outliers can distort results by obscuring the behavioural pattern of the rest of the dataset, and may affect the normality of the distributions. We used two of the most common devices – box-plots and box-whisker diagrams – for the univariate identification of outliers. Once identified, we used ‘winsorisation’ (assigning the next highest value) to reduce the impact of these extreme outliers.

Missing data and imputation

Imputation – the replacement of missing data with substituted values – plays an important role because incomplete data sets can hinder the development of composite indicators and can weaken the robustness analysis.

We used hot deck imputation (classical Euclidean distance) to fill in any missing data¹⁹ by substituting missing values with observed units in the sample, based on mathematical similarities.

$$\text{Euclidean distance} = d_{ij} = \sqrt{\sum_k (x_i^k - x_j^k)^2}$$

Where Index k goes through all the indicators jointly observed in cases i and j , and x_i and x_j are normalised and corrected values.

As a result the missing value for country “ j ” is replaced by the observed value for the same indicator on the most similar country (smallest Euclidean distance).

Normalisation

Normalisation helps us compare data across indicators, in order to combine them in a meaningful way. There are several different normalisation methods, each of which will produce different results for the composite indicator, meaning overall robustness tests should be carried out to assess their impact on the outcomes (OECD, 2008).

¹⁹ There are several reasons why we chose the popular hot deck method. Firstly, a dataset with only a few missing cases may not require sophisticated imputation. Secondly, hot decking does not rely on model fitting for the variable to be imputed, so is potentially less sensitive to model misspecification than imputation based on a parametric model, such as regression imputation. In addition, only plausible values can be imputed, since values come from observed responses or records (Andridge et al., 2010).

We preferred to use the rescaling/min-max method of normalisation, because it widens the range of indicators (particularly those with small value ranges) and allows us to differentiate between countries with similar levels of performance. This method is also much easier to explain when communicating to a lay audience. CFI indicators are normalised as follows:

When an increase in the value of an indicator corresponds to an increase in the performance, the normalised value I_{ic} for that particular indicator x_i of a country c is given by:

$$I_{ic} = \frac{x_{ic} - \text{Min}[x_i]}{\text{Max}[x_i] - \text{Min}[x_i]}$$

When an increase in the value of an indicator corresponds to a decrease in the performance, the normalised value I_{ic} for that particular indicator x_i of a country c is given by:

$$I_{ic} = \frac{\text{Max}[x_i] - x_{ic}}{\text{Max}[x_i] - \text{Min}[x_i]}$$

We set observed minimum and maximum values for the majority of the indicators. However, we used possible natural minimum and maximum values of 0 and 100 respectively to normalise indicators presented as percentages, i.e.

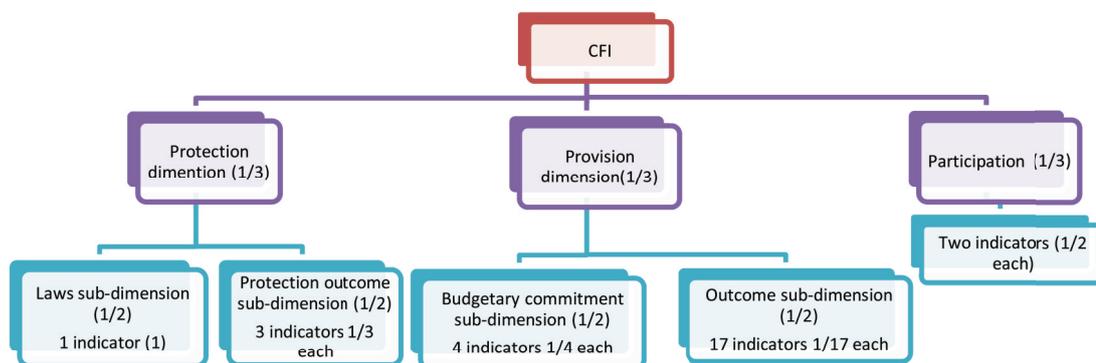
- percentage of births registered
- percentage of children in child labour
- prevalence of child marriage
- Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) contribution
- percentage of pregnant women attending antenatal services
- percentage of births attended by skilled health workers
- percentage of children stunted - percentage of children under 5 years of age with suspected pneumonia taken to a health facility - measles immunisation coverage
- percentages of population using safely managed sanitation and drinking water services

Weighting

Indicators of children's rights are assumed to be equally important as all rights are equal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent, which is why both the original and revised CFI uses equal weighting (EW) (Figure 2.19).²⁰ Furthermore, all three dimensions are equally important and countries are expected to perform well in each dimension.

²⁰ *Equal weighting* can be applied after a proper scaling of the sub-indicators. Equal weighting works well if all sub-indicators are uncorrelated, or they are all highly correlated (Saisana et al., 2003).

Figure A2: Analytical framework



Aggregation

Weighting and aggregation go hand in hand. Choice of the most appropriate aggregation method depends on a report's aim and audience. In a multidimensional measurement, subsets of representative indicators under each dimension may work better to create a composite index for each dimension, and then generate the overall index by aggregating the partial composite indices.

In the revised CFI, aggregation follows three steps. First, the normalised indicators are aggregated for each sub-dimension using arithmetic mean. In other words, the m^{th} sub-dimension score SD_{mc} for given country c is aggregated as follows:

$$SD_{mc} = \sum_{i=1}^k I_{imc} w_{im}$$

Where I_{imc} is the normalized indicator in the m^{th} sub-dimension, w_{im} is the weight for i^{th} indicator in the m^{th} sub-dimension, and k is the number of indicators.

Next, the sub-dimension scores are aggregated into overall dimension scores, and finally, the dimension indices are aggregated to create the CFI using geometric mean. For a given country c , the Child-Friendliness Index CFI_c is aggregated as follows:

$$CFI_c = \prod_{j=1}^n D_{jc}^{w_j}$$

Where D_{jc} is the score for the j^{th} dimension, w_j is the weight for j^{th} dimension, and n is the number of dimensions.

Previous iterations of the CFI applied arithmetic mean to all three steps. However, for three reasons we have now changed from arithmetic to geometric mean at dimension and index levels. Firstly, arithmetic mean allows for perfect substitutability (poor performance in one area can be fully compensated by good performance in another); secondly, arithmetic mean does not reward balanced achievement in all indicators; and thirdly, geometric mean provides incentives for improvement in weak dimensions (Saisana and Philippas, 2012).

Geometric aggregation is therefore better suited to allow for some degree of non-compensation between sub-dimensions or dimensions, as poor performance in one cannot be fully compensated by good performance in another. However, it is only applicable for equal weight schemes such as the CFI.

Statistical Coherence

Correlation analysis

We carried out detailed analysis of the correlation structure to ensure the framework of the CFI is statistically coherent, using the Pearson correlation coefficient applicable to interval/ratio type constructs. We double-checked statistical coherence using Cronbach's alpha (C-alpha) to measure total variability rates within individual indicators. C-alpha is used as a coefficient of reliability based on the correlation between individual indicators as well as to check internal consistency.

Categorising countries based on their performance

Finally, countries with similar CFI scores were grouped together using a two-step clustering SPSS into five predefined categories: most child-friendly, child-friendly, fairly child-friendly, less child-friendly, and least child-friendly.^{21, 22}

1.1 Robustness analysis

A combination of uncertainty and sensitivity analysis helped us gauge the robustness and integrity of the composite indicator. Uncertainty analysis focuses on how uncertainty in the input factors spreads through the structure of the composite indicator and affects the end composite indicator values. Sensitivity analysis on the other hand, assesses the contribution of the individual source of uncertainty to the output variance. Ideally, all potential sources of uncertainty such as selection of individual indicators, normalisation, weighting, aggregation, etc. should be addressed (OECD, 2008). For the CFI we chose to check three of the uncertainty factors – inclusion/exclusion of an indicator, normalisation and aggregation.

The average shift in countries' ranking with respect to a reference ranking will be an output of interest to be explored in the uncertainty and sensitivity analyses. This statistic captures the relative shift in position of the entire countries in a single number. This single number (\bar{R}_s) can be quantified as the average absolute difference in countries' ranks with respect to a reference ranking over the total number of countries under consideration (M) (See Saisana et al. 2005).

²¹ In the previous CFI, countries were categorised into these groups somewhat subjectively or unscientifically. -

²² In the first step, cases are assigned into pre-clusters and these pre-clusters are treated as single cases in the second step. In the second step, the hierarchical algorithm is used to cluster the pre-clusters.

$$\bar{R}_s = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{c=1}^M |rank_{ref}(CFI_c) - rank(CFI_c)|$$

1.1.1 Uncertainty analysis

Uncertainty analysis is used to estimate the probability distribution functions (PDF)²³ of the variables of interest, and is based on simulations carried out by each of the equations mentioned and termed as models (Saisana, et al., 2003). There are various ways to evaluate output uncertainty: we have used the Monte Carlo (MC) approach which is based on performing multiple evaluations of a model with randomly selected model inputs. The procedure involves the following steps:

- a) Assign Probability Distribution Function (PDF) to each input factor X_i . The first input factor, X_1 , is the trigger to select the type of normalisation method; the second input factor, X_2 , is the trigger to select the aggregation scheme; the third input factor X_3 , is the trigger to examine which individual indicator affects most when excluded.
- b) Generate randomly N combinations of independent input factors X_l , with $l = 1, \dots, N$ (a set $X_l = X_{l1}, X_{l2}, \dots, X_{l3}$ of input factors is called a sample).
- c) For each sample l , select a normalisation and aggregation method based on X_1, X_2 , respectively and exclude indicators one at a time based on X_3 .
- d) Evaluate the model, i.e. by computing the output value for each sample l , Rank (CFI_c), the rank of the composite indicator for each country, or \bar{R}_s the averaged shift in countries' ranks.
- e) Close the loop over l , and analyse the resulting output vectors, namely Rank (CFI_c)^{*l*} and \bar{R}_s^l with $l = 1, \dots, N$.

