The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) developed the Child-Friendliness Index (CFI), a robust statistical framework for scoring and ranking African governments’ performance in fulfilling their obligations to children. The CFI is a rights-based framework based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The three pillars on which the main dimensions of the CFI hinge are the 3Ps: Protection, Provision and Participation. The CFI was first introduced in 2008 and revised recently to further refine and improve its methodology.

The 2018 CFI is based on the revised framework and consists of 25 quantitative indicators and covers 52 of the African countries including Cabo Verde.

**Where does Cabo Verde stand in the 2018 Child-Friendliness Index (CFI) ranking?**

- Cabo Verde is among the top 11 best performers, ranked 5th, and categorised as “most child-friendly”.

**Why is Cabo Verde’s performance relatively best in the ranking?**

A number of reasons can be mentioned for this:

- In relation to laws and policies:
  - Cabo Verde has adopted the UNCRC, the African Children’s Charter; Optional Protocols to CRC on Sale of Children Child Prostitution and Pornography and Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; ILO Conventions on minimum age for admission to employment (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182); the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and The Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption. It has also introduced domestic laws on child trafficking and sexual exploitation. Cabo Verde has a free education policy as well.
  - Cabo Verde is among the seven countries in Africa that prohibited corporal punishment in all settings.
  - Minimum age set for criminal responsibility, admission to employment, and marriage are in line with international standards.
  - The proportion of children under the age of five registered with the civil authorities is about 91 percent – among the ten highest in Africa.
  - Prevalence of child labour in Cabo Verde is relatively very low at 6.4 percent.
Cabo Verde spent about 11 percent of the total government expenditure on health – among the ten highest in Africa. The median rate for the continent is only 6.3 percent.

Cabo Verde spent also 6.9 percent of GDP on public social protection - more than 50 percent higher than the current median rate for Africa (which is only 4.4 percent).

About 91 percent of all births in Cabo Verde assisted by skilled birth attendants – among the ten highest in Africa.

Under-five mortality declined significantly over the last decade and currently it stands at 21 deaths per 1,000 live births. The current continental median rate is more than threefold (which is 65 deaths per 1,000 live births).

Measles immunization coverage in Cabo Verde reached 92 percent – eight percentage points higher than the median coverage for Africa.

Cabo Verde has better access to pre-primary education than many African countries - about 71 percent of the boys and 73 percent of the girls are enrolled.

The average number of students per teacher in Cabo Verde is 21, well below the maximum recommended level 40:1.

Despite these encouraging achievements, Cabo Verde should do more to further enhance the wellbeing of children:

- As to legal instruments:
  - Ratify the Optional Protocol to CRC on communications procedure.
  - Establish separate child-friendly courts nationwide to create homely and comfortable atmosphere for the child victims.

- Invest more in sectors that children benefit most such as education, health and social protection.

- Reduce child malnutrition, particularly stunting. Currently, one in five children suffers from chronic malnutrition (stunting) in Cabo Verde.

- Enhance access to improved sanitation facilities. Although access to safely managed sanitation facilities has improved over the last decade, still one in every three people in Cabo Verde lack the facilities.