

Burkina Faso

Out of the shadows: Shining light on the response to child sexual abuse and exploitation

It takes place mostly in the shadows, but sexual violence against children is happening everywhere, regardless of a country's economic status or its citizens' quality of life. Yet, child sexual abuse and exploitation is preventable, and there are strategies that have been proven successful in reducing it. When government, civil society and the private sector act together, progress is possible.

The Out of the Shadows Index illustrates how countries are responding to the problem, highlighting areas for attention and advancement towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, which include a target (16.2) to end all forms of violence against children by 2030.

Background indicators

GDP per capita at purchasing power parity (US\$ at PPP)	1,940
Population (m)	16.3
Population under 19 (%)	62.57
Access to broadband Internet (%)	0.1

Source: EIU



Brief summary

Burkina Faso has developed child-specific legislation on rape, trafficking and child pornography, but it lacks the necessary government institutions and industry support to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Where has progress been made?

Child-specific rape laws: Burkina Faso's penal code has specific provisions and penalties for forced sex with minors. There are provisions for longer sentences for adults who rape minors or force minors into sex.

Dedicated government agencies: Burkina Faso has government agencies and a law enforcement unit dedicated to investigating cases of child abuse and exploitation. The country is also a member of the Violent Crimes Against Children International Task Force.

Child pornography laws: The penal code of Burkina Faso criminalises the production, distribution, procurement, purchase, sale and possession of child pornographic material in the country.

What more needs to be done?

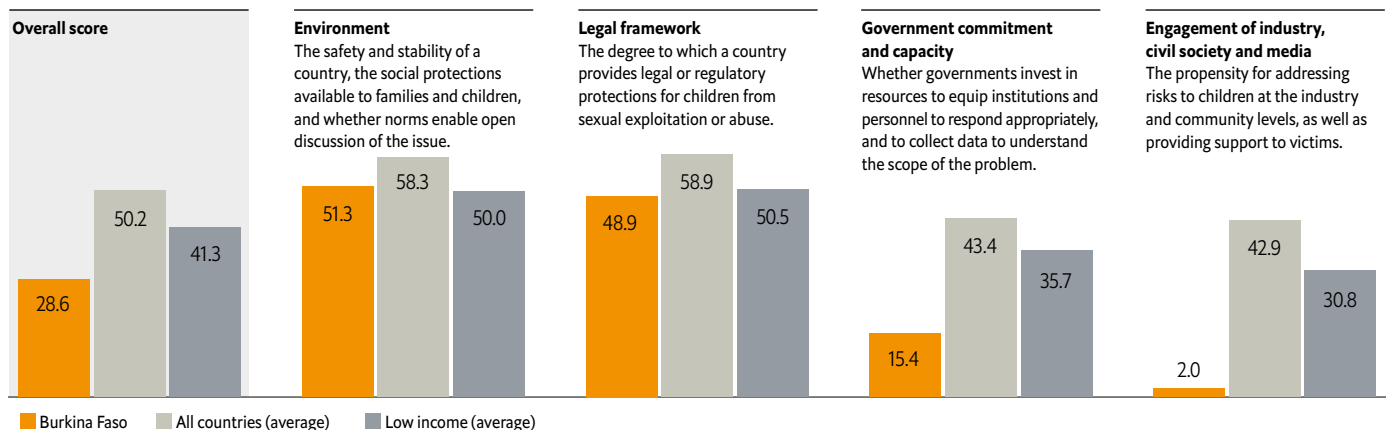
Reporting: According to ECPAT, the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family produces a statistical yearbook that includes information on the number of child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. However, this data is not publicly available, and there is no data on the prevalence of child sexual abuse or exploitation in Burkina Faso.

Industry engagement: Burkina Faso does not appear to have its own notice and takedown system that would allow members of the public to report child sexual abuse content. Professional associations of journalists, and travel and tourism operators also do not identify sexual violence against children as a priority in the scope of their work.