1.1.2 Sensitivity analysis using variance-based techniques

The CFI uses a variance-based technique for sensitivity analysis, in order to measure the contribution of each individual input factor to the output variance, as described below. A review of various methods including the variance-based method is given in Chan et al. (2000).

²³ The PDF is used to specify the probability of the random variable falling within a particular range of values. This probability is given by the integral of this variable's PDF over that range, i.e. it is given by the area under the PDF between the lowest and greatest values of the range [a,b]. The PDF is non-negative everywhere, and its integral over the entire space is equal to one.

Variance-based sensitivity analysis method

The importance of a given input factor X_i with respect to the model can be measured via the so-called sensitivity index, which is defined as the fractional contribution to the model output variance due to the uncertainty in X_i . For k independent input factors, the sensitivity indices can be computed by using the following decomposition formula for the total output variance $V(Y)$ of the output Y (in our case the CFI) (Saisana et al., 2005)

$$V(Y) = \sum_i V_i + \sum_i \sum_{j>i} V_{ij} + \dots + V_{12\dots k}$$

Where

$$V_i = V_{X_i} \{E_{X_{-i}}(Y|X_i)\}$$

$$V_{ij} = V_{X_i X_j} \{E_{X_{-ij}}(Y|X_i, X_j)\} - V_{X_i} \{E_{X_{-i}}(Y|X_i)\} - V_{X_j} \{E_{X_{-j}}(Y|X_j)\}$$

And so on. In computing $V_i = V_{X_i} \{E_{X_{-i}}(Y|X_i)\}$, the expectation $E_{X_{-i}}$ would call an integral over X_{-i} over all factors except X_i , including the marginal distribution of these factors whereas the variance V_{X_i} , would imply a further integral over X_i and its marginal distribution. The first measure of the fraction of the unconditional output variance $V(Y)$ that is accounted for by the uncertainty in X_i is the first order sensitivity index for the factor X_i defined as: $S_i = V_i/V$. An input factor will be considered significantly important if S_i explains more than $1/k$ of the output variance, where k the number of input factors.

A model without interactions among its input factors is considered to be additive when $\sum_{i=1}^k S_i = 1$. Terms above the first-order in the above formula are recognised as interactions. The first-order conditional variances $V_i = V_{X_i} \{E_{X_{-i}}(Y|X_i)\}$ should be estimated so as to be able to decompose the model output variance. The variance based measures illustrated above are estimated numerically using SIMLAB, a freely distributed software designed for global uncertainty and sensitivity analyses.

ANNEX II: INDEX SCORES

Table A2.1: Index scores

Countries	Protection				Provision						CFI - Geometric mean of dimensions	Rank
	Protection: Laws sub-dimension	Protection: Outcome sub-dimension	Protection dimension index (GEOMEAN of sub-dimensions)	Rank	Budget sub-dimension index	Rank	Outcome sub-dimension index	Rank	Provision dimension index (GEOMEAN of sub-dimensions)	Rank		
Mauritius	0.9271	0.9850	0.9556	1	0.6218	7	0.8871	1	0.7427	2	0.8424	1
Algeria	0.7708	0.9737	0.8663	3	0.5942	9	0.8496	3	0.7105	4	0.7846	2
Tunisia	0.6250	0.9850	0.7846	12	0.7222	2	0.8423	4	0.7799	1	0.7823	3
South Africa	0.7292	0.9243	0.8210	6	0.7094	3	0.7718	6	0.7400	3	0.7794	4
Cabo Verde	0.7500	0.8887	0.8164	7	0.5966	8	0.7705	7	0.6780	5	0.7440	5
Egypt	0.7917	0.9167	0.8519	4	0.5269	11	0.7911	5	0.6456	8	0.7416	6
Namibia	0.7083	0.9097	0.8027	9	0.6957	4	0.6337	13	0.6640	6	0.7301	7
Seychelles	0.6771	0.9737	0.8119	8	0.4513	13	0.8813	2	0.6306	11	0.7156	8
Swaziland	0.7708	0.8030	0.7868	11	0.6580	6	0.6088	14	0.6329	9	0.7057	9
Morocco	0.6667	0.8993	0.7743	14	0.5420	10	0.7370	8	0.6320	10	0.6995	10
Lesotho	0.7917	0.6770	0.7321	19	0.7249	1	0.5420	21	0.6268	12	0.6774	11
Gabon	0.5729	0.8477	0.6969	24	0.4678	12	0.6984	10	0.5716	13	0.6311	12
Botswana	0.3750	0.8963	0.5798	36	0.6644	5	0.6515	12	0.6580	7	0.6176	13
Ghana	0.7813	0.7600	0.7706	16	0.3124	22	0.6581	11	0.4535	16	0.5911	14
Senegal	0.8021	0.7143	0.7569	18	0.3319	19	0.5351	24	0.4214	20	0.5648	15
Kenya	0.6250	0.7270	0.6741	26	0.3444	16	0.6016	16	0.4552	15	0.5539	16
Togo	1.0000	0.7613	0.8725	2	0.2555	30	0.4814	34	0.3507	30	0.5532	17
Angola	0.7708	0.5710	0.6634	27	0.4295	14	0.4869	33	0.4573	14	0.5508	18
Burundi	0.6667	0.7617	0.7126	21	0.3466	15	0.5024	29	0.4173	21	0.5453	19
Rwanda	0.8125	0.7357	0.7731	15	0.2593	29	0.5415	22	0.3747	27	0.5383	20
Malawi	0.7083	0.6193	0.6623	28	0.3247	21	0.5541	20	0.4242	19	0.5300	21
Djibouti	0.6667	0.9287	0.7868	10	0.2302	34	0.5374	23	0.3517	29	0.5261	22
Benin	1.0000	0.6880	0.8295	5	0.2095	38	0.4796	36	0.3170	37	0.5127	23
Burkina Faso	0.8125	0.6203	0.7099	22	0.2924	25	0.4587	39	0.3662	28	0.5099	24
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.7500	0.8177	0.7831	13	0.2035	41	0.5295	26	0.3282	34	0.5070	25
Madagascar	0.7917	0.7297	0.7600	17	0.2477	31	0.4445	40	0.3318	33	0.5022	26
Sudan	0.5313	0.6940	0.6072	32	0.3048	24	0.5254	27	0.4002	24	0.4930	27
Côte d'Ivoire	0.6667	0.7053	0.6857	25	0.2330	33	0.4931	32	0.3390	32	0.4821	28
Nigeria	0.6458	0.5387	0.5898	34	0.3285	20	0.4376	43	0.3792	26	0.4729	29
Gambia	0.3958	0.7413	0.5417	42	0.2764	27	0.6023	15	0.4080	22	0.4701	30
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.3125	0.7793	0.4935	47	0.2770	26	0.7126	9	0.4443	17	0.4683	31
Zimbabwe	0.3750	0.6397	0.4898	48	0.3374	18	0.5823	17	0.4433	18	0.4659	32
United R. of Tanzania	0.5313	0.5570	0.5440	41	0.3102	23	0.4635	38	0.3792	25	0.4542	33
Equatorial Guinea	0.3958	0.6540	0.5088	45	0.3417	17	0.4805	35	0.4052	23	0.4541	34
Mali	0.8229	0.5997	0.7025	23	0.2106	37	0.3945	46	0.2882	43	0.4500	35
Mozambique	0.5417	0.5917	0.5661	38	0.2668	28	0.4378	42	0.3418	31	0.4399	36
Comoros	0.5208	0.7790	0.6370	30	0.1580	45	0.5755	18	0.3015	40	0.4382	37
Sierra Leone	0.5417	0.6680	0.6015	33	0.2027	42	0.4719	37	0.3093	39	0.4313	38
Mauritania	0.5000	0.6367	0.5642	40	0.2053	40	0.5053	28	0.3221	35	0.4263	39
Uganda	0.6875	0.5797	0.6313	31	0.1644	44	0.4959	30	0.2855	44	0.4245	40
Niger	0.6458	0.5237	0.5816	35	0.2397	32	0.3747	49	0.2997	41	0.4175	41
Guinea-Bissau	0.5625	0.4940	0.5271	43	0.2238	35	0.4422	41	0.3146	38	0.4072	42
Ethiopia	0.7083	0.4500	0.5646	39	0.2126	36	0.3917	47	0.2886	42	0.4037	43
Eritrea	0.5208	0.6423	0.5784	37	0.1509	47	0.3819	48	0.2401	48	0.3726	44
Guinea	0.8958	0.5947	0.7299	20	0.0827	50	0.4285	44	0.1883	50	0.3707	45
Democratic R. of Congo	0.5417	0.4963	0.5185	44	0.1563	46	0.4261	45	0.2580	47	0.3658	46
Liberia	0.4375	0.5597	0.4948	46	0.1243	49	0.5635	19	0.2646	45	0.3619	47
Zambia	0.3229	0.4643	0.3872	51	0.2063	39	0.4938	31	0.3192	36	0.3515	48
Cameroon	0.3229	0.6270	0.4500	49	0.1271	48	0.5315	25	0.2599	46	0.3420	49
Chad	0.5833	0.3120	0.4266	50	0.1871	43	0.2861	51	0.2314	49	0.3142	50
Central African Republic	0.7708	0.5487	0.6503	29	0.0799	51	0.2864	50	0.1512	51	0.3136	51
South Sudan	0.0000	0.4413	0.2101	52	0.0331	52	0.2855	52	0.0972	52	0.1429	52

Note: Calculation of geometric means requires a non-zero positive value and for this reason sub-dimensions with zero value are set at 0.1 when calculating dimension scores.

