

Botswana

Status in Child-friendliness - 2018



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 Botswana.

Where does Botswana stand in the 2018 Child-Friendliness Index (CFI) ranking?

- Botswana performed relatively good and ranked 13th in the league table and categorised as “child-friendly”.

Why is Botswana's performance good in the ranking?

A number of reasons can be mentioned for this:

PROTECTION

- In relation to laws and policies:
 - Botswana 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). It has also introduced domestic laws on child trafficking and sexual exploitation. Botswana has a free education policy as well.
 - 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 5 registered with the civil authorities reached 83 percent – 16 percentage points higher than the median rate for Africa.
- Prevalence of child labour in Botswana is relatively low at 9 percent. The highest is Mali with 55.8 percent.

Child-Friendliness Index 2018, Scores & Ranks			
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	
Botswana	0.6176	13	Child-friendly
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	Less child-friendly
São Tomé & Príncipe	0.4683	31	
Zimbabwe	0.4659	32	
U. Rep. of Tanzania	0.4542	33	
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	Least child-friendly
Ethiopia	0.4037	43	
Eritrea	0.3726	44	
Guinea	0.3707	45	
D. Rep. of Congo	0.3658	46	
Liberia	0.3619	47	
Zambia	0.3515	48	
Cameroon	0.3420	49	
Chad	0.3142	50	
Central African Rep.	0.3136	51	
South Sudan	0.1429	52	

Developed by ACPF, 2018



- Botswana spent 9.6 percent of GDP on education, the 2nd highest in Africa after Lesotho.
- Almost all births (99.7 percent) in Botswana assisted by skilled birth attendants.
- Botswana achieved 97 percent measles immunization coverage – the second highest in Africa.
- About 73 percent of pregnant women receive antenatal care one or more times during their pregnancy from skilled health workers in Botswana- 15 percentage point higher than the continental median rate 58 percent.
- Under-five mortality declined over the last decade in Botswana, from 48 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009 to 41 deaths in 2016. But, still needs improvement.
- The average number of students per teacher in Botswana is 23, well below the maximum recommended level 40:1.
- Only 18.2 percent of the population in Botswana live on less than 1.90 USD per day – very much lower than the rate that many countries reported in Africa.

Despite encouraging achievements, however, Botswana should give due consideration to the following to further enhance the wellbeing of its children:

- As regards to legal instruments, the following are yet to take place:
 - Ratifications of the Optional Protocol to CRC on communications procedure; the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and The Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption.
 - Prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings (home, school, alternative care; daily care, and penal institutions) and as a sentence for crime.
- Investments in areas benefitting children such as health and public social protection need further improvement.
- Only 14 percent of the children under age five with suspected pneumonia has been taken to an appropriate health provider in Botswana – the lowest in Africa.
- About three in every ten children under age five are chronically malnourished, or stunted in Botswana.
- Pre-primary enrolment rate is still low in Botswana - only 19.7 percent of the boys and 20.4 percent of the girls are enrolled.
- About 40 percent of the total population have no access to improved sanitation facilities.

See details in: ACPF (2018). African Report on Child Wellbeing 2018: Progress in the child-friendliness of African governments. Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)

<http://www.africanchild.report/>