

Cabo Verde

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 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.

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	Child-friendly
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	
Ghana	0.5911	14	
Senegal	0.5648	15	
Kenya	0.5539	16	Fairly child-friendly
Togo	0.5532	17	
Angola	0.5508	18	
Burundi	0.5453	19	
Rwanda	0.5383	20	
Malawi	0.5300	21	
Djibouti	0.5261	22	
Benin	0.5127	23	
Burkina Faso	0.5099	24	
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.5070	25	
Madagascar	0.5022	26	Less child-friendly
Sudan	0.4930	27	
Côte d'Ivoire	0.4821	28	
Nigeria	0.4729	29	
Gambia	0.4701	30	
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	Least child-friendly
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	
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



- 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.

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/>