Table A2.2: Key to abbreviations used in charts

Country	Abbreviation used
Algeria	AL
Angola	AN
Benin	BE
Botswana	BO
Burkina Faso	BU
Burundi	BR
Cabo Verde	CV
Cameroon	CM
Central African Republic	CA
Chad	CH
Congo (Brazzaville)	CO
Côte d'Ivoire	CI
Democratic Republic of Congo	DR
Djibouti	DJ
Egypt	EG
Equatorial Guinea	EQ
Eritrea	ER
Ethiopia	ET
Gabon	GA
Gambia	GM
Ghana	GH
Guinea	GU
Guinea-Bissau	GB
Kenya	KN
Lesotho	LE
Liberia	LI
Madagascar	MD
Malawi	MW
Mali	ML
Mauritania	MA
Mauritius	MU
Morocco	MR
Mozambique	MO
Namibia	NA
Niger	NG
Nigeria	NI
Rwanda	RW
São Tomé and Príncipe	SP
Senegal	SN
Seychelles	SY
Sierra Leone	SL
South Africa	SA
South Sudan	SS
Sudan	SU
Swaziland	SW
Tanzania	TA
Togo	TO
Tunisia	TU
Uganda	UG
Zambia	ZA
Zimbabwe	ZI

ANNEX III: STATISTICAL TABLES

Table A3.1	Population
Table A3.2	National economy and poverty rate
Table A3.3	Ratification of international and regional legal instruments on children
Table A3.4	National laws, policies, and mechanisms
Table A3.5	Child protection
Table A3.6	Government expenditure
Table A3.7	Maternal and child health indicators
Table A3.8	Access to basic services
Table A3.9	Education indicators
Table A3.10	HIV/AIDS and related indicators

Table A3.1 Population[^]

COUNTRY	Total population (thousands)	Child population (<18) (thousands)	Children (<18) as % of total population child population [2]/ total population [1]	Fertility rate (births per woman)	Population annual growth rate (%)
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016-2030*
	1	2	(2/1)*100	4	5
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	1,034,153	511,533	49.5	4.8	2.5
Angola	28,813	15,416	53.5	5.7	3.1
Benin	10,872	5,379	49.5	5.0	2.6
Botswana	2,250	840	37.3	2.7	1.6
Burkina Faso	18,646	9,724	52.1	5.4	2.7
Burundi	10,524	5,372	51.0	5.7	2.9
Cameroon	23,439	11,578	49.4	4.7	2.4
Cabo Verde	540	200	37.0	2.3	1.2
Central African Republic	4,595	2,326	50.6	4.9	2.1
Chad	14,453	7,854	54.3	5.9	2.8
Comoros	796	369	46.4	4.3	2.1
Congo (Brazzaville)	5,126	2,489	48.6	4.7	2.5
Côte d'Ivoire	23,696	11,689	49.3	4.9	2.4
Democratic Republic of Congo	78,736	41,553	52.8	6.1	3.0
Djibouti	942	356	37.8	2.8	1.3
Equatorial Guinea	1,221	521	42.7	4.7	3.0
Eritrea	4,955	2,397	48.4	4.1	2.2
Ethiopia	102,403	49,500	48.3	4.2	2.2
Gabon	1,980	822	41.5	3.8	1.9
Gambia	2,039	1,065	52.3	5.4	2.8
Ghana	28,207	12,689	45.0	4.0	2.0
Guinea	12,396	6,082	49.1	4.9	2.5
Guinea-Bissau	1,816	872	48.0	4.6	2.3
Kenya	48,462	23,094	47.7	3.9	2.3
Lesotho	2,204	932	42.3	3.1	1.2
Liberia	4,614	2,249	48.8	4.6	2.4
Madagascar	24,895	11,988	48.2	4.2	2.6
Malawi	18,092	9,265	51.2	4.6	2.7
Mali	17,995	9,806	54.5	6.1	2.9
Mauritania	4,301	1,996	46.4	4.7	2.5
Mauritius	1,262	295	23.4	1.4	0.1
Mozambique	28,829	14,929	51.8	5.2	2.8
Namibia	2,480	1,076	43.4	3.4	1.9
Niger	20,673	11,752	56.8	7.2	3.8
Nigeria	185,990	93,965	50.5	5.5	2.5
Rwanda	11,918	5,593	46.9	3.9	2.1
São Tomé and Príncipe	200	100	49.9	4.5	2.1
Senegal	15,412	7,616	49.4	4.8	2.6
Seychelles	94	24	25.6	2.3	0.3
Sierra Leone	7,396	3,638	49.2	4.5	2.0
Somalia	14,318	7,642	53.4	6.3	2.9
South Africa	56,015	19,428	34.7	2.5	1.0
South Sudan	12,231	5,944	48.6	4.9	2.5
Sudan	39,579	18,971	47.9	4.5	2.3
Swaziland	1,343	592	44.1	3.1	1.5
Togo	7,606	3,668	48.2	4.5	2.3
Uganda	41,488	22,807	55.0	5.6	3.1
United Republic of Tanzania	55,572	28,698	51.6	5.0	2.9
Zambia	16,591	8,647	52.1	5.0	2.9
Zimbabwe	16,150	7,726	47.8	3.8	2.1
NORTH AFRICA	189,268	67,299	35.6	...	...
Algeria	40,606	13,495	33.2	2.8	1.3
Egypt	95,689	36,997	38.7	3.3	1.6
Libya	6,293	2,111	33.5	2.3	1.1
Morocco	35,277	11,491	32.6	2.5	1.1
Tunisia	11,403	3,205	28.1	2.2	0.8
ALL AFRICA	1,223,421	578,832	47.3	...	...

Source		UNICEF, The State of the World's Children Report 2017, Accessed at: http://www.unicef.org/sowc2017/	Notes
1	UNICEF, The State of the World's Children Report 2017		... = Data not available
2	UNICEF, The State of the World's Children Report 2017		[^] Data not included in Child-Friendliness Index
3	UNICEF, The State of the World's Children Report 2017		*Based on medium-fertility variant projections
4	UNICEF, The State of the World's Children Report 2017		

Table A3.2 National economy and poverty rate

COUNTRY	GDP per-capita [^] (Current USD)		National poverty rate - headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)
	2010	2017	2007-2016*
	1	2	3
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	359	1,033	38.2
Angola	639	4,170	30.1
Benin	339	830	49.6
Botswana	3,573	7,596	18.2
Burkina Faso	220	671	43.7
Burundi	110	320	71.7
Cameroon	635	1,447	23.8
Cabo Verde	1,211	3,210	8.1
Central African Republic	248	418	66.3
Chad	164	670	38.4
Comoros	374	797	18.1
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,061	1,658	37
Côte d'Ivoire	603	1,662	28.2
Democratic Republic of Congo	85	458	77.1
Djibouti	755	1,928	22.5
Equatorial Guinea	2,372	9,850	...
Eritrea	172	...	...
Ethiopia	125	768	26.7
Gabon	4,109	7,221	...
Gambia	323	483	10.1
Ghana	255	1,641	12
Guinea	371	825	35.3
Guinea-Bissau	165	724	67.1
Kenya	406	1,508	...
Lesotho	415	1,182	59.6
Liberia	199	456	38.6
Madagascar	254	450	77.6
Malawi	150	338	71.4
Mali	242	825	49.7
Mauritania	421	1,137	6
Mauritius	3,766	10,547	0.5
Mozambique	234	416	62.9
Namibia	2,080	5,227	22.6
Niger	162	378	44.5
Nigeria	369	1,969	53.5
Rwanda	218	748	59.5
São Tomé and Príncipe	...	1,913	32.3
Senegal	474	1,033	38
Seychelles	7,579	15,504	1.1
Sierra Leone	150	499	52.2
Somalia	...	...	...
South Africa	3,020	6,161	18.9
South Sudan	...	237 ^a	42.7
Sudan	354	2,899	14.9
Swaziland	1,380	3,224	42
Togo	253	617	49.2
Uganda	254	604	35.9
United Republic of Tanzania	266	936	49.1
Zambia	309	1,510	57.5
Zimbabwe	594	1,080	21.4
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	1,794	3,491	1.7
Algeria	1,796	4,123	0.5
Egypt	1,423	2,413	1.3
Libya	6,453	7,998	...
Morocco	1,301	3,007	3.1
Tunisia	2,033	3,491	2
ALL AFRICA (Median)	367	1,159	36.5

Source		
1	IMF, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2012 Edition	Accessed at: http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2012/01/weodata/download.aspx
2	The World Bank	Last updated July 2018
3	The World Bank	https://data.worldbank.org/topic/poverty

a= Data for 2016
... Data not available
* Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading
[^] Data not included in Child-Friendliness Index

Table A3.3 Ratification of international and regional legal instruments on children

RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS									
[1 = Ratified/Acceded, 0 = Not Ratified/Acceded, as at 30 June 2018 unless stated]									
COUNTRY	UNCRC	ACRWC	Optional Protocol to CRC on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography	Optional Protocol to CRC on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict	Optional protocol to the CRC on communications procedure	ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum age for employment)	ILO Convention No. 182 (Worst forms of child labour)	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Hague Convention Inter-country Adoption
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Number: Ratified/Acceded)	49	45	41	40	1	48	48	42	20
Angola	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Benin	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Botswana	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Burkina Faso	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Burundi	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Cameroon	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Cabo Verde	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Central African Republic	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Chad	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Comoros	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Congo (Brazzaville)	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Côte d'Ivoire	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Democratic Republic of Congo	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Djibouti	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Equatorial Guinea	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Eritrea	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Ethiopia	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Gabon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Gambia	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Ghana	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Guinea	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Guinea-Bissau	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Kenya	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Lesotho	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Liberia	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Madagascar	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Malawi	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Mali	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Mauritania	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Mauritius	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Mozambique	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Namibia	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Niger	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Nigeria	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Rwanda	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Senegal	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Seychelles	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Sierra Leone	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Somalia	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
South Africa	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
South Sudan	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Sudan	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Swaziland	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Togo	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Uganda	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
United Republic of Tanzania	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Zambia	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
NORTH AFRICA (Number: Ratified/Acceded)	5	3	5	5	0	5	5	4	0
Algeria	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Egypt	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Libya	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Morocco	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Tunisia	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
ALL AFRICA (Number: Ratified/Acceded)	54	48	46	45	1	53	53	46	20