National plans and policies: Burkina Faso has not yet developed a national action plan to combat sexual violence against children. There is also a lack of guidance and training for professionals who might encounter incidences of abuse and exploitation.

Access to victims and offender support programmes: Burkina Faso does not provide medical, legal, therapeutic or educational support to child victims of sexual violence. There is no public rehabilitation programme to prevent those who have committed sexual abuse against children from re-offending.

Index scores



All countries average includes 60 countries across East Asia & the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East & North Africa, North America, South Asia and Sub-saharan Africa. Low income average (as classified by the World Bank) includes 10 countries. Full methodology at <https://outoftheshadows.eiu.com>.

Out of the shadows: Shining light on the response to child sexual abuse and exploitation

Indicator	Score / 100	Indicator	Score / 100
1.1) Instability	66.3	2.11) Online grooming	0.0
1.2) Livelihoods	54.1	2.12) Protecting child interests	0.0
1.3) Social protections	46.5	2.13) Internet protections	0.0
1.4) Consumption of stimulants	85.2	3.1) International standards or conventions	80.0
1.5) Societal attitudes	42.2	3.2) National plans and policies	10.0
1.6) Perceptions of violence	54.5	3.3) Resources for legal and enforcement professionals	0.0
1.7) Attitudes to law enforcement	41.2	3.4) Data collection: prevalence	0.0
2.1) Contextual legal framework	42.9	3.5) Reporting	0.0
2.2) Age of consent	100.0	3.6) Government and law enforcement capacity	42.9
2.3) Child sexual offenses	60.0	3.7) Complaint mechanisms	16.7
2.4) Child marriage	50.0	3.8) Access to victim support programmes	4.0
2.5) Child-specific rape laws	100.0	3.9) Access to offender support programmes	0.0
2.6) General sex laws	66.7	4.1) Technology industry engagement	0.0
2.7) Exemptions and qualifiers	75.0	4.2) Travel and tourism industry engagement	0.0
2.8) Purchasing sexual services	0.0	4.3) Frontline support workers	0.0
2.9) Procurement of minors	50.0	4.4) Civil society engagement	10.0
2.10) Visual depiction of minors engaging in sexual activities	80.0	4.5) Media industry engagement	0.0

■ First quartile (75–100)
 ■ Second quartile (50–74.9)
 ■ Third quartile (25–49.9)
 ■ Fourth quartile (0–24.9)

For a full explanation of indicators, underlying weightings and further details on the country profile, please see the interactive Excel model available at <https://outoftheshadows.eiu.com>.

In addition to the full methodology, an interactive Excel model and a white paper outlining overall findings are available at <https://outoftheshadows.eiu.com>

What is the Out of the Shadows Index?

The Out of the Shadows Index examines how stakeholders are responding to the threat of child sexual abuse and exploitation in 60 countries. It does not attempt to measure the scale of the problem in each country, nor does the index incorporate information on the prevalence of sexual violence against children. It includes data and information from 34 indicators and 132 sub-indicators, grouped into four categories that measure the extent to which countries are acknowledging the problem of sexual violence against children, and whether they are implementing measures to address and prevent it.

While the index can help to highlight areas for attention, existing resources such as the “INSPIRE” package of seven strategies for ending violence against children (http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire-package/en/) and the WePROTECT Model National Response for preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse (<https://www.weprotect.org/the-model-national-response/>) offer detailed guidance and support on implementation of solutions.

Please use the following when citing this country summary:

The Economist Intelligence Unit. 2019. Out of the shadows: Shining light on the response to child sexual abuse and exploitation- a 60 country benchmarking index. Burkina Faso country summary. EIU, New York, NY.

For further information, please contact:

The Economist Intelligence Unit

Katherine Stewart, Project Manager: katherinestewart@economist.com

Ayesha Khan, Project Analyst: ayeshakhan@eiu.com

Research supported by World Childhood Foundation and Oak Foundation
With additional support from Carlson Family Foundation