

Country Briefs

BOTSWANA

How child-friendly is the Government of Botswana?

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 Botswana was found to be one of the child-friendly governments in Africa

The Government of Botswana came out as 15th on the Child-friendliness Index, out of the 52 African governments covered in the assessment. This was mainly for two reasons: first, as a result of the Government of Botswana's commitment in allocating a relatively high share of its national budget to provide for the basic needs of children; and secondly, 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 Botswana 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 Botswana 33rd in respect of legal protection of children, indicating that it has not performed well in laying appropriate legal and policy foundations for the protection of children.

Though Botswana has ratified most of the relevant child rights treaties, it did not perform well in respect of corporal punishment, policy for free primary education as well as in providing legal protection against harmful traditional practices. See Tables 1 and 2.

Botswana ranked 33rd for its effort to put in place an appropriate legal and policy framework for children.

The Government of Botswana, however, performed well in areas relating to juvenile justice system, national plan of action 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, Botswana

| 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"> International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| <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"> 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 Intercountry Adoption |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (ILO Convention No. 182) | |

How does the Government of Botswana 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).

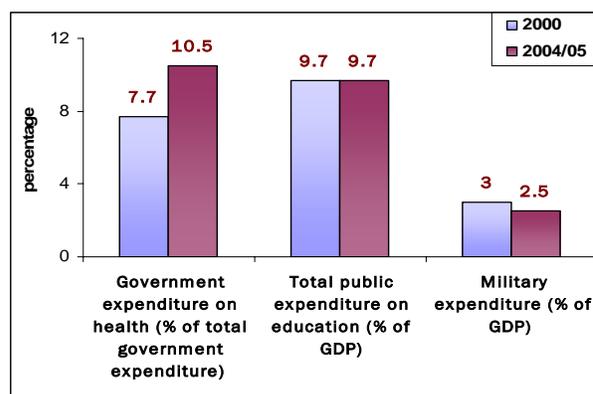
Botswana ranked **9th** in the combined index for provision of basic services for children

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.

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

| Indicators | Status |
|---|----------------|
| Prohibition of corporal punishment in: | |
| Homes | Not prohibited |
| Schools | Not prohibited |
| As sentence for crime | Not prohibited |
| As disciplinary measure | Not prohibited |
| Policy for free primary education | Not free |
| Existence of juvenile justice system/ child-friendly courts | Exists |
| 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, Botswana



| Table 3 Data on child-related outcome indicators, Botswana | | |
|---|------|--------------------|
| Indicator | Year | Number/ Percentage |
| Child population | 2006 | 784 thousands |
| Health | | |
| Infant mortality rate | 2005 | 87 |
| Immunisation against measles | 2005 | 90 |
| Percentage of children underweight | * | 13 |
| Percentage of under-fives with suspected pneumonia taken to health provider | * | 14 |
| Percentage of the population using improved drinking water source | 2004 | 95 |
| Percentage of the population using adequate sanitation facilities | 2004 | 42 |
| Number of physicians per 100,000 people | * | 40 |
| Education | | |
| Net Enrolment Ratio: Male (Primary) | 2004 | 80 |
| Net Enrolment Ratio: Female (Primary) | 2004 | 84 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio: Male (Primary) | 2004 | 105 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio: Female (Primary) | 2004 | 104 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio: Male (Secondary) | 2004 | 71 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio: Female (Secondary) | 2004 | 76 |
| Pupil-teacher ratio (Primary) | 2004 | 26 |

* 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?***