Source		
1, 3, 4, 5 & 8	United Nations Treaty Collections-Status of treaties	Accessed at: http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en
2	African Union	Accessed at: http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/Treaties.htm
6 & 7	International Labour Organization, Database of International Labour Standards	Accessed at: http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/ILOconventionsonchildlabour/lang-en/index.htm
9	HCCH Status table	Accessed at: http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.status&cid=69

Notes
 UNCRC = United Nations CRC
 ACRWC = African Children's Charter
 ILO = International Labour Organization

Table A3.4 National laws, policies, and mechanisms

COUNTRY	National laws and mechanisms [1 = Yes, 0 = No]			Juvenile justice system [1 = Yes, 0 = No]	National Plans of Action (NPA) and a coordinating body for children [1 = Yes, 0 = No]		Policy of free education Free = 1 Not free = 0
	Existence of domestic laws on child trafficking	Existence of domestic laws on sexual exploitation of children and pornography	Existence of domestic laws on harmful traditional practices	Existence of child-friendly courts (nationwide)	Existence of national plan of action for children	Existence of coordinating for children	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Count of "Yes")	46	47	38	39	47	48	46
Angola	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Benin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Botswana	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Burkina Faso	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Burundi	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Cameroon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cabo Verde	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Central African Republic	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chad	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Comoros	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Congo (Brazzaville)	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Côte d'Ivoire	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Democratic Republic of Congo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Djibouti	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Equatorial Guinea	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Eritrea	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ethiopia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gabon	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Gambia	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Ghana	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Guinea	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Guinea-Bissau	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kenya	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesotho	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Liberia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Madagascar	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Malawi	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mali	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mauritania	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mauritius	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mozambique	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Namibia	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Niger	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nigeria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rwanda	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Senegal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Seychelles	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sierra Leone	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Somalia	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
South Africa	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
South Sudan	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
Sudan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swaziland	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Togo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Uganda	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
United Republic of Tanzania	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Zambia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
NORTH AFRICA (Count of "Yes")	4	5	4	5	5	5	5
Egypt	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Libya	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Morocco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tunisia	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AFRICA (Count of "Yes")	50	52	42	44	52	53	51

Source

- UNIAP-International Trafficking in Person laws
- UNCRC Recommendations
- Reports to 2nd Pan African Forum on the Africa Common Position for Children: Mid-term Review 29 Oct-2nd Nov 2007 Cairo, Egypt
- National laws
- United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children
- In the Best Interests of the Child: Harmonising laws in Eastern and Southern Africa, The African Child Policy Forum, report and background reports.
- State party reports submitted to the CRC
- ACPF, The African Reports on child Wellbeing, 2008-2016

Accessed at: http://www.no-trafficking.org/resources_int_tip_laws.html

See: <http://www.un.org>

Accessed at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/study.htm>

Accessed at: <http://www.africanchild.info/documents.asp> [search word: "harmonisation"]

Table A3.4 National laws, policies, and mechanisms (continued)

COUNTRY	Prohibition of corporal punishment (December 2017) [1 = Yes; 0.5 = Partial; 0 = No]						Prohibition of corporal punishment combined score (1= Prohibited in all settings) (17+18+19+20+21+22)/6 variables
	Home	Alternative care settings	Daily care	Schools	In penal institutions	As sentence for crime	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Count of "Yes")	6	10.5	13.5	27	28	44.5	
Angola	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Benin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Burkina Faso	0	0	0.5	0.5	1	1	0.50
Burundi	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.33
Cameroon	0	0	0.5	1	1	1	0.58
Cabo Verde	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Central African Republic	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Chad	0	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0.67
Comoros	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Congo (Brazzaville)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.33
Democratic Republic of Congo	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.33
Djibouti	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.33
Equatorial Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Eritrea	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Ethiopia	0	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0.67
Gabon	0	0	0.5	1	1	1	0.58
Gambia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Ghana	0	0	0	0	0.5	1	0.25
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Guinea-Bissau	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.50
Kenya	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Lesotho	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.33
Liberia	0	0.5	0.5	0	1	1	0.50
Madagascar	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.33
Malawi	0	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0.67
Mali	0	0	0.5	1	1	1	0.58
Mauritania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Mauritius	0	0	0.5	1	0	1	0.42
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.33
Namibia	0	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0.67
Niger	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.17
Rwanda	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.50
São Tomé and Príncipe	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.50
Senegal	0	0	0	0.5	1	1	0.42
Seychelles	0	0	0.5	1	0	1	0.42
Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.33
Somalia	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.42
South Africa	0	1	1	1	1	1	0.83
South Sudan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Sudan	0	0	0	0.5	0	1	0.25
Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17
Togo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Uganda	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.50
United Republic of Tanzania	0	0.5	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.25
Zambia	0	0	0.5	1	1	1	0.58
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
NORTH AFRICA (Count of "Yes")	1	1	1.5	3	3	3	-
Algeria	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.17
Egypt	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.33
Libya	0	0	0.5	1	0	0	0.25
Morocco	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.33
Tunisia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
ALL AFRICA (Count of "Yes")	7	11.5	15	30	31	47.5	-

Source

17-22

- Ending legalised violence against children: Global progress to December 2017, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children & Save the Children Sweden

Global progress to May 2018 accessed at:
<https://endcorporalpunishment.org/global-progress/>

Table A3.4 National laws, policies, and mechanisms (continued)

COUNTRY	Minimum age for admission to employment	Minimum age for criminal responsibility	Minimum age for marriage	
			Male	Female
	24	25	26	27
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	15^m	13^m	18^m	18^m
Angola	14	14	18	18
Benin	14	13	18	18
Botswana	14	14	18	18
Burkina Faso	16	13	20	17
Burundi	16	15	21	18
Cameroon	14	10	18	15
Cabo Verde	14	16	18	18
Central African Republic	14	14	18	18
Chad	14	13	18	18
Comoros	15	13	18	18
Congo (Brazzaville)	16	13	21	18
Côte d'Ivoire	14	10	20	18
Democratic Republic of Congo	16	14	18	15
Djibouti	16	13	18	18
Equatorial Guinea	14	16	18	18
Eritrea	14	12	18	18
Ethiopia	14	9	18	18
Gabon	16	13	18	15
Gambia	16	12	18	18
Ghana	15	12	18	18
Guinea	16	13	18	18
Guinea-Bissau	14	16	16	16
Kenya	13	8	18	18
Lesotho	15	10	21	21
Liberia	16	16	18	18
Madagascar	15	13	18	18
Malawi	14	10	18	18
Mali	15	13	18	16
Mauritania	14	7	18	18
Mauritius	16	14	18	18
Mozambique	15	16	18	18
Namibia	14	7	18	18
Niger	14	13	18	15
Nigeria	14	7	18	18
Rwanda	16	14	21	21
São Tomé and Príncipe	14	16	18	18
Senegal	15	13	18	16
Seychelles	15	7	18	15
Sierra Leone	13	14	18	18
Somalia	15	15	18	18
South Africa	15	10	18	18
South Sudan	14	12	18	18
Sudan	14	12	10	10
Swaziland	15	12	18	18
Togo	15	14	18	18
Uganda	12	12	18	18
United Republic of Tanzania	14	10	18	15
Zambia	15	8	16	16
Zimbabwe	15	7	18	18
NORTH AFRICA	15^m	13^m	18^m	18^m
Algeria	16	13	19	19
Egypt	15	12	18	18
Libya	15	14	20	20
Morocco	15	12	18	18
Tunisia	16	13	18	18
ALL AFRICA	15^m	13^m	18^m	18^m

Source			Notes
24-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ UNCRC Recommendations ◆ National laws ◆ ACPF, Child Law Resources, ◆ UNSTATS Table 3a. Legal age for marriage 	See: www.un.org Accessed at: http://www.africanchild.info/documents.asp [search word: "harmonisation"] Accessed at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm/tab2a.htm Accessed at: www.right-to-education.org	m = Median value

Table A3.5 Child protection

COUNTRY	Proportion of births registered before five years of age	Proportion of children in child labour (5-14 years)	Child marriage (Percentage of young women (20-24 years) married before age 18)
	2010-2017*	2010-2016*	2010-2016*
	1	2	3
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median Value)	66.1	26.3	31.4
Angola	25	23.4	30
Benin	84.8	52.5	26
Botswana	83.2	9	...
Burkina Faso	76.9	39.2	52
Burundi	75.2	26.3	20
Cameroon	66.1	47	31
Cabo Verde	91	6.4	18
Central African Republic	61	28.5	68
Chad	12	51.5	67
Comoros	87.3	22	32
Congo (Brazzaville)	95.9	23.3	27
Côte d'Ivoire	65	26.4	27
Democratic Republic of Congo	24.6	38.4	37
Djibouti	91.7	7.7	5
Equatorial Guinea	53.5	27.8	30
Eritrea	...	...	41
Ethiopia	2.7	27.4	40
Gabon	89.6	13.4	22
Gambia	72	19.2	30
Ghana	70.5	21.8	21
Guinea	57.9	28.3	51
Guinea-Bissau	23.7	51.1	24
Kenya	66.9	25.9	23
Lesotho	43.3	22.9	17
Liberia	24.6	20.8	36
Madagascar	83	22.9	41
Malawi	67.2	39.3	42
Mali	87.2	55.8	52
Mauritania	65.6	37.6	37
Mauritius	...	...	...
Mozambique	47.9	22.2	48
Namibia	87.1	...	7
Niger	63.9	30.5	76
Nigeria	29.8	24.7	44
Rwanda	56	28.5	7
São Tomé and Príncipe	95.2	26	35
Senegal	68.3	23	31
Seychelles	...	...	...
Sierra Leone	76.7	37.4	39
Somalia	3a	49a	...
South Africa	85	...	6
South Sudan	35.4	...	52
Sudan	67.3	24.9	34
Swaziland	53.5	7.3	5
Togo	78.1	27.9	22
Uganda	29.9	16.3	40
United Republic of Tanzania	26.4	28.8	31
Zambia	11.3	40.6	31
Zimbabwe	43.5	...	32
NORTH AFRICA (Median Value)	99.3	6	9.2
Algeria	99.6	5	3
Egypt	99.4	7	17
Libya	...	...	...
Morocco	94	8.3	16
Tunisia	99.2	2.1	2
ALL AFRICA (Median Value)	67.2	25.9	31

