The
African Report
on Child Wellbeing
2008
How child-friendly are African governments?

Country Briefs

NAMIBIA

How child-friendly is the Government of Namibia?

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 Namibia was found to be the second most child-friendly government in Africa

The Government of Namibia emerged as the second most child-friendly government in Africa. This was mainly for three reasons: first, as a result of the Government of Namibia putting in place appropriate legal provisions to protect children against abuse and exploitation; secondly, because of its high commitment in allocating a relatively higher share of the national budget to provide for the basic needs of children; and thirdly, as a result of the effort and success in achieving relatively favourable wellbeing outcomes as reflected on children themselves.

How well does the Government of Namibia 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 Government of Namibia has performed well in putting in place appropriate legal and policy framework to protect children against abuse. The ranking puts Namibia 5th in respect of legal protection of children. Namibia has ratified almost all relevant child rights treaties (see Table 1).

> Namibia ranked 5th for its effort to put in place an appropriate legal and policy framework for children.

The Government of Namibia has also performed well in respect of other indicators relating to corporal punishment, policy for free primary education, national plan of action for survival, protection and development of children and a government body for coordinating the national strategy for children. However, it did not perform well in establishing juvenile justice system (see Table 2).

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

Ratified	Did not ratify
• United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)	
• African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)	
• Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography	
• Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict	• The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption
• ILO Convention on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (ILO Convention No. 138)	
• ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (ILO Convention No. 182)	
• International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	

How does the Government of Namibia 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).

Namibia ranked 10th 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 Namibia.

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

Indicators	Status
Prohibition of corporal punishment in: Homes Schools As sentence for crime As disciplinary measure	Not prohibited Prohibited Prohibited Prohibited
Policy for free primary education	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

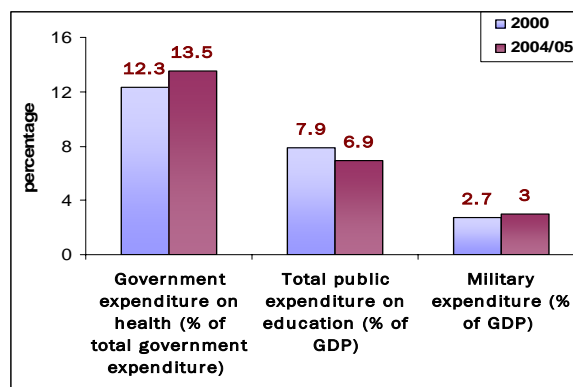Figure 1 Budgetary expenditure on selected sectors, Namibia

Table 3 Data on child-related outcome indicators, Namibia

Indicator	Year	Number/ Percentage
Child population	2006	942 thousands
Health		
Infant mortality rate	2005	46
Immunisation against measles	2005	73
Percentage of children underweight	*	24
Percentage of under-fives with suspected pneumonia taken to health provider	*	53
Percentage of the population using improved drinking water source	2004	87
Percentage of the population using adequate sanitation facilities	2004	25
Number of physicians per 100,000 people	*	30
Education		
Net Enrolment Ratio: Male (Primary) Female	2004	71 76
Gross Enrolment Ratio: Male (Primary) Female	2004	100 102
Gross Enrolment Ratio: Male (Secondary) Female	2004	54 62
Pupil-teacher ratio (Primary)	2004	28

* 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?*