

Country Briefs

ERITREA

How child-friendly is the Government of Eritrea?

The African Report on Child Wellbeing provides an insight into the wellbeing of children in Africa and assesses the extent to which governments meet their obligations, through a ground-breaking **Child-friendliness Index** – developed by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF).

The Government of Eritrea was found to be one of the least child-friendly governments in Africa

The Government of Eritrea ranked 51st in the child-friendliness ranking out of the 52 African governments covered in the assessment. This was mainly for three reasons: first, as a result of the Government of Eritrea not putting in place appropriate legal provisions to protect children against abuse and exploitation; secondly, because of its lower commitment in allocating adequate share of the national budget to provide for the basic needs of children; and thirdly, as a result of the limited effort and success in achieving relatively favourable wellbeing outcomes as reflected on children themselves.

How well does the Government of Eritrea perform in protecting its children?

A number of indicators have been used to assess governments' performance in protecting children against abuse and exploitation (see report for the detail).

The ranking puts the Government of Eritrea 38th in respect of legal protection of children, indicating its lower performance in laying appropriate legal and policy foundations for the protection of children. Though Eritrea ratified most of the relevant child rights treaties (see Table 1), it did not performed well in areas relating to corporal punishment, juvenile justice system and policy for free primary education.

Eritrea ranked 38th for its effort to put in place an appropriate legal and policy framework for children.

The Government of

Eritrea has national plan of action for survival, protection and development of children and a government body for coordinating the national strategy for children (see Table 2).

Table 1 List of child rights treaties by status of ratification, Eritrea

Ratified	Did not ratify
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (ILO Convention No. 182)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ILO Convention on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (ILO Convention No. 138) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hague Convention on International Child Adoption

Table 2 Performance in other legal and policy related indicators, Eritrea

How does the Government of Eritrea perform in providing for children?

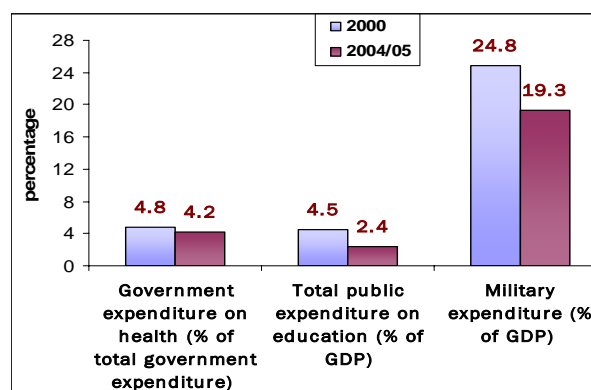
Provision for basic needs of children is measured based on two elements: budgetary commitment and child-related outcomes achieved. All the indicators used for budgetary commitment and child-related outcomes were combined to yield governments' performance score for provision of basic services for children (see Figure 1).

**Eritrea ranked 52nd
in the combined index for
provision of basic
services for children**

The other set of indicators refer to the outcomes achieved for children. They measure governments' performances in terms of objective results achieved in services accessed and results reflected on children themselves. Table 3, below, summarises the indicators and the data used for this particular sub-dimension for Eritrea.

Indicators	Status
Prohibition of corporal punishment in: Homes Schools As sentence for crime As disciplinary measure	Not prohibited Not prohibited Not prohibited Data not available
Policy for free primary education	Not free
Existence of juvenile justice system/ child-friendly courts	Does not exist
Existence of national plan of action for survival, protection and development of children	Exists
Existence of a government body that coordinates national strategy for children	Exists

Figure 1 Budgetary expenditure on selected sectors, Eritrea



Indicator	Year	Number/ Percentage
Child population	2006	2.3 million
Health		
Infant mortality rate	2005	50
Immunisation against measles	2005	84
Percentage of children underweight	*	40
Percentage of under-fives with suspected pneumonia taken to health provider	*	44
Percentage of the population using improved drinking water source	2004	60
Percentage of the population using adequate sanitation facilities	2004	9
Number of physicians per 100,000 people	*	5
Education		
Net Enrolment Ratio: Male (Primary)	2004	52
Female		44
Gross Enrolment Ratio: Male (Primary)	2004	74
Female		59
Gross Enrolment Ratio: Male (Secondary)	2004	35
Female		21
Pupil-teacher ratio (Primary)	2004	47

* the data refers to the most recent available between 2000 and 2006

Table 4: Child-friendliness Index ranking of African governments

Country	Ranking	Category
Mauritius	1	Most child-friendly
Namibia	2	
Tunisia	3	
Libya	4	
Morocco	5	
Kenya	6	
South Africa	7	
Malawi	8	
Algeria	9	
Cape Verde	10	
Rwanda	11	Child-friendly
Burkina Faso	12	
Madagascar	13	
Botswana	14	
Senegal	15	
Seychelles	16	
Egypt	17	
Mali	18	
Lesotho	19	
Burundi	20	
Uganda	21	Fairly child-friendly
Nigeria	22	
United Republic of Tanzania	23	
Gabon	24	
Mozambique	25	
Togo	26	
Zambia	27	
Mauritania	28	
Ghana	29	
Djibouti	30	
Dem. Rep. Congo	31	
Niger	32	
Cameroon	33	Less child-friendly
Congo	34	
Angola	35	
Côte d'Ivoire	36	
Zimbabwe	37	
Equatorial Guinea	38	
Sudan	39	
Sierra Leone	40	
Benin	41	
Ethiopia	42	
Comoros	43	Least child-friendly
Guinea	44	
Swaziland	45	
Chad	46	
Liberia	47	
Sao Tome and Principe	48	
Gambia	49	
Central African Republic	50	
Eritrea	51	
Guinea-Bissau	52	

For references and data sources see the main report: **The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2008: *How child-friendly are African governments?***