Source			Notes
24-26	UNICEF, The State of the World's Children Report 2017	Table 8: Child protection	... = Not available a Data refer to years or periods other than indicated in the column heading * Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading

Table A3.6 Government expenditure

COUNTRY	Total Public Expenditure on Education as % of GDP		General Health Expenditure as % of Total Government Expenditure		Public Social Protection Expenditure as % of GDP
	2000	2010-2017*	2000	2015 ^a	2010-2015*
	1	2	3	4	5
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Number: Ratified/Acceded)	4.0	4.2	8.2	6.2	4.2
Angola	3	3.5	3.2	3.7	6.0
Benin	3	4.4	11.0	3.4	4.2
Botswana	8	9.6	7.7	8.8	6.6
Burkina Faso	...	4.2	9.0	7.2	2.7
Burundi	4	5.4	2.1	11.8	4.9
Cameroon	3	2.8	9.5	3.1	2.3
Cabo Verde	...	5.4	9.6	10.8	6.9
Central African Republic	...	1.2	10.0	4.1	2.6
Chad	2	2.9	13.1	6.3	1.3
Comoros	...	4.3	9.5	3.8	...
Congo (Brazzaville)	6	6.2	4.8	3.1	2.2
Côte d'Ivoire	5	4.8	5.2	5.0	2.0
Democratic Republic of Congo	...	2.3	0.9	5.0	3.5
Djibouti	...	4.5	14.5	4.1	7.3
Equatorial Guinea	2	...	7.7	1.3	2.8
Eritrea	...	...	4.8	1.8	1.6
Ethiopia	5	4.5	8.9	6.0	3.2
Gabon	5	2.7	13.9	7.0	...
Gambia	3	2.8	7.9	10.6	4.2
Ghana	4	6.2	9.4	7.1	5.4
Guinea	2	2.4	4.0	2.7	2.5
Guinea-Bissau	...	2.1	2.3	9.5	5.4
Kenya	6	5.3	11.4	6.3	2.3
Lesotho	8	11.4	9.7	9.3	16.3
Liberia	...	2.8	5.7	2.7	3.3
Madagascar	3	2.1	7.2	15.6	0.7
Malawi	4	4.7	7.3	10.8	1.0
Mali	3	3.8	9.5	4.5	4.9
Mauritania	4	2.6	6.4	5.5	4.9
Mauritius	4	5.1	6.8	9.9	9.8
Mozambique	3	6.5	12.9	1.2	4.5
Namibia	...	8.3	12.3	12.9	6.7
Niger	3	6.0	10.9	4.6	2.9
Nigeria	...	...	4.2	5.3	0.7
Rwanda	3	3.5	8.2	6.2	7.3
São Tomé and Príncipe	...	3.7	7.6	10.7	4.0
Senegal	3	7.1	8.6	4.2	5.3
Seychelles	8	3.6	6.8	10.0	7.5
Sierra Leone	...	2.9	7.6	7.9	4.2
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...
South Africa	6	5.9	10.9	14.1	10.1
South Sudan	...	1.8	...	1.6	...
Sudan	0	2.2	7.2	18.1	2.3
Swaziland	...	7.1	11.6	14.9	4.4
Togo	5	5.1	6.9	5.7	2.6
Uganda	2	2.3	9.2	5.6	2.2
United Republic of Tanzania	...	3.5	11.2	7.4	6.8
Zambia	...	1.1	9.4	6.8	5.5
Zimbabwe	11	7.5	7.4	8.1	5.6
NORTH AFRICA (Number: Ratified/Acceded)	6.5	4.8	6.9	7.7	8.5
Algeria	...	4.3	9.0	10.7	8.5
Egypt	...	3.8	7.5	4.2	11.2
Libya	...	...	6.9	6.4	6.6
Morocco	6	5.3	4.3	7.7	6.6
Tunisia	7	6.6	6.8	13.6	10.4
ALL AFRICA (Number: Ratified/Acceded)	4.0	4.3	7.8	6.3	4.4

Source		Notes
1	- UNESCO, Education for All Global Monitoring Reports, 2008,2009, 2010,2011 - World Development Indicators 2009, The World Bank - African Economic Outlook 2009	Table 9 and Table 11 in the UNESCO Table 2.9 in The World Bank reports Table 18 from African Economic Outlook 2009
2	UNESCO, Institute of Statistics (UIS)	http://www.uis.unesco.org/
3	ACPF, African Reports on Child Wellbeing 2016	Page 113 of the report
4	WHO, Global Health Observatory data repository	http://apps.who.int/nha/database
5	ILO World Social Protection Report 2017 – 19	http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_601903/lang-en/index.htm

Table A3.6 Government expenditure (continued)

COUNTRY	Percent of Routine EPI Vaccine Financed by Government	
	2001 6	2009-2013 7
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	33	16.5
Angola	13	100
Benin	55	17
Botswana	100	100
Burkina Faso	0	39
Burundi	6	7
Cameroon	35	13
Cabo Verde	100	100
Central African Republic	0	2
Chad	100	24
Comoros	...	8
Congo (Brazzaville)	0	11
Côte d'Ivoire	65	26
Democratic Republic of Congo	0	11
Djibouti	85	0.0
Equatorial Guinea	0	100
Eritrea	0	3
Ethiopia	18	8
Gabon	100	100
Gambia	57	16
Ghana	100	11
Guinea	20	0
Guinea-Bissau	0	0
Kenya	3	57
Lesotho	39	42
Liberia	0	8
Madagascar	16	4
Malawi	2	36
Mali	100	12
Mauritania	100	15
Mauritius	100	100
Mozambique	10	30
Namibia	100	100
Niger	33	14
Nigeria	100	71
Rwanda	0	8
São Tomé and Príncipe	...	8
Senegal	100	27
Seychelles	100	60
Sierra Leone	0	2
Somalia	...	...
South Africa	100	100
South Sudan	...	0
Sudan	25	1
Swaziland	100	100
Togo	0	25
Uganda	75	19
United Republic of Tanzania	10	25
Zambia	0	19
Zimbabwe	100	0
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	100	100
Algeria	100	100
Egypt	100	100
Libya	2	100
Morocco	100	100
Tunisia	100	100
ALL AFRICA (Median)	37	19

Source		Notes
6,7	UNICEF, The State of the World's Children Reports 2003, 2014 & 2015	Table 3 in the reports ... = Data not available

Table A3.7 Maternal and child health indicators

COUNTRY	Percentage of pregnant women attending ANC service	Percentage of deliveries attended by skilled health worker	Percentage of HIV positive pregnant women who received ARVs for PMTCT [^]
	2010-2017* 1	2010-2016* 2	2016 3
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	57.3	70	74
Angola	61.4	49.6	44
Benin	58.7	77.2	>95
Botswana	73.3	99.7	>95
Burkina Faso	47.2	79.8	83
Burundi	49.3	85.1	84
Cameroon	58.8	64.7	74
Cabo Verde	72.3	91.4	>95
Central African Republic	38.1	40.0	81
Chad	31	20.2	63
Comoros	48.9	82.2	...
Congo (Brazzaville)	79	91.2	16
Côte d'Ivoire	51.3	73.6	73
Democratic Republic of Congo	48	80.1	70
Djibouti	22.6	87.4	35
Equatorial Guinea	66.9	68.3	90
Eritrea	57.4	34.1	37
Ethiopia	31.8	27.7	69
Gabon	77.6	89.3	76
Gambia	77.6	57.2	69
Ghana	87.3	70.8	56
Guinea	50.6	62.7	43
Guinea-Bissau	64.9	45.0	85
Kenya	57.6	61.8	80
Lesotho	74.4	77.9	66
Liberia	78.1	61.1	70
Madagascar	51.1	44.3	3
Malawi	50.6	89.8	84
Mali	38	43.7	35
Mauritania	63	69.3	34
Mauritius	...	99.8	...
Mozambique	50.6	54.3	80
Namibia	62.5	88.2	>95
Niger	38	39.7	52
Nigeria	49.1	43.0	32
Rwanda	43.9	90.7	82
São Tomé and Príncipe	83.6	92.5	...
Senegal	46.7	58.6	55
Seychelles	...	99.0	...
Sierra Leone	76	59.7	87
Somalia	...	...	7
South Africa	75.5	96.7	>95
South Sudan	17.3	19.4	29
Sudan	50.7	77.7	4
Swaziland	76.1	88.3	95
Togo	57.2	44.6	86
Uganda	59.9	74.2	>95
United Republic of Tanzania	50.7	63.5	84
Zambia	55.5	63.3	83
Zimbabwe	75.7	78.1	93
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	75	91.5	49
Algeria	67.3	96.6	49
Egypt	82.8	91.5	18
Libya	...	99.9	...
Morocco	55.3	73.6	62
Tunisia	85.1	73.6	...
ALL AFRICA (Median)	57.5	73.6	70

Source		Notes
1 - 2	UNICEF: The State of the World's Children reports 2017	Accessed at: http://www.unicef.org/sowc2017/
3	UNICEF: Statistical update 2017	... = Data not available ^ Data not included in Child-Friendliness Index ANC = Antenatal Care PMTCT = Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission ARV = antiretroviral therapy * Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading

Table A3.7 Maternal and child health indicators (continued)

COUNTRY	Percentage of children underweight for age	Percentage of stunted children under-five (low height of age)	Percentage of under-fives with suspected pneumonia taken to an appropriate health provider	Measles immunization coverage (%)	
	2010-2015*	2011-2016*	2011-2016*	2000	2016
	4	5	6	7	8
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	16	31.3	50.2	69	81
Angola	16d	37.6	49	41	49
Benin	18	34.0	31	72	74
Botswana	11d	31.4	14	90	97
Burkina Faso	24	27.3	51.8	59	88
Burundi	29	55.9	62.5	75	93
Cameroon	15	31.7	28.1	49	78
Cabo Verde	...	21.4	..	80	92
Central African Republic	24	40.7	29.8	36	49
Chad	29	39.8	25.8	28	58
Comoros	17	31.1	38.1	70	99
Congo (Brazzaville)	12	21.2	28.2	34	80
Côte d'Ivoire	16	21.6	44	73	77
Democratic Republic of Congo	23	42.7	41.6	46	77
Djibouti	30	33.5	94.4	50	75
Equatorial Guinea	6	26.2	54.3	51	30
Eritrea	39	50.3	44.8	86	93
Ethiopia	25	38.4	31.3	52	70
Gabon	7	17.0	67.7	55	64
Gambia	16	24.6	68	85	97
Ghana	11	18.8	55.9	84	89
Guinea	19	32.4	29.6	42	54
Guinea-Bissau	17	27.6	34.3	71	81
Kenya	11	26.2	65.7	75	75
Lesotho	10	33.4	63.1	74	90
Liberia	15	32.1	50.7	52	80
Madagascar	37d	49.2	40.5	56	58
Malawi	17	37.4	77.6	73	81
Mali	28d	30.4	23	49	75
Mauritania	20	27.9	33.7	62	70
Mauritius	...	13.6	...	84	92
Mozambique	16	42.9	50.2	71	91
Namibia	13	22.7	68	69	85
Niger	38	42.2	59.3	34	74
Nigeria	20	43.6	23.7	35	51
Rwanda	9	36.7	53.9	74	95
São Tomé and Príncipe	9	17.2	68.9	69	93
Senegal	13	17.1	48.2	48	93
Seychelles	...	7.9	...	97	97
Sierra Leone	18	37.8	71.7	37	83
Somalia	23d	...	...	...	46
South Africa	9d	27.4	87.6	38	75
South Sudan	28	31.3	47.6	...	20
Sudan	33	38.2	48.3	77	86
Swaziland	6	25.5	59.6	58	89
Togo	16	27.6	48.5	72	87
Uganda	12	28.9	80	59	82
United Republic of Tanzania	13	34.5	55.4	78	90
Zambia	15	40.0	69.7	85	93
Zimbabwe	11	27.1	50.9	75	95
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	3	14.9	67.3	93	96
Algeria	3	11.7	66.4	80	94
Egypt	7	22.3	68.1	98	95
Libya	6d	21.0	...	92	97
Morocco	3	14.9	70.1	93	99
Tunisia	2	10.1	59.5	95	96
ALL AFRICA (Median)	16	30.4	50.9	70.5	84

Source		Notes
4 - 8	UNICEF, The State of the World's Children reports 2010, 2016 and 2017	<p>Accessed at: http://www.unicef.org/sowc2016/ http://www.unicef.org/sowc2017/</p> <p>... = Data not available * Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading d = Data refer to years or periods other than indicated in the column heading.</p>

Table A3.7 Maternal and child health indicators (continued)

COUNTRY	Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 births)		Under 5 Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	
	2000	2016	2000	2016
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	95	51	141	67.4
Angola	154	55	240	82.5
Benin	95	63	144	97.6
Botswana	74	33	96	40.6
Burkina Faso	100	53	180	84.6
Burundi	114	48	190	71.7
Cameroon	88	53	150	79.7
Cabo Verde	31	18	42	21.4
Central African Republic	115	89	193	123.6
Chad	122	75	213	127.3
Comoros	62	55	85	73.3
Congo (Brazzaville)	81	39	120	54.1
Côte d'Ivoire	115	66	137	91.8
Democratic Republic of Congo	129	72	207	94.3
Djibouti	97	54	146	64.2
Equatorial Guinea	120	66	185	90.9
Eritrea	61	33	96	44.5
Ethiopia	116	41	160	58.4
Gabon	60	34	90	47.4
Gambia	99	42	136	65.3
Ghana	68	41	111	58.8
Guinea	112	58	186	89
Guinea-Bissau	132	58	218	88.1
Kenya	77	36	114	49.2
Lesotho	86	72	113	93.5
Liberia	157	51	174	67.4
Madagascar	84	34	125	46.4
Malawi	95	39	160	55.1
Mali	124	68	219	110.6
Mauritania	79	54	121	81.4
Mauritius	18	12	20	13.7
Mozambique	122	53	188	71.3
Namibia	50	32	76	45.2
Niger	159	51	232	91.3
Nigeria	107	67	210	104.3
Rwanda	118	29	181	38.5
São Tomé and Príncipe	75	26	106	33.8
Senegal	80	34	134	47.1
Seychelles	13	12	...	14.3
Sierra Leone	167	83	213	113.5
Somalia	...	83	...	133
South Africa	50	34	84	43.3
South Sudan	...	59	...	90.7
Sudan	65	45	127	65.1
Swaziland	98	52	122	70.4
Togo	80	51	122	75.7
Uganda	85	38	145	53
United Republic of Tanzania	88	40	138	56.7
Zambia	102	44	182	63.4
Zimbabwe	73	40	110	56.4
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	37	19	46	22.8
Algeria	37	22	46	25.2
Egypt	40	19	51	22.8
Libya	20	11	24	12.9
Morocco	45	23	52	27.1
Tunisia	25	12	27	13.6
ALL AFRICA (Median)	87	44.5	136	64.7

Source			Notes
9 & 11	ACPF, The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2008	Table A3.8, page 172	... = Data not
10 & 12	UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 2015 - 2017 reports	Accessed at: http://www.unicef.org/sowc2017/	

Table A3.8 Access to basic services

COUNTRY	Percentage of the population using safely managed sanitation facilities		Percentage of the population using basic drinking water sources		Number of physicians per 100,000
	2000	2015	2000	2015	2007-2016*
	13	14	15	16	17
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	36	32	61	67	9
Angola	30	39.4	46	41.0	14
Benin	26	13.9	65	67.0	15
Botswana	41	60.0	95	79.2	38
Burkina Faso	11	22.5	54	53.9	5
Burundi	38	50.5	77	55.9	3
Cameroon	50	38.8	61	65.3	8
Cabo Verde	41	65.2	80	86.5	79
Central African Republic	26	25.1	70	54.1	5
Chad	8	9.5	35	42.5	4
Comoros	34	34.2	88	83.7	19
Congo (Brazzaville)	27	15.0	57	68.3	11
Côte d'Ivoire	33	29.9	83	73.1	14
Democratic Republic of Congo	25	19.7	45	41.8	9
Djibouti	81	51.4	73	76.9	23
Equatorial Guinea	52	74.5	43	49.6	25
Eritrea	8	11.3	54	19.3	5
Ethiopia	8	7.1	22	39.1	3
Gabon	36	40.9	86	87.5	41
Gambia	53	41.7	82	80.1	11
Ghana	18	14.3	70	77.8	10
Guinea	17	22.0	49	67.4	8
Guinea-Bissau	34	21.5	58	69.2	8
Kenya	43	29.8	57	58.5	20
Lesotho	37	43.8	79	71.6	5
Liberia	28	16.9	61	69.9	2
Madagascar	27	9.7	45	50.6	14
Malawi	58	43.5	64	67.2	2
Mali	43	31.3	45	74.3	9
Mauritania	33	44.6	47	69.6	13
Mauritius	94	93.1	100	99.9	200
Mozambique	27	23.6	42	47.3	6
Namibia	25	33.8	80	78.8	37
Niger	11	12.9	44	45.8	2
Nigeria	42	32.6	49	67.3	38
Rwanda	40	62.3	70	56.7	6
São Tomé and Príncipe	24	40.1	79	79.7	54
Senegal	50	48.4	73	75.2	7
Seychelles	100	100.0	87	96.3	98
Sierra Leone	38	14.5	57	58.1	2
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...
South Africa	66	73.1	87	84.7	82
South Sudan	...	10.4	...	50.4	...
Sudan	34	34.6	69	58.9	31
Swaziland	48	58.0	62	67.6	15
Togo	34	13.9	51	62.8	6
Uganda	43	19.2	55	38.9	9
United Republic of Tanzania	47	23.5	58	50.1	2
Zambia	51	31.1	55	61.2	9
Zimbabwe	52	38.6	80	66.6	8
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	83	93	89	94	119
Algeria	91	87.5	89	93.5	119
Egypt	65	93.2	97	98.4	81
Libya	97	99.7	71	96.8	209
Morocco	69	83.5	79	83.0	62
Tunisia	83	93.1	90	94.2	129
ALL AFRICA (Median)	38	34	65	67	11

Source		Notes
13 & 15	ACPF, The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2008	... = Data not available * Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading
14 & 16	WHO and UNICEF (2017). Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines	
17	Based on data from WHO, World Health Statistics 2011-2018	

Table A3.9 Education indicators

COUNTRY	NET ENROLMENT RATIO [^]						Pupil-teacher ratio (Primary)	
	Primary				Secondary			
	Boys		Girls		Boys	Girls	1999-2000*	2010-2017*
	1999-2000*	2010-2017*	1999-2000*	2010-2017*	2010-2017	2010-2017*		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	68	84.4	62	82.6	33.3	30.8	44	39
Angola	39	88.8	35	66.4	31.4	10.1	35	43
Benin	83	99.9	57	89.6	53.2	39.8	54	45
Botswana	82	89.1	86	89.9	28.2	...	27	23
Burkina Faso	42	76.9	29	74.8	27.1	28.0	47	42
Burundi	59	97.1	49	97.0	28.7	34.1	50	50
Cameroon	...	99.5	...	91.0	50.3	44.3	63	43
Cabo Verde	...	87.2	...	85.6	41.1	68.0	28	21
Central African Republic	64	76.6	45	60.2	18.1	9.4	74	83
Chad	70	89.2	47	68.5	...	...	71	57
Comoros	60	84.1	52	81.3	43.0	46.6	36	28
Congo (Brazzaville)	...	83.6	...	90.9	...	...	51	44
Côte d'Ivoire	73	92.3	55	83.0	36.1	29.9	48	43
Democratic Republic of Congo	...	...	...	...	61.2	...	...	33
Djibouti	37	62.3	28	55.7	38.3	31.7	36	30
Equatorial Guinea	76	43.7	68	44.7	...	...	42	23
Eritrea	44	44.6	38	40.5	29.1	25.5	45	43
Ethiopia	53	89.1	41	82.8	31.5	30.4	55	55
Gabon	89	...	87	...	52.3	...	49	25
Gambia	71	74.7	66	82.6	...	...	37	39
Ghana	60	84.4	57	85.9	53.4	52.9	33	27
Guinea	52	86.3	41	74.2	39.6	26.2	44	46
Guinea-Bissau	63	73.7	45	70.2	...	...	44	52
Kenya	68	81.3	69	84.9	...	...	33	31
Lesotho	75	79.2	82	81.8	29.1	44.8	48	34
Liberia	96	39.0	71	36.4	29.2	14.5	36	30
Madagascar	67	...	68	...	29.2	31.1	50	41
Malawi	97	...	104	...	37.2	30.8	56	70
Mali	...	66.1	...	57.9	34.9	27.7	63	39
Mauritania	66	69.4	62	73.2	25.8	27.3	42	36
Mauritius	95	94.0	95	96.8	81.9	86.7	26	18
Mozambique	59	91.9	50	87.3	18.7	19.0	64	55
Namibia	79	89.3	84	91.8	...	...	32	30
Niger	36	68.6	24	58.8	20.3	13.7	42	36
Nigeria	...	71.7	...	60.0	25.4	...	...	38
Rwanda	97	95.4	97	96.4	25.7	29.9	51	58
São Tomé and Príncipe	...	97.3	...	96.7	61.5	68.3	34	31
Senegal	66	68.8	60	76.0	...	...	51	32
Seychelles	...	...	...	...	87.3	89.9	15	14
Sierra Leone	68	98.9	63	99.5	33.3	30.4	44	37
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Africa	90	89.7	88	85.4	65.0	65.4	33	30
South Sudan	...	36.4	...	27.8	5.8	4.0	...	47
Sudan	50	55.1	42	57.8	...	...	27	46
Swaziland	92	76.6	94	75.9	32.2	41.4	33	28
Togo	101	90.1	83	83.2	...	...	34	41
Uganda	85	89.6	84	92.4	...	...	59	43
United Republic of Tanzania	57	78.4	58	79.6	...	...	40	43
Zambia	66	87.0	65	88.9	...	...	45	48
Zimbabwe	80	84.5	80	86.0	43.5	44.1	37	36
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	98	98.5	94	98.3	56.7	67.6	26	24
Algeria	100	100.0	97	98.4	...	...	28	24
Egypt	95	98.1	90	99.2	81.4	81.6	22	23
Libya	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Morocco	82	94.7	74	94.4	32.1	53.6	28	27
Tunisia	100	98.9a	99	98.2a	...	...	23	16
ALL AFRICA (Median)	70	86.3	65	83.0	33.3	31.1	42	37

Source		Notes
1-8	African Development Indicators 2004 & 2006, The World Bank, Washington DC.	- 2004 Section 13, Table 13-17; 2006 Table 8.1
	UNESCO, Institute of Statistics (UIS)	- UNESCO Institute of Statistics database: http://uis.unesco.org/
	The World Bank	https://data.worldbank.org/
		* Data refers to the most recent data from the range in the column heading, unless specified. ... = Data not available a Data for 2009 ^ Not included in calculation of Child-Friendliness Index

Table A3.9 Education indicators (continued)

COUNTRY	GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO	
	Pre-primary	
	2010-2017*	2010-2017*
	9	10
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	22	23
Angola	59.5	85.5
Benin	23.6	24.3
Botswana	19.7	20.4
Burkina Faso	3.1	3.0
Burundi	14.0	14.4
Cameroon	39.2	39.9
Cabo Verde	70.7	72.6
Central African Republic	5.2	5.3
Chad	1.5	1.4
Comoros	20.2	21.6
Congo (Brazzaville)	12.9	12.8
Côte d'Ivoire	7.6	7.7
Democratic Republic of Congo	4.3	4.6
Djibouti	6.7	6.6
Equatorial Guinea	42.9	43.6
Eritrea	14.6	14.3
Ethiopia	31.0	29.4
Gabon	34.7	36.0
Gambia	37.6	40.4
Ghana	115.6	118.3
Guinea	15.7	15.0
Guinea-Bissau	6.5	6.9
Kenya	77.4	75.6
Lesotho	32.3	34.0
Liberia	158.7	153.2
Madagascar	27.3	29.8
Malawi	80.0	81.1
Mali	4.3	4.5
Mauritania	9.0	11.4
Mauritius	103.8	105.4
Mozambique	...	...
Namibia	21.2	21.9
Niger	7.8	8.0
Nigeria	42.1	41.5
Rwanda	17.9	18.5
São Tomé and Príncipe	49.3	53.6
Senegal	14.9	16.8
Seychelles	100.8	104.7
Sierra Leone	11.4	12.8
Somalia	...	...
South Africa	79.6	79.3
South Sudan	10.6	10.1
Sudan	49.9	46.9
Swaziland	24.4	24.8
Togo	17.1	17.6
Uganda	12.7	13.2
United Republic of Tanzania	31.2	32.0
Zambia	...	...
Zimbabwe	41.6	42.6
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	44	44
Algeria	78.4	79.6
Egypt	30.1	29.6
Libya	10.0	10.0
Morocco	54.6	45.7
Tunisia	44.4	44.3
ALL AFRICA (Median)	24	25

Source		Notes
9-10	- UNESCO, Institute of Statistics (UIS)	UNESCO Institute of Statistics database: http://uis.unesco.org/
		* Data refers to the most recent data from the range in the column heading, unless specified. ... = Data not available

Table A3.9 Education indicators (continued)

COUNTRY	GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO							
	Primary				Secondary			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	1999-2000*	2010-2017*	1999-2000*	2010-2017*	1999-2000*	2010-2017*	1999-2000*	2010-2017*
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA(Median)	96	105	80	101	30	48	21	39
Angola	78	146.7	69	91.2	18	32.9	13	20.7
Benin	113	107.2	78	127.6	30	68.5	14	48.9
Botswana	108	107.2	108	103.5	90	75.0	96	81.9
Burkina Faso	52	92.1	37	90.1	12	36.7	8	34.9
Burundi	73	130.5	58	131.3	12	49.2	9	47.6
Cameroon	115	125.3	100	112.9	...	66.4	...	57.1
Cabo Verde	140	99.9	137	93.4	...	80.7	...	88.4
Central African Republic	89	120.0	61	91.5	...	18.8	...	12.0
Chad	90	99.0	57	77.0	18	31.0	5	14.3
Comoros	92	108.6	80	101.2	23	59.1	18	63.1
Congo (Brazzaville)	101	100.6	93	107.8	46	55.8	38	48.4
Côte d'Ivoire	92	102.1	70	91.3	30	53.3	17	38.8
Democratic Republic of Congo	49	108.4	44	107.6	...	56.3	...	36.0
Djibouti	46	67.5	35	60.2	13	48.1	17	40.1
Equatorial Guinea	126	61.8	115	61.3	43	...	19	...
Eritrea	65	58.0	54	50.0	34	35.8	23	30.4
Ethiopia	76	106.8	52	97.0	22	35.8	14	34.4
Gabon	144	140.8	143	136.6	61	...	58	...
Gambia	86	93.3	78	101.0	43	58.5	30	55.7
Ghana	84	104.1	76	105.5	40	61.2	32	59.6
Guinea	78	101.7	56	86.1	...	48.6	...	31.9
Guinea-Bissau	99	122.1	66	114.1	26	...	14	...
Kenya	95	105.1	93	105.5	32	60.7	29	54.9
Lesotho	112	105.7	118	102.1	30	44.5	36	60.2
Liberia	140	98.7	96	89.3	45	42.0	32	32.6
Madagascar	105	143.7	101	144.0	...	38.4	...	38.2
Malawi	139	137.2	135	141.3	40	39.5	31	35.3
Mali	71	81.8	51	72.2	...	49.1	...	36.6
Mauritania	86	91.0	80	96.8	22	32.0	20	31.1
Mauritius	109	101.6	108	103.4	79	90.8	75	96.0
Mozambique	104	110.9	79	101.7	14	34.3	9	31.5
Namibia	112	113.5	113	109.1	58	60.1	65	69.0
Niger	42	79.1	29	68.1	8	27.3	5	19.9
Nigeria	...	95.2	...	92.8	...	58.8	...	53.5
Rwanda	119	137.3	118	136.8	12	34.9	12	38.4
São Tomé and Príncipe	...	112.4	...	108.1	...	83.5	...	96.0
Senegal	79	78.4	70	87.9	21	47.8	14	48.4
Seychelles	...	113.2	...	112.4	...	89.9	...	96.1
Sierra Leone	106	114.4	80	115.2	29	42.4	24	38.6
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Africa	115	106.6	108	99.0	83	103.5	91	102.0
South Sudan	...	77.8	...	55.1	...	12.8	...	6.9
Sudan	59	76.7	51	70.3	22	46.1	36	45.5
Swaziland	128	112.8	121	102.9	60	67.3	60	66.8
Togo	138	127.0	110	120.8	54	57.9	24	30.7
Uganda	143	98.3	129	101.3	21	26.3	16	21.5
United Republic of Tanzania	78	79.5	76	82.0	6	33.1	5	30.3
Zambia	80	102.0	76	102.7	26	...	21	...
	96	99.5	93	97.9	47	47.6	42	46.7
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	115	113	107	107	76	88	80	98
Algeria	116	116.6	107	110.6	68	97.8	73	101.5
Egypt	103	103.6	96	103.7	88	86.7	83	85.2
Libya	115	111.5	117	107.0	88	90.2	91	106.0
Morocco	101	113.0	88	107.3	44	75.0	35	64.1
Tunisia	120	116.2	115	113.2	76	88.1	80	97.9
ALL AFRICA (Median)	101	106	80	102	31	49	24	47

Source			Notes
11-18	ACPF, The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2008 - UNESCO, Institute of Statistics (UIS) - The World Bank	- UNESCO Institute of Statistics database: http://uis.unesco.org/ World Bank Database https://data.worldbank.org/	* Data refers to the most recent data from the range in the column heading, unless specified. ... = Data not available

Table A3.9 Education indicators (continued)

COUNTRY	Primary completion rate (% of relevant age group)					
	Total		Male		Female	
	2000	2012-2017*	2000	2012-2017*	2000	2012-2017*
	19	20	21	22	23	24
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Median)	37.6	69.8	44.6	69.0	32.6	70.4
Angola	...	46.1	...	59.3	...	33.2
Benin	34.93	81.1	45.33	86.0	24.21	76.1
Botswana	89.87	69.2	87.51	62.7	92.26	75.8
Burkina Faso	25.03	61.7	29.38	59.5	20.54	64.1
Burundi	24.91	69.8	27.08	65.0	22.73	74.5
Cameroon	49.93	75.4	53.36	79.4	46.46	71.4
Cabo Verde	101.83	85.3	100.20	85.9	103.45	84.8
Central African Republic	...	42.2	...	50.9	...	33.5
Chad	22.32	37.9	31.88	46.3	12.71	29.4
Comoros	...	77.7	...	75.0	...	80.5
Congo (Brazzaville)	...	70.3	...	66.2	...	74.5
Côte d'Ivoire	39.12	65.9	48.03	71.8	30.21	60.0
Democratic Republic of Congo	...	70.0	...	69.5	...	70.4
Djibouti	28.01	57.5	33.17	60.3	22.78	54.6
Equatorial Guinea	...	40.6	...	39.6	...	41.6
Eritrea	36.40	42.5	40.22	45.4	32.60	39.5
Ethiopia	21.58	54.3	27.92	55.4	15.21	53.2
Gabon	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gambia	...	70.2	...	67.8	...	72.7
Ghana	...	95.2	...	95.3	...	95.1
Guinea	32.78	63.8	44.59	70.1	20.53	57.4
Guinea-Bissau	26.93	64.3	34.59	71.9	19.34	56.8
Kenya	...	102.0	...	101.6	...	102.4
Lesotho	60.11	78.9	50.57	71.1	69.73	86.8
Liberia	...	59.0	...	63.6	...	54.2
Madagascar	35.53	67.6	35.36	65.4	35.70	69.8
Malawi	65.75	76.9	69.49	76.2	62.00	77.6
Mali	32.78	51.0	40.64	54.1	24.92	47.8
Mauritania	52.57	59.3	...	57.0	...	61.6
Mauritius	104.65	101.1	105.46	99.8	103.81	102.4
Mozambique	16.12	48.4	19.73	51.3	12.52	45.5
Namibia	81.64	86.4	76.46	84.0	86.83	88.7
Niger	18.38	71.6	21.72	77.6	14.81	65.3
Nigeria	...	73.8	...	78.4	...	68.9
Rwanda	20.69	67.3	22.42	61.0	18.98	73.5
São Tomé and Príncipe	...	86.7	...	84.0	...	89.4
Senegal	37.72	58.9	43.57	54.3	31.80	63.5
Seychelles	112.91	126.5	113.96	129.5	111.86	123.6
Sierra Leone	...	66.5	...	67.6	...	65.4
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Africa	90.07	83.7	88.95	84.8	91.20	82.7
South Sudan	...	25.7	...	33.2	...	18.1
Sudan	37.50	59.6	39.42	62.4	35.51	56.6
Swaziland	64.32	80.6	62.70	79.7	65.94	81.5
Togo	61.03	82.9	76.98	87.2	45.14	78.5
Uganda	...	52.6	...	51.7	...	53.5
United Republic of Tanzania	...	72.4	...	69.0	...	75.8
Zambia	60.08	78.7	65.23	79.7	54.88	77.6
Zimbabwe	...	88.9	...	88.2	...	89.7
NORTH AFRICA (Median)	84.7	99.0	84.9	99.0	84.4	99.1
Algeria	82.63	105.4	82.82	105.5	82.43	105.4
Egypt	98.14	93.9	101.77	93.2	94.35	94.7
Libya	...	...	...	...	...	...
Morocco	56.74	94.8	63.13	95.3	50.14	94.2
Tunisia	86.71	103.2	87.05	102.7	86.36	103.6
ALL AFRICA (Median)	44.5	70.2	48.0	70.1	35.7	72.7

Source		Notes
19-24	ACPF, The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2016 The World Bank	- World Bank Database https://data.worldbank.org/ * Data refers to the most recent data from the range in the column heading, unless specified. ... = Data not available ^ Data in this table are not used in the calculation of the Child-Friendliness Index

Table A3.10 HIV/AIDS and related indicators[^]

COUNTRY	Number of children and adolescents living with HIV			Single or Double Orphans		Double Orphans	
				Children (0-17 years) who have lost one or both parents due to all causes	Children (0-17 years) who have lost one or both parents due to AIDS	Children (0-17 years) both of whose parents have died due to all causes	Children (0-17 years) both of whose parents have died due to AIDS
	Children 0-9	Adolescent boys 10-19	Adolescent girls 10-19	Estimate 2015 (thousands)	Estimate 2015 (thousands)	2015	2015
	2017	2017	2017	4	5	6	7
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA							
Angola	22,000	5,100	8,600	1,500	130	220,000	39,000
Benin	4,700	2,000	3,000	470	36	63,000	10,000
Botswana	5,300	6,000	9,200	97	60	20,000	18,000
Burkina Faso	5,700	4,600	5,600	840	71	120,000	22,000
Burundi	5,400	3,400	4,200	590	69	98,000	24,000
Cameroon	27,000	11,000	20,000	1,200	310	200,000	96,000
Cabo Verde	<100	<100	<100	9	2	<1,000	<500
Central African Republic	6,100	3,400	4,300	300	82	60,000	31,000
Chad	8,200	3,900	5,300	980	100	190,000	42,000
Comoros	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congo (Brazzaville)	7,100	1,900	4,200	...	...	...	...
Côte d'Ivoire	26,000	12,000	17,000	1,200	230	220,000	79,000
Democratic Republic of Congo	33,000	17,000	21,000	4,100	330	690,000	120,000
Djibouti	<500	<500	<500	37	5	6,400	1,800
Equatorial Guinea	2,700	670	970	43	9	6,900	2,700
Eritrea	790	510	530	140	8	20,000	2,900
Ethiopia	37,000	29,000	32,000	...	...	...	...
Gabon	2,200	580	1,500	65	16	9,300	4,800
Gambia	1,200	<500	<500	95	11	14,000	3,300
Ghana	20,000	7,400	12,000	1,100	160	170,000	48,000
Guinea	7,500	2,500	4,500	600	49	89,000	15,000
Guinea-Bissau	3,000	1,000	1,200	...	...	...	...
Kenya	65,000	45,000	61,000	2,000	660	330,000	200,000
Lesotho	11,000	5,300	9,100	120	73	26,000	22,000
Liberia	2,100	1,600	2,300	200	28	32,000	9,100
Madagascar	1,000	2,000	1,400	890	41	100,000	9,600
Malawi	46,000	25,000	38,000	830	530	130,000	120,000
Mali	10,000	3,900	7,000	770	66	100,000	18,000
Mauritania	<500	<500	<500	130	9	15,000	2,200
Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mozambique	120,000	45,000	61,000	1,800	590	340,000	190,000
Namibia	7,800	4,400	5,900	89	45	14,000	11,000
Niger	2,300	1,200	1,500	880	69	110,000	17,000
Nigeria	160,000	100,000	130,000	...	...	...	...
Rwanda	6,500	4,800	6,700	430	70	56,000	19,000
São Tomé and Príncipe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senegal	3,100	1,700	1,900	470	25	51,000	5,300
Seychelles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sierra Leone	4,200	1,600	2,500	430	23	78,000	8,200
Somalia	1,000	<500	580	630	25	97,000	7,600
South Africa	160,000	130,000	220,000	3,300	2,100	840,000	760,000
South Sudan	10,000	3,500	4,800	580	100	88,000	30,000
Sudan	2,400	1,700	2,100	1,500	21	170,000	4,800
Swaziland	...	...	...	77	47	17,000	14,000
Togo	8,100	3,400	4,200	370	68	64,000	24,000
Uganda	65,000	27,000	46,000	1,900	660	290,000	180,000
United Republic of Tanzania	82,000	41,000	55,000	2,700	790	440,000	240,000
Zambia	50,000	25,000	40,000	960	380	180,000	130,000
Zimbabwe	48,000	32,000	42,000	720	450	140,000	120,000
NORTH AFRICA							
Algeria	<500	<500	<500	...	...	...	...
Egypt	<500	630	<500	460	...	32,000	<200
Libya	...	...	...	1,600	2	100,000	<500
Morocco	<500	<500	<500	...	...	...	...
Tunisia	<100	<100	<100	410	6	28,000	<1,000
ALL AFRICA							

Source			Notes
1-7	UNICEF	https://data.unicef.org/topic/hiv/aids/global-regional-trends/	... = Data not available ^ Data in this table are not used in the calculation of the Child-Friendliness Index

Previous reports

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2008

How child-friendly are African governments?

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011

Budgeting for Children

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2013

Towards greater Accountability to Africa's children

The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2016

Getting it Right: Bridging the gap between policy and practice



